



FRIENDS OF
MALHEUR
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Malheur Musings February 2020



The first ever Harney County CBC4Kids took place on Saturday January 11th, 2020. 21 youth and their parents participated on three teams lead by 9 volunteers. Read more about this incredible event in an article found below in the Conservation Corner.

Director's Message

Greetings!

Would you believe it if I told you that January was a surprisingly busy month and this year is off to a running start? I can hardly believe it myself. Between Harney County Migratory Bird Festival planning and pulling off the Harney County CBC4Kids there has been much to do. Not to mention the excitement building behind all the other projects and programs planned for the year ahead of us.

Already I am beginning to see that 2020 will be a **Year of Partnership** for the Friends of Malheur NWR. In order to maximize our impact in the community and on the Refuge it has become abundantly clear that the old adage – two is

better than one – is not just true, but vital to success for non-profit organizations operating out in the Oregon frontier. Of course, it helps if your most obvious professional partner is also your spouse. You may have noticed by now that the Eastern Oregon activities of Portland Audubon Society (PAS) are often highlighted in this newsletter and are penned by one, Teresa Wicks, PAS's Eastern Oregon Field Biologist and Program Coordinator.

Collaborating on projects with Teresa is a natural fit as our strengths and resources compliment one another's just as seamlessly as the mission and priorities of our respective organizations. Community science engagement is a perfect example. Portland Audubon is committed to developing survey protocols that fill much needed information gaps that would help to inform wildlife critical management across the state of Oregon. Project IBiS was developed by Teresa in 2019 in order to encourage birders in Harney County to collect data on the diversity and abundance of birds using flood irrigated meadows. This information will eventually be evaluated to better understand the impact that changes to these fields will have on bird communities. For the information to be the most useful, it will require that birders participate. Here is where the Friends of Malheur NWR come in. Not only can we meet outreach priorities by promoting this effort to visitors to the Refuge on the ground from our Crane's Nest Nature Center & Store, but also through this newsletter and through our Facebook presence. Going an extra step, we intend to meet our stewardship priority by regularly scheduling our resident volunteers and spring intern to conduct this survey and submit their data. Voila – a Partnership is born.

Project IBiS is but one example but there are many things happening this year that will be approached this way:

- **CBC4Kids**; PAS, FOMR, Harney County Public Library & Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- **Sod House RoMP**; FOMR, PAS
- **HC Migratory Bird Festival**; FOMR, PAS, High Desert Partnership (HDP), BLM, Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)
- **Refuge Tree Projects**; FOMR & PAS
- **Weekly Harney County Bird Walks**; PAS, FOMR
- **Tribal Stewards**; Oregon Natural Desert Association, NW Youth Corps, FOMR, PAS, & FWS
- **Annual Carp Derby**; FOMR, PAS, HDP, BLM, FWS, ODFW
- **Sod House Ranch Work Party**; FOMR & PAS

I know I'm not alone in hearing my mother's voice occasionally ringing in my head, but I will never stop appreciating the echo of 'Teamwork makes the dream work!' I am proud that our organization is able to lift up the work of others while simultaneously accomplishing so much on our own. All in the name of advocating for the Refuge and the wildlife that depend on it.

There is much to do – fortunately for us and the Refuge we support, no one has to do it all alone! Your ongoing support is vital to the success and longevity of these efforts.

As always, Thank you for being a Friend.

Janelle L Wicks
FOMR Executive Director

Conservation Corner



Save the Eagles

By Peter Pearsall

Double-crested Cormorants

By Peter Pearsall

Rx Burns for Birds

By Debby de Carlo



Harney Co. Kids Gone Birdy

'It was a cold, windy, and occasionally snowy morning, but during the two-hour count, they still managed to find 24 bird species, including golden and bald eagles, a merlin, and 360 California quail.'

[Read the Burns-Times Herald Article Here!](#)

Events & Announcements

Click on the images below to learn more about each event.

An advertisement for a survey. It features a large, detailed illustration of a Short-eared Owl with yellow eyes and a white face with dark spots. The owl is perched on a branch. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a blue sky and a field. Text on the left reads: "HELP US TRACK SHORT-EARED OWLS ACROSS THE WEST! SIGN UP FOR A SURVEY GRID IN YOUR STATE TODAY: CA, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY". In the bottom left, large white text says "SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!". In the top right, there is a logo for "Western Asia flammeus Landscape Study WAFLS" with a stylized owl icon.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER KENN KAUFMAN
Centers of Survival: Bird Migration and the
National Wildlife Refuges

April 16-19, 2020

FEATURED LIVE-BIRD PRESENTATION
Bend, Oregon's High Desert Museum and
Raptors of the High Desert



© George O. Lepp 2017



HARNEY COUNTY

Spend an amazing weekend witnessing
the spectacular spring migration in the
Harney Basin of Southeast Oregon.

- Guided tours by vehicle, foot and bicycle
- Art Show & Sale ■ Live birds!
- Dinner Banquet & Keynote Speaker
- Youth Art Contest and Kids' Nature Fun Fair
- Wine walk, scavenger hunt, social activities and more!

(541) 573-2636
migratorybirdfestival.com



Counts that Count

PROJECT IBIS

COMMUNITY SCIENCE SURVEYS
OF THE SILVIES FLOODPLAIN



Partners: Doverspike Ranch, Ly Ranch, Brinkley Ranch, Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Station, eBird, Harney Basin Wetland Initiative

Membership Minute

If you are unsure of your Membership status you can sign up for a Friends Account and



FRIENDS OF
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MEMBER 20

2020 Membership Appreciation

All New and Renewing Members will receive an exclusive FOMR Member 2020 clear, vinyl decal and bookmark. (Pictured here)

Renewing Members that **BUMP** up a Membership level will receive a new Malheur BUMPer sticker. (Pictured below)

New and Renewing Members that sign up at the Patron (\$200), Steward (\$500) or Benefactor (\$1,000) levels are eligible for specialty gifts! You can opt out of receiving your gift when you fill out your membership form online or in person.

Gifts will include Malheur specialty coffee roasted by Clawfoot Coffee Roasters in Klamath Falls and 1 or 2 FOMR hand-thrown ceramic Mugs by Deneen Pottery. Benefactor Members will also receive a copy of the Malheur Symphony on CD.

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NEW FRIENDS ACCOUNTS

Check your membership status, update your contact information, renew your membership, make a donation, log volunteer hours and more!

Current Membership Total: 801!

Volunteer with Friends

WEEKEND WORK PARTY

Bat Box Install



FRIENDS OF
MALHEUR
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

MALHEUR NWR HQ
MARCH 13TH - 15TH

HELP US INSTALL MUCH
NEEDED ROOSTING
HABITAT FOR OUR BATS!

REFUGE HOUSING
AVAILABLE

CONTACT ALICE ELSHOFF
541.389.3543
CALICE58@GMAIL.COM

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 are filling up fast but there is still availability in March, June - October! If you are interested sign-up [HERE](#).



2020 Volunteer Hours Logged: 36

Crane's Nest Nature Center & Store

The Nature Store will reopen March 1st, 2020

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)

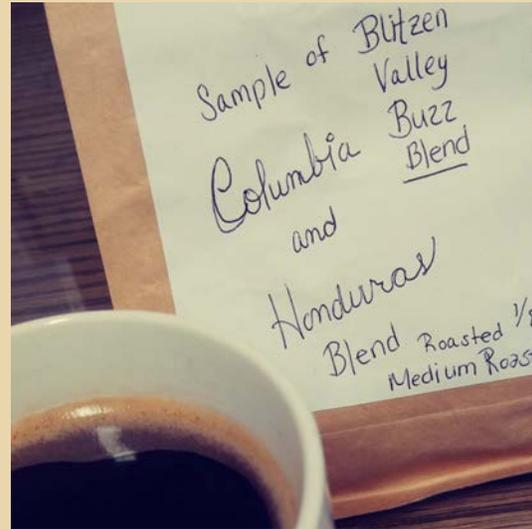
NEW INVENTORY HAS ARRIVED for 2020!

FOMR Mugs - 2 styles, 4 colors (See Photo)
Handtrown in the USA - \$24

FOMR logo Joshua Tree SPF15 Lipbalm - \$5

Malheur NWR Cranes & Colt Patch - \$6

COMING SOON - Blitzen Valley Buzz by Claw Foot
Coffee Company



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

Malheur HQ Visitor Center

Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

New Member Sign-up

Renewing Member Sign-up

Make a Donation Today

Visit Our Website

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

STAY CONNECTED:

