

THE CALLIOPE



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

SUMMER 2016

From the BOARD -- DEAN HALE WOODPECKER FESTIVAL 2016

Your East Cascades Audubon Society recently concluded the 6th annual Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival. Approximately 120 people, some from as far away as Texas and New York, attended. Reviews of the event were all very favorable!

As in previous years, it was all about the volunteers! The guides for the trips (and other members) put in many hours of scouting – looking for woodpeckers and their nest holes – and then spent 4 days guiding. Volunteers handled registration, designed the poster, put together the participants' packages, arranged for porta-potties, worked with the US Forest Service to arrange for our use permit, ordered t-shirts, arranged for use of the Belfry for the count-down dinner, handled all the registration money, and paid all the bills – and I'm just hitting the high points! It takes a lot of work, by a lot of people, over several months, to put on an event like this. As a result, ECAS cleared over \$3000. Thanks again to all who made this possible.

Several new trips were added to the Festival this year: A 2-day trip to Summer Lake was enjoyed by nine birders, who saw a total of 134 species over the 2 days. A few folks observed bluebird banding on a trail south of Sisters. The Limited Mobility trip and the Birds and Native Plants trip were also enjoyed by a number of participants.

The Owl Prowl, on Saturday night, was very successful this year – Great Horned, Flammulated, and Great Gray owls were seen or heard. Poorwills and Common Nighthawks were also seen. And finally, all 11 locally nesting species of woodpeckers were seen or heard, all but the Pileated Woodpecker by most of the participants. The star this year was a pair of nesting American Three-toed Woodpeckers, a life bird for many.

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Steve Shunk, who was responsible for the original concept of a woodpecker festival and who conducted the first two Woodpecker Wonderland festivals in Camp Sherman, gave an excellent talk (about woodpeckers, naturally!) at our Saturday countdown dinner. T-shirts and hats were on sale as was Steve's new book *Woodpeckers of North America*. Food, wine, and beer were available and contributed to the enjoyment of all.

Planning is already underway for next year's Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival to be held June 1– 4, 2017. If you'd like to get involved, we're always looking for volunteers!

Ken Hashagen. Board President and Festival Chairman

Save the Date -- 2016 Annual Event is November 12

This year's Annual Event and Silent Auction will be held **November 12** at the Bend Senior Center. Always a popular gathering with complimentary food and beverage, this year's program will feature local birding luminary and author Steve Shunk, who will speak on a woodpecker-related topic, following the recent publication of his book, the PETERSON REFERENCE GUIDE TO WOODPECKERS OF NORTH AMERICA. And it's not too early to be thinking about donations for the auction. As the date approaches, there will be more information in CHATTER, but If anyone has items or questions in the meantime, please contact me at sapierce@bendbroadband.com.

Sherrie Pierce

Meet Steve Shunk

This year's keynote speaker, Steve Shunk, moved to Central Oregon in 1997. After serving as the director of the Sisters Chamber of Commerce, Steve co-founded the Oregon Birding Trails program and spearheaded its flagship project, the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail. Steve also co-founded the East Cascades Bird Conservancy, which merged with the Central Oregon Audubon Society to become the East Cascades Audubon Society. Shortly after arriving in Central Oregon, Steve also began leading birding tours through his company, Paradise Birding. He founded the Woodpecker Wonderland festival in 2008, and he currently leads birding tours and speaks at bird festivals across the western hemisphere and beyond.

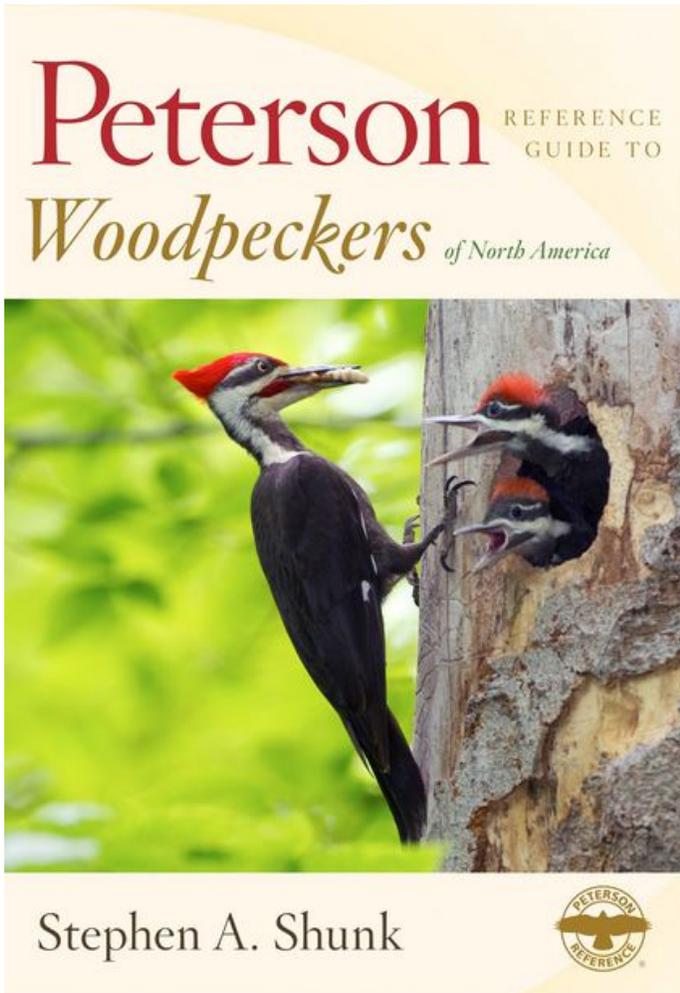
Steve's first book is the culmination of his woodpecker studies at home in Central Oregon and across North America, with the PETERSON REFERENCE GUIDE TO WOODPECKERS OF NORTH AMERICA reaching bookshelves in May 2016.

The BIRDING COMMUNITY E-BULLETIN goes out monthly to a wide audience, and in June Steve made the list! Many of us are happy to know him and to have birded with him, but sometimes "experts" are less well known in their own communities than they are nationally. Now you do know!



Steve studying Ivory-Billed Woodpecker skins in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC, Berkeley.

Here is the review of Steve's book.



BOOK NOTES: WOODPECKERS OF NORTH AMERICA

We are happy to review another "Peterson Reference Guide" from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and it's another good one. The title is Woodpeckers of North America by Stephen A. Shunk. This handsome reference covers 23 native woodpecker species and is enhanced by over 250 fine photos.

The book opens with a highly informative Introduction, which covers such essential topics as the anatomy and adaptations of woodpeckers, from their unique tongues to their extraordinary tails; woodpecker behavior and ecology; and a thoughtful discussion of woodpecker conservation and management issues. Indeed, Shunk has a particular sensitivity to the threats facing this family of birds.

The expected species accounts are very thorough, more so in fact than in many of the other "family" books in this series, and also quite readable. You may want to start by sampling accounts for particularly interesting and unique species, particularly species such as Lewis's Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, or Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

You will not be disappointed.

Reprinted with permission from THE BIRDING COMMUNITY E-BULLETIN, June 2016, www.refugeassociation.org/news/birding-bulletin.

We asked Steve for his thoughts on publication of his book. "I am humbled and extremely honored to be a part of the Peterson 'fraternity' of authors, including such luminaries and Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett, William Clark and Brian Wheeler, Steve Howell, Scott Weidensaul, Caribbean ornithologist James Bond, and Roger Tory Peterson himself," explained Steve. "I hope that all local birders in Central Oregon will share with me in this accomplishment, which is a celebration of our very own Woodpecker Wonderland."

Judy Meredith and Mary Oppenheimer

Steve will be signing books locally at the following venues –

July 22: Herringbone Books, Redmond www.herringbonebooks.com

July 23: Paulina Springs Book Company, Sisters www.paulinasprings.com



Tricolored and Yellow-Headed Blackbirds in eastern Crook County. Photo by Chuck Gates

Spring 2016 Field Notes

Imagine having to travel, under your own power, up to 5000 miles twice per year just to be able to have a child and raise that child to adulthood. Then imagine having to do it all over again next year...and the year after...and... That's what many neotropical migrants face in their lifetime. Why do they do it? The answer is simple; it's worth it. The advantages outweigh the hardships. Why do we care? Because we get to view these visitors as they fly past us on their way to the rich feeding grounds of the north. Below is a summary of the visitors that graced us with their presence this spring. Next year, consider silently thanking them for dropping by.

The spring water birds are a varied bunch that either pass through our area or move north in the spring after wintering in Central Oregon. A beautiful LONG-TAILED DUCK was found at Hatfield Lake on May 17 and is noted for pulling the trifecta of being a cool bird, a late bird and a rare bird (Low). A Single ROSS'S GOOSE stayed around Houston Lake until mid-April (Gates, Gonzalez, Beerman) and a SNOW GOOSE beat that by staying at the same location until mid-May (Gates, Low, Rems, Gaspari). It's unusual to find a TUNDRA SWAN in late spring so the late



Long-tailed Duck at Hatfield. Photo by Don Sutherland.

May bird at Hatfield Lake was of interest (Moodie). Mark Gonzalez found a EURASIAN WIGEON at Meadow Lakes in Prineville in March. The first CINNAMON TEAL arrived on March 27 (Meredith) and the first BLUE-WINGED TEAL showed up on May 1 (Rems, Low). RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were noted at Hatfield Lake on March 26 (Rems, Low) and on Ochoco Reservoir on April 23 (Kutzen). Scattered HORNED GREBES were noted throughout the survey period on Wickiup Reservoir (Low) and a GREAT EGRET was tallied near Smith Rock State Park (Gaspari). The only WHITE-FACED IBIS reported this season was one at Cindy Zalanardo's pond in Powell Butte on May 2. SANDHILL CRANES were reported from Black Butte Ranch (Low) and Smith Rock State Park (Michaels). Both FRANKLIN'S GULL (Gates, May 26) and BONAPARTE'S GULLS (Gonzalez, April 21) were seen on the Prineville Sewer Ponds.

Shorebirds rush through Central Oregon on their way north and sometimes miss us entirely. Some are accommodating enough to spend a few moments with us. Only one SEMIPALMATED PLOVER was reported this season (Rems, Low, April 23). BLACK-NECKED STILT reports are unusual in Deschutes County and one spent some time at Houston Lake in April (Lordi). LONG-BILLED CURLEW have become expected in the Agency Plains area north of Madras (Low, Rems) but a single bird found on Black Butte Ranch was unusual (Low). Hatfield Lake produced a WILLET (Rymal, May 31) and a SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (Low, April 25). Both BAIRD'S and PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were tallied at Redmond Sewer Ponds (Kancler, May 1) and Hatfield Lake (Low, April 24) respectively.

On the Game Bird front, some interesting sightings occurred. After a scary year last year with few birds using the Millican Lek, both males and females returned this year and were still being seen as late as May 19 (Gates, Nordstrom). MOUNTAIN QUAIL were reported from Green Ridge (May 26) and North Shore Road (May 30) in Crook County (Gates). A lone BAND-TAILED PIGEON was identified and photographed on Pilot Butte on April 23 (Jett).

Diurnal raptors produced no surprises other than verified nesting of PEREGRINE FALCONS at Smith Rock for the second year in a row (Lay, Vick). Several of their nocturnal brethren (owls) did make this highlight list. FLAMMULATED OWLS were heard west of Sisters (Gonzalez, May 30) and EASTERN SCREECH-OWLS turned up in Powell Butte (Gates, May 15). A rare Deschutes County SHORT-EARED OWL was seen near Brothers (MacDonald, April 18) while LONG-EARED OWLS were tallied at their historic breeding site on Gray Butte (Gates, May 18). GREAT GRAY OWLS were located near Sunriver (Harding, Arneson) and west of Sisters (Gonzalez). On April 21, a BARRED OWL made a brief appearance in Redmond (Jett) and NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS were found on Gray Butte (Taylor, Sharp, Kancler, Gates) and east of Bend (Low).



Band-tailed Pigeon on Pilot Butte. Photo by Courtney Jett

The first COMMON POORWILLS began arriving in our area around April 21 (Tank) and the first COMMON NIGHTHAWKS followed on May 31 (Vick, Tank). Deschutes County BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS are always worth noting and birds were recorded from Smith Rock (Lay), Deschutes River Woods (Moodie) and Sisters (Springer). The first CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRDS arrived on April 2 (Gerke). One of the biggest surprises of the spring was a BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD seen by Jim Moodie at his Deschutes River Woods home on May 22. Mark Baldwin reported an ACORN WOODPECKER at Black Pine Springs on May 3 while a RED-SHAFTED x YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER was seen at the Gerkes' residence near Sisters on April 28 (Gates).



Red-shafted x Yellow-Shafted Flicker at the Gerkes' Photo by Chuck Gates



Dicksissel in Camp Sherman. Photo by Chuck Gates

The Passerines are the largest group of birds, and many are highly migratory. This means that they often make up the bulk of rare bird reports. The spring of 2016, while not rich in numbers of rarities, did produce some surprises.). A Tumalo resident photographed a male ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK on May 21 (Arsenault) and a very cooperative DICKCISSEL stayed at a Camp Sherman feeder for several days in April (Landis). A BEWICK'S WREN was located at Lower Bridge for the 9th time in the last 10 years (Dougill). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER reports came in on May 14 from Black Butte Swamp (Williamson) and on May 30 from Eagle Rock in Crook County (Staats). SWAINSON'S THRUSHES were found in mid-May at Indian

Ford Campground (Low) and at Eagle Crest (Golden). A surprising but thorough report of a VEERY was received and accepted from the Sunriver Resort area (Rurik). Our last WHITE-THROATED SPARROW of the first half of 2016 was found in Sisters on March 20 (Schas). TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS were located at their usual breeding grounds in eastern Crook County by the ECAS Wednesday Birders group in late May. Ted Schroeder found and photographed Deschutes County's 7th ever HOODED ORIOLE, and Gretchen Pederson got nice photos of a very late COMMON REDPOLL on March 18 in Tumalo.



White Wagtail at Hatfield Lake. Photo by Chuck Gates.

Finally, the piece de resistance!!!! Everyone's hero, Tony Kutzen, found Central Oregon's first ever WHITE WAGTAIL at Hatfield Lake on April 24. Dozens of birders from all over the west converged on Hatfield to record their lifer wagtail. It was a thrilling moment for everyone who got to see it.

That's it for the spring of 2016. Let's see what the summer will bring us.

Chuck Gates

Contributors: Chuck Gates, Mark Gonzalez, Judy Meredith, Gloria Beerman, Peter Low, Lew Rems, Jim Moodie, Tony Kutzen, Andrew Gaspari, Erik Kancler, Scott Staats, Cindy Zalanardo, Larry Michaels, Danielle Lordi, David Rymal, Jeff Nordstrom, Courtney Jett, Nancy MacDonald, Jeff Harding, James Arneson, Leanna Taylor, Sandy Sharp, Sue Tank, David Vick, Steve Lay, Anne and John Gerke, Robert Springer, Steve Dougill, Jack Williamson, Mike Golden, Joel and Chris Rurik, Jake Schas, Sherrie Arsenault, Madeline Landis, Ted Schroeder, and Gretchen Pederson.



Franklin's Gull at Prineville Sewer Ponds on May 26. Photo by Chuck Gates

Service Opportunity at High Desert Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Many of our members are familiar with Dr. Jeff Cooney and his work at the High Desert Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Some may recall a Bend Bulletin article on the autopsy Jeff and his assistant Jeannette Bonomo conducted on the Barred Owl that was present at Farewell Bend Park in 2013. Jeff recently had a stroke, and ECAS member Annette Gerard and her husband John are coordinating a work party to help Jeff and the Center.

The work party will be going on from 9am to 6pm on July 22, 23, and 24 at 62410 Erickson Road (on the corner with Neff Road). Cleaning bird and animal cages, building bird habitats, and hauling loads to the dump are on the agenda, as are refreshments. If you can volunteer, especially if you have carpentry or construction skills, please contact Annette at acegerard@bendbroadband.com.

Remember the Picnic -- No Birders' Night in July!

The Annual ECAS Potluck Picnic will be held in Shevlin Park, July 21 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.

Sherrie Pierce

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.

Fledgling Fun is on summer vacation. It will resume in October. Details at www.ecaudubon.org.

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 21 -- **Annual Picnic replaces Birders' Night**. Complete information on page x.

August 18 "**Study Night for those Confusing Fall 'Look-alike' Birds.**" Do you wonder how some birders can identify Dowitchers in the fall and ditto for those dull fall juvenile warblers? Do you ever struggle with ID of similar bird species such as Horned and Eared Grebes in fall? A chance to build skills and practice analyzing field marks with a panel of birders who try to identify birds from your photos.

September 15 **"A Field Guide to Cat Caught Birds and Other Cautionary Tales: Why Wildlife Rehabilitation Should Matter to Birders"** with Dr. Jeff Cooney of High Desert Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation.

October 20 **"Seventeen Years and 2850 Kestrels Later..."**

North American Kestrel numbers plummeted by 44 percent between 1966 and 2010. But how are Kestrels doing in Central Oregon? In 1997, Don McCartney of Bend started placing Kestrel nest boxes in central Oregon, and together with 13 volunteers the Kestrel Team has now placed 110 nest boxes and fledged 2,850 young falcons. Learn all about this exciting conservation and research project from Don McCartney and Diane Kook.

Two Ways to Donate While You Shop

ECAS members or supporters who shop with a Rewards Card at Fred Meyer can generate a small donation to ECAS with each purchase. It's simple -- just choose ECAS as the designated charity on the Fred Meyer Rewards button at <https://www.fredmeyer.com>.

Amazon has a similar program, which requires signing up for Amazon Smile. Go to <https://www.amazon smile.com> to sign up and designate a charity, then make your regular Amazon purchases through the Amazon Smile website. Amazon then donates 0.5% of the purchase price of most items to your designated charity.

Under both programs, the donation each purchase generates is small, but the amount adds up.

Miriam Lipsitz

Welcome New Members! *Thanks for your support*

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Mike Bogar | Milwaukie | Brian Pouillon | Redmond |
| Luanne Bye | Portland | Martha Rose | Bend |
| Julie Clayton | Bend | Robert Rossio | Sisters |
| Jim & Dory Delp | Bend | Lory Ryll | Bend |
| Laurie Doherty | Bend | Mary Shivell | Portland |
| Kathleen Garfon | Sunriver | Amber Smith | Redmond |
| Linn Goldberg | Portland | Marilou Smith | Terrebonne |
| Karen Griswold | Corvallis | Evan & Linda Thomas | Bend |
| Bill Herrick | Bend | William & Frances Tweed | Bend |
| Robert Kuntz & Marrie Schaefer | Sisters | Elizabeth Vandehey | Bend |
| Caroline LeGette | Austin, TX | Ellen Wayte | Bend |
| Barbara Mayo | Bend | Margaret Zimet | Sisters |
| Madelaine Pagni | Redmond | | |

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 565, Bend Oregon

www.ecaudubon.org

| <i>Board Members</i> | <i>Committee and Event Chairs</i> |
|--|---|
| <p>President Ken Hashagen Vice-President Ted Groszkiewicz Corresponding Secretary Sherrie Pierce Recording Secretary Danielle Lordi Treasurer Terri Hyde Assistant Treasurer John Brune Board Members Karen Gentry Tom Lawler Jan Rising</p> <p>Summer/Fall 2016 Board Meetings August 2 September 6 October 4 November 1</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 www.ecaudubon.org. 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 Vacant Conservation Tom Lawler Education Karen Gentry Field Trips Vacant Finance Terri Hyde Green Ridge Raptors Leanna Taylor Lake Abert Study Steve Dougill Lewis's Woodpeckers Diane Kook Membership Jan Rising Newsletter Mary Oppenheimer Science Ken Hashagen Summer Lake Survey Steve Dougill Technology Ted Groszkiewicz 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>Contact information for Board members, Committee Chairs, and Project Leaders is posted at the "Contact Us" button on the ECAS website.</i></p> | <p><i>If you would like to volunteer for a committee or event, please contact Sherrie Pierce at 541-548-4641.</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.