

Space on the field trips is limited, so Clements encourages people to sign up in advance at www.friendsofladdmarsh.org. He said early registration for the festival in general helps organizers prepare enough packets for everyone.

The term "early bird" is apt for this event, which gets going at 4:45 a.m. Saturday, May 14, when the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area opens to public access. Registration opens at 6 a.m. in the Tule Lake Public Access Area on Peach Road.

From La Grande, head south on Highway 203 toward Union, and turn left on Peach Lane (approximately 5.7 miles from the I-84 interchange). Drive about 1.5 miles north on Peach Lane to the Tule Lake area.

Birding stations, which are free to visitors, will be staffed from 6 a.m.-noon.

Saturday field trips include:

- GROWISER on Pumpkin Ridge: 8 a.m.; \$20 per participant
- Taking the Kids to School: Noon; free

The majority of field trips are on Sunday, May 15. Descriptions and registration can be found at www.friendsofladdmarsh.org.

Here are the Sunday field trips:

- Ladd Marsh Dawn Chorus: 4:30 a.m.; \$20
- Rhinehart Canyon for Early Risers: 5 a.m.; \$30
- Birds and Botany of the Ponderosa Pine Forest: 6:30 a.m.; \$20
- Birding for Beginners:



East Oregonian, File

The 2022 Ladd Marsh Bird Festival is happening May 13-15. The weekend features stations and special field trips.

- 6:30 a.m.; \$20
- Grande Ronde Valley Hotspots: 6:30 a.m.; \$20
- GROWISER: 8 a.m.; \$20
- Taking the Kids to School: 9 a.m.; free
- Rhinehart Canyon for Afternoons: 10:30 a.m.; \$30

SPECIAL ACCESS

Clements said the marsh is especially alive in the early mornings.

"The marsh will be crazy with

song," he said. "From sound, you can pick out 20 to 30 species of birds."

Some areas have limited access year-round to protect nesting and feeding areas, and Clements said the festival offers a peek at spots that are normally off-limits.

And spring is the time for babies.

"There will be ducklings, goslings and chicks of all kinds," he said.

Stations will be set in different habitats throughout the marsh.

"There's a potential to see 100 to 150 species of birds," Clements said.

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