



THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

SUMMER 2017

From the BOARD -- CONSERVATION UPDATE

What's going on with ECAS conservation projects? Here is an update on some of the current projects and also a call for volunteers to help.

Stu Garrett is leading two projects relating to Sage Grouse restoration in our area. In one project, he and other volunteers will monitor the presence of West Nile Virus in the Brothers Priority Area for Conservation east of Bend. This is important because West Nile Virus is one of the contributors to the decline of the Greater Sage Grouse. A grant from ECAS was used to purchase four mosquito traps. Four water sources will be visited multiple times during the summer. At each water source, a trap will be left overnight and picked up the next morning. Mosquitoes will be removed and sent to the OSU lab in Corvallis for testing. The results will be reported to BLM and ODFW. If West Nile Virus is present, this may influence the implementation of the BLM's management plan for Sage Grouse restoration in the Brothers PAC. Stu is still looking for people to help set out and pick up the traps. If you are interested in this project, please contact him at: garrett@bendcable.com.

Stu Garrett is also leading a project to help prevent Sage Grouse collisions with wire fences in the desert east of Bend. This is done by attaching plastic markers, which have reflective tape on each side, to the fences. The next "Marker Party" is scheduled for July 20. If you would like to participate in a low physical impact project then you might consider hanging these markers. You get a bucket full of markers and place four of them between each "T" post. It goes pretty quickly when enough hands are helping out. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Stu at: garrett@bendcable.com.

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Speaking of fence markers, I am in possession of hundreds of the plastic strips, provided by BLM, that need to have reflective tape added to make more markers. These will be cut into three inch markers after the tape has been applied. It is pretty easy to attach the tape to the plastic. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact me at: tjlawler@crestviewcable.com.

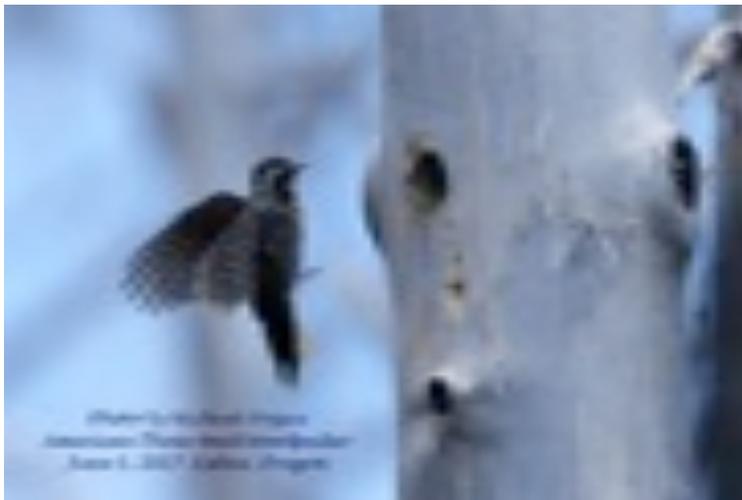
In addition, I am still putting caps (metal screens) on vault toilet vents. These caps are to prevent wildlife entry (mainly birds) into these pipes. Fifty of these metal caps were purchased by ECAS last year and about 20 are left, most of which will go on toilets in the Sisters' area. The ECAS Board has already approved the purchase of 25 more caps once this supply runs out. Would you like to help with this project? Contact me at: tjlawler@crestviewcable.com.

Finally, I am also taking the lead on a project to replace the upper blind at Cabin Lake. I am taking the lead on this project. The existing blind will be demolished, and a new blind will be built in the footprint of the demolished blind. The new blind will be built in the style of the lower blind, which was rehabilitated last year. This project is awaiting approval from Deschutes National Forest staff to proceed. I will ask for volunteers once this project is approved. In the meantime, if you visit Cabin Lake, please do take a trash bag to pick up any debris that you may find.

Tom Lawler, Conservation Chair

Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival -- Another Success

First, a big thank-you to all the folks who helped make the 2017 Festival a success: the guides, the guide coordinator (Chuck Gates), the registration coordinator (Sherrie Pierce), the folks that helped with registration at the Park and at the Belfry at the count-down dinner. Many people spent many hours scouting the trip routes for nesting woodpeckers. Our Treasurer, Terri Hyde, kept the money straight and paid the bills. Thank you all!



Thanks also to our local woodpeckers. All of our eleven breeding species were seen or heard, with nesting Three-Toed Woodpeckers providing a special treat and a life bird for some participants

The Festival was a financial success again this year. We had 103 people sign up for the 212 trips we offered. Almost all trips were filled, and most were filled early in the registration process. A number of states were represented.

The festival T-shirt featured a Pileated Woodpecker by artist Wren Walraven. Sales were brisk, and the remaining shirts will be available for purchase at upcoming Birders' Nights. Festival income totaled about \$7200. Expenses were around \$1800, leaving a profit of \$5400. These funds will be used to support ECAS programs and for grants to other organizations.

Ken Hashagen, Board President and Festival Chairman

Fledgling Fun Folds Its Wings

After seven years of providing educational programs about birds to children in grades K – 5, the Fledgling Fun program and its presenters are retiring. Started in 2011 as the brainchild of the ECAS Education Committee, Mary Yanalcanlin and Desiree Johnson Morris originated and developed the curriculum and activities and have been stalwart presenters every year since. Joined by various volunteers over the years, their expertise and skills have provided the consistency of information presented once a month, eight times a year, to the children attending this after school program.

Fledgling Fun topics have covered the gamut from Birds of Bend, Bird Beaks, Bird Behavior, and Waterfowl to Owls, Winter Birding, and, finally, a Bird-day Celebration in May of what was learned over the course of the year. Each year brought new topics and activities and many children returned to build on the previous year's information. An average of 20 children per session attended with approximately 150 attending over the year.



Mary Yanalcanlin

Mary's knowledge of child development and education and Desiree's background as a biologist, botanist and teacher, combined with their love of birds, produced the perfect combination for this program's success. They both felt it would be difficult to replicate what they brought

to the program and thus the folding of wings with their

retirement. Desiree recently welcomed her second child plus works full time as a nurse and Mary will continue to be active in birding and lead the weekly Birding for Pre-schoolers as well as run her own daily tutoring business. Thanks to these wonderful volunteers who have brought so much fun to so many children as they learned about birds. Who knows? One of them might be the next Noah Stryker!

Sherrie Pierce



Desiree Morris

Spring 2017 Field Notes

Even in the "non-birding" world, bird song is recognized as a harbinger of spring. The longer days of spring awaken glands in the birds that produce chemicals which cause the birds to sing. So in a very real sense, spring causes bird song and singing signals the arrival of spring. Cycles within cycles. Add migration, another cyclical event, and spring takes on new looks and sounds. All this singing and movement, caused by a few proteins, caused by the lengthening of the day. Fascinating!

Below is a summary of the bird highlights for the spring of 2017. These highlights occurred between the months of March through May and are limited to Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes counties.

Spring waterfowl and shorebird migration are as iconic as fall pilgrims and cornucopias. That icon status was supported by an abundance of nice water bird sightings this spring. TRUMPETER SWANS were found in the Paulina and O'Neal valleys of Crook County (Gates, Kutzen, Staats). Houston Lake in Powell Butte hosted a EURASIAN WIGEON (Gates) and another was spotted on the Redmond Sewer Ponds (Lowe). A GREATER SCAUP was photographed at the Redmond Sewer Ponds (White) and a late LONG-TAILED DUCK was noted at Wickiup Reservoir on April Fools Day (Low). Not one, but two GREEN HERONS were spotted briefly near the Prineville Sewer Ponds in early May (Holley). SANDHILL CRANE reports came in from Sisters (Low), Ochoco Reservoir (Halvorson) and Summit Prairie (MacDonald).

Houston Lake hosted three SEMIPALMATED PLOVER and a report of eleven BLACK-NECKED STILTS at the Redmond Sewer Ponds was a bit unusual for Deschutes County (Nordstrom). LESSER YELLOWLEGS are more unusual in the spring than fall so birds at Hatfield (Low), Redmond Sewer Ponds (Kathol) and the Prineville Wetlands (Gates) were of note. A late RED-NECKED PHALAROPE turned up at the Redmond Sewer Ponds on May 23 (White) and as many as seventeen LONG-BILLED CURLEW were seen in their annual stop-over spot on Agency Plains north of Madras (Namitz, Corkran). Reports of WILLET from Paulina Valley (Gates) are not all that unusual but one from the Redmond Sewer Ponds (Kathol) was field note worthy. Jim Moodie was able to pick out a single SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER from a flock of peeps at the Redmond Sewer Ponds on May 16. Finally, a SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER was photographed at the Prineville Wetlands for a rare Crook County record (Lowe, Gonzalez).

Raptors and Game Birds are intricately entwined as they do the dance of survival. For that reason, we'll combine them for this report. Several CHUKAR were heard calling on Hwy 27 near Bear Creek in Crook County (Gates, Nordstrom). Many locals were able to view the SAGE GROUSE lek in Millican as ECAS and agency personnel work together to keep this event open to the public. A DUSKY GROUSE was heard booming near Lookout Mt. (Archer) and MOUNTAIN QUAIL were located on FR 33 (Archer) and along McKay Creek (Gates) in the Ochocos.

A NORTHERN GOSHAWK was seen at Calliope Crossing on May 20 (Otley). The last ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK of the season was spotted in Powell Butte on April 10 (Gates). Three different RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS were found around Bend (Gonzalez, Crabtree, Moodie). FLAMMULATED OWLS were heard calling in the Ochocos (Gates, Hood), the Cascades (Gates, Gonzalez) and even near Bend (Meredith). Other owl sightings included LONG-EARED near Gray Butte (Gates, Nordstrom), GREAT GRAY in Sunriver (Lawler), BURROWING in Paulina (Gates) and NORTHERN SAW-WHET west of Sisters (Gates). Also, WESTERN SCREECH-OWLS were discovered at Deschutes River Woods (Moodie) and near LaPine (Arneson).

A BAND-TAILED PIGEON visited an Eagle Crest feeder for several days (Golden) and the Redmond WHITE-WINGED DOVE found earlier in the year was last reported on March 1 (Crabtree).



Redmond White-winged Dove
Photo by Tom Crabtree



Band-tailed Pigeon at Eagle Crest.
Photo by Mike Golden

Small perching birds often make up the bulk of rare bird reports in the spring. Three BLACK SWIFTS were seen briefly at Peter Skein Ogden Wayside on May 31 (Linz, McLean). BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS are fairly common in Crook and parts of Jefferson but the Deschutes birds reported from Sisters (White), Aspen Lakes (Tachmeier) Deschutes River Woods (Moodie) and East Bend (Souhrada) were certainly unusual. WESTERN KINGBIRDS rarely make this summary due to their abundance but a bird showing up a month early on March 3 was worthy of inclusion (Rems). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATHERS were found on Hwy 380 in Crook (Beerman), near Pine Ridge in Jefferson (Gates, Nordstrom) and on Wilt Road near Sisters (Low). A lone VEERY was heard singing west of Camp Sherman along Lake Creek in late May (Sullivan). It was a good winter for BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS and that trend continued into the spring season with birds being seen at Camp Polk (Lordi, Kancler), Alfalfa (Low), Tetherow Crossing (Ogle) and the Dry River area of the Badlands (Ryan).

An unusual Deschutes LARK SPARROW was heard singing near the Tetherow neighborhood west of Redmond (Kathol) and a rare CLAY-COLORED SPARROW was singing on Spencer Wells Road near Bend in May (Schlick). The first FOX SPARROW of the season was spotted in mid-March (Lordi, Kancler) and famous "Jake's" HARRIS'S SPARROW stuck around at the Sisters feeder until March 27 (White). WHITE-THROATED SPARROW reports came in from Hatfield Lake (Miller), Black Butte Swamp (Hinkles, Scatteregia), Camp Polk Meadow (Schas)

and Sawyer Park (Low). TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS were seen around Prineville (Gates) as is normal for that species. A very unusual BOBOLINK report was received as a bird flew over Hwy 97 north of Terrebonne (Hoffman). The final bird highlight was a flock of GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES seen at Smith Rock in mid-March (Lowe).

As I finish this report, I'm reminded of the many cyclic events that affect my life. Even this report is cyclic as I type a new one every year. Cycles within cycles. Fascinating!

Chuck Gates

OBSERVERS (in order of appearance): Chuck Gates, Tony Kutzen, Scott Staats, Cash Lowe, Brian White, Peter Low, Jack Holley, Ron Halvorson, Nancy MacDonald, Jeff Nordstrom, Kim Kathol, Russ Namitz, Char Corkran, Jim Moodie, Mark Gonzalez, Bob Archer, Mike Golden, Tom Crabtree, Pam Otley, Andrew Hood, Michael Linz, Tom Lawler, James Arneson, Patty McLean, Kristen Tachmeier, Jack Souhrada, Gloria Beerman, John Sullivan, Danielle Lordi, Erik Kancler, Craig Miller, Adrian Hinkle, Christopher Hinkle, M. Scatteregia, Jake Schas, Wayne Hoffman.

Save the Date -- 2017 Annual Event is November 11

This year's Annual Event and Silent Auction will be held **November 11** at the Bend Senior Center. This year's program will feature Paul Bannick, author of the new book Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls. Paul spoke at Birders' Night several years ago, and some readers may own The Owl and The Woodpecker, the book he introduced at that talk. As the date approaches, there will be more information in Chatter. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this fun event, please contact Ken Hashagen. In the meantime, mark your calendars!

What's Happening

Wednesday Birders continue to meet each Wednesday, generally at Nancy P's in Bend. The meeting time is usually 7am. However, for more distant locations the starting time may be earlier. Be sure to check our web site for exact starting time and place for each trip. Also check COBOL: the presence of a rare bird may cause last minute changes in starting time and location.

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

Birders' Nights

Everyone, ECAS member or not, is welcome at our free Birders' Nights held every month except July and December. Each meeting features announcements of coming birding events and unusual bird sightings before a talk on a topic of birding interest. Programs, which are free and open to all, 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..

July 20

Annual Picnic replaces Birders' Night.

The Annual ECAS Potluck Picnic will be held in Shevlin Park, July 20 from 5pm to dusk. at the Aspen Grove picnic shelter. Bring a dish to share with others, your own beverage, (alcohol allowed) and your eating utensils. We will socialize, reminisce, and see what birds want to join us. Entertainment may be your best bird story of the past year so be prepared with a good one.

August 18

Birding the Border Country: Lake, Harney, Washoe & Humboldt Counties

John Shewey and Tim Blount will take us to the remote areas of Northwestern Nevada and Southeastern Oregon. John is a longtime freelance writer and photographer and Tim has served on the Oregon Birds Records Committee and as the Executive Director of the Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. They are coauthors of the recently published BIRDS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

September 22

Three Birding Adventures in Ecuador

Gary and Lynn Clark trace their start with serious international birding to their first trip to Ecuador in 2008, when they explored the northwest region of the country. Two subsequent tours have encompassed the Napo River region of the Amazon Basin on the east side, and the Central Andean Cordillera from north to south. This presentation will attempt to give the viewer a feeling for the country, the experience of birding there, and the flora and fauna of these quite different regions. Of course, the emphasis will be on the birds, as photographed by Gary. Gary's bird photos appear in Wikipedia, on the National Audubon web field guide and calendar, and have won awards in the "top 100" annual contest. He and Lynn live in the high desert east of Bend, where they spend their days hoping for yet another new yard species to appear.

October 19

Birding Brazil

Marilynne and John Keyser have been traveling the world in search of birds since their retirement and move to Oregon in 2001. They have been to many countries, often with Fieldguides, Inc. out of Austin, Texas, and occasionally on private trips with friends or on their own. They have made several trips to Brazil, birding the Pantanal, the central plateau, and the Atlantic forests of the southeast. Their presentation will feature not only the spectacular birds, but also the habitats and the large mammals of Brazil's temperate part of the country.

*Welcome New Members!
Thanks for your support*

Aaron Adkins	Prineville	Susan Primak	Bend
Hannah Crazyhawk	Bend	Sheryl Rudolph	Sisters
Ann Marie	Bend	Bob Sizo	Bend
James Hammond	Sisters	Susan Staples	Bend
Paula Mason	Bend	Tricia & John Wardlaw	Bend
Cliff Mitchell	Bend	Brian White	Sisters
John Nelson	Bend		

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 565, Bend Oregon

www.ecaudubon.org

Board Members

President	Ken Hashagen
Vice-President	Tom Lawler
Secretary	Danielle Lordi
Treasurer	Terri Hyde
Assistant Treasurer	John Brune
Board Members	Ted Groszkiewicz Tom Penpraze Diana Roberts

Summer/Fall 2017 Board Meetings

August 1
September 5
October 3

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 www.ecaudubon.org. Board minutes are also posted at that site after approval by the Board.

Contact information for Board members, Committee Chairs, and Project Leaders is posted at the "Contact Us" button on the ECAS website.

Committee and Event Chairs

Annual Event	Ken Hashagen
Bluebirds	Ken Hashagen
Birders' Night	Sue Bertsch
Communications	Diana Roberts
Conservation	Tom Lawler
Education	Diana Roberts
Field Trips	Tom Penpraze
Finance	Terri Hyde
Green Ridge Raptors	Leanna Taylor and David Vick
Lake Abert Study	John Reuland
Lewis's Woodpeckers	Diane Kook
Membership	Jan Rising
Newsletter	Mary Oppenheimer
Science	Ken Hashagen
Summer Lake Survey	Mike Bogar
Technology	Ted Groszkiewicz
Vaux's Swifts	Bob Johnson Mary Anne Kruse
Volunteers	Mardi Jensen and Sherrie Pierce
Wednesday Birders	Judy Meredith Howard Horvath
Woodpecker Festival	Ken Hashagen
Winter Raptor Survey	Jeff Fleisher

If you would like to volunteer for a committee or event, please contact Mardi Jensen at donmardi@bendbroadband.com.

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.