

The Oregon Birding Association (OBA) Annual Meeting will be held September 15-17 at **Malheur Field Station** (MFS) in the **Malheur National Wildlife Refuge** (Malheur NWR) in southeastern Oregon. This is our first visit to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge since 2008.

"Malheur Field Station is an environmental education and research center in the northern Great Basin region in Southeastern Oregon operated by the Great Basin Society, a non-profit organization founded in 1985. The field station provides public lectures, accredited and non-accredited courses, professional development workshops and scout projects. It also hosts individuals, families, birding groups, K-12 school groups and other groups... The field station is on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, 32 miles south of Burns, a diverse setting of marshlands, desert basins, alkali playas, upland desert scrub steppe, volcanic and glacial landforms, and fault block mountains..."

[Source: Oregon Blue Book, [Malheur Field Station](#)]

"The refuge encompasses 187,757 acres of wildlife habitat. The 65,000-acre Blitzen Valley was purchased in 1935 and added to the refuge to secure water rights for Malheur and Mud lakes. The 14,000-acre Double-O Unit was added to the refuge in 1942 and provides important shorebird habitat, as well as waterfowl nesting areas. Malheur Refuge is situated within the Harney Basin in southeastern Oregon. The refuge constitutes a small percentage of the Northern Great Basin's total acreage but is a tremendously important source of wildlife habitat relative to other portions of the Northern Great Basin. The refuge represents a crucial stop along the Pacific Flyway and offers resting, breeding and nesting habitat for hundreds of migratory birds and other wildlife." [source: US Fish and Wildlife Service, [Malheur National Wildlife Refuge](#)]

Registration: This year we are again offering online registration. Meeting information and registration forms are on our website: www.orbirds.org

Speakers: Our Friday night speaker is Oregon Health & Science University neuroscientist Claudio Mello, Ph.D., who will speak on how birds learn to vocalize. Dr. Mello is an international expert on learning and memory, in particular how birds learn to vocalize. On Saturday night, OBA member Noah Strycker, will speak on his 2015 international Big Year, [Birding Without Borders](#). Mr. Strycker is a writer, photographer, and birder based in Oregon. In 2015, he set a world record by seeing 6,042 species of birds in one year. His effort covered more than 40 countries in all seven continents.

Nominations: As always, we will be accepting nominations for [OBA Board Officer and Director](#) positions during the annual meeting portion of the program. Please be thinking about this opportunity and be ready to volunteer or to nominate someone you know to serve with us to provide direction and leadership for the

upcoming years. Contact any of the current Board members if you have questions.

Field Trips: On Saturday and Sunday, we will offer 5 to 7 birding field trips a day, of different lengths, on and around Malheur NWR.

Special Features (please note): Being at MFS offers several new features different from meetings in recent years. These include pre-breakfast bird walks and a bring-your-own-bottle alcohol policy.

Meals: Breakfast (\$11) and dinner (\$15) are served cafeteria style. There will be vegetarian and non-vegetarian options for all meals, but there are no set menus to order from. Lunches (\$8) are build-it-yourself boxed lunches. Daily meal tickets are available for \$34.

Lodging: We have reserved a variety of the different MFS lodgings for our meeting, including RV sites, private and semi-private rooms with kitchenette, mobile homes, and dormitory beds. To get a full description, make your choice and reserve it, you will need to call Duncan Evered at MFS. He will describe what is available and take your reservation and payment. Prices start at \$30.00 per night. **Duncan says that spots are filling up fast, so place your lodging reservation promptly if you haven't already done so.** Please call Duncan Evered at: [\(541\) 493-2629](tel:5414932629).

Merchandise: Books will be available for sale at the bookstore. OBA merchandise will be available for **specially discounted Annual Meeting prices**.

If you have any questions please contact our registrar, Pamela Johnston, at pamelaj@spiritone.com.

Hope to see you in Malheur! [Register now!](#)

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*Oregon Birding Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Any amount over the base membership dues is tax-deductible to the extent allow by law. Tax receipts are mailed in January. Federal ID #93-0770831). Contribution receipts are mailed in January.