

THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020 - 2021



President's Report

By Tom Lawler

When can we start making plans? Those simple six words sum up our personal lives and the operation of this organization. As our membership is aware, ECAS has essentially hit a pause button for many of our activities. At this point those pauses will continue into 2021. We will hopefully have some small field trips going on during the first six months of 2021. ECAS members will be notified about any through MemberPlanet. *The Chatter* will have news of regular activities such as Wednesday Birders or Birding By Ear whenever they are scheduled. It is doubtful the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival will be held this year. It would please me if I was wrong!

In spite of the lock-down there are some projects that continued along. Stu Garrett has a dedicated team of people working on Sage Grouse conservation. Bluebirds were banded, Kestrels monitored and Lewis's Woodpeckers watched. Cabin Lake was maintained and grants of various sizes were made.

The Board itself has not met in person since last March. We seem to be getting along with Zoom meetings and in fact I believe it has helped attract new Board members. One member lives in Eugene and a couple of members work. Yes, there are some Board members that are not retired! When we start meeting in person the Board will continue to allow remote attendance of the meeting.

As a very tough 2020 ends I want to thank all the people that allow this organization to function. Those involved with the Board, the various committees, leading field trips and just plain helping out.

Lastly I want to wish for a better year for everyone. 2020 was extremely tough for most of the citizens of the world. May life go easier on everyone in 2021 and this pandemic go away. I certainly hope by the end of 2021 we can all think of our lives as being more normal and be able to make plans.

ECAS Board Update

By Tom Lawler

Board elections were recently held. Instead of doing this the usual way at the (canceled) Annual Event, we used a MemberPlanet poll. That seemed to work in this time of improvising.

First I wish to acknowledge three outgoing Board members.

Terri Hyde has been our long-time treasurer. For six years Terri offered solid advice to the Board on many financial and legal matters. She will be sorely missed! She will still be in the background helping with the transition to a new Treasurer.

Carolyn Rochelle served three years on the Board. She was always willing to help organize and inventory the storage shed and help out in other ways. Thank you for your service to ECAS.

Diane Burgess served three years on the Board. During those three years she served in the Secretary position. Thank you Diane for taking on this position and taking all those minutes.

We have three new Board Members, two of whom are elected to full terms. I would like to introduce newly elected Board members:

Amanda Accamando joined the Board via appointment in February 2020. Since 2017 she has been the manager of the nature center at Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory. Over the last 20 years, Amanda has developed and managed education and outreach programs for a variety of institutions, and with her background, she is a great fit for the Board. She has knowledge of many local environmental, educational and outreach programs and is a great go-to person when we need connections and advice in these areas.

Miriam Lipsitz is a long time member of ECAS and is also involved with the Membership Committee. She was interested in joining the Board and will be a welcome addition. Besides ECAS she is, or has been, involved with a number of environmental projects with other organizations.

Jenny Mueller joins the Board but is not a stranger to ECAS. She quickly became involved with the organization shortly after her move to Central Oregon in 2018. Jenny now chairs the Membership Committee. For quite sometime I have wanted to have the Chair of the Membership Committee on the Board. Now we have the current Chair and the past Chair!

Jan Rising is a familiar name to many in ECAS. Jan served on the Board from 2011 through 2016. She recently retired as the Chair of the Membership Committee. I asked if she would consider joining the Board in early 2020 and she was appointed to a vacant position in February 2020. I appreciate having a "legacy" Board member on the Board. She can bring insight as to how and why some policies are in place. She recently moved to Eugene and now that we are using Zoom it is easy for her to attend Board meetings.

Mary Shivell has been involved with ECAS for a number of years and is our Field Trip Coordinator which is another position that I thought should be involved directly with the Board. Field Trips are an important ECAS offering and her input can be used to make sure that the Board is doing its best to support field trips.

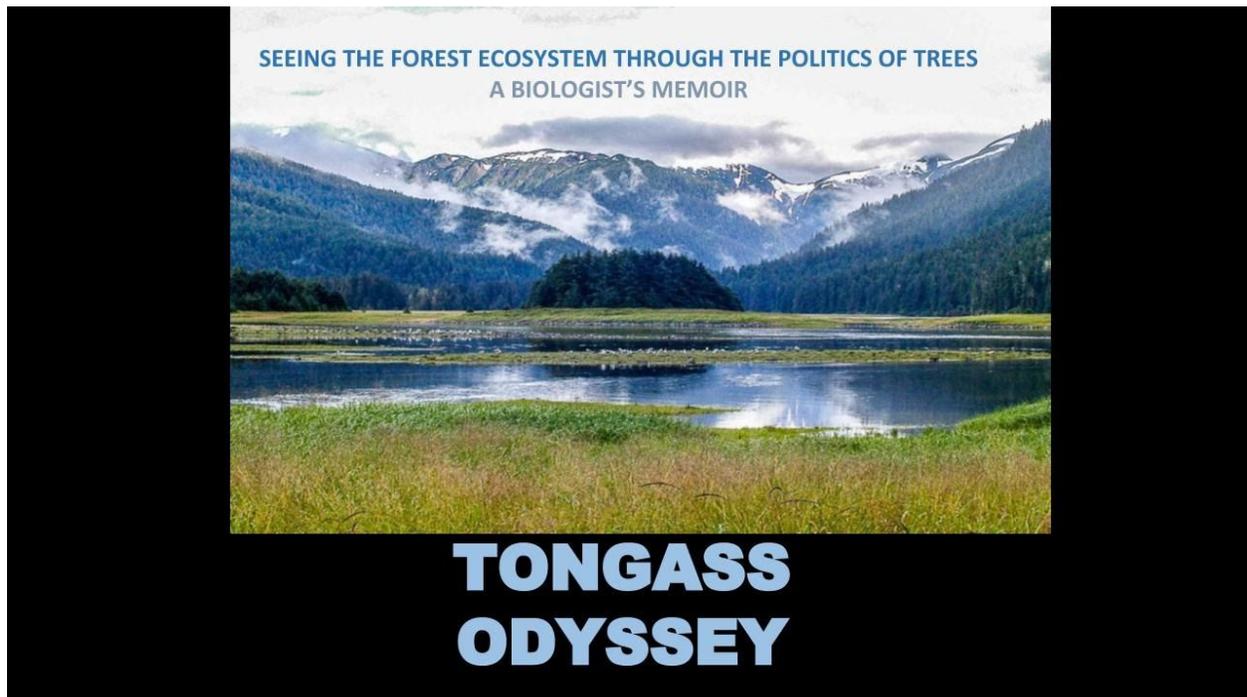
ECAS Birders' Night

By Gordon Wetzel

Join us on **January 21st at 7 PM** for a presentation on **the wildlife of Alaska's Tongass National Forest**. We will hear from wildlife biologist **John Schoen**, author of a new book that follows his personal experiences over decades of studying brown bears, deer, mountain goats, and their relationships to old-growth rainforests. Few places on Earth have large intact landscapes that still function much as they have for millennia. The Tongass National Forest contains the largest expanse of old-growth forest in the United States. Together with the forests of the northern British Columbia coast, this region encompasses the greatest intact temperate rainforest remaining on Earth. But this rainforest's ecological integrity is at risk. As a long-time wildlife scientist engaged in Tongass conservation, John will share his knowledge of old-growth forests and their many ecological and societal values. His images, stories, and passion for conservation will inspire you to help protect this remarkable ecosystem.

John grew up in Washington's San Juan Islands with the beach for his front yard and the forest his backyard playground. Following completion of his Ph.D. from the University of Washington, he moved to Alaska in 1976 and had a fulfilling career working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Audubon Alaska.

Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82624582529>



2020 Fall Field Notes

By Chuck Gates

In seasonal terms, the word “fall” often conjures thoughts of trees releasing their old leaves with the promise of fresh foliage in the spring. Many birds perform a similar feat by shedding old and donning new feathers during the fall season. Whether it be birds or trees, fall offers a sense of spring renewal. But birders are not content to wait for spring to give us good birds. Instead, in the fall, we scour the countryside in search of summer seceders and winter arrivals. This renews us long before the new buds of spring or the fresh plumage of the breeding season. Birders don't have time to wait until spring. Below, you will find a summary of the birding highlights in the fall of 2020.

Let us begin with the waterbirds. GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE began arriving as early as Aug 22 with 37 individuals spotted at Wickiup Res. (Low). SNOW GEESE were reported 17 times at various wetlands around the area with a high count of 14 at Hatfield Lk. on Oct 2 (C. Miller, Crabtree). Only one ROSS'S GOOSE was tallied this fall with a sighting at Wickiup Res. on Oct 25 (Low). Twenty-one times local birders found CACKLING GEESE in the three Central Oregon counties with the high count coming in at 63 in the Terrebonne/O'Neil area (Low). TRUMPETER SWANS (mult. obs.) were seen in a half dozen locations and a high count of 101 TUNDRA SWANS at Hatfield Lk. on Oct 25 was noteworthy (Crabtree, Cantor). As many as 10 different EURASIAN WIGEONS were spotted in diverse locations like Davis Lk. (Low), Hatfield Lk. (mult. obs.), Madras Sewer Ponds (Sanford), Deschutes R. in Bend (mult. obs.), Redmond's Fireman's Pond (Gates), and Crane Prairie (Mayer). A late CINNAMON TEAL was discovered at Hatfield Lk. on Nov 14 (Sizoo) and GREATER SCAUP were scattered in locations like Suttle Lk. (mult. obs.) and Brewer Res. near Madras (White). SURF SCOTERS were recorded 13 times with an astounding high count of 31 at Suttle Lk. on Oct 22 (Thomas). WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were tallied at Suttle Lk. on Oct 21 (Crabtree), at Black Butte Ranch on Oct 24 (Williamson), and at 3-Creeks Lk. on Oct 29 (Burgess). Reports of LONG-TAILED DUCK were noted at Ochoco Res. on Oct 19 (Talbot, Gates), Crane Prairie Res. on Nov 7 (Low), and Hatfield Lk. on Nov 10 (Reuland). RED-BREASTED MERGANSER reports came in from



Red-breasted Merganser Photo by Tom Crabtree

Wickiup and Crane Prairie Reservoirs (Low), Hatfield Lk. (Gonzalez, Bennett, Cowan), Haystack Res., and multiple times at Suttle Lake between Oct 18 (Crabtree) and Nov 14 (Cahill). A PACIFIC LOON spent a couple of weeks at Suttle Lake in the back half of October (Namitz, Sutherland, Parrott) while another individual was found feeding in the River Meadows area of Sunriver (Rhoads). RED-NECKED GREBES were located in Powell Butte (Zalunardo), Crane Prairie (Low), Brewer Res. (Hildebrand, Gates), Redmond Sewer Ponds (Nordstrom), and multiple times at Suttle Lk. (Weiser, mult. obs.). CLARK'S GREBE sightings were located at Wickiup Res. (Low, Reuland), Prineville Res. (Gates), Suttle Lk. (Crabtree), and Haystack Res. (White). AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS are usually gone by the first of Nov so, a single individual seen in the area around Hatfield Lk. between Nov 9 & 12 was worth noting (Low, L. Pascoe, J. Pascoe, Shelmerdine). Single AMERICAN BITTERNS turned up at Sunriver on Aug 29 (Hughes) and Oct 4 (Vine) but it was unclear if the same bird was involved in both instances. GREAT EGRETS are expected regularly in the high mountain lakes like Wickiup Res., but birds found at the Crooked R. Wetlands (Gates, Staats, Drescher), along Mt. Goat Ln. in Bend (Arneson), and at the Pelton Re-regulating Dam in Warm Springs (Mrvelj, Frank) deserve mention. A rare Deschutes County GREEN HERON was spotted at Sunriver's Mary McCallum park on Aug 18 (Swanson) and a BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was spotted at the Culver Sewer Ponds for only the 9th county record (Namitz). A flock of 12 WHITE-FACED IBIS turned up at Wickiup Res. on Aug 2 (Cahill) and a SANDHILL CRANE was seen at the Redmond Sewer Ponds on Sep 10 (Black).

Shorebirds, gulls, terns, and jaegers often provide this list with some very unusual entries and that alone warrants their own paragraph. There was only 1 sighting of AMERICAN AVOCET this fall, and it was seen at the Crooked R. Wetlands on Aug 29 (Bowers, Boever, Meenaghan). On the other hand, BLACK-NECKED STILTS were reported from 4 locations: Wickiup Res. (Kornfeld, Meredith, Zalunardo), Redmond Sewer Ponds (Gates), Hatfield Lk. (Meredith, mult. obs.), and Paulina Lk. (B. Miller). Single BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS turned up at Wickiup Res. (Centanni) and Sunriver (Lawler) while a group of 4 birds were seen at Hatfield Lk. on Sep 12 (Ta. Martin, Te. Martin). Before this fall, AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER had only been seen



American Golden-plover Photo by Tom Crabtree

8 times in Deschutes County so single birds at Hatfield Lk. on Oct 14 (Low) and at Wickiup Res. on Oct 16 (Talbot, Cahill) caused some excitement. Over a dozen SOLITARY SANDPIPER records came in from places like Hatfield Lk. (Low, Kornfeld), Wickiup Res. (Low, Crabtree), and the Crooked River Wetlands (Meenaghan). Two late LEAST SANDPIPERS were seen at the Redmond Sewer Ponds on Nov 28 (Gates). SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS were found 3 times at Hatfield Lk. (Low 2X, Kornfeld), 6 times at Wickiup Res. with a high count of 8 on Aug 2 (Meredith, Zalunardo, Crabtree, Low 4X), and once at the Crooked R. Wetlands (Meenaghan). The season's only SANDERLING was spotted at Prineville Res. on Sep 9 (Gates, Staats). The

Sanderling Photo by Chuck Gates



Sabine's Gull Photo by Mark Gonzalez



last DUNLIN of the season turned up at the Redmond Sewer Ponds on Nov 30 (Meredith). SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS were surprisingly abundant this season with records coming in from Wickiup Res. (Kornfeld, Meredith, Zalunardo), Hatfield Lk. (Low, Sutherland), Redmond Sewer Ponds (Meredith), and Tumalo Res. (Anderson). Late LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS were seen on Nov 20 at Hatfield Lk. (Low) and in Powell Butte (Zalunardo). A Nov 19 sighting of GREATER YELLOWLEGS proved to be the 8th latest record for this species (Reuland). FRANKLIN'S GULLS were noted 7 times at Wickiup Res. with the initial record coming in on Aug 2 (Low). Other Franklin's Gulls turned up at the Prineville Sewer Ponds (Gates) and Hatfield Lk. (Low). SABINE'S GULLS were discovered at East Lk. on Aug 7 (Isenberg) and Hatfield Lk. on Aug 14 (Low). A rare MEW GULL was located on Crane Prairie Res. for Central Oregon's 5th record (Low). HERRING GULLS were spotted at Wickiup Res. (Meredith, Zalunardo, Low, Jakse, Reuland), Suttle Lk. (Crabtree, Kornfeld), and Davis Lk. (Low). A rare ICELAND GULL briefly stopped by Suttle Lk. on Oct 31 (Crabtree). Central Oregon's first **GLAUCOUS GULL** was found by Peter Low on Nov 7 at the north end of Davis Lake. COMMON TERNS "terned up" at Wickiup Res. on Aug 15 and Sep 7 (Low) as well as Hatfield Lk. on Oct 3 (Horvath, Oppenheimer, Mayer). With water levels reaching historic lows in much of the region, it was nice to see a single BLACK TERN reported from Paulina Lk. on Aug 21 (Mayer). PARASITIC JAEGERs were located at Wickiup Res. (Low) and at the Green Ridge Hawk Watch location in the Cascades (Small, Cwiklinski).

Band-tailed Pigeon Photo
by Jeff Nordstrom

Gamebirds are usually sedentary and, except for California Quail and a few doves, unusual in the area. On Nov 27 CHUKARS were seen on Grizzly Mt. for the only seasonal record (Namitz, Parrott). The elusive MOUNTAIN QUAIL was reported from Brennan Palisades in the Ochocos (Hildebrand, Crabtree), Deep Cr. C.G. east of Summit Prairie (Wolfe), and Cove Palisades State Park (Iseminger). RING-NECKED PHEASANT continue their regional decline with the only reports coming in from the Crooked R. National Grasslands (MacDonald), Crooked R. Wetlands (Authier), and Powell Butte (Zalunardo). RUFFED GROUSE were spotted near Indian Ford C.G. (Angiola, Kristovich), on the Jack Lk. Rd. (Virts), and on Forest Rd. 1150 west of Sisters (Meredith). Multiple SOOTY GROUSE reports came in from the Cascades but only 1 DUSKY GROUSE report was made from the Ochoco Mts. south of Summit Prairie (J. McAtee, N. McAtee). Similarly, only 1 GREATER SAGE GROUSE sighting was reported this season with 3 birds noted near Beaver Cr. Rd. east of Paulina (Groo). Larger than normal numbers of BAND-TAILED PIGEON reports came in from 8 different locations in Deschutes and Jefferson counties (mult. obs.).



Birds of prey are perennial favorites and we had a few of the rarer species reported this season. A late OSPREY was noted at Dillon Falls on Nov 1 (Low). NORTHERN GOSHAWKS were tallied on the ECAS Fall Raptor Survey on Green Ridge (Meredith, mult. obs.) along with birds seen at LaPine State Park (Arneson) and Camp Sherman (Mayer). RED-SHOULDERED HAWK sightings came in from 9 different locations, including a rare Wheeler County record (Skirvin). An early ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was noted at Wickiup Res. on Oct 16 (Talbot, Cahill) and a late SWAINSON'S HAWK was recorded at the Redmond Sewer Ponds on Sep 8 (Gates). PEREGRINE FALCONS continue to increase in numbers as individuals were reported on 14 occasions (mult. obs.). A BARN OWL was seen in the Crooked River Canyon early in the fall (Yalcin) and a GREAT GRAY OWL was photographed west of Madras on Oct 31 (Spencer). WESTERN SCREECH-OWLS were spotted north of Sisters (Tank), at Cold Springs C.G.



Western Screech-owl Photo by Chuck Gates



Northern Saw-whet Owl Photo by Tom Crabtree

(Lowe), in Powell Butte (Trampush), and on the Deschutes River near Trout Cr. (Givot). BARRED OWLS were noted at Shevlin Park (Tackmier), Redmond's Dry Canyon (Lyons), and near Sunriver (Faeustle). NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS were found in three locations in Bend (Kornfeld, Gonzalez, Williams), at Prairie Farm Springs on Green Ridge (Meredith), and at Ryan Meadow (Cahill). A LONG-EARED OWL was heard calling in Powell Butte (Gates) and SHORT-EARED OWLS turned up in Alfalfa (Fagan) and Powell Butte (Gates).

Acorn Woodpecker Photo
by Suzette Shoulders



If ever there was a grab-bag group of birds, the Near Passerines would fit the "bill." This group includes the cuckoos, nightjars, woodpeckers, and hummingbirds. A very rare **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** was heard calling at Cold Springs C.G. on Sep 9 for only the second Central Oregon record (Crabtree). An ACORN WOODPECKER was spotted for a 12th time in Deschutes County in a Bend yard on Oct 20 (Talbot) and a WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER was noted in the town of Prineville for an "odd location" record (Halvorson). AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS are our rarest woodpecker and birds were found at Matthieu Lk. (Haynes), Hwy 242 past the winter gate (D.

Smith), Dutchman's Flat Sno-park (Melnick), and Whispering Pines CG south of Sisters (Turner). A late CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD was spotted at a feeder at Smith Rock on Oct 25 (Vick) and BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS were found in Prineville (Authier, Gates), the Crooked R. Wetlands (Crabtree), and in Redmond (Bowers). A BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD turned up in Bend for a 13th county record on Aug 6 (Cahill).

It's hard to beat the passerines when it comes to ranking bird groups during the fall migration. A very late DUSKY FLYCATCHER was found at Hatfield Lk. on Nov 10 setting a new "late date" record for that species (Shelmerdine). BLACK PHOEBES were positively abundant compared to most years with birds being found at Black Butte Ranch (Cone), Crooked R. Wetlands (mult. obs.), Camp Polk Meadow (Kristovich), Powell Butte (Zalunardo), Redmond Sewer Ponds (Meredith, Zalunardo), and Terrebonne (Low). EASTERN KINGBIRDS were spotted in their expected location along the Deschutes River downstream from Warm Springs (Nick) but an individual found at Shevlin Park was unusual (Angiola, Anderson). Central Oregon experienced its first HUTTON'S VIREO in Dec of 2019 and the surprise continued with two more sightings in the fall of this year; 1 at Ryan Meadow (Dimarzio) and 1 along the Deschutes R. Trail south of Bend (Zalunardo). Single BLUE JAYS were reported from 7 different locations in Deschutes County (mult. obs.) and at Suttle Lake for a 7th Jefferson County record (C. Miller, M. Miller). The only accepted record of BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE was turned in from its historic location in Warm Springs (Frank). CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES were located near Winopee Lk. (Bohmen, Congdon), Suttle Lk. (Crabtree, Cahill), and at Lower Bridge C.G. near Camp Sherman (Berkemeier). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS continue their transition from the rare bird list to the more common list with 14 reports (mult. obs.) and a high count of 23 birds along North Shore Rd. leading into Prineville Res. (Gates). A late HOUSE WREN was photographed at Black Butte on Oct 7 for only the 6th record after Sep (Scotland). SWAINSON'S THRUSH reports came in from Sunriver (Hughes), Powell Butte (Gates), and Suttle Lk. (White). A NASHVILLE WARBLER seen on Oct 22 at Suttle Lk. set a record late date

for that species (Kornfeld) and a **NORTHERN PARULA** showed up at Tumalo Res. for only the 5th Central Oregon record and only the 2nd time in the fall season (Cahill, mult. obs.). A **NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** spent a week near the Redmond Sewer ponds starting on Aug 26 (Zalunardo, Sutherland). On Sep 13, a **SUMMER TANAGER** was discovered at Drake Park



Summer Tanager Photo by Jim Moodie

and it remained in the area for a couple of weeks (Murphy). A SWAMP SPARROW discovered at Hatfield Lk. on Oct 18 stayed through the season (Low) and a BLACK-THROATED SPARROW found at Smith Rock S.P. may have been a holdover from the pair that bred there this summer (Hopping). No fewer than 20 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW reports came from Deschutes County, but the real buzz came from Jefferson County where they are much more infrequently reported: Suttle Lk (Crabtree), Green Ridge (Low), Cove S.P. (Sanford), and two separate reports from Camp Sherman (Beall, Sivers). LAPLAND LONGSPUR reports were received from Hatfield Lk. (Low, Meredith) and the Crooked R. Wetlands (Cahill). Late BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS were found in Bend on Oct 5 (Crabtree), Redmond on Oct 13 (Lowe), and Powell Butte on Oct 17 (Gates). TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS are somewhat expected in Crook County, but birds found in Culver provided a more unusual Jefferson County record (Meredith). Deschutes County's 3rd record of RUSTY BLACKBIRD showed up in LaPine and stayed a few days (Rhodes, Crabtree). GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES were spotted on Pilot Butte (Horvath, Fainberg), Brokentop (Cahill, Swiney), and Grizzly Mt. (Gates). Finally, 8 WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were reported from Prairie Farm Sp. Oct 5 (Low) and another visited a feeder in Deschutes R. Woods on Nov 14 (Moodie).



White-winged Crossbill Photo by Jim Moodie

OBSERVERS (In order of appearance in this report)

Peter Low, Craig Miller, Tom Crabtree, Cantor, Jen Sanford, Chuck Gates, Mike Mayer, Bob Sizoo, Brian White, Evan Thomas, Jack Williamson, Diane Burgess, Brodie Cass Talbott, John Reuland, Mark Gonzalez, Craig Bennett, Lisa Cowan, Matt Cahill, Russ Namitz, Don Sutherland, Leisyka Parrott, Sevilla Rhoads, Cindy Zalundardo, Annette Lange Hildebrand, Jeff Nordstrom, Claire Weiser, Louise Pascoe, Jerry Pascoe, Bill Shelmerdine, Garrett Hughes, Milton Vine, Nick Mrvelj, Andy Frank, Bob Swanson, Kevin Black, Wayne Bowers, Nancy Boever, Gerry Meenaghan, Steve Kornfeld, Judy Meredith, Brenda Miller, Caleb Centanni, Tom Lawler, Tanner Martin, Terry Martin, Janice Staats, Dorian Anderson, Seth Isenberg, Kara Jakse, Howard Horvath, Mary Oppenheimer, Steve Small, Carol Cwiklinski, Walt Wolfe, Brian Iseminger, Nancy MacDonald, Bob Authier, Dean Angiola, Kris Kristovich, Charlene Virts, June McAtee, Norm McAtee, Tyler Groo, James Arneson, Aaron Skirvin, Kaplan Yalcin, Jim Spencer, Cash Lowe, Vicky Trampush, Rima Givot, Kristen Tackmier, Kim Lyons, George Faeustle, Cherry Williams, Damian Fagan, Ron Halvorson, David Smith, Andrew Melnick, Boyd Turner, David Vick, Bill Cone, A. Nick, Tasha Dimarzio, Marilyn Miller, Ned Bohmen, Carly Congden, Aaron Berkemeier, Julie Scotland, Ken Murphy, Alec Hopping, Douglas Beall, Ron Sivers, Denise Fainberg, Chaney Swiney, and Jim Moodie.



New Record for Bend CBC

By Tom Crabtree



The 2020 Bend Christmas Bird Count was held December 20th in balmy weather conditions. The unseasonable warmth led to many lingering species and allowed access into areas often covered in snow. With no deep freezes before this year's count, we were able to break the record for most species seen with 99. The previous record of 98 was set in 2001. We counted a total of 11,580 individuals – 68 more than 2019.

Among the rarer species seen this year were Snow Goose (10th record); Northern Saw-whet Owl (8th); Brown-headed Cowbird (8th); White-throated Sparrow (7th); Peregrine Falcon (5th) and Swamp Sparrow (4th). Other good birds were Canvasback, White-headed Woodpecker, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and Yellow-rumped Warbler. The big misses for the count were Golden Eagle, Northern Harrier, Least Sandpiper, Black-backed Woodpecker (all seen the previous day) and Jim Anderson (2nd miss in 30+ years).

The unseasonable weather led to a number of species remaining in the area after they have usually departed for warmer climes. All-time high counts were recorded for Common Merganser (116), Anna's Hummingbird (an amazing 9 birds were recorded), Cooper's Hawk (13), Hermit Thrush (15) and Fox Sparrow (5). High numbers were also recorded for Redhead (21 – highest since 1972), Great Blue Heron (11 – highest since 2006), Belted Kingfisher (18 – 2nd highest), Steller's Jay (88 – highest since 2002), Bushtit (145 – highest since 1988), Varied Thrush (43 – 4th highest), and Pine Siskin (246 – 2nd highest).

Low numbers were tallied for three species of waterfowl, Canada Goose (508 – half of last year's total and lowest since 1991), American Wigeon (24, compared to 155 last year – tying the lowest ever recorded in 2005) and Mallard (615 – lowest since 2000).

Thanks to those that braved the National Audubon-imposed Covid restrictions for this year's count and the many who responded by doing their own feeder watch totals. Let's hope we will be back to normal in 2021. Total list for 2020 CBC follows:

Snow Goose 1
 Greater White-fronted Goose 10
 Cackling Goose 2
 Canada Goose 508
 Trumpeter Swan 1
 Tundra Swan 1
 Wood Duck 2
 Northern Shoveler 30
 Gadwall 6
 American Wigeon 24
 Mallard 615
 Northern Pintail 8
 Green-winged Teal 120
 Canvasback 1
 Redhead 21
 Ring-necked Duck 241
 Lesser Scaup 4
 Bufflehead 49
 Common Goldeneye 51
 Barrow's Goldeneye 1
 Hooded Merganser 51
 Common Merganser 116
 Ruddy Duck 72
 California Quail 103
 Pied-billed Grebe 8
 Rock Pigeon 231
 Eurasian Collared Dove 157
 Mourning Dove 175
 Anna's Hummingbird 9
 American Coot 21
 Least Sandpiper cw
 Wilson's Snipe 1
 Great Blue Heron 11
 Golden Eagle cw
 Northern Harrier cw
 Sharp-shinned Hawk 6
 Cooper's Hawk 13
 Bald Eagle 11
 Red-tailed Hawk 53
 Great Horned Owl 9
 Northern Saw-whet Owl 1
 Belted Kingfisher 18
 Williamson's Sapsucker cw
 Red-breasted Sapsucker 3
 Black-backed Woodpecker cw
 Downy Woodpecker 1
 Hairy Woodpecker 16
 White-headed Woodpecker 2
 Northern Flicker 98
 American Kestrel 18
 Merlin 7
 Peregrine Falcon 3
 Prairie Falcon 2
 Northern Shrike 1
 Pinyon Jay 1

Steller's Jay 88
 Black-billed Magpie 52
 Clark's Nutcracker 22
 California Scrub Jay 215
 American Crow 3
 Common Raven 311
 Mountain Chickadee 248
 Bushtit 145
 Golden-crowned Kinglet 3
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 81
 White-breasted Nuthatch 14
 Pygmy Nuthatch 344
 Brown Creeper 2
 Rock Wren cw
 Canyon Wren 2
 Pacific Wren 4
 Marsh Wren 2
 American Dipper 6
 European Starling 966
 Sage Thrasher cw
 Western Bluebird 103
 Mountain Bluebird 90
 Townsend's Solitaire 89
 Varied Thrush 43
 Hermit Thrush 14
 American Robin 2698
 Cedar Waxwing 309
 House Sparrow 408
 American Pipit cw
 Evening Grosbeak 17
 House Finch 425
 Purple Finch 11
 Cassin's Finch 13
 Red Crossbill 260
 Pine Siskin 246
 Lesser Goldfinch 180
 American Goldfinch 34
 Fox Sparrow 5
 Dark-eyed Junco 464
 White-crowned Sparrow 84
 Golden-crowned Sparrow 35
 White-throated Sparrow 1
 Song Sparrow 42
 Lincoln's Sparrow 3
 Swamp Sparrow 1
 Spotted Towhee 24
 Western Meadowlark 1
 Red-winged Blackbird 14
 Brown-headed Cowbird 1
 Brewer's Blackbird 540
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 1

 TOTAL SPECIES 99
 TOTAL INDIVIDUALS 11580

Birds in the Binoculars

by Jim Anderson

A version of an article published 12/23/20 in *The Source Weekly*, used with Jim's permission

There is a well developed pastime taking place across the nation that keeps thousands of people occupied from dawn to dark. You can usually find them congregated around bodies of water with binoculars glued to their eyeballs. The sounds coming from these groups are usually subdued, with sudden outbursts, such as, "Are you sure?!", "NO...!" "Hey! That's a lifer!" or "Looks like a lesser to me." Sneaking up on birds started out as "Bird Watching" but today it's called "Birding."

Intent Birders (Photo by Chuck Gates)



These are birders. Most of the time they are recreational birders, out looking at birds for their own enjoyment. However, sometimes these exercises can be "official," such as conducting the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The CBC — that's been going on for over 100-years — is one of the most important birding exercises in the US. It began with the Audubon Society and is what the entire birding community uses to determine the welfare of the birds of North America.

Then there are the "Lifers." These are people determined to see as many species of birds in their lifetime as possible. Getting to the 500th bird on a list is a really special occasion and often requires some world travel. A subset of these people try to see as many bird species as possible in just one year. This often involves a contest and prize money. Even a movie was made about this pursuit: *The Big Year*.

My son, Dean was an F-16 fighter pilot for most of his time in the USAF, and as such, traveled to many foreign countries. When he left home we decided to see who would get ahead first on their bird life list. He went to Korea, I went to Australia, and we both checked off a lot of good new birds. Then, at 3 am one morning the phone rang and Dean announced, "I just had a close

encounter with a new bird, Pop!" He was calling from Italy, and sounded like he was going to jump out of his skin. "What was it?" I asked. His answer about knocked me over, "I don't know, Pop, but it was pretty big and left a big brown smear down the side of my fighter jet." I held my breath and asked, "Did it come inside...?" Dean's reply made me sit back in relief, "Nope, but I think it was a buzzard of some kind." I was so relieved I said, "OK, son, as far as I'm concerned, you can count it as a 'Buzzard of Some Kind' and we'll let it go at that." To this day, I think about that meeting in the skies over Europe and I'm so thankful that poor buzzard didn't come into my son's fighter jet...

So, how do people get started in the pastime of birding? For me it was my grandfather telling me about a Great Horned Owl I shot when I was a youngster. He explained the owl's lifestyle and impact on our society. I went nuts about birds after that, especially when I met Finley and Bohlman (early Oregon bird enthusiasts) in the pages of "American Birds."

Others also attribute their getting started in birding to the elders in their family. Quinton Nice recalls, "...the single most influential event was undoubtedly when my parents gave me a Peterson's field guide. I remember standing in front of the classroom with it in second grade and saying maybe they would even get me some binoculars some day. What a dreamer I was!" Bob Archer wrote, "My great-grandmother was the first birder in my clan. I have her 1906 Chapman bird book. As a 5 yr old, I would be placed on a stump with a pair of binoculars and my 1965 Peterson guide (based on current condition, I had a crayon to put notes in book) and would happily sit there looking for birds while everyone else hiked around. I would reliably be in the same spot upon their return. Darrel Faxon said, "It probably helped that my father always wrote on the barn wall the date of the arrival of the swallows each spring."

Teachers also helped in fostering a love for birds in their students. Barbara Coomb's second grade teacher enrolled the entire class in Junior National Audubon. She has been watching birds ever since. When he got to high school, Joel Geier was lucky to have a biology teacher who was really ahead of his time. His teacher was also happy to have a student who could already identify all of the birds in his specimen collection. Joel continued to appreciate birds wherever he went, and recorded interesting birds in his journals. Roy Lowe said it wasn't until he arrived at Humboldt State University and met Dr. Stan Harris aka "Doc" that the world of all birds opened to him. Over the years, Doc infected hundreds if not thousands of his students with the birding virus.

Kathy van der Horst's gateway to bird watching was a cassette tape. A friend who had just started bird watching played a tape of the songs of local birds as they were driving in her car. Kathy studied the CD's of bird songs and learned to recognize the species first without seeing them. Pat Truhn began birding as she was recovering from breast cancer treatment.

It's a fascinating pursuit with lots of variety, surprises, social sharing, and rewards. Birding can easily fit into a daily schedule and can pair with other recreational activities such as hiking, boating, beach walking, fishing, and photography. It's also a good venue for practicing citizen science by reporting unusual species or finding a banded bird. And birding can be a solitary enjoyment or it could easily involve the whole family.

Sisters High School Students on a birding field trip (photo by Sue Anderson)



East Cascades Audubon Society of Bend has a host of information on its website (<http://www.ecaudubon.org>) like local birding locations and check-off lists to get you started. Check out their newsletter to find out what's going on and to meet with other like-minded nature observers. The Deschutes Land Trust (www.deschuteslandtrust.org) also offers a number of birding walks on their preserves. The Oregon Birding Association has endless information on its website (www.oregonbirding.org) that will make you want to grab your binocs and camera and head outdoors.

Warning : it's contagious. it's addictive, it's fun!

THE JIM ANDERSON EFFECT

By Jan Rising

Many birders know about the Patagonia Rest Area Effect from birding in southern Arizona or from reading about somewhat rare bird sightings discovered in that rest area. Wikipedia defines this effect:

The Patagonia picnic table effect (also known as the Patagonia rest area effect or Patagonia rest stop effect) is a phenomenon associated with birding in which an influx of birdwatchers following the discovery of a rare bird at a location results in the discovery of further rare birds at that location, and so on, with the end result being that the locality becomes well known for rare birds, even though in itself it may be little or no better than other similar localities. The name arises from the Patagonia

Rest Stop in Arizona, where the phenomenon was first noted. As of June, 2020, more than 220 species have been recorded there.

Well, ECAS thinks the Jim Anderson Effect is also a valid term since Jim has a special gift for enlarging the number of individuals, young and old, who see value in understanding and preserving the natural world. For decades, he has generously shared his knowledge and his stories from his experiences and has advocated for preserving wildlife.



A good friend of mine, as well as of Jim and Sue's, Miriam Lipsitz, hit the nail on the head with this statement she made to me:

“Jim, in a single-minded way, has influenced children to become enthralled and curious about the environment. Children are so attracted to him, and, as these kids have now grown up, an impressive number have become adults who do good things for the environment and positively influence their own children - all thanks to Jim. There honestly is not anything much MORE important than to influence the minds of young people.”

Jim and Sue Anderson, photos by Jan Rising

I moved from Bend to Eugene at the end of August this year and, coincidentally, Jim and Sue also moved to Eugene from Sisters in September. So I had the honor of presenting to Jim and Sue a plaque from ECAS honoring Jim and his life's work.

FROM ECAS, THANK YOU JIM AND SUE FOR ALL YOU DO, SO VERY WELL.



ECAS Golden Eagle Cam

Keep an eagle eye on the Eagle Cam! Hopefully Rocky and Petra will return again to this nest this year. Their Golden Eaglet(s) usually hatch in early April and fledge in June.

2020's eaglet, Aspen, fledged on June 13, 2020 and returned to the nest occasionally. The main camera is not on yet for this year, but there are video snippets and comments on the site. Thanks to Jim Hammond for recording these videos.

<http://www.goldeneaglecam.org/>

The main ECAS website home page www.ecaudubon.org/ has information about and links to the Golden Eagle Camera project.

Click on www.ecaudubon.org/golden-eagle-cam to view a slideshow about the project's history.

Central Oregon Daily News did a nice piece on the project. Here is a link to that segment. centraloregondaily.com/sisters-eagle-cam-offers-some-birdwatching-worth-binging/

The Eagle Cam is an expensive project to run. Please help support this effort by donating to the Eagle Cam through ECAS at

<https://www.memberplanet.com/s/eastcascadesaudubonsociety/ecasdonationform>



National Audubon Society Golden Eagle photo by Doug Kliewer

Silent Sports and Respect for Wildlife

By Claire Weiser

“Silent” or “quiet” sports are those that are non-motorized and human-powered and include walking, hiking, bicycling, climbing, running, paddlesports, nordic skiing, backcountry alpine skiing, snowshoeing. I read somewhere once that these sports can be more intrusive and hurtful to wildlife than noisier recreation. I was surprised. I thought wildlife would appreciate and prefer us to be quieter in their world. But maybe sometimes we’re TOO quiet.

Folks who pursue silent sports enjoy the solitude and peacefulness of being outdoors and are often nature-oriented. These days many of us are birding alone or in a small bubble due to the pandemic. We are much quieter than the large groups we may be used to birding in. Groups of more than one or a few folks give wildlife some advance warning. Quietly moving through the outdoors can catch unaware and bother wildlife like birds. The participant, without meaning to, may sneak up on a bird foraging, nesting, or sleeping. In quick getaways, avian families may be split up and/or injuries may occur. Physical intrusions can cause stress and undue energy expenditure just like playing a vocalization recording inappropriately can cause harm. Wildlife can often hear and see us before we hear or see them; they may become quiet, in hiding, and harder to detect. So, we silent sportsters need to be vigilant and aware of nearby wildlife as much as possible.

Be respectful and give wildlife space. When kayaking, for example, give a wide berth to birds resting on a log, hunting or foraging on the shore, or floating on the water. Be alert when going around a blind curve of lava rock or grasses and watch for birds and other wildlife ahead. Some birds and



mammals are more tolerant of boats, especially later in the season or in high traffic areas where they get accustomed to it. Some are not. I’ve had an American Dipper land on my kayak and take its time gleaning insects. I’ve also seen Common Mergansers leave a loafing log en masse as soon as they spot me, long before I get close. Most birds are leery of humans and watercraft and will move away.

Assume you are bothering them if you get too close, so give them room. You will actually see and hear more if you’re away from shore or a group of birds; it encourages them to show themselves more if you’re not threatening them. Same with photography: getting right up to a tree or bird will inhibit the bird and you won’t get as good of a photo. It’s more interesting to watch/photograph a bird behaving naturally, unaware of or unconcerned with you. Camera and scope optics are good enough that you don’t have to get really close to observe a bird.

Most birders follow these guidelines in whatever silent sport they engage in. As nesting season is just around the corner, it's a good reminder to respect the wildlife in their world that we visit occasionally for recreation.

Photo: Diane Burgess and her kayak and binoculars keeping a respectful distance from birds on Haystack Reservoir, April 2020.



Welcome new members!

Mary-Lane	Baker	Goldendale, WA
Larry	Conley	Bend, OR
Suzann	Kennedy	Bend, OR
Gretchen	Kinch	Powell Butte, OR
Beth	Wood	Sisters, OR



AND FEED THE BIRDS

During the current pandemic conditions, **Wild Birds Unlimited** www.wbu.com/bend is providing curbside pick-up or shipping to your home by shopping online or by phone:

1. Visit their online MyWBU store (click the yellow "Shop Now" button at the top of the page). When ordering via MyWBU, choose curbside pickup for no-contact curbside service or have your order shipped to your door. Shipping is FREE on local orders over \$75 and just \$7.99 for smaller orders (some restrictions apply).
2. Call them during business hours at 541-617-8840 with your order and pay with a credit card. When you arrive at the store, call again and they'll bring out the order and load it into your vehicle.
3. You can still shop in the store; masks are required. 2680 NE Hwy 20 (near Whole Foods)

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 565, Bend, Oregon 97701

Website www.ecaudubon.org

Email ecaudubon@gmail.com

ECAS Board

Amanda Accamando
Tom Lawler
Miriam Lipsitz
Jenny Mueller
Jan Rising
Mary Shivell
Bob Sizoo
Gordon Wetzel

2021 Zoom Board Meetings

January 5
February 2
March 2



Committee and Event Chairs

Annual Event	ECAS Board
Bluebirds	Ken Hashagen
Birder's Night	Gordon Wetzel
Communications	Diana Roberts
Conservation	Tom Lawler
Education	Sherrie Pierce
Field Trips	Mary Shivell
Finance	Terri Hyde
Grants	Mary Oppenheimer
Green Ridge Raptors	David Vick
Lake Abert Study	John Reuland
Lewis's Woodpeckers	Diane Kook
Membership	Jenny Mueller
Newsletter	Claire Weiser
Science	Ken Hashagen
Summer Lake Survey	Mike Bogar
Vaux's Swifts	Bob Johnson
	Mary Ann Kruse
Volunteers	Sherrie Pierce
Website	Sherrie Pierce
	Ted Groszkiewicz
Wednesday Birders	Judy Meredith
	Howard Horvath

Board meetings are held at 1pm on the first Tuesday of the month online via Zoom. All members are welcome to attend virtually with a link from Tom. Minutes and meeting dates are posted at www.ecaudubon.org/board-meeting-minutes

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 central Oregon at www.ecaudubon.org/join