



## Malheur Musings - September 2016

President's Message: headquarters Reopening?

by Gary Ivey



Sorry to share some disappointing news. The latest word on reopening of Refuge Headquarters is that no definite plans are in place for reopening because of ongoing concern for the safety for visitors and staff, as work to install adequate security measures remains incomplete and there are concerns about renewed interest in the site by people sympathetic to the defendants with the upcoming start of their trial that begins September 7th. At this point, it is unlikely that headquarters will reopen before November.

However, the remaining public use areas of the refuge remain open, so don't hesitate to visit. Fall migration is underway and there is excellent birding at Buena Vista and Benson Ponds, P-Ranch and Frenchglen. Also, early fall is a great time to drive the Steens Mountain Loop Road and enjoy the fall colors of aspens and the majestic views from 10,000 feet.

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### Visiting Malheur in the Fall

by Gary Ivey, FOMR President

Fall is generally a quiet time at Malheur and is a good time to enjoy having the area mostly to yourself. Fall migration is well underway as migrant shorebirds arrive in mid-summer and passerines pass through primarily in September. Waterfowl will be moving through the Refuge in large numbers through mid-November. Hundreds of mule deer move on to the Refuge and when the rut begins in late October, massive bucks can be found to delight photographers.

Habitat conditions at Malheur are always dynamic,

depending mostly on water supplies. This season with continuing dry conditions, Malheur Lake level is very low,; currently about 7000 acres. The lake cannot be seen from The Narrows. You can find more information on fall wildlife viewing at this link: [Fall Wildlife Viewing](#)





If you plan to visit the Refuge, you can now download an MP3 file of the Auto Tour Route, provided by Friends of Malheur Refuge here: [Auto Tour Route MP3](#)

Malheur porcupine by Gary Ivey

## The Importance of Preserving Our Public Lands and Natural Resources

by Carl Woodward, FOMR Board Member

This past May I had the pleasure of visiting Malheur during the height of the spring migration and as part of the Friends of Malheur NWR weekend refuge tours. The spectacle of flight, breeding plumages, and mating and nesting behavior of so many birds left an indelible impression on us all and found us wanting more. Malheur is an extraordinary place - one that was saved from destruction in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt, who recognized the need to protect and preserve places for wildlife so that the nation, present and future, would never be bereft of its creatures or resources. The issues that led him to create Malheur and so many other refuges remain with us today. Indeed, based upon the recent occupation and the alleged justifications argued for it, as well as actions put forth in our nation's capital, they have never gone away. [Read More...](#)



President Teddy Roosevelt

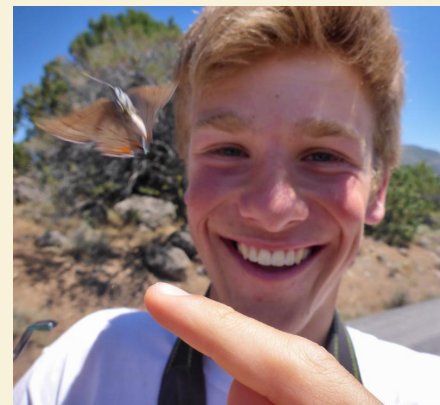
## Summer Intern Program 2016

by Tim Blount, Executive Director



Jess Laney

Our intern program has wrapped up another season and was touted as a success for Malheur NWR. Our two interns, Jess Laney and Thomas Meinzen, performed many surveys ranging from birds, monarch butterflies and emergent vegetation. Thanks Jess and Thomas for a job well done!



Thomas Meinzen

We asked them to give a brief wrap-up of their time here at Malheur which are included here: [Read More...](#)

## Support The 2016 Benton County Big Sit!

by Tim Blount, Executive Director

Two 13-year-old birders have organized the Benton County Big Sit to benefit several organizations, including Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The boys, Isaac Denzer and Kai Frueh, will spend 13 hours counting every species of bird they see from within a 17-foot-diameter circle at William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge's Cabell Marsh blind on September 17. Donations can be based on per species or a fixed amount.



It is inspiring to see these young men doing their part to support organizations that have the most impact on their birding passion. We should support them for the organizations they are supporting, the generation they represent, and the passion they share with all of us. Their official announcement is here: [Read More...](#)

Malheur remains at the forefront of the public lands debate and we, Friends of Malheur, are letting our voices be heard. Your continued support will help us support Malheur Refuge and in our political struggle to support refuges and public lands.



Become a member or renew your membership here:

[Join Us!](#)

Or, make a donation here:

[Donate!](#)

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Thanks!

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Friends of MNWR | [www.malheurfriends.org](http://www.malheurfriends.org) | [friends@malheurfriends.org](mailto:friends@malheurfriends.org)