

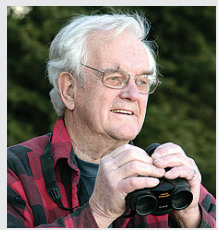
# Sisters salutes...

• Ann Richardson wrote: "Sisters Trails Alliance sends a HUGE thank-you to Three Creeks Brewing Co. for hosting the recent Toast the Trails event and donating fabulous craft beer for our supporters. As all of you who put on events know, Three Creeks is massively generous to this community, donating beer, cash, and great merchandise to support wide-ranging causes. STA is grateful for their continued support. Many thanks also to the community of trail-users and trail-lovers who made the event a great success."

• Actor Nathan Woodworth earned honors from Maverick Movie Awards as Best Supporting Actor for the film "Tutu Grande." Southern Shorts Awards also presented Woodworth an Award of Excellence for Individual Achievement in Acting for the same film. The Sisters-born-and-raised actor also recently portrayed a dead robber on NCIS.



PHOTO PROVIDED



## Tales from a Sisters Naturalist

by Jim Anderson

### The TVs are on their way!

In spite of all the snow and cold, turkey vultures are on their way north to their summer haunts. While air temperature does play a role in the movements of TVs and other birds, it's really the sun's relationship to the horizon and the amount of daylight that controls their migration calendar.

If you see a turkey vulture soaring overhead, perched in a tree, on a pole or slurping up road-killed deer guts, and it's wearing a patagial tag, please send me an email ASAP: jimnaturalist@gmail.com.

Wildlife biologists in Canada are doing a huge TV study, trying to find out when and where they take themselves south in winter and how widespread they are in summer in Canada. Those patagial wing tags are very noticeable, and easy to read, and the number and color can be/must be reported accurately.

After you have notified me that one flew over the cuckoo nest, google "Bird Banding Laboratory." The first prompt

you get will be "Banded Bird Encounter Report." Open that and follow your nose, and you will eventually be at the page where you can tell the banding lab what you've seen. In a few days you will receive a certificate of appreciation from the lab for sending in your sighting and information.

You will probably cause a scientist in Canada to leap off his or her seat and shout, "Hey, we got a recovery from Sisters, Oregon! How about that!" That in turn will cause a whole bunch of scientists in the program to start rethinking what they thought was going on with TVs in Canada, and the U.S. as well.

There may be a relationship with the TVs that visit Oregon in summer that could be related to climate change. Numbers of birders over in western Oregon are seeing TVs today in places where we usually don't see them until late February. For example, on Tuesday, January 29, at about 10:30 a.m., a birder in Toledo reported seeing a TV. Then, my old pal Chuck Gates, retired science teacher from Ochoco High School and a long-time birder, reported photographing a TV at Fern Ridge Reservoir in Lane County, also in The Swamp.

On that same day another birder in Eugene put this up on the Oregon Birders On Line (OBOL) website: "That's near a site that has been a winter roost for maybe 15 years. Toledo is probably an early migrant, but there are enough wintering in SW Oregon these days that it may

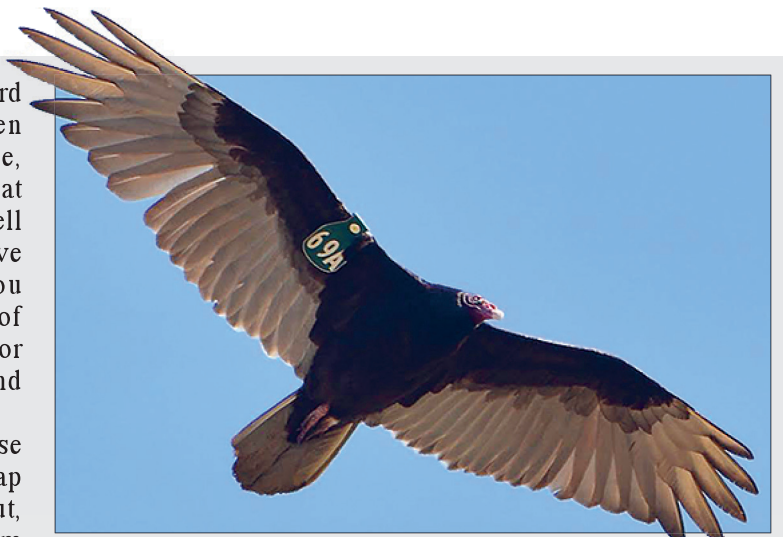


PHOTO BY TIM KADLECEK

An adult Turkey Vulture wearing a patagial wing marker.

not have come far."

So, perhaps not all the TVs that breed, eat dead sheep, cows and road-kills in the Willamette Valley go off and spend the winter near Baja, Mexico and the Imperial Valley in Central California.

The birders who are vital to the science of ornithology are the ones who keep accurate records. They are the Citizen Scientists who furnish data that helps the scientific community understand the life history of birds.

Events such as The Christmas Bird Count are a wonderful example.

Can you imagine what will go through a TVs mind when it comes soaring over the deer winter range and smells the delicious aroma wafting up from those deer that perished in the Big Snow of 2019? They'll think they've died and gone to heaven, as did the coyotes, bobcats, eagles and other meat-eaters who discovered them earlier.

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