This young male broad-billed hummingbird was a long way from home and caused quiet the stirring at the Crane’s Nest Nature Center and Store since it arrived on Saturday September 14th until it was last seen on September 26th. Please enjoy the article below written by FOMR board member Rick Vetter.

Photo by Alan Woods

Director's Message

Greetings!

Cranes calling from afar, cormorants squabbling atop the log in Marshall Pond, pelicans floating overhead, and a small crowd of enthusiastic onlookers has been the scene at the Crane’s Nest Nature Center & Store of late. By now word of the wayward broad-billed hummingbird has spread far and wide, bringing birders from as far as the Olympic Peninsula or Eastern Idaho!

It is amazing what kind of energy such a small creature can awaken in us. I think of Malheur that way. All of the small things that fill it with so much life and us with so
much wonder. Every morning when I arrive at work it is nearly a guarantee that there will be a young great horned owl sitting on the cage of an air boat in the maintenance yard, several new badger digs throughout the yard and some new assortment of birds utilizing Marshall Pond, which still has quite a bit of water in it and of course the ever changing array of visitors flocking to the Refuge to enjoy the autumnal magic of Malheur.

This month is my Friends of Malheur employment-iversary. After a year, I also think of our organization that way. The collective power of so many coming together to accomplish so much. No one of us maintains the Blitzen Valley Auto Tour Route. No one of us manages the Nature Center & Store. No one of us support all the biological volunteer needs of the Refuge staff. No one of us made it possible to fund a $1,000 scholarship to a local graduate, carry out the Artist in Residence program which reached over 600 Harney County Youth, or made it possible to sponsor the Tribal Stewards program. No one of us built the pollinator garden that has indeed been visited by our very famous broad-billed hummingbird. We all do these things together, be it by hand or by financial support.

I am so proud of who we are as an organization and proud of the now 770+ Members that make it all possible year after year. In the coming months we will work together to continue supporting the ongoing work of the Refuge of which you are all a part. This month’s newsletter is packed with exciting updates of what has been going on and what is still upcoming here at Malheur.

As always, Thank you for being a Friend,

Janelle L Wicks
FOMR Executive Director

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Autumn storms roll in and over the Refuge with a ferocity and beauty that you can see coming for miles.

Photo by Isabelle Fleuraud, FOMR Friend & Volunteer

**Malheur HQ Visitor Center**

Every Day 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM until October 15th
Beginning October 16th the Visitor Center will be closed Friday-Sunday
Malheur Syphony CDs are NOW AVAILABLE! This is the long anticipated recording of Chris Thomas's piece which was commissioned by the Central Oregon Symphony Association and premiered in Burns this past spring. ($15 + S&H)

*Sagebrush Collaborative* and the recently published *Edge of Awe* bring you close to Malheur from wherever you may be and are two of our best sellers!

Email friends@malheurfriends.org to place an order for any of these items and more. Don't forget Members get a 10% discount.

**Scratch & Dent Bin**

Look for discounts on items in our Scratch & Dent bin. Items might be slightly less than perfect, but everything deserves a home!

Check out discounts up to 50% OFF

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**Membership Minute**

If you are not yet or no longer a FOMR Member, please consider 2019 the year to become a Friend as we celebrate our 20th Birthday all year!

If you are unsure of your Membership status please contact us at Friends@Malheurfriends.org today!
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge adds so much to the quality of our lives through our experiences in the outback environment, its dramatic landscape, its beautiful night skies, sunrises and sunsets, and its wonderful wildlife. It is a part of who we are!

Are you interested in learning how to help our beloved Refuge? The Friends are looking for board members with experience in: Serving on a non-profit board, business management, fund raising and grant writing, program development, & project management.

We are also welcoming Members to serve on committees, including Projects, Membership, Fundraising and Community Outreach committees. If you are interested in sharing your time and talents with the Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge email FRIENDS@MALHEURFRIENDS.ORG today!

On-going 2019 Membership Incentive Program

Birthday Bump
Renew your Membership in 2019 by bumping up to the next level. If you are currently an INDIVIDUAL Member, consider renewing with a FAMILY or DONOR Membership.

Forever Friends
Opt for renewing your Membership in 2019 through monthly recurring payments. For as little as $5 or as much as comfortably fits your budget.
To do this, visit malheurfriends.org/support, click DONATE and choose to make this a monthly donation!

Volunteer
Join us for a work party, special project, staff the Crane’s Nest Nature Store or lend a
Thank you to the 300+ New Friends that have joined us since Jan 1, 2019!

Current Membership Total: 771

When Tim Rodenkirk, a botanist and well-respected avid birder from Coos Bay, made a road trip to Malheur NWR on Sept 14, 2019, he was hoping to relocate a rare phainopepla at Page Springs Campground. He never did find it, but he found something better at his first stop at Malheur Refuge Headquarters... Read more here.

Any article titled “Malheur in Fall” should really be called “Malheur and Steens Mountain in Fall” because access to the mountain is the biggest difference between spring migration birding and the experience of autumn. In spring, we gaze longingly at the 9,000-foot snowy ridge of the massif; in fall we get to go there... Read more here.

Southeast of the Refuge lies the pancake-flat expanse of the Alvord Desert, an 84-square-mile former lakebed along the eastern escarpment of Steens Mountain. In much of the Great Basin, blocks of the Earth's crust that fractured along fault lines have gradually tilted under their own weight, creating sloped mountain ranges that generally trend north-to-south... Read more here.

Conservation Corner
Duck Banding at Malheur Refuge
Written by Alexa Martinez, MNWR Wildlife Biologist

My Malheur Summer
Written by Norman Clippinger, MNWR Biological Science Technician

Moths of Malheur - Part 1
Written by Dana Ross, Entomologist

Events

FRIENDS MEET & GREET
Friday October 11th @ 4:00 PM
Bend Area Private Residence
RSVP to Friends@Malheurfriends.org

Ode to Sod House Ranch
Half August
We come together
Clearing the trail for opening day~
August 15.
We imagine 100's visiting this vast
Historical Wonder.
Cool morning; Hot afternoon.
Thunder heads boil the horizon,
Read more...

Written by Dale Broszeit, FWS &
FOMR Volunteer

Fall Work Party!
October 25-27th: The Marshall Pond Trail Work Party is right around the corner! Housing is booked but there is a waitlist or the ability to attend by securing your housing independently.

More details below in the Volunteer Highlights section of the Newsletter.

Volunteer Highlights

Fall Work Party!

If you are looking for an excuse to enjoy the Refuge one more time this
season, join us for a beautification project at headquarters, Oct 25-27th.

We'll be planting potted willows which will screen the Marshall pond from the trail and provide habitat for nesting songbirds, transplanting clumps of our native Great Basin rye grass, and planting perennial flowers around the nature center to keep our pollinators happy.

We can arrange a trip up to the Steens where the aspens will be in all their autumn glory.

We have the tools you will need and will provide housing for the first 7 folks that sign up, which you can do by contacting Alice Elshoff at 541 389-3543 or calice58@gmail.com

NOTE: Housing is booked but there is a waitlist you can join or you can attend by securing housing independently.

Now RECRUITING! 2020 Resident Volunteers

Do you enjoy spending time in the high-desert expanses of Malheur Refuge? Are you interested supporting the Crane's Nest Nature Store operations, improving Refuge habitat, monitoring wildlife populations, or providing interpretive services to visitors? Volunteers with FOMR do all that and much more.

Residential volunteers with Friends of Malheur Refuge are able to park their camper at the newly renovated RV hook-ups with access to a volunteer lounge, kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities. We require a month-long commitment of 24 hours per week. Our volunteers come away from their service with indelible memories, a renewed passion for Malheur Refuge and public lands in general, and (more often than not) some incredible photographs.

Spots will fill up fast! If you are interested, please fill out this survey. Volunteer applicants will be reviewed beginning September 1st in the order in which they were received.

The Friends have been honored that so many all-star volunteers have shared their time and talents with us in 2019! Here are just a few highlights from left to right: Jody Newman, Barbara Hoffman and John Roth putting the finishing touches on the Worthy Pollinator Garden. Dale and Art Broszeit manning the Sodhouse RoMP station.
Welcome Martin and Paula!

Farewell and thank you Renee!
This month we are saying goodbye to a volunteer who has been at the Refuge since June working first in the Visitor Center and most recently with the Friends in the Crane’s Newst Nature Store. Thank you for sharing your enthusiasm and time with us.

Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge | malheurfriends.org
friends@malheurfriends.org
36391 Sodhouse Lane
Princeton, OR 97721

STAY CONNECTED: