

Sneak Preview

Ashland's News & Review

Recognizing the Magnificence of Birds

Klamath Bird Observatory, a scientific nonprofit organization that achieves bird conservation in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the migratory ranges of the birds of our region, received the world's first **Mindful Birding Award** for its efforts to promote a Mindful Birding ethic, and the role of birdwatchers as significant conservation actors. The group recently hosted the **Mountain Bird Festival** which combined a celebration of the Klamath-Siskiyou Region's spectacular mountain birds with the stewardship ethic needed to ensure thriving landscapes for humans and wildlife.

Mindful Birding recognizes that bird watching, by nature, is an outdoor activity that connects participants with nature through an appreciation of the magnificence of birds. With this recognition of the inherent value of birding, the Mindful Birding ethic encourages bird watchers to be mindful toward wildlife, mindful to



"Precious Moment" by local photographer Dan Elster is another of the fabulous art pieces that was showcased at the Mountain Bird Festival's Fine Art Auction. Dan is a self taught photographer who hopes that his art will serve as a reminder that we don't own the earth... we share it.

efforts to promote birding ethics and conservation through the Mountain Bird Festival.

"Klamath Bird Observatory developed our award-winning conservation model in the ruggedly beautiful and wildlife-rich Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion of southern Oregon and northern California," said **Brandon Breen**, Outreach and Communications Director. "We now apply this model more broadly to care for our shared birds throughout their annual cycles. Emphasizing high caliber science and the role of birds as indicators of the health of the land, we specialize in cost-effective bird monitoring and research projects that improve natural resource management."

safety and other people, and mindful of their own birding experience.

With such consciousness, it is believed that bird watchers will carry a Mindful Birding ethic from the field into their everyday activities, becoming even stronger messengers for and supporters of conservation for birds and people. **The Morrissey Family Foundation** issued this first Mindful Birding Award in recognition of Klamath Bird Observatory's