

2026 LADD MARSH BIRD FESTIVAL - Schedule of Events

Friday, May 8

- [Art Center East](#) has two activities scheduled as a workup to the Bird Festival next week:
 - 2:30 pm – Family Art Open Studio: paper Feather Decorating Activity (ages 0-18, 5 and under must be accompanied by an adult) – Free
 - 6:00 pm – Watercolor Painting: Blue Heron (age 21+) – Entails a fee with registration

Thursday, May 14

- The [Cook Memorial Library](#) is hosting a two-part, free event today in the Community Room (people are invited to attend either part or both):
 - 4:30 pm - Book discussion about Feathers: A Bird-Hat Wearer's Journal
 - 5:30 pm - A virtual conversation with the author, Sarah Rose Nordgren

Friday, May 15

2:30 – 5:00 pm	• Art Center East – Family Art Open Studio: Paper Feather Decorating Activity (ages 0-18, 5 and under must be accompanied by an adult) – Free at the Art Center East building.
6:00 to 9:00 pm	• Art Center East – Lush Canvas: An evening with Charley Harper (ages 21+) – Entails a fee with registration; see Art Center East calendar.
The following activities will be at the Union County Senior Center, 1504 North Albany, La Grande	
6:00 to 8:00 pm	• Register or check in and receive your passport with information directing you to staffed birding stations and other “birdy” areas. • Register for field trips if you haven’t done so online. • Enjoy appetizers, pick up merchandise from Friends of Ladd Marsh, The Bobolink or Art Center East (ACE), chat with friends, participate in the Paper Feather decorating sponsored by ACE, then listen to the guest speaker, Jay Withgott, a naturalist and birder from Portland, who will talk about 50 years of birding in Oregon.

Saturday, May 16

4:45 am	• Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area opens to public access with passport; see the map at the following link for details – Ladd Marsh Bird Festival.
6:00 am	• Register at the Festival Information Trailer in the Tule Lake Auto Tour on Peach Road. • Register for available spaces on field trips.
6:00 am – 12 Noon	• Staffed Birding Stations open.
6:00 am – 2:00 pm	• Art Center East has several activities scheduled on and off the Marsh: ○ 6:00 am – Early Bird Photo Walk – meet at the parking lot of the Peach Road Fishing Pond – Entails a fee with registration; see Art Center East calendar. ○ 8:00 am – Ladd Marsh Photo Walk – meet at the parking lot of the Peach Road Fishing Pond – Entails a fee with registration; see Art Center East calendar. ○ 10:00 am – Paper Cranes at the Marsh (all ages) – Tule Lake Auto Tour – Free ○ 10:00 am – Yellow-headed Blackbird in Wool: Needle-felting study (ages 10 to 15) – Art Center East building – Free

	○ 1:00 pm – Yellow-headed Blackbird in Wool: Needle-felting study (for adults) – Art Center East building – Entails a fee with registration; see Art Center East calendar.
10:00 am to 12 Noon	• EOU Greater Oregon STEM Hub will be in the parking area at Tule Lake Auto Tour, Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area conducting children’s activities with owl pellet dissecting, bird call activities, and a scavenger hunt.
12 Noon	• Registration closes.
8:45 pm	• Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area closed to public access.

Sunday, May 17

4:45 am – 9:00 am	• Field trips depart from destinated locations as follows; please plan to be at the meeting places 15 minutes before departure time: ○ 4:45 am – Dawn Chorus – Peach Lane Fishing Pond ○ 6:00 am – Rhinehart Canyon for Early Risers – UC Senior Center ○ 6:30 am – Birds of the Pondera Pine Forest – UC Senior Center ○ 6:30 am – Grande Ronde Valley Hotspots – Peach Lane Registration Area ○ 9:00 am – GROWISER – participants drive on their own to starting point; see GROWISER.
4:45 am	• Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area opens to public access with passport.
10:00 am	• Art Center East is offering the following event in town: ○ Colors of the Marsh: Watercolor Painting for Families (all ages/families, adults must be accompanied by a youth participant)
8:45 p.m.	• Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area closed to public access.