



THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES
AUDUBON SOCIETY

SUMMER 2013

President's Message – What's in a Name?

Having spent many hours in the months of May and June looking for, looking at and enjoying the woodpeckers of our area, I was reminded of how descriptive many of the common names for birds are. Watching a Black-backed Woodpecker work its way up a completely burned, sooty snag in the midst of a burned forest renders the bird almost invisible. The ubiquitous White-headed Woodpecker, Red-naped and Red-breasted Sapsuckers also fill the bill. Other woodpeckers are not so aptly named. The Lewis's Woodpecker and the Williamson's Sapsucker pay homage to humans who were given special recognition for their part in the birds' early descriptions. And the elegant, entertaining Pileated Woodpecker is so aptly named for its beautiful Latinized "felt cap".

I am always impressed when I go birding with a former Redmond High School colleague, retired biology teacher Walt Wolfe. Walt can tell me the Latin name of any bird. He said when he was studying this content years ago, it just stuck. It doesn't stick in my brain, but I am fascinated by the different stories that even the Latin appellations reflect about a bird. One of my favorite field guides is *Birds of Oregon* by Roger Burrows and Jeff Gilligan. ECAS Poet Laureate Marion Davidson shared this book with me several years ago, pointing out the tidbits included in their general descriptions. For instance, the beautiful male Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus*, is named for "a multicolored traditional Italian court character who used 'histrionics' (tricks)". I assume this duck is more colorful than tricky. It also has a special place in my heart since I was standing by Dean Hale on a field trip when he spotted a county record female Harlequin bobbing in the creek flowing out of Crane Prairie Reservoir. He jumped at least 2 feet off the ground in his excitement on seeing the bird.

Keeping with the Latin word for birds, aves or avian, author Brian Kimberling (*Snapper*) points out in a recent *New York Times Sunday Review* article its common origin with "auspice" and "augury". An auger in ancient Rome was a priest who studied the birds to determine the will of

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the gods. Is our highest-elected inaugurated official etymologically bird-watcher-in- chief? Birds certainly seem to be playing a crucial role in providing portents for climate change. The canary in a coal mine concept has evolved into migration patterns of flowing data.

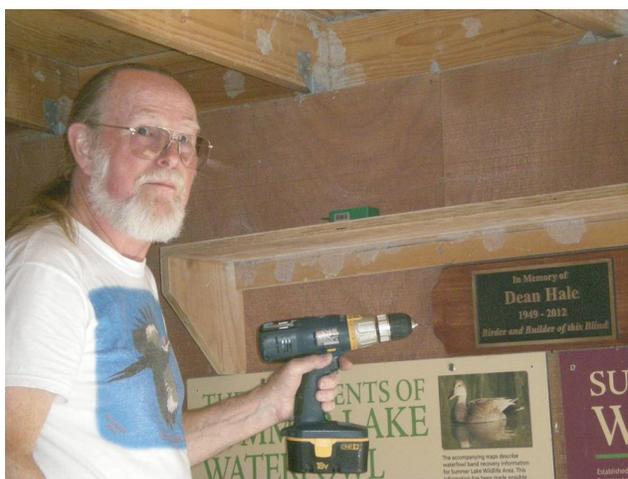
Divining the future may be part of the bird lore that we find so fascinating. An observer of birds, "auspex", looked for an auspice or prophetic token. Whether the bird's name is commonly descriptive, linked to human ascription or tied to the terminology of antiquity, I hope we will continue to enjoy, study and protect the birds of our world so their names will not be lost to decimation. May we all be augers of the future.

Sherrie Pierce, ECAS Board President

In Memory of Dean Hale

We all lost a good friend, birder and exceptional volunteer when Dean Hale was tragically killed in a motor vehicle crash in March of 2012. Dean was a valued part of ECAS and of the birding community. We remember him as someone who contributed so much to all of us and to the birds and their habitat. He was one of the founding board members of the East Cascades Bird Conservancy and an integral part of many projects, bird surveys and counts, and especially with all things that required building, from bird boxes to bird blinds.

Back in the 1990s, the Central Oregon Audubon Society wanted to put up a birding blind at Summer Lake. It was a project that required designing and "pre-fab" by volunteers in the know. Together, Dave Ledder and Dean Hale designed the building, drew up the plans and then cut and marked each piece of wood and hardware that would make up the blind. This allowed it to be put up by volunteers who barely knew how to hold a hammer. Of course it stands strong today and allows birders to get out of the hot sun in summer to scope Schoolhouse Lake, or, in winter, to enjoy the birds there while being sheltered from the cold, strong winter winds. Volunteers recently added a coat of paint and made some repairs to the still solid building.



ECAS Board member Kevin Smith installing the Dean Hale memorial plaque at the Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area bird blind on June 2, 2013

On June 2, the weekend of the ECAS Summer Lake Shorebird Survey, Kevin Smith carefully installed a bronze plaque provided by ECAS inside the blind. Some birders chose to go by to visit and have some private time with thoughts and memories of Dean. Others were there together to share words about how special he was to the organization and to birders personally. The "personality" of the organization is what it is today because of people like Dean, so giving, friendly, deeply passionate about birds, action oriented and so dedicated to getting people involved. When you visit Summer Lake, you might take a few minutes to go inside the blind and enjoy the house that Dean built. Look at the plaque in his memory, "Dean Hale, Birder, and Builder of this Blind". Indeed, he was that and so much more.

Judy Meredith

Shevlin Quartet In Springtime

Members:

Northern Flicker-rhythm

American Robin-melody

Black-headed Grosbeak-melody

Olive-sided Flycatcher-solo

altogether now:

ki.....ki.....ki.....ki.....ki.....ki....

cheerily cheerup

I'm back! I'm back I'm back

Quick Three Beers!

one more time:

ki.....ki.....ki.....ki.....ki.....ki....

cheerily cheerup

I'm back! I'm back I'm back

Quick Three Beers!

Marion Davidson

Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival 2013

Once again, the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival drew a sell-out crowd of birders to view Central Oregon's amazing array of woodpeckers on June 13 to 16. Iowa, Massachusetts, Kansas, and Texas were represented, as well as Oregon, Washington, and California.



JoAnne Bernt, Mary Jensen, and Kay Hartman handle check-in at Creekside Park.



Guides Ken Hashagen and Kim Kathol meet tour participants.



Annie Wong and Sally Ng from Hong Kong meet guides Wink Goss and Tony Kutzen.

Portland birder Sandy Streit brought two young exchange students from Hong Kong. A bit perplexed but game at early morning registration in Sisters' Creekside Park, Annie Wong and Sally Ng were excited about the birds they'd seen when they joined the count-down crowd in the evening.

This year's festival featured new trips, to the Suttle Lake area and east to "Juniper and Sage". and an excellent evening countdown MC'd by Chuck Gates at The Belfrey, a new Sisters venue. Beautiful new T-shirts, an open bar and George Jameson's woodpecker videos all contributed to the evening.

As usual, the birds cooperated. All our local woodpeckers were seen, save the Three-Toed, and participants tallied a grand total of 168 species.

Many thanks to the DHWF committee, which planned an exceptional weekend; to the guides, who spent days scouting for nest sites; to the very efficient registration committee; and to a great crowd of birders who joined us for the weekend.

Mary Oppenheimer

Personalities: Kevin Smith: Birds Are His Willing Subject

When Kevin was twelve years old, his father, a photographer himself, presented Kevin with his first camera—a Kodak Pony 628. Kevin has been looking through some sort of a viewfinder ever since..

Upon graduation from the University of Montana with a degree in Wildlife Management, Kevin signed with the army hoping to get training in photography. As luck would have it, Kevin found himself stationed in the Johnson White House as a photographer. "It was a very different time," Kevin remembers, recalling riding his 80cc Yamaha motorcycle to work and being waived through the White House gate, the guard recognizing his leather jacket and motorcycle. Kevin spent a lot of time at the Texas "Ranch" where in his free time he photographed some of the wildlife that LBJ had collected. A trophy from that era that Kevin cherishes is a photograph of LBJ's grandson signed by the President: "To Kevin, who takes them like I like them. Lyndon B. Johnson."

Fast forward to an early retirement and a move from the Willamette Valley to Crooked River Ranch where Kevin and his wife Kai built a house. Roped into local bird activities by Chuck Gates, Kevin soon joined in the various bird counts and got hooked on photographing wildlife.

“Don’t get too close” is his advice and “know when to back off” he says, remembering photographing a golden eagle on a nest at Steelhead Falls.



Kevin Smith at work -- it's not just "point and shoot"! Photo by Jim Anderson.

It was in 1998 when Kevin began to consider a switch from his single lens reflex Nikon motor drive to a digital camera. In 2002 he invested in a digital Nikon camera, but it wasn't until 2006 that he donated his old cameras and dark room equipment to an art school in Portland.

Discussing the ease of processing digital images, Kevin uses as an example his recent trip to Summer Lake where he estimated that he took 700 images in two days. (His camera can shoot six frames a second) Deleting unusable images (no bird, out of focus etc.) Kevin then looked at the remaining 150 images on his computer. After a second cut, he chose twelve images to print, of which he discarded approximately one-half. Quite a difference from the old means of producing photographic prints in the dark room.

His prints are available through his website (www.kevin-smith-nature-photos.com), which includes a mystery bird section and entertainment by a lively goldfinch. Kevin also sells his prints and cards at local fairs.

If that is not enough to keep him busy, Kevin currently visits many of the retirement homes in the Central Oregon area with a program of his bird and wildlife photos. He also is the official keeper of ECAS volunteers' Time and Miles for use in applying for grants. So if you're a volunteer, don't forget to send him your information.

Marion Davidson

Vaux's Swift Volunteer Opportunity

ECAS volunteers have been participating in a Pacific Northwest survey of Vaux's swift roosting sites since 2008. This fall, the Vaux's swift project is ramping up to count migrating swifts as they roost in three Bend chimneys. We need volunteers to check chimneys from late August until early October. You can volunteer for one night, or two, or even for the entire six week period. We also need volunteers to explain Vaux's swift behavior to interested viewers at the Boys and Girls Club in downtown Bend. This is different birding in that no binoculars need to be used, and birds are counted by tens or twenties as they descend into the chimneys for the night. The typical count begins prior to sunset, but this depends on weather, wind, temperatures and predators in the vicinity. So, that's where the magic begins. Some nights a volunteer could be on site for an hour, while other evenings twenty minutes will suffice. An online survey tool is sent in after each evening of counting. If you are interested in volunteering, more information about dates, roosting sites, and the larger Oregon Swift Survey can be found under the "Project" tab at www.ecaudubon.org.

Mary Ann Kruse

Oregon 2020 Project -- Another Opportunity for Citizen Science

An Oregon State University team of scientists, led by Professor Doug Robinson, recently announced the public launch of a new statewide project on Oregon birds. Complete information about the project, which is called Oregon 2020, can be found at <http://oregon2020.com>.

According to Doug, who holds the Mace Chair of Watchable Wildlife at OSU:

The project name is a bit of a play on words because we want to create a benchmark survey of the abundance and distribution of Oregon's birds by the year 2020. We will do this so that future generations can look back to our time and compare their own data, gathered decades and centuries from now, with our data. This will give them an ability to see with "20/20 vision" how bird numbers and distributions have changed. We live in a dynamic time on our planet. We are changing the land, the sea, and the climate. Understanding how birds respond to these changes requires data gathered now so that future citizens and scientists can do better retrospective studies. Instead of guessing what might happen, let's generate a fabulous legacy of data on Oregon's birds right now. We can do this, together, and we can have a really great time doing it!

The project has special opportunities for citizen science. If you like getting to know your local birds really well, take a look at the County Explorer project, <http://oregon2020.com/get-involved/county-explorer/>. If you just like knowing the birds of your own backyard and don't have a ton of time, check out the Yard Counting project, <http://oregon2020.com/get-involved/yard-counting/>.

The data collected will be entered into eBird and become part of the vast store of information becoming available through that resource. ECAS already has a personal interest in this project since Doug's interns have been entering GIS points for the raptor routes of the Winter Raptor Survey. They hope to utilize this vast data set as part of the baseline data about bird distribution and occurrence. ECAS hopes to be part of Oregon 2020 and add the information many of our surveys produce to the growing body of knowledge. Stay tuned for any updates on local activities and check out the OSU websites.

Sherrie Pierce

What's Happening

Save the Date – Annual Event November 9, 2013

The East Cascades Audubon Annual Event will be held November 9, 2013 at the Bend Senior Center. This is our yearly gathering of fun, food, and fundraising for all of our members and friends with special recognition of all the volunteer work that is accomplished by our dedicated members.

We give awards to the Conservationist and Volunteer of the year so if you have any special folks that you feel are deserving in these categories, send your nomination to Sherrie Pierce at sapierce@bendbroadband.com with a short description of why you believe the person should be recognized. The Board will choose the recipients, who will be announced at the Annual Event. Previous recipients were:

	<u>Conservationist</u>	<u>Volunteer</u>
2002	Jim Anderson	Ned and Donna Austin
2003	Craig Miller	Peter Low
2004	Don McCartney	Howard Horvath
2005	Dave Marshall	????
2006	????	????
2007	Eva Eagle	Dave Tracy
2008	Diane Kook	Jim Moodie
2009	Dean Hale	Jan Rising
2010	Kim Kathol	Chuck Gates
2011	Steve Dougill	Judy Meredith
2012	Marty St. Louis	Mary Yanalcanlin

If you can fill in the blanks for 2005 and 2006, please email the names to Sherrie at sapierce@bendbroadband.com.

Annual Potluck Picnic in the Park -- July 18

The Annual East Cascades Audubon Society potluck picnic will be held at Shevlin Park on July 18. Shevlin Park is located about three miles West of Bend, at 18920 Shevlin Park Road, and we will meet at the picnic pavilion on the south side of the Park. Shevlin Park features hundreds of forested acres, Tumalo Creek, and an extensive trail system. Bring the whole family, some food to share and join us for a relaxed evening of socializing and, of course birding, in a beautiful outdoor setting. We will have an alcohol card so beer and wine will be allowable. Also bring your own table service. We will gather at 4 p.m., and go until dusk. Special entertainment will be "Frog and Owl" (Jay Bowerman and Jim Anderson) bringing their song and stories to entertain the group.

Sherrie Pierce

Summer Birders' Nights

Birders' Night programs are held at The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas Avenue, in Bend. Doors open at 6:30 for coffee, snacks, and fellowship. Our meetings begin at 7pm, with special programs starting around 7:30pm. All Birders' Night programs are free and open to the public, so feel free to bring friends.

August 15: “Beyond the Binocs: the Latest Birding Innovations”

Ever wonder what it means to record the birds you identify on “e-bird?” Or perhaps you want to read COBOL, OBOL or Birdwest, but don’t know how to do this? Ever ponder what gives with those snazzy field guides some birders can access on their smart phones, the gizmos “they” use to play bird sounds or the devices used by some folks to better hear bird calls and songs?

As technology sneaks its tendrils into more and more aspects of our lives, paraphernalia for birders has multiplied exponentially. Local birder Judy Meredith will be our guide for an evening where birders can share and experience the devices, software and apps designed to enhance the enjoyment of birding. You are invited to bring your laptops, iPods, smart phones or other digital devices (or just bring yourself!) to engage in a session by and for the Birders’ Night participants on how to use the latest innovations for birders.

September 19: “Shorebirds at Summer Lake and Lake Abert – Species, Habitat Management and Monitoring.”

Wetlands found on Summer Lake Wildlife Area play a major role in the welfare of many species of shorebirds in the Pacific Flyway. At least 35 species have been observed on the Summer Lake wildlife area to date. Shorebird use of recently enhanced units has been significant, especially to the nine species that breed on the wildlife area.

Marty St. Louis, Manager of the Summer Lake Wildlife Refuge and ECAS member Steve Dougill will discuss the birds of Summer Lake and Lake Abert and how breeding shorebird surveys conducted by volunteers from East Cascades Audubon Society are instrumental in documenting shorebird and other water bird use of these critical habitats and recently enhanced wetlands.

Diana Roberts

Continuing Events

Wednesday Birders continue to meet each Wednesday, generally at 7:00am at Nancy P's in Bend. Some trips meet at different times and places, so be sure to check the web site. Information is also posted on COBOL. To sign up for COBOL, email jmoodie@cocc.edu.

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

Field Trips. Check www.ecaudubon.org in late July for the fall field trip schedule.

Spring 2013 Central Oregon Field Notes

The spring bird season runs from March 1 to May 31. This season was a bit dry until the end of the period and that may have contributed to a rather mundane start to the migration period. There were some interesting sightings and those are summarized below.

Water birds move through our area each spring providing us with some great birding opportunities. GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE remained in the area until late April with a high count of 730 at Houston Lake on April 19. Both SNOW GOOSE and ROSS’S GOOSE were noted in Crook County this spring. Two TRUMPETER SWANS stayed at Brasada Ranch in Crook County for about 2 months and another was seen at the Redmond Sewer Ponds. (At least 2 were found at Hatfield Lake as well.) The last TUNDRA SWANS left around the beginning of March. EURASIAN WIGEON were found in Redmond, Prineville and Houston

Lake. The first BLUE-WINGED TEAL arrived on May 10. Steve Dougill found three GREATER SCAUP on Prineville reservoir on April 19. Several people observed a RED-BREASTED MERGANSER on the Redmond sewer ponds in early March. The only HORNED GREBES for the season were noted on Prineville Reservoir in mid-April. A RED-NECKED GREBE was seen at Ochoco Reservoir on the day before the North American Migration Count but was not located on count day. The first AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS showed up on March 30. WHITE-FACED IBIS made a good showing with birds seen in Culver, Redmond Sewer Ponds and in a couple of Crook County locations. Houston Lake continues to be the best place in Central Oregon to observe AMERICAN BITTERN. A very rare GREEN HERON at Sawyer Park gave several birders a county bird for Deschutes County. GREAT EGRETS were noted at Prineville Reservoir and Hatfield Lake. SANDHILL CRANES were spotted at Hatfield and Hosmer Lakes.

A SNOWY PLOVER was located at Hatfield Lake for only the third Central Oregon record. BLACK-NECKED STILTS were seen at Farewell Bend Park and Hatfield Lake while an AMERICAN AVOCET turned up at Monty Campground in Jefferson County. A single SOLITARY SANDPIPER was present at Hatfield Lake on May 1. LESSER YELLOWLEGS are less common in the spring than fall and individuals were noted at Hatfield Lake on April 4 (second earliest record) and May 30. Kim Owen found the season's only SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER at the Redmond Sewer Ponds on April 9. RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, BONAPARTE'S GULL, FORSTER'S TERN and BLACK TERN are annual in small numbers and all were seen this season.

Game birds are resident here for the most part but can be hard to locate outside of the spring breeding season. CHUKAR were found on the Crooked River while RUFFED GROUSE turned up at Ochoco Ranger Station and upslope from that location at Independent Mine (both in Crook County). The Millican Lek produced a high count of 13 GREATER SAGE GROUSE. WILD TURKEYS were tallied in Sisters, along Skyliners Road and along the Crooked River.

MOUNTAIN QUAIL are much sought after in Central Oregon and birds were found along Crook County's Highway 380, Prineville Reservoir, and Highway 27.

In local raptor news, the first OSPREY returned on March 26. A late MERLIN was reported from north of Alfalfa on April 21. PEREGRINE FALCONS were found at Lower Bridge, Johnson Creek Road and Hatfield Lake. BARN OWLS were seen in Crook County but no nesting was noted this year. However, nesting WESTERN SCREECH-OWLS were found in Powell Butte, and a NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL nest was located at Calliope Crossing. FLAMMULATED OWLS were heard at Swampy Lakes, Virginia Meissner Snow Park and along Century Drive. A very unusual BURROWING OWL graced Deschutes County for a couple of days in Redmond. NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS were reported from north of Sisters, in two different Bend locations, and along Skyliners Road.



ECAS member Carol McCartney with banded baby Northern Saw-Whet Owls north of Sisters.

COMMON NIGHTHAWKS returned on May 31 and the first COMMON POORWILL were heard north of Sisters on May 5 (Others were heard in Powell Butte.) The only ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD report came in from Bend's Sawyer Park but I suspect there were others that went unreported. Unusual Deschutes County BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS were reported from Deschutes River Woods and the east side of Bend. Lew Rems reported seeing a flyover BLACK SWIFT at Hatfield Lake on May 18. The only AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER sighting occurred in the Shadow Lake Burn west of Sisters. A well-documented BLUE JAY turned up for one day at a feeder north of Prineville.

Spring always brings the possibility of a very rare passerine moving through our area. A few did occur this spring. The Lower Bridge BEWICK'S WREN made two early appearances but was not located later in the spring. The ECAS Wednesday Birders found a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER near Eagle Rock in Crook County. As many as two NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS were hanging out in Hampton for the season begging the question of whether they might nest there this year. AMERICAN PIPITS moved through the area in small numbers while YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT were found in their nesting area along the Crooked River. A semi-unusual FOX SPARROW was seen in Crook County and the season's only WHITE-THROATED SPARROW turned up along the First Street Trail in Bend. INDIGO BUNTING is very rare in Deschutes County so two different birds at Twin Bridges and the east side of Bend were very notable. TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS were present at their usual haunts in Crook County. A late COMMON REDPOLL was photographed near Tumalo on March 13.

Chuck Gates

Welcome New Members!

Thanks for your support!

Adam and Rachel Albright, Bend
Courtney and Kris Jett, Bend
Sam and Mary Medrano Bend
Barb Rumer, Bend

Val Anderson, Sisters
Larry and Carol McGlocklin, Sunriver
Tom Penpraze, Bend
Suzette Shoulders, Bend

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 565, Bend Oregon

www.ecaudubon.org

<i>Board Members</i>	<i>Committee and Event Chairs</i>																																																																
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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.