

# Observing a black-capped chickadee in my garden

Good morning dear readers! Here I sit on a beautiful Saturday morning. The sun is shining and the temperature's pleasant and I am stuck inside. Not chained to the computer writing this piece, rather with a low personal energy day after surviving the awful flu that is going around.

Luckily for me, as noted in previous columns, the birds often come to me! It doesn't hurt that I have a wide variety of habitats view-able from my living room window, which is where I have spent most of the last three days, dozing, reading and staring. There was also a stern talk to the universe about kicking this quickly!

From my large comfortable "bird blind," I have kept a bird species list for two of those three days. Both reaching 30 species. Interestingly not the same 30 each day. And that is my topic for this

**BIRD NOTES**  
SUSAN PETERSON



SUSAN PETERSON

**Black-capped chickadee taking a break in the author's backyard.**

column.

Birds are everywhere. A wonderful article in the January 2018 issue of National Geographic states that birds are the only mammals that inhabit all the environments on earth. So everywhere is not an exaggeration.

And in my own studies, OK so they are more like an loose observations, the same spots attract a varying population. (30 species a day but not the same 30 species) Of course during migration, this birder's favorite times of year, there are travelers stopping in to rest and feed, but what about my observations in these last couple days?

There were 26 repeat species. That leaves four species each day that were different.

Does that lead us to the question of why one day and not the other? In the past, I have learned that asking "why questions" about birds habitats are hard to pinpoint. Instead, I am putting the hard questions aside and enjoying the birds in front of me. I am focusing on "seeing" the birds.

I am taking pleasure in the antics of Canada geese and the funny way they run (not fly?) away from the bald eagle. The mallards picking their partners from the flock. The black-capped chickadee coming for one seed and quickly getting back into the safety of the branches to eat it. And the large murders of crows who tend to go over early and late in the day.

Being stuck inside has some benefits!

## Upcoming (outside) birding events

Plan to attend the Necanicum Bird Day on April 7 at the Bob Chisholm Center in Seaside and then the Annual Birdathon Fundraiser for the Wildlife Center of the North Coast on April 14. Find all the details at the Wildlife Center's website at coastwildlife.org.

Right after that, we'll be celebrating more outdoor adventures with Cannon Beach's unique 12 Days of Earth Day, including lectures, plantings, clean-ups and a parade and street fair. Watch for details coming soon!

And don't forget the First Sunday Cannon Beach Bird Walk. The next one will be on March 4, join a small group at 9 a.m. at the Lagoon Trail on Second Street. Bring binoculars and wear appropriate clothing. Everyone is welcome!

*Susan has spent her life enjoying the great outdoors from the lakes and woods of northern Minnesota, to Mount Adams in Washington and now the Oregon coast. After spending many pleasurable hours driving her avid birder parents around, she has taken up birding as a passion. Susan resides on Neawanna Creek in Seaside where her backyard is a birder's paradise.*

# Fat bike event raises concerns about nesting puffins

Bikes from Page 1A

"Time and time again I've seen positive effects of cycling in communities," Weintraub said. "I thought it'd be amazing to try and do something different like this in the community I live and work in."

Since his departure from the chamber last year, Oregon Rides, a promotional organization for biking, has taken over coordinating the event. Fat biking, a growing trend across the nation, is picking up especially quickly in the Oregon due in part to the state's abundance of public beach access, event organizers Elliott and Daniella Crowder said. The Crowders hope the inaugural festival will evolve into an annual event, and eventually spark new interest along the entire coast.

"The focus is getting people out, enjoying themselves on the beaches, and fat biking is a way to do it," Daniella Crowder said.

While growing in popularity, one of the challenges about getting the first event off the ground will be awareness and education. Oregon Rides plans to bring in a fleet of fat bikes to engage as many interested people as possible since fat bike ownership is low and somewhat costly.

Right now, organizers are expecting about 100 participants, with the majority of those registrants between 35 and 50 years old.



COLIN MURPHEY/EO MEDIA GROUP

**Ken Brown prepares to ride his fat bike in Cannon Beach.**

"We want to emphasize this isn't a race. This is for fun. It's not about who is the fastest, or who can wear the most spandex," Daniella Crowder said.

## Environmental concerns

April was chosen in part due to a low tide schedule, as well as a way to give tourists another reason to come during the town's off-season.

Some residents in the community have taken issue with the timing of the festival, however, as it coincides with when shorebirds are migrating and feeding in intertidal areas like Haystack Rock.

The event also overlaps with Cannon Beach's long-running 12 Days of Earth Day, which is timed with when tufted puffins come to nest. Some worried a high volume of bikers could scare of birds attempting to feed and nest, Haystack Rock Awareness Program director Melissa Keyser said.

"We had a lot of concerns at the beginning," Keyser said. "This (event) kind of moves all the way down our beach. We were concerned where they were going to ride the bikes and what the impacts could be. We wanted to make sure there was no loud music or balloons or something to deter them."

**'BECAUSE THIS EVENT HASN'T TAKEN PLACE ON OREGON BEACHES BEFORE, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FULL RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS EVENT WILL BE. THERE COULD BE UNANTICIPATED EFFECTS.'**

Melissa Keyser  
Haystack Rock Awareness Program director

In response to these concerns, the Chamber of Commerce partnered with the awareness program and the Surfrider Foundation to help educate bikers on how to avoid sensitive wildlife areas, as well as creating route maps to go above the high-tide line. Event organizers have also coordinated with environmental groups to schedule a fat bike cleanup ride on the final morning to help mitigate any impact the bikers may leave.

Elliot Crowder said fat bikes have a minimal environmental impact, with the thicker tires creating less pressure on the surface.

"I think people will be

pleasantly surprised by the fat bikes," Daniella Crowder said. "By Sunday morning you won't even see the tracks. It's like a footprint in the sand."

With the awareness program helping educate bicyclists during the festivities and being included in some of the planning process, the impact could be relatively small.

"But, it's still a 'we'll see' situation," Keyser said. "Because this event hasn't taken place on Oregon beaches before, we don't know what the full ramifications of this event will be. There could be unanticipated effects."

"But it looks like as of now all of the precautions are being taken."

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**TUESDAY, April 3**  
Cannon Beach City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

**MONDAY, April 9**  
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District, 6 p.m., 188 Sunset, Cannon Beach.

**TUESDAY, April 10**  
Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

**THURSDAY, April 12**  
Cannon Beach Academy, 5:30 p.m., 3718 S. Hemlock St.

**TUESDAY, April 17**  
Cannon Beach Public Works Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

**Seaside School District Board of Directors**, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin, Seaside.

**THURSDAY, April 19**  
Cannon Beach Parks and Community Services Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

**Cannon Beach Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

**THURSDAY, April 26**  
Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

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**GREAT LOCATION**  
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Craig Weston 503-738-2838  
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NEW LISTING

**ARCADIA BEACH LOT**  
81090 Arcadia Rd, Cannon Beach  
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