

COFFEE: Much depends on how coffee is grown

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Cornell Laboratory for Avian Conservation, coffee farms can provide either good or bad habitat for birds, which include wintering migrants from North America as well as birds that live year-round in the tropics.

The coffee business has now reached the same level as non-organic and organic vegetable growing. It is now being said organically grown (mostly shade-grown) coffee not only tastes better and is better for you, but it helps save the lives of thousands of birds from North America spending winter in and around coffee plantations.

Now the ball is in your corner. If you, as coffee-drinkers, still enjoy the old Dutch plantation method of growing organic coffee in a shade-tree environment, tastes better and is bird-friendly — and — said coffee growers are happy with their profit doing so, all's well that ends well.

The next step is to recognize bird-friendly coffee-growing and processing operations. "Shade-grown"



NASHVILLE WARBLER PHOTO BY DOUG BEALL / YELLOW WARBLER PHOTO BY KRIS KRISTOVICH

Like it or not, both the Nashville warbler and yellow warbler can be impacted by growing coffee.

labels often appear on coffee packages, but these words are not regulated and they don't tell you much about the actual growing conditions at the farm. Unfortunately, unless the packaging is accompanied by a third-party certification stamp, such as the Smithsonian's "Bird Friendly" on the package, "shade-grown" is often just a marketing buzzword.

Some farms grow shade coffee among sparse, heavily pruned trees or even under banana crops. Unfortunately, these farms often lack diverse forest structure, offer little habitat for songbirds, and require fertilizers and pesticides to keep coffee growing.

Coffee-growers looking beyond the profit incentive are now organized, and, if you look at the label, these symbols can and will tell you what's what, and who's who.



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Nature's symmetry...



PHOTO BY DAVE BERRY

Black Butte frames a rainbow.

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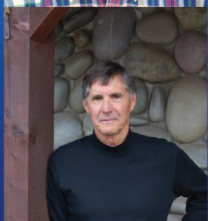
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Geff's love of the outdoors brought his family to Sisters in 2003. He operates a breeding and training kennel for Labrador Retrievers, competing in field trials, and enjoys camping and hiking with family. Geff's background is in the building industry as a general contractor and salesman. His mission is to work hard for his clients in pursuit of fulfilling their dreams of finding the perfect property or buyer. geff@reedbros.com 541-771-2330



David Miller, Broker

David brings 39 years experience in sales, listing/marketing, lending (FmHa), investing, and property management. David has a BA in business/Real Estate finance from Kent State University and is a Realtor Institute graduate. He is an exceptional communicator and listener and enjoys life with his family and grandchildren, living and playing in Oregon.

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