



# THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

AUTUMN 2014

## *From the Executive Committee*

Welcome to Fall!

Once again it's time for the East Cascades Audubon Society's Annual Event and Business Meeting, so mark your calendars for November 8, at the Bend Senior Center. Over ten years ago this Annual Event was started by the East Cascades Bird Conservancy as a celebration of birds and a thank-you to members and volunteers in the organization. Celebration and "thank-yous" are enduring concepts of the evening, and this promises to be another great evening.

Michael Illig, the Oregon Zoo Animal Curator, will talk about the Zoo's California Condor breeding and recovery program; Chuck Gates will perform another high-speed illustrated "ECAS Year in Review"; and we will honor the Conservationist and Volunteer of the year. We will again honor specific individuals as Conservationist and Volunteer of the year. Once again, there will be free food and beverages, a kids' corner organized by Mary Yanalcanlin, a silent auction, great raffle items, and music by NTT.

As the silent auction and raffle indicate, the Annual Event is also a fundraiser for ECAS. Funds raised at the Event will support programs and projects like Fledgling Fun, Lewis's and other Nest Box Projects, the Green Ridge Raptor Count, Winter Raptor Surveys, and other educational and citizen science programs. A premier raffle item will be two trips at the 2015 Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival, plus two nights at Eagle Crest, a prize valued at \$360.

### **MORE INSIDE**

<i>Blast from the Past, by Judy Meredith</i>	3
<i>Thirteen Blackbirds, a poem by Marion Davidson</i>	4
<i>Paul Bannick Returns to Central Oregon</i>	5
<i>What's Happening/ Birders' Nights</i>	6
<i>Out of Town: Winter Wings in Klamath Falls</i>	6
<i>Summer Field Notes, by Chuck Gates</i>	7
<i>Directions to Annual Event at Bend Senior Center</i>	8

Other raffle prizes, shown left to right, are two framed photographs by the late Frank Cleland, Eagle Optics Ranger ED 8x32 Binoculars, and a metal salmon sculpture. Tickets for these items will be \$10, or three for \$25.



Guided trips by ECAS experts will also be raffled. Guides include Chuck Gates, Kevin Smith, Tony Kutzen and Mary Yanalcanlin. Kevin's trip will focus on photography, and Tony and Mary's on a family friendly experience. Tickets will be only \$5. All these raffle prizes are great values, as are the silent auction items, so bring cash, your credit card, or your checkbook to support our programs. It's also a great time to join ECAS or renew your membership.

In addition, our ECAS Bylaws provide that our organization's annual business meeting will be held on the second Saturday of November. This meeting is when ECAS members elect new Directors to the Board and conduct any other appropriate business. We'll start the business meeting at 5:30, shortly after doors open at the Senior Center at 5:15. We anticipate that it will be short, and the music should be underway by 5:45.

Please note that construction of a round-about at 15th and Reed Market Road has altered access to the Senior Center. You'll find information on page 8. You can also find this information on the Bend Senior Center web site at [www.bendparksandrec.org/Senior\\_Center](http://www.bendparksandrec.org/Senior_Center). If you're not familiar with the new routes, please make a note of this information so that you don't miss out on a great evening.

See you there!

*Sherrie Pierce, Secretary*

<p><b><i>Welcome New Members!</i></b>  <b><i>Thanks for your support!</i></b></p>			
Anne Carwile	Bend, OR	Carol O'Casey	Bend
Bruce and Kelly Hazen	Bend, OR	Layton "Lee" Pace	Manhattan Beach, CA
Bill McMillian	Georgetown, TX	Wayne Schwartz	Bend, OR

## *Blast From the Past – Summer/Fall 1984*

Several familiar names surface in 1984 editions of the Eagle Eye, the newsletter of the Central Oregon Audubon Society. One of those familiar names is Jim Anderson, then President of COAS and editor of the newsletter. In several issues, Jim put out a request for someone to take over from him as editor. Finally, some relief, as Babette Lee did so in October while Julie Robertson took over as President. Jim also did a program about our National Parks in which he stressed why humans are needed as stewards and why membership in Audubon is important. Jim and his wife Sue, have been saving wild places and things and inspiring birders for decades. Next time you see them, let them know how much their energy and local wildlife activities have meant to you.

Alice Elshoff is another familiar name in the newsletter, which thanked Alice and Don Tryon for testifying in Washington, D.C., on protecting desert as wilderness. Our local Badlands would not be recognized as a Wilderness Area today without her years of dedication. A letter was also sent to Senator Mark Hatfield for his work on the Oregon Wilderness Bill.

Field notes mentioned the first Costa's Hummingbird in central Oregon at a feeder, the ninth record for the state. Big numbers of shorebirds included 90 Least Sandpipers and 117 Long-billed Dowitchers at Hatfield. First county records for Deschutes were a Semipalmated Sandpiper seen by Craig Miller at Hatfield and a Marbled Godwit and four Sanderlings at Tumalo Reservoir seen by Craig and Tom Crabtree. The accepted list of Oregon birds numbered 446 at that time, but is much higher now, at 532 species.

Lewis's Woodpeckers, blue-listed by National Audubon as a species in decline, were rare in central Oregon, but fifteen were counted around an old burn near Paulina/Supplee. What a score for the birds and birders too, that ECAS and Diane Kook and her cadre of volunteers manage such a successful nestbox program and that we can all see these beauties daily now during summer in central Oregon.

Rain often rated a mention in the newsletters from thirty years ago. Do you remember the year of the flood? Headquarters at Malheur was only accessible from the east. The road across the "Narrows" was flooded out from just south of Wright's Point. Large carp swam across the road, and there were people fishing and birding near the roadblock. Needless to say, bird demographics changed due to the flooding. Closer to home, Ivy Hilty lamented in her field notes that the June field trip to the Ashwood area was cut short due to rain on those roads. She tried again later in June, but it was again cancelled due to more rain. Those of us who have been there to see the slippery mud on the back roads will give a nod to her wisdom. Although it has been a good place in the past for Mountain Quail, and is so beautiful, the roads are still not maintained with any regularity.

The annual potluck picnic was held at Smith Rocks and extended into star gazing time after birding and the meal. Lloyd Sharp lent his expertise to the star gazing.

*Judy Meredith*

## Some Other Ways of Looking at a Blackbird *(after a poem by Wallace Stevens)*

I  
Early in the morning  
along the River Trail  
blackbirds call from the alders.

II  
At the lake, blackbirds  
peck the crumbs of last night's dinner.

III  
Peering from a nest  
beside the Aspen Hall Pond  
three young blackbirds.

IV  
For a yellow-headed blackbird  
go south to Summer Lake.

V  
In wintertime don't look —  
you won't see many blackbirds.

VI  
You'll find blackbirds  
in several poems, but  
are they really blackbirds?

VII  
On the Nature Channel  
there should be a few blackbirds.

VIII  
The landfill has plenty of crows  
(if they count as black birds.)

IX  
The female red-winged blackbird  
is a blackbird but  
isn't black.  
(Looking at her does count)



Common Raven, Photo by Kevin Smith,  
Kevinsmithnaturephotos@gmail.com

X

A blackbird crosses  
the Safeway parking lot.  
Black on black –  
a stealth bomber.

XI

Harbinger of doom  
bringer of fire –  
a Janus of a bird.

XII

The Ravens of the Tower  
of London insist  
on being included  
on this list of black birds.

XIII

Use of binoculars  
might provide  
a new perspective  
on blackbirds.



Red-winged Blackbird,  
Photo by Kevin Smith,  
Kevinsmithnaturephotos@gmail.com.

*Marion Davidson*

### *Paul Bannick Returns to Central Oregon*

Paul is an award-winning photographer who presented his beautiful book, *The Owl and the Woodpecker*, at Birders' Night several years ago. His work has appeared in publications such as *National Geographic* and *Smithsonian*, and he was a keynote speaker at National Audubon's 2013 convention. Now the Ridge Eagle Crest Owners' Association is bringing him to the River Run Event Center at Eagle Crest. Paul's presentation will be at 7pm, Thursday October 30, and it's free. The talk should be a real treat. For further information, please contact Chuck Crickmore at [ctc@bendbroadband.com](mailto:ctc@bendbroadband.com).

*Mary Oppenheimer*

## *What's Happening*

Fall Field Trip. Howard Horvath will lead an all day field trip to the High Lakes on Sunday October 19. Just like other ECAS field trips, this trip is free and a great opportunity to visit prime birding spots and get to know local birds and fellow birders. Detailed information about the starting time and place for the trip will be posted at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org) and on COBOL approximately a week in advance of the trip. To sign up for COBOL, email [jmoodie@cocc.edu](mailto:jmoodie@cocc.edu).

Wednesday Birders continue to meet each Wednesday at 7am, generally at Nancy P's in Bend. As days grow shorter, the meeting time will move to 8am, so check [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org) for exact starting time and place for each trip. Information is also posted on COBOL.

Birding for Preschoolers continues at 10am each Monday in Drake Park.

Fledgling Fun resumes at 3:45 Monday October 13 at the Central Oregon Environmental Center and continues on the second Monday of each month through May. More details are available at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org).

Young Birders of Central Oregon generally meets twice a month for outings and other activities. For information, contact Annette Gerard at 541-385-1799.

## *Autumn Birders' Nights*

On October 16, ECAS members Gary and Lynn Clark will provide us with "**Dramatic Contrasts: Birding Costa Rica and Morocco**". Gary and Lynn have a depth of experience having birded all seven continents, and Gary's photography is a continuous and ongoing passion. All our members are welcome to participate in "**Mystery Birds**" on November 20. Everyone is invited to bring a stick or cd with a few puzzling local bird photos, whether the ID is known or not, even if the shot is blurred, shows only half a bird, or is obscured by foliage. Similarly, everyone is invited to participate in figuring out "What is that bird?"

Please note: there is no Birders' Night in December.

Programs are held at The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend. Doors open for coffee, snacks, and conversation at 6:30pm, with the evening's program beginning at 7pm. For more details on speakers and programs, click "Birders' Nights" in the ECAS Info box on our home page at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org).

## *Out of Town: Winter Wings*

The 2015 Winter Wings Festival, sponsored by Klamath Basin Audubon, will take place February 12-15. This is a wonderful festival with four days of activities for birdwatchers, photographers, families, and anyone interested in nature. This year's keynote speaker is Richard Crossley, an internationally acclaimed birdwatcher, photographer, and author of the "Crossley ID Guide" series. Program details will be available in late November at [www.winterwingsfest.org](http://www.winterwingsfest.org), with registration in early December. If you are interested in attending, register early for the programs you want. Some prime programs fill the first morning!

*Mary Oppenheimer*

## *Summer 2014 Field Notes*

In 1987, Buster Poindexter was all over the radio airways singing, "Me mind on fire -- Me soul on fire -- Feeling hot hot hot!" Well, if you were birding in Central Oregon in the summer of 2014, you may have had similar sentiments. The temperatures were high and the birding was "hot hot hot". Below is a summary of the birding highlights for the summer of 2014.

Most of our local water birds leave our area for summer nesting grounds up north. A few stay and a few come back early. MUTE SWANS were noted in Deschutes County and Jefferson County. The origin of these birds is unclear (They may be from the population that was formerly in Bend or they may be from other areas.) Single reports of CANVASBACK and REDHEAD came in from Hatfield Lake and the Madras Sewer Ponds. A HORNED GREBE in breeding plumage is always a surprise in our area so the one that appeared at the Redmond Sewage Ponds over the summer was noteworthy. An AMERICAN BITTERN was found at Hatfield Lake by Portland birders for an unusual summer Deschutes record. A SNOWY PLOVER showed up at Hatfield in June for the 3rd record in 2 years (Only 4 Snowy Plovers have ever been found in Deschutes County.) A BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER was seen at Wickiup in July and a SOLITARY SANDPIPER showed up at the Redmond Sewage Ponds around the same time. Wickiup also produced a MARBLED GODWIT. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS were discovered at Haystack, Hatfield and the Redmond Sewage Ponds. Only once has a PECTORAL SANDPIPER been seen in July in Central Oregon so three birds showing up in three different locations was significant.

Game Birds nest locally so they don't often make the highlight list. However, some are a little hard to find so noting their presence is important. 90 CHUKAR were tallied on a boat survey around Lake Billy Chinook. MOUNTAIN QUAIL were found in two different locations in central Crook County. BAND-TAILED PIGEONS are exceedingly rare in Deschutes County so the 2 found by Tony Kutzen on Forest Road 2061 were quite a surprise.

Unusual raptor sightings were noted in this time period. Two different NORTHERN GOSHAWKS were found in the Sisters area. PEREGRINE FALCONS were found at Smith Rock, Bend and Lake Billy Chinook over the summer generating questions of possible nesting activity. BARN OWLS were found near Prineville and FLAMMULATED OWLS were heard near Stein's Pillar in Crook County and in the Cascades west of Sisters. A WESTERN SCREECH-OWL was heard at Whispering Pines while GREAT GRAY OWL reports came in from the GW and Shadow Lake Burn areas west of Sisters. LONG-EARED OWLS were spotted at the Redmond Sewage Ponds, Gray Butte and along Skyliners Road. A BURROWING OWL was located east of Paulina and a BARRED OWL was heard calling on Forest Road 2610 in the Ochocos. NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS were found at Stein's Pillar, Black Butte and Forest Road 2061.

Passerine news was spotty over the summer but some interesting reports came in. COMMON POORWILLS were noted at Black Butte, Powell Butte, Whispering Pines and Forest Road 2061. A very unusual BLACK SWIFT was seen near Tumalo Falls adding to the mystery of where these birds nest. BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS are not easy to find locally but they were seen in Ashwood, Powell Butte, Awbrey Butte and near Redmond. AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS have been hard to find in the last couple of years but many reports came in this year. Most were from the Pole Creek Fire area south of Sisters. We tend to take for granted our local nesting passerines because they are abundant and we become accustomed to their presence. However, when an unusual passerine shows up, we

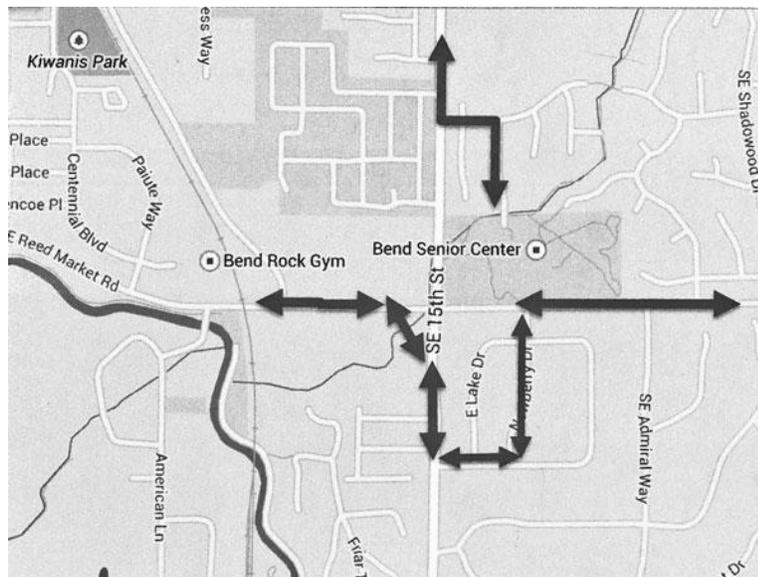
get excited. Tom Crabtree heard a CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER in Shevlin Park and Jack and Louise Swanson located a rare EASTERN KINGBIRD at Hatfield Lake. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were found nesting at North Shore Road in Crook County and in the Crooked River National Grasslands of Jefferson County. Five different people reported hearing or seeing VEERY in the Black Butte Swamp area west of Sisters. Several SWAINSON'S THRUSHES were seen in the same area. Two NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS were located actively singing east of Madras and a GRAY CATBIRD was doing the same at Camp Polk north of Sisters. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT reports were abundant this summer (that's unusual) and birds were found in all three CO counties. TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS were found in Madras early in the summer but the only nesting colony discovered was north of Prineville. A very unusual BALTIMORE ORIOLE was photographed near Ochoco Reservoir and an equally unusual HOODED ORIOLE stayed a couple of days east of Bend.

Those are the highlights. I think Buster would have loved it in Central Oregon this summer.

*Chuck Gates*

### *Bend Senior Center Directions*

- **From the North:** Take 15th St. South; Turn LEFT on Bronzewood; turn RIGHT onto Castlewood and park in cul-de-sac behind Senior Center.
- **From the West:** Take Reed Market Road and turn RIGHT onto new 'diagonal' connector onto 15th; Continue south and turn LEFT onto Twin Lakes Loop; Turn LEFT onto Newberry Drive.
- **From the East:** Take Reed Market Road to Senior Center, as normal.
- **From the South:** Take 15th Street to Twin Lakes Loop; Turn RIGHT; Turn LEFT onto Newberry Drive.



## *EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY*

P. O. Box 565, Bend Oregon

[www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org)

<i>Board Members</i>	<i>Committee and Event Chairs</i>
<p>President                      Vacant  Vice-President              Ken Hashagen  Secretary                      Sherrie Pierce  Treasurer                      Jan Rising  Board Members              Cathy Beck      Tom Crabtree      Karen Gentry      Jon Putnam      Kevin Smith</p> <p>Autumn 2014 Board Meetings      October 7      November 4      December 2</p> <p>Board meetings are held at 6pm at The Environmental Center on the first Tuesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend. Future Board meeting dates can be found in the activity calendar at <a href="http://www.ecaudubon.org">www.ecaudubon.org</a>. Board minutes are also posted at that site after approval by the Board.</p>	<p>Annual Event                      Sherrie Pierce  Bluebirds                      Ken Hashagen  Birders' Night                  Diana Roberts, Nancy Merrick    Communications                  Jon Putnam  Conservation                      Mike Golden  Education                          Mary Yanalcanlin  Field Trips                          Howard Horvath,  Finance                              Terri Hyde  Green Ridge Raptors          David Vick  Lake Abert Study                  Steve Dougill  Lewis's Woodpeckers          Diane Kook  Membership                      Jan Rising  NAMC                                  Vacant  Newsletter                          Mary Oppenheimer  Science                              Vacant  Summer Lake Survey          Steve Dougill  Technology                          Steve Dougill,  Vaux's Swifts                      Bob Johnson      Mary Anne Kruse  Volunteers                          Sherrie Pierce  Wednesday Birders              Judy Meredith      Howard Horvath    Woodpecker Festival              Ken Hashagen  Winter Raptor Survey              Jeff Fleisher</p> <p><i>To volunteer for a committee or event, please contact Sherrie Pierce at 541-548-4641.</i></p>
<p><i>Contact information for Board members, Committee Chairs, and Project Leaders is posted at the "Contact Us" button on the ECAS website.</i></p>	

The East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) is a 501(c)(3) organization that furthers knowledge and appreciation of birds and their habitats through field trips, education, and field studies. Join ECAS and help preserve the birds of the Central Oregon region at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org).