

THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2020



President's Report

By Tom Lawler

Here we are nine months into a year most of us wish would have never happened. Not only the COVID crisis but now wildfires are consuming the states' forests, destroying homes and businesses and displacing people and wildlife. Is there a bright spot somewhere? As I write this we can be thankful that other than very poor air quality, most of us in Central Oregon have been spared from fires. The COVID impact on our area as far as lives lost has certainly been far less than some other areas of the state and nation. It is difficult to find bright spots when everything seems so negative but we have to take what we can get and stay positive.

My little bit of happiness was that I was able to get the **Saturday Bird Walks at Sunriver Nature Center** going again in June. We kept the participants to six. A nice number and a group size I can easily handle on my own. I have many people that return year after year for these bird walks. Some of them I remember, most I do not! I always enjoy having young people participate. Some are quite young, in the single digits, but are enthusiastic birders. In early September a young boy on a bird walk with his father was a new birder and had only been at it for a few months. It was his birthday and he told me this was something he wanted to do on his birthday. I was impressed that Dad, not a birder, was more than willing to take his son on a 3 hour birding adventure. It is great to see a parent encouraging a child's interest even if they are not that interested. I got this young boy going on eBird since he kept asking dad to keep track of the birds. My shared checklists are his first eBird checklists! This will probably be my fondest memory of 2020 bird walks.

What is going to happen with the **Annual Event** this year? Not a lot! We will not have an in-person meeting, and the voting for Board Members will take place via MemberPlanet or some other platform. The details are still being worked out. Jeff Fleischer, Winter Raptor Survey project coordinator, was going to be the presenter at this year's event. In lieu of that he has put together an extensive presentation on this project which is already available for viewing on the ECAS website. Learn more in the next article which includes this link to the presentation: <https://www.ecaudubon.org/wrs-ppt>

Mary Shivell also tried to get some limited attendance **field trips** going. I feel it is important we keep these destinations as local as possible since the impact of many vehicles traveling to the site should be kept to a minimum. I did three field trips at Sunriver. What was the difference between this and any other Saturday bird walk? Well, they were only for ECAS members and were ½ price. Steve Kornfeld also helped by conducting a field trip to Hatfield. Want to help out with field trips? Some regular trips to Shevlin Park and Hatfield would be welcome. Please contact Mary or any other ECAS officer/coordinator at ecaudubon@gmail.com.

As we move into Fall, and ever closer to 2020 coming to an end, let's believe 2021 will be an improvement for everyone. Go out and enjoy the birds.

Winter Raptor Survey Project

By Jeff Fleischer, Project Coordinator



For the last 16 winters, the East Cascades Audubon Society has sponsored a multistate project designed to get citizen science oriented folks involved in counting birds of prey that winter in the northwest. The project originally started out as an effort solely in Oregon and the first winter of survey work back in 2004-05 had surveys being done on 79 routes spread out throughout the state. Fast forward to this past winter and we now enjoy survey work on 392 active routes covering nearly 25,000 miles of transects throughout Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and a small piece of California located in Oregon's

Klamath Basin. Over 300 volunteers do once a month surveys during December through February and those inclined to doing more can do so during the optional months of November and March. The project is designed to enumerate wintering raptor populations and to date, 31 species of birds of prey have been added to an enormous database that is provided to The Peregrine Fund for their use in research of all species of birds of prey throughout the world.

After the close of last winter's survey effort, I was asked to present a program about the project to the annual membership meeting held in October. I was looking forward to doing that and then the Covid virus hit and the meeting was cancelled. I decided at that point to go ahead and prepare a powerpoint presentation about the project in lieu of the live presentation. The presentation was recently installed on the ECAS website for all to enjoy so I would encourage you to take a few hours (the presentation involves 227 slides and nearly 400 photos of the species found on our surveys) and see what has been found on the 12,009 surveys that have been completed to date by hundreds of volunteers that have expended 52,573 hours of survey effort! This is a premiere citizen science project that will continue to grow in the future as more routes are added. The presentation is available at ecaudubon.org/wrs-ppt on the ECAS website. Also check out the Winter Raptor Survey page ecaudubon.org/winter-raptor-survey on the website where you will find numerous charts and maps displaying the results gathered thus far in the project. For any folks that enjoy birds of prey, the program and charts and maps will more than whet your appetite for these incredibly regal birds!

Jim Anderson Retires from Writing Regular Column for *The Source*

Jim Anderson has written many articles for *The Source Weekly* over the years. Here are links to his final column, an article by Jim's admirers, and a few of Jim's earlier pieces (including one on Trumpeter Swans.)

Photo of Jim and friend by Sue Anderson



[Reflections on Naturalist Jim Anderson | Local News | Bend](#)

[The Acolytes of Mr. Anderson | Local News | Bend](#)

[Trumpeting-a-success-story/](#)

[The New Ambassador | Natural World | Bend](#)

[My Marvelous Mentors | Local News | Bend](#)

Birds Nesting in Central Oregon



Over 190 species of birds choose Central Oregon as the best place to raise a family. A new webpage that will go live in the near future on the ECAS website provides photos of nests, eggs, and offspring of many of those species. As birders, we often come across nests in the wild, and there are few resources available to help us identify the nests, eggs, or baby birds we see. This area is meant to be informational and to help birders with these identification opportunities. Thanks to Chuck Gates and others who are organizing this webpage and to all who contributed photographs.

The photos on this site were gathered from existing archives. No one was recruited nor encouraged to seek out bird nests for photography. We hope that you will exercise appropriate birding ethics when in the field and do what you can to avoid stressing the birds. If you happen upon a nest or some offspring, enjoy them for a moment and then let them be. When you get home, we hope our collection of photos will help you identify the nests, eggs, or young that you happened upon. To review accepted ethical standards as they pertain to bird nests, eggs, and young, we suggest you visit the [CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS](#) page on the American Birding Association's website.

And speaking of nesting (winter projects?) - also on the ECAS website:

Jim Anderson's Nesting Box, Shelter and Feeder Guide for Birds, Bats, and Butterflies
https://e8118311-379c-4750-b2f8-1e2827e9cc68.filesusr.com/ugd/2c5973_64817a11278f43e0b205d48eabffbbf2.pdf

FOUR OREGON TRUMPETER SWAN STORIES



Sunriver's 2020 cygnets by George D. Lepp

Sunriver's Cygnets: Where Are They Now?

By Amanda Accamando, Manager, Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory, ECAS Board Member

Since 2015, Sunriver's year-round Trumpeter Swan pair, Grace and her two mates, Chuck, and now Gus, have produced a total of 13 offspring. The swans reside on Lake Aspen at Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory and are cared for and monitored by the nature center's animal team. Each year the cygnets are translocated to eastern Oregon and released in the wetlands of Summer Lake Wildlife Area as part of a partnership with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and The Trumpeter Swan Society to reestablish a stable population of this species in Oregon. Although Trumpeter Swans were reported as common along the Lower Columbia River by Lewis and Clark, swan populations had plummeted by the turn of the twentieth century due to hunting pressures.

A key component of the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program is monitoring the numbers of swans throughout Oregon and tracking their movements beyond our state. Identification bands on the birds help us learn more about the movements of the swans. Before being released at Summer Lake Wildlife Area, each cygnet is equipped with a unique numbered band around their ankle and their neck. Although the neck band appears fairly large, it does *not* interfere with the swan's behavior and movement and can be easily seen from a distance with binoculars,

including from aerial surveys conducted from a helicopter. ODFW conducts several of these aerial surveys during the spring, summer, and fall in southeast and south central Oregon (Crook, Harney, Klamath and Lake counties.) The surveys during the spring nesting season help to identify active nests for wild swans whereas the fall surveys inform how many cygnets have survived. Swan sightings also come in periodically from private citizens, such as hunters or birders, through the USGS' Bird Banding Laboratory. This online tool allows anyone to report a banded bird and helps fill in the gaps in our knowledge.

Last year, multiple location reports of Sunriver's cygnets were received and they were seen from Summer Lake to beyond the borders of Oregon and the United States. The one remaining cygnet of Grace and Chuck's 2016 brood seems to really get around. In March of 2019, it was reported hanging out in Flathead Valley in northwestern Montana thanks to multiple observations submitted by citizens. The following April it made its way to Kimberly, British Columbia. for a short visit before returning to Montana in May. Perhaps the most interesting sighting was one closest to us in Central Oregon. A male swan that hatched in 2017 was spotted by a tourist in April in the Deschutes National Forest near Dillon Falls trailhead. This specific swan had been regularly recorded at Summer Lake Wildlife Area, where it had been originally released, but somehow made its way back to within five miles of its birthplace on Lake Aspen in Sunriver!

Several hundred Trumpeter Swans visit Summer Lake Wildlife Area in the winter, and it is believed that most of these wintering swans originate from Canada. However, a breeding population of Trumpeter Swans in Oregon is still a far-off goal. In 2019, a total of 31 wild Trumpeter Swans were detected during summer surveys in Oregon but only four active nests were spotted. Based on a fall survey, only one of these nests ended up being successful.

The Sunriver cygnets, which hatched on June 15, were moved to Summer Lake Wildlife area in mid-September just as they were starting to learn how to fly. At Summer Lake Wildlife Area, the cygnets will have much more wetland habitat to spread their wings and comfortably learn how to fly. These cygnets plus any produced by a pair of swans at the Aspen Lakes Golf Course in Sisters will contribute to establishing Oregon's breeding population, one at a time.



12-week old youngster with adult by George D. Lepp

Gus, Grace, and Three New Trumpeter Swans

By George D. Lepp, Field Editor: *Outdoor Photographer Magazine*,
Canon Explorer of Light, George@GeoLepp.com



One-month-old cygnets by George D. Lepp

What makes these birds so special.? To start with, trumpeter swans are very large. They are the heaviest flying birds found in North America (15 to 30 lbs) and have a wingspan of 6 to 8 feet. The largest male measured had a wingspan of 10 feet and weighed 38 lbs.

Most swans mate for life, and barring any difficulties, Grace and Gus should be producing new trumpeters for many years into the future. Trumpeter swans are known to have lived from 24 years in the wild to 33 years in captivity. Unfortunately we don't know the age of either Gus or Grace.

They feed almost entirely on submerged vegetation. The lake at Sunriver Nature Center has an excellent aquatic plant food supply including a vast amount of duckweed in the spring and summer.

You can check on Gus and Grace at the Sunriver Nature Center's website at www.snco.org or visit them in person. They are generally easy to spot and occasionally come right to shore near where people are observing them. Be sure to support the Nature Center and the excellent work of its professional staff and volunteers.

Follow George Lepp and his beautiful photos of the swans and other subjects at www.GeorgeLeppImages.com and at www.FaceBook.com/GeorgeLepp

Swan Travels and Releases in the Oregon Restoration Project

Reprinted from *Trumpetings*, Vol. XXX no. 1 May 2020, Trumpeter Swan Society publication

Swan releases: Nine yearlings were released at Oregon's Summer Lake Wildlife Area in April 2020. The cygnets hatched in the summer of 2019 at Sunriver Nature Center and Aspen Lakes Golf Course near Sisters. Thank you to both partners for their care of the cygnets and the parents.

Two Oregon Project swans continue their travel adventures:

Oregon Swan 3@4 was reported recently in British Columbia! Last year he was reported near Thompson Falls, Montana, and at Montana's Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge. He was released at Summer Lake as a cygnet in September 2016.

Oregon Swan 4@2 is a traveler. She was at Summer Lake in February 2020. She visited William Finley National Wildlife Refuge in March, returned to Summer Lake in April, and was back to Finley NWR again in May which is a flying distance of nearly 170 miles each way. She was released at Summer Lake in 2017 as a hatch-year cygnet. In 2019 she also visited Finley NWR in early May of that year, trekked up to Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in mid-late May, returned to Finley on June 1 and was back at Summer Lake by June 27, 2019, where she spent the winter. We hope this 3-year-old will soon settle down and find a mate to help produce wild cygnets and help rebuild a viable wild Oregon flock of Trumpeter Swans.

Also see Jim Anderson's column from *The Source Weekly* [Trumpeting-a-success-story/](#) on Trumpeter Swans.

Welcome to Our ECAS Flock, New Members!



Candace Cobb
Don Francis and Kathleen Brooks
Anna Field
John Gardiner
Nolan Hibbard
Durlin Hickok and Carol Wallace
Paula Mason
Robin Miller
Peggy Nideffer
Monica Welch

Bend, OR
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Portland, OR
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WILDFIRES AFFECTING WILDLIFE - WHAT YOU CAN DO

How to Help Yard Birds in Smoky Conditions

By Elise Wolf, Native Bird Care, Sisters, Oregon

Here are some tips for how to help wild birds we feed and perhaps some others as well.

FOOD Keep food going...feed, feed, feed... and put out millet on the ground. Birds suffer from being unable to forage as much as they need, so starvation is possible as they hunker down and wait. Our little birds are most at risk.

WATER Birdbaths (cleaned frequently) and sprinklers are life savers.. Sprinklers help clean the air and offer bathing. Birds' feathers get super dirty in smoky air and they may lose weatherproofing. Also, if you have movable sprinklers and are backed to wild areas, aim them for periods out into wild areas where the non-feeder birds can use them.

RESCUE Smoke inhalation can kill birds, as particulates get stuck in air sacs and lungs. Waterbirds like grebes found on land right now likely have lost waterproofing, so get them into care. If you find struggling birds, get them into care. We cannot save them all, but we certainly help. I prefer text (541-728-8208) if you have a bird question or a bird in need. I cannot help raptors, sorry.



Check out this article from national Audubon
audubon.org/news/how-wildfires-affect-birds

How to Help Wild Animals in Oregon's Wildfires

By Sally Compton, Executive Director Think Wild
PO Box 5093 Bend, OR 97701

541-933-5437 www.thinkwildco.org

Photos and video are available at:

<http://bit.ly/wildlifeoregonfires>



When fires spread throughout our state, stealing lives and property, Oregonians have come together to provide shelter and supplies for affected humans, pets and livestock. And for Think Wild, a wildlife hospital and conservation center, in Bend, Oregon, the major questions have been – how is Oregon's wildlife affected and how can we help? Fortunately, Oregon's native species are adapted to reacting to fires. That doesn't mean that many won't suffer or lose their lives. The fires will cause immediate habitat loss and potential die-offs, and they will change

ecosystem structure for years to come. Some species that depend on mature forests - tree cavity-nesting owls, for example - may experience population reductions while those that thrive in young forests, like songbirds and burrowing mammals, may increase.

In the short term, with the severity and scale of this year's wildfires, wildlife may be more likely to enter urban areas and exhibit unusual behavior while fleeing the smoke and fire. They will also be in search of food resources which will be significantly depleted in the immediate aftermath of the fire. Long term, Think Wild expects an increase in orphaned, injured, and especially starving wildlife.

"Wildlife are going to be terrified and may be traveling through your property fleeing fire and looking for food and water," said Pauline Baker, Director of Wildlife Rehabilitation at Think Wild. "Do not panic or approach these animals but monitor at a safe distance. If you are concerned about an injury, please contact your local wildlife rehabilitation center."

While wildlife hospitals across Oregon are not currently being inundated with wildfire-specific calls – we expect cases to significantly increase as ecosystem changes take effect and as people enter back into affected areas and are more likely to come across wildlife in need of help.

Here are tangible ways that you can help native wildlife and your local wildlife hospitals:

- Do not leave food out or feed wildlife. If you have a bird feeder, clean it often. You can leave water out away from your house as long as you change it often.
- Keep dogs and cats indoors as much as possible during times of hazardous air quality. This will protect them and also prevent cat and dog-caught related injuries to small animals and babies that may be moving about or seeking refuge.
- Make sure water features on your property, such as irrigation ponds, provide an exit strategy for wildlife to climb out. Rocks, rope and logs are helpful additions to prevent wildlife from drowning.
- Do not approach wildlife. Call your local wildlife hospital if you find injured or orphaned wildlife or if you see wildlife behaving strangely and are uncertain of how to proceed.
- If you find an animal that has been burnt and are waiting to get in contact with a wildlife hospital or vet, do not feed it. Wrap it loosely in 100% cotton and place it in a well-ventilated box in a dark and quiet place.
- Your local wildlife hospital could always use more donations and supplies. Most wildlife hospitals (including Think Wild) receive little to no government funding and rely on individual in-kind and cash donations. Hosting a fundraiser for your local wildlife hospital at your business, through social media, in your network is a great way to show support.
- Support organizations doing important habitat and water conservation restoration work. Examples in Central Oregon include Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Deschutes River Conservancy, watershed councils, Coalition for the Deschutes, Oregon Natural Desert Association, and many more.
- Be conscious of your water usage. Try to minimize water use, especially during droughts, the hot, dry summer months and wildfire season.
- Pay attention to burning restrictions, especially when traveling to another location. Stay educated on potential fire hazards - small, contained fires can become disastrous very quickly.

This list is non-exhaustive, but we hope that you find it helpful. If you ever have any questions, Think Wild's wildlife hotline, (541) 241-8680, is available seven days a week from 8 AM to 5 PM.

Think Wild is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and tax-deductible donations can be made at www.thinkwildco.org/donate or mailed to PO Box 5093 Bend, OR 97708.

Think Wild, a Wildlife Hospital and Conservation Center, provides wildlife education, conservation, and rescue & rehabilitation in Central Oregon. Think Wild seeks to reduce the incidents of human-wildlife conflict through prevention education and community outreach. When conflicts do occur, Think Wild will provide veterinary treatment and care at its Wildlife Hospital. For more information or to donate, visit www.thinkwildco.org or email info@thinkwildco.org. Follow us on www.Facebook.com/ThinkWildCo for the latest updates.



Please call your nearest wildlife rehabilitation center if you see a wild animal in distress!

(Corvallis/Albany/surrounding areas) **Chintimini Wildlife Center** (541) 745-5324

(Eugene) **Cascades Raptor Center** (541) 485-1320

(Bend) **Think Wild** (541) 241-8680

(Roseburg) **Umpqua Wildlife Rescue** (541) 440-6895

(Grants Pass/surrounding areas) **Wildlife Images** (541) 476-0222

(Salem) **Turtle Ridge Wildlife Center** (503) 540-8664

(Portland) **Portland Audubon** (503) 292-0304

(Astoria/Coastal areas) **Wildlife Center of the North Coast** (503) 338-0331

Update on Hunting Sage-Grouse

By Gordon Wetzel

There's a short story and a long story.

Here's the short one:

In June of this year ECAS sent a letter to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission. In it we recommended that the controlled sage-grouse hunt be stopped in Priority Areas of Conservation (PAC) that have "tripped a hard trigger". The letter was signed-on by almost all Oregon Audubon Chapters. This issue was addressed at the August 7th Commission meeting. The Department gave an overview of sage-grouse hunting policy and made their recommendations for this year's permit numbers. They recommended a small hunt in the Brothers PAC, which is what we specifically requested be stopped. The Commission discussed the general issues around hunting sage-grouse. In summary one Commissioner said "I support hunting when conditions are fine (good)". What they did not address was hunting when conditions are bad, which is the case in the Brothers PAC. The Department's recommendations for this year's hunting permits were approved. Oh well, we'll just have to go back next year and start the conversation again. Hopefully it won't be via Zoom.

Now the long story:

Sage-Grouse are a game-bird and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) manages a controlled hunt. A limited number of permits are issued based on an estimate of the fall sage-grouse population. Permit numbers are set based on 5% of the fall population estimate but the actual harvest has only been 2-3%. Hunters with a valid license are required to apply for a permit. A drawing is held and tags are awarded. Hunting is open for 9 days in mid September and the bag limit is 2 birds. When the tags are mailed to the hunters an envelope is enclosed for the hunter to send back one wing from each bird killed. ODFW analyzes the feathers from these wings, called wing-bees, to determine sex and age ratios, peak hatch date, nest success, and annual turnover. Hunter participation in wing-bee returns is about 60%.

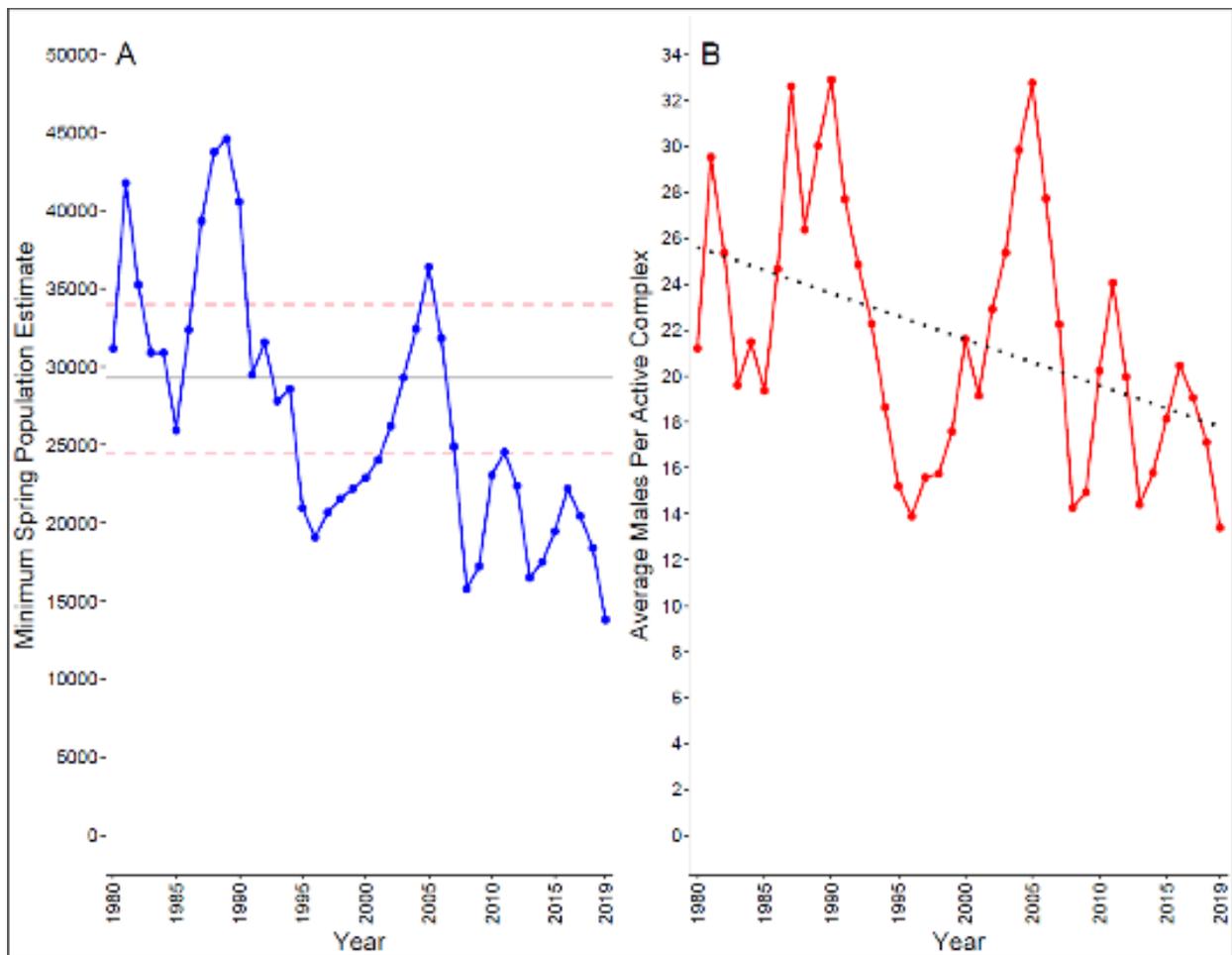


Therefore, this hunt is both for recreation and science. A harvest of 5% is considered very conservative. The permits are issued according to Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in order to distribute the harvest proportionate to the population of birds. A WMU experiencing problems can be dialed back. ODFW's sage-grouse regulations seem to be more restrictive than other states that allow hunting of sage-grouse. For example Idaho and Wyoming do not issue tags or limit the number of hunters. They simply have bag limits and a limited open season by area. They also have voluntary wing-bee return programs, although managed differently.

You may be wondering, why allow hunting of a bird that was almost listed under the Endangered Species Act and that we spend so much time and money studying? Well, it's a traditional game-bird and it's important to hunters. There are many ways to appreciate nature. According to the ODFW Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon, 22 April 2011, "The impacts of recreational hunting on sage-grouse populations are unclear, but current harvest management is not considered a significant threat to sage-grouse populations (USFWS 2010). There are few experimental studies demonstrating an effect of harvest on populations the following year. However, Connelly et al. (2003b) demonstrated that rates of

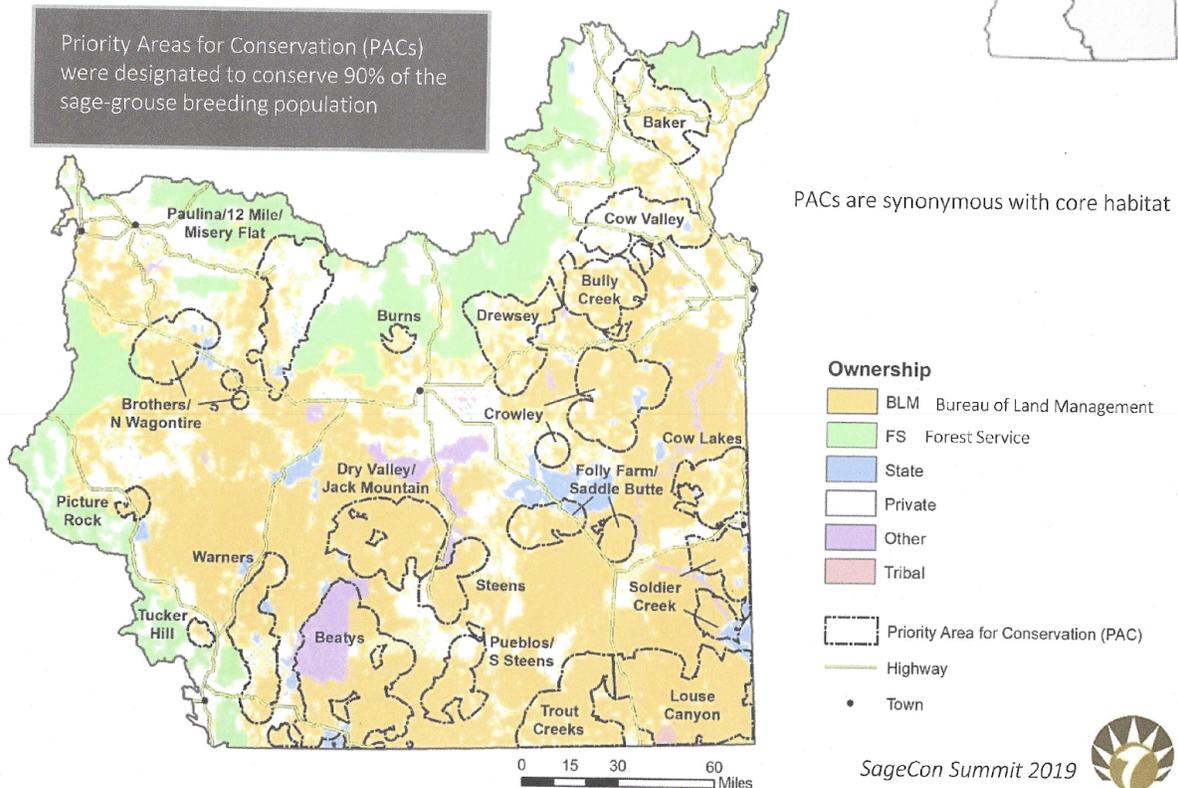
population growth were less in hunted than non-hunted populations in Idaho. Twenty years of harvest data from Oregon did not indicate a correlation between harvest level and spring breeding population (Crawford 1982). Braun and Beck (1985) analyzed banded birds, harvest levels, and lek counts and concluded that the harvest rate of 7-11% in Colorado had no measurable effect on sage-grouse densities in spring. Because sage-grouse do not fit the 'high productivity-short life span' life history model common to other game bird species, the assumption that harvest mortality replaces birds that would have died of other causes during the year (i.e., compensatory mortality) have been questioned (Johnson and Braun 1999). Connelly et al. (2000a, 2003b) suggested that hunting losses are likely in addition to winter mortality for adult females (i.e., additive mortality). Johnson and Braun (1999) modeled population dynamics for sage-grouse in North Park, Colorado, and concluded that hunting mortality can be additive to other sources of mortality, especially in years of poor recruitment. However, recent work from Colorado and Nevada indicates that harvest rates <11% appear to be compensatory in nature (Sedinger et al. 2010)."

The point is that it's not a simple issue and much thought has gone into the policy. You may recall my article of last January where I presented ODFW's annual sage-grouse population monitoring report. It painted a grim picture for the state.



There is a cyclic nature to the data but a downward trend as well. The sage-grouse range is divided into geographic areas called Priority Areas of Conservation, or PACs, as shown in the following map:

Sagebrush and Sage-Grouse Habitat in Oregon



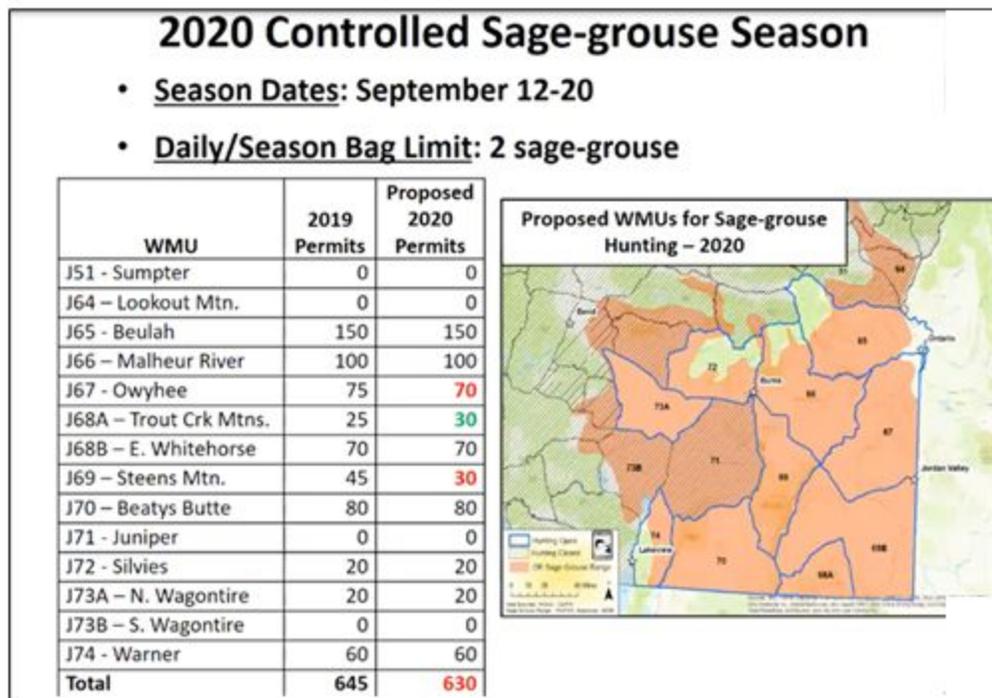
BLM uses the ODFW population data. “The Adaptive Management Strategy outlined in Appendix J of the 2015 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan (ARMPA) identifies hard and soft triggers for habitat and populations within Oregon Priority Areas for Conservation (PAC). ... Soft triggers represent an intermediate threshold indicating that management changes may be needed at the implementation level to reduce the likelihood of tripping a hard trigger. Hard triggers represent a threshold indicating that immediate and more restrictive plan- level action is needed to address sage-grouse conservation objectives.” The PAC status for 2019 was:

PAC Name	Trigger Points, # of males		2019 Estimate	% Change	5-Year Avg.	2019 Trigger
	Soft	Hard	# of males	Annual	# of males	Status
Baker	246	170	103	7	108	Hard
Beattys	907	582	469	-55	1039	Soft (1)
Brothers/N. Wagontire	149	129	91	-17	106	Hard
Bully Creek	265	208	241	-20	307	None
Burns	NA	Note 3	NA	NA	NA	None
Cow Lakes	291	267	191	-17	248	Hard
Cow Valley	NA	Note 3	109	3	NA	None
Crowley	341	267	233	-26	287	Soft
Drewsey	163	57	132	-52	244	Soft (1)
Dry Valley/Jack Mountain	219	161	66	-3	92	Hard
Folly Farm/Saddle Butte	91	57	113	-24	130	None
Louse Canyon	NA	Note 3	152	-7	NA	None
Paulina/12-Mile/Misery Flat	346	294	346	-19	400	None
Picture Rock	26	19	4	-20	8	Hard
Pueblos/S. Steen's	151	56	106	-18	187	Soft (2)
Soldier Creek	273	178	273	-20	386	None
Steens	141	88	96	-38	163	Soft (2)
Trout Creeks	NA	Note 3	235	-20	NA	None
Tucker Hills	48	40	51	19	60	None
Warner	530	403	319	-21	437	Soft

Notes: 1) >40% decline in 1 yr.; 2) >10% decline in 3 consecutive yrs.; 3) >60% drop over 2 yrs.

The PAC closest to us is the Brothers/N. Wagontire PAC. Its population first tripped the soft population trigger in 2016 and tripped the hard population trigger in 2018. During 2019, ODFW conducted 115 hours of helicopter lek searches, covering approximately 4,000 miles in the PAC and surrounding habitat. No new leks were discovered inside the PAC, and only one new lek was identified in the surrounding general habitat. ODFW manages hunting by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). WMUs were set up long ago for a variety of wildlife, not just sage-grouse, so PACs do not fit neatly into WMUs. The Brothers PAC straddles 3 WMUs. Two are closed to hunting but the N. Wagontire unit is open.

The following table and map show the recommendations for 2020:



The N. Wagontire WMU (Brothers PAC) offered 20 permits in 2019; 12 people hunted and 7 birds were harvested. ECAS's request of the Commission was simply to stop hunting in PACs that have tripped the hard trigger. The PAC status table shows that 4 PACs tripped the hard trigger in 2019 - Baker, Brothers, Dry Valley and Picture Rock. Three of these have already been closed to hunting. The exception is Brothers. Why continue hunts in Brothers PAC? ODFW's response was that they need the wing-bee data and the information gathered from interviewing the hunters. And, the 2020 lek surveys showed a substantial increase. "The Department will continue to monitor this situation carefully, but considers that value of the data and the negligible impact on the flock a viable reason to continue the hunt at a low rate."

Indeed, it is a very low rate - only 7 birds harvested in 2019. Is that data worthwhile? Why even argue about so few birds? One reason may be that it begs the question - why permit a hunt in

PACs that have tripped a soft trigger? Hmm, that means Beatys, Cow Lakes, Crowley, Drewsey, Pueblos/S. Steens, and Warner are at risk. That's about half the Oregon population of sage-grouse. If these PACs were to be closed there would only be about 3 remaining WMUs open for hunting.

The Commission agreed with the Department's recommendation, i.e., continue with a small hunt in Brothers/N.Wagontire. The desire for more data won out over sparing a few sage-grouse. I guess we'll have to tackle the issue again next year.

New ECAS Membership Chair - Welcome, Jenny!



Hello everyone. I'm Jenny Mueller, the new Chair of the Membership Committee. I succeeded Jan Rising in July after she relocated to Eugene. Jan served as Chair since 2009, leaves big shoes to fill, and is still an active ECAS board member. We appreciate you all renewing your memberships when you receive renewal notifications and welcome all new ECAS members.

I moved to La Pine about a year and a half ago from Prescott, AZ. As a child, my dad brought my older brother and me along to Audubon outings and meetings and taught us the importance of protecting our natural environment. Over the last couple years, I have fallen in love with birds even

more by watching the wonderful array of species that visit my yard. I'm so excited to be a part of ECAS and can't wait to meet you all face to face someday!

Most recently, the membership committee's main focus has been boosting our volunteer program. Barb Standiford has taken leadership on this task with help from Miriam Lipsitz and myself. We have sought the help of fellow Oregon Audubon chapters and just this September, Barb, Miriam, Tom Lawler, Gordon Wetzel, and myself joined Portland Audubon's Volunteer Coordinator for a remote meeting to learn how they run their volunteer program and to gain knowledge on tools and resources available to us. We hope to reach new eyes and ears with information about current ECAS projects and volunteer needs, as well as connect with our current volunteers more effectively.

2020 Summer Field Notes

By Chuck Gates

The summer of 2020 was boiling HOT! The last two weeks of July saw temperatures that regularly registered above 90 degrees. Add some 90-degree days in June and this summer was HOT, HOT, HOT! The summer birding was just about the same. Below is a summary of the best bird sightings of summer 2020.

Drought conditions limited waterfowl habitat at the Crooked River Wetlands and in the eastern part of Central Oregon, but some highlights managed to occur. A very unusual EURASIAN WIGEON was spotted at Hatfield Lake on July 11 for the **first July record** in Central Oregon (Low). Four juvenile COMMON GOLDENEYES spent most of the summer at the Prineville Sewer Ponds (Gates). A CLARK'S GREBE joined 3 WESTERN GREBES displaying mating behavior on Houston Lake for most of June but did not nest (Gates). An out-of-place PACIFIC LOON landed on Wickiup Reservoir July 31 for a **first summer record** (Meredith, Kornfeld, Zalunardo). A RED-NECKED GREBE was photographed at Ochoco Reservoir for only the **second June record** in Central Oregon of this species (Miller). GREAT EGRETS turned up at Tumalo Reservoir (Kornfeld) and the Crooked River Wetlands (Tinsley). AMERICAN BITTERNS bred at their historic Houston Lake location (Gates) but one was also noted at the Crooked River Wetlands (Baumann). A GREEN HERON was seen for a few days at Ryan Meadow in June (Low). WHITE-FACED IBIS were spotted at Hatfield Lake (Cantor, Fagan, Moodie) and the Crooked River Wetlands (MA Pogany, K Pogany, Boule, Meyers, Basden). Away from the Cascades, SANDHILL CRANES were discovered at Hatfield Lake (Jakse, Burgess) and east of Paulina (Gates).

Shorebird season begins in the summer, so they are often well represented on this seasonal report. BLACK-NECKED STILTS were found at the Crooked River Wetlands (Baumann, Boule, Gates) and Hatfield Lake (Cowan, Cahill, Reuland, Wilson, Errichetti). AMERICAN AVOCETS were reported from Hatfield Lake (Low, mult. obs.) and from Haystack Reservoir (White) for a **first June record** in Jefferson County. LONG-BILLED CURLEWS and WILLETS nested in historic locations in the Paulina area (Golden, Zalunardo, Pidgeon, Timony) and a WILLET was also noted at Hatfield Lake (Isacoff). A BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER was discovered foraging at Wickiup Reservoir on July 31 (Meredith, Kornfeld, Zalunardo). Judy Meredith reported a SOLITARY SANDPIPER at the Redmond Sewer Ponds for the only summer record in 2020. Once rarely reported, SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER reports now border on abundant (10 reports from 3 locations). A SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER at Hatfield Lake on July 3 rounds out our shorebird summary (Low).

Gulls and terns were predictably scarce with water levels as low as they were. Historic tern nesting locations like Paulina Valley were dried up or heavily depleted. Still, migrating BONAPARTE'S GULLS were seen at Hatfield Lake (Fagan), Haystack Reservoir (White), and Wickiup Reservoir (Meredith, Zalunardo, Kornfeld). FRANKLIN'S GULLS appeared in relative abundance at places like the Redmond Sewer Ponds (Lowe, Vick, Paznokas). With historic nesting locations in eastern regions dried up, the only BLACK TERN observed this season was a single bird seen at Hatfield Lake on the 4th of July (Kornfeld, Crabtree, Low). FORSTER'S TERN reports came in from Redmond Sewer Ponds (Meredith), Ochoco Reservoir (Gates), Crane Prairie (Martin) and Houston Lake (Gates).

Game Bird diversity is not great in Central Oregon, but we do get a few. Five CHUKAR were heard near Mecca Flats in Warm Springs (Smith). No GRAY PARTRIDGE sightings occurred in our area again this summer adding to concerns that this species is extirpated from Central Oregon (For you purists, it was introduced anyway.) Ruffed Grouse were heard drumming at Trout Creek Swamp (Sutherland, Jett, Centanni, Sizoo, Jenkins), Whiskey Springs (Schas), Twin Pillar's TH (Stotz), and Elk Lake (Parker). DUSKY GROUSE were found at Mud Springs Campground in the Ochocos (Archer) and SAGE GROUSE were discovered on Puett Road near Paulina (Golden, Zalunardo, Pidgeon, Timony). MOUNTAIN QUAIL were tallied at Whychus Creek Restoration Site (Bogar), Harvey Gap in the Ochocos (Miny, Bradford), Twin Pillars Trail (Stotz), Hwy 380 (Golden), and Mud Springs Campground (Archer).

Birds of Prey are often secreted on nests during the summer season so just about any sighting after American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk and Great Horned Owl is worth noting. The only NORTHERN GOSHAWK report of the season came in from Whiskey Springs in Jefferson County (D. Heyerly, A. Heyerly). RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS were scattered with most sightings occurring near Bend/La Pine (Low, Meredith, Kornfeld, Zalunardo, Namitz, Parrott, T. Teal, D. Teal) and one sighting on the Pacific Crest Trail (Buck, Hill). PEREGRINE FALCONS were spotted at 9 different locations by at least 10 people. The only BARN OWL report came from near Priest Hole in Jefferson County (Tomlinson). FLAMMULATED OWLS were discovered at Stein's Pillar Trailhead (Rodenkirk), Wildcat Campground (Stotz) and Trout Creek Swamp (Cahill). WESTERN SCREECH-OWLS turned up at Cold Springs Campground (Fagan) and Smith Rock State Park (Parker). Multiple BARRED OWLS were found in places like Virginia Meissner Sno Park (Punches), Brown's Mountain (Centanni, Jett), Wildcat Canyon north of Redmond (Reuland) and **a rare Jefferson County record** at Lake Creek near Camp Sherman (Fagan). A SHORT-EARED OWL was found on Puett Road in far eastern Crook County on June 5 (Minty, Bradford).

Near-Passerines are a "grab-bag" category that includes nightjars, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, swifts and any other bird that doesn't fit anywhere else. Tyler Groo conducted COMMON POORWILL surveys in far eastern Crook County on two occasions and found up to 9 individuals along his route. BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS were a little more common than normal with six separate reports (Tackmier-Aspen Lakes, Rems-west Bend, Givot-Sisters, Lay-Smith Rock, Peters-Ochoco Reservoir, and Rodenkirk-Twin Pillars Trail). A rare **BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** was spotted in Camp Sherman for about the twelfth Central Oregon record (Sandage, Crabtree). Up to 24 LEWIS'S WOODPECKERS were counted in the ECAS LEWO test area SW of Bend (Kook, Meredith). AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS were found at Trout Creek Swamp (Cahill, Maulding, Robb, Armstrong, Jenkins, Sizoo, Jakse) and near Black Crater (Hayes).

Finally, we come to the Passerines. Perching Birds, Song Birds, LBJs,...call them what you will. I call them fun! A **LEAST FLYCATCHER** was seen by dozens near Indian Ford Campground (Crabtree) and another turned up at Summit Prairie for a **Crook County first record** (Crabtree). Still another "Least Fly" was photographed at Black Butte Swamp (Williamson) but it is unclear whether this was a new bird or the same bird seen earlier at Indian Ford. EASTERN KINGBIRD reports numbered 12 with the most interesting being Trout Creek near Sisters (Givot) and Haystack Reservoir (Bennett). If you remember, last spring we had a rush of HUTTON'S VIREOS and a single leftover from that rush made it to the summer season at Trout Creek Swamp (Kleinbaum). Black-capped Chickadees were not reported this season, but it is likely



Broad-tailed Hummingbird – Camp Sherman –
Tom Crabtree



Least Flycatcher - Cold Springs Guard Station -
Chuck Gates



Veery – Black Butte Swamp – Jack Williamson

they nested along the Deschutes in the Warm Springs area. CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES were underreported with only a single record coming from Camp Sherman (Dey). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS continue their march toward ubiquitousness with reports coming in throughout the region, including Deschutes County where they were formerly rare (Mult. Obs.) A **VEERY** nested at Black Butte Swamp providing many with their first view of this eastern visitor (Schlick). Several SWAINSON'S THRUSHES were heard while people searched for the Veery and the Least Flycatcher (Mult. Obs.). A VARIED THRUSH turned up at Camp Sherman which seemed to be a low elevation for this Cascade Crest nester (Punches). **GRAY CATBIRDS** were discovered at Indian Ford Campground (Reuben) and Benham Falls (D. Gunther, L. Gunther). Summer AMERICAN PIPITS were tallied at the Crooked River Wetlands (Kornfeld, Meredith, Zalunardo) and Alder Springs (Jenkins). Nesting ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS are a rarity in the Ochocos so reports from Twin Pillars Trail (Stotz), NF 27 (Gates), and Independent Mine (Nordstrom) were of interest. **AMERICAN REDSTARTS** were seen near Camp Sherman (M. Landis, T. Landis) and Tumalo Reservoir (Timony, Pidgeon, Williams). A **NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** was easy to find around the Trout Creek Horse Camp for a couple of weeks (Centanni, Cahill). A very rare **MAGNOLIA WARBLER** was briefly seen at the Least Flycatcher location south of Indian Ford Campground for a fifth Deschutes County record (Arnold, Contreras). An equally unusual **BLACKPOLL WARBLER** was found in the same area and around the same time as the Magnolia Warbler (Burgess, Jakse, Sizoo, Crabtree). A YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT was heard singing throughout the night at Borden Beck Wayside near Lower Bridge (Nordstrom). FOX SPARROWS are notoriously hard to find in the Ochocos so three different sightings from three locations was interesting (Wilson, Gates). After finding reference to SAGEBRUSH SPARROW on Crooked River Ranch in some old records, Tom Crabtree found a single bird at a spot called the Peninsula. Up to four **BLACK-THROATED SPARROWS** were found to be nesting near the trails at Smith Rock State Park (Kornfeld). ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS turned up at Camp Sherman (Beall) and Bend (Garrison). BOBOLINKS appeared to have nested in at least two locations east of Paulina (Gates) and TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS again nested near Prineville (Gates). Four Gray-crowned Rosy-finches were noted on a hike up the South Sister (Hallman).

Observers (In order of appearance) – Chuck Gates, Peter Low, Judy Meredith, Steve Kornfeld, Cindy Zalunardo, Jeremy Miller, Joel Tinsley, Joshua Baumann, Glenn Cantor, Damian Fagan, Mary Ann Pogany, Karl Pogany, Kamella Boule, Joshua Meyers, Linnaea Basden, Lisa Cowan, Matt Cahill, John Reuland, Tyler Wilson, Daniel Errichetti, Brian White, Mike Golden, Colleen Pidgeon, Sheila Timony, Jon Isacoff, Cash Lowe, David Vick, Lynda Paznokas, Tanner Martin, Kara Jakse, Diane Burgess, Dan Heyerly, Anne Heyerly, Vickie Buck, Sally Hill, Russ Namitz, Leisyka Parrott, Tim Teal, Debbie Teal, Forest Tomlinson, Tim Rodenkirk, Nancy Stotz, Robert Parker, Jill Punches, Caleb Centanni, Courtney Jett, Lora Minty, Bill Bradford, Kristen Tackmier, Lew Rems, Rima Givot, Steve Lay, Sharon Peters, Vicki Sandage, Tom Crabtree, Diane Kook, Sylvia Maulding, Roger Robb, Mark Armstrong, Aaron Jenkins, Bob Sizoo, Jennifer Hayes, Tyler Groo, Kevin Smith, Don Sutherland, Jake Schas, Bob Archer, Craig Bennett, Georges Kleinbaum, Graham Dey, Joshua Little, Andrew Aldrich, Jill Oertley, Jacqueline Wong, Mark Gonzalez, Stefan Schlick, Glen Reuben, Don Gunther, Laura Gunther, Jeff Nordstrom, Madeline Landis, Tom Landis, Cherry Williams, Vjera Arnold, Alan Contreras, Douglas Beall, Mary Garrison, Tyler Hallman, Mult. Obs. = Multiple Observers



Gray Catbird – Benham Falls – Lynda Paznokas



Blackpoll Warbler – Indian Ford Creek –
Tom Crabtree



Northern Waterthrush – Trout Creek – Tom Crabtree



Rose-breasted Grosbeak – Camp Sherman – Douglas Beall

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund

By Jim Greer



Conservation of all of Oregon's biological wonders are important to us. Hopefully some of you have already heard of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation but I know many have not. Below is a summary of what it is, why it matters, and how you can help keep many of Oregon's species around with stable populations far into the future.

This creative program was born from the knowledge that many species of wildlife found throughout Oregon have no funding base to support their conservation, habitat restoration, or inventory surveys to determine what protection measures are needed, if any for their future. These are the species that are not hunted or fished, so do not have dedicated funds as game species do through license and tag fee dollars.

Many attempts over the years to garner funds for these species through proposed taxes on bird seed, bird feeders or binoculars failed during times of tight budgets at both the State and Federal levels. The same could be said for an effort in the 2017 Oregon Legislature which identified potential revenues from a small percentage of the bottle bill revenues to help nongame species. This also met with much resistance.

In spite of the many setbacks, the Oregon State Legislature created the OCRF in 2019 when House Bill 2829 was signed by the Governor. Its goals include:

- Conserving and protecting Oregon's native wildlife through implementation of the Oregon Conservation and Nearshore Strategies.
- Expanding outdoor recreation opportunities consistent with healthy fish, wildlife, and their habitats.
- Investing in science and research to increase our understanding of the natural world to make sound, informed decisions regarding fish, wildlife and habitat.
- Restoring healthy ecosystems to benefit Oregon's fish and wildlife and improve the health of our environment for future generations.
- Connecting youth, families, diverse and underserved communities to the outdoors.
- Helping all Oregonians take voluntary, proactive steps to conserve and protect fish, wildlife and habitat for future generations.
- Improving fishing and hunting and reducing license fees that currently fund most conservation efforts.
- Recognizing Oregon's diversity by encouraging all Oregonians to enjoy our rich outdoor heritage

The focus of the OCRF will also be on implementing the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Published in 2016, <https://oregonconservationstrategy.org/>, the Strategy includes 294 species which are Oregon's "Species of Greatest Conservation Need". These include 58 priority bird species that need help, many of which are found in Central Oregon. These include six woodpecker species, the olive-sided and willow flycatchers, common nighthawk, bobolink, and many others. Additionally, the OCRF will provide for new opportunities in wildlife watching, urban conservation, community science, and other wildlife-associated recreation.

It's creative funding scheme includes a commitment from the State Legislature to match all non-state or federal dollars donated to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife up to \$1 million. A coalition of over 60 conservation, recreation, and business organizations have come together to help raise the money for a multitude of projects around the State. Their lofty goal is to get 100,000 Oregonians to donate \$10 each to insure the \$1million match in general funds from the Legislature. By early September there was about \$175,000 in the bank and the coalition is looking to folks in organizations like ours to help out.

Therefore, I urge you to check out the new website for the OCRF which details the programs activities. It can be found at <https://www.oregonisalive.org/>. By donating any amount, you are helping to meet many of the conservation objectives we all seek.

More information:

www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/

<https://oregonconservationstrategy.org/ocs-strategy-species/birds/>

www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/viewing/birdwatching.asp

www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/



Golden Eagles in the Middle Deschutes and Lower Crooked River Canyons

*By Marilynne Keyser, President and
Jeff Scheetz, Coordinator of Golden Eagle Monitoring
Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area (FANs)*

Last winter, I was invited to submit an article to *The Calliope* about FANs nest box program for American kestrel and cavity nesting songbirds. I am pleased to be invited back to write about FANs other avian program, golden eagle nest monitoring. Although most of our volunteers are members of FANs, we work under the direction of Frank Isaacs with the Oregon Eagle Foundation (<https://oregoneaglefoundation.org>).

The golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is one of the largest birds of prey in North America. In Oregon, golden eagles occur statewide and are most common in the eastern half of the state. Migrant golden eagles from other areas visit the state in the winter, while nesting pairs mostly appear to be year-round residents.

In the FANs monitoring area, golden eagles feed primarily on rabbits and ground squirrels and build their huge stick nests on cliffs. They generally build multiple nests within their breeding territory.



The area we monitor fits nicely into the two river canyons surrounding Crooked River Ranch, where many of our 450 FANs members live. Jeff Scheetz is the coordinator of FANs Golden Eagle Nest Monitoring Program. He personally has explored many canyon miles to locate historical nesting sites and to uncover new ones. He is ably assisted by monitors Cindy Murray, Dave & Diane Roberts, Wendy & Lynn Micklus, Nancy & Cliff Baker, Rob Windlinx and Ralph Gerig.

On the Lower Crooked River, there are 5 sites (about 30 nests) located between Trail Crossing (about 1.5 miles upstream of Ogden State Park) and Opal Springs Dam on the Crooked River just south of Lake Billy Chinook, a total of 13 river miles.

On the Middle Deschutes River, there are 4 sites (about 30 nests) located between Riffle Lane (about 3 miles upstream of Steelhead Falls) and Geneva View (seven miles downstream of the falls), a total of 10 river miles.

Early in the year before the nesting season begins (usually about February 1st), FANs volunteers hike to various observation points (about 19) which cover most of the known historic nests. Much of this hiking is off-trail and within public lands. In some cases, the sites are quite remote from public roads, and extensive hiking is required. We generally approach the canyon rims from Crooked River Ranch. The nest may be on the west or the east rim of the canyon, making it challenging or even impossible to see the nest and eagle activity around it. In some cases private land ownership prevents us from the access needed for thorough observations. Some "new" nests (not in the historic database) were identified in 2020 during this observation period.



Activity by adult eagle pairs (in flight or roosting) was seen at 5 sites this year. These include Crooked River Gorge, Lower Crooked River, Riffle Lane, Steelhead Falls North, and Geneva. Most of these sites also hosted activity last year. Five teams (including BLM biologist Larry Ashton) contributed observations, resulting in confirmed nesting at 5 sites. Active site results for 2020 include:

Geneva: Adult vacates nest after about 5 weeks of consistent nest-sitting posture. No chicks observed.

Steelhead Falls North: Adult pair seen consistently flying around nest or on nest, but poor observation point prevented viewing actual birds on nest. Results were indeterminate.

Riffle Lane: Adult pair seen flying and on the nest. One chick observed, surviving in the nest until successfully fledging.

Lower Crooked River: Adult pair seen flying and on a nest briefly; however, no nest sighted as continuously occupied. No chicks spotted and possible nest vacated on May 27th.

Crooked River Gorge: Adults seen flying, and occupied one historic nest, but no chicks sighted and nest vacated after 67 days.

In 2019, two chicks successfully fledged. The 2020 result of one successful chick fledging shows a statistically insignificant decrease due to the small population.

In describing her experience as the monitor of our only successful nest, Cindy Murray said:

They hatched one egg about the first week of April. The chick developed progressively over several weeks. My observation point gave me a good view of the high rock ledge nest with easy hiking access to reach the point and set up a spotting scope. My last observation on June 16th revealed the fully developed chick had fledged within the last couple of days. I could hear the chick's calls from a location in the bottom of the river canyon but could not pinpoint the exact location. A very exciting season and a great privilege to be able to observe a part of Nature's life cycle!



Photo of adult golden eagle flying into nest taken by monitors Nancy & Cliff Baker

We work to preserve and restore the wild landscapes of the Middle Deschutes and Lower Crooked Rivers and Lower Whychus Creek through stewardship, outreach and education.

If you are interested in learning more about FANs, please check out our website at fansofdeschutes.org. You can join FANS for \$10 and receive our monthly online newsletter. Members receive advance notice about our guided hikes, stewardship opportunities, and programs offered in our Lens on Learning series.



FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
OF THE **DESCHUTES CANYON** AREA

Sunriver – First Dark Sky Place in Oregon

By International Dark-Sky Association Oregon Chapter

Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory and the Oregon Chapter of the International Dark Sky Association are excited to announce the designation of Sunriver, Oregon as the newest addition to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) Dark Sky Places Program – as a “Dark Sky Development of Distinction.” Sunriver is the first “Dark Sky Place” recognized in Oregon and one of only 130+ recognized worldwide to date.

Sunriver is an unincorporated town at the base of the Cascade Mountains in Deschutes County of Central Oregon. The Sunriver development was launched in the late 1960’s with a vision to build a community integrated with nature, a vision which has been achieved and is continued and valued by Sunriver residents.

Sunriver features slow curving roadways in an evergreen forest and bicycle paths throughout, lighting restrictions on residential and community buildings and a minimum of street lights. Sunriver is 5 square miles in size and is surrounded by the Deschutes National Forest.



The Milky Way shines in the night skies over Sunriver, Oregon. Photo by Jim Culpepper

Established in 1988, IDA has led a movement to protect our night skies from light pollution. Their overarching goal, which revolves around the four strategic priorities described below, is to reduce light pollution and promote responsible outdoor lighting that is beautiful, healthy, and functional.

- Celebrate the Night: Increase awareness of the benefits of the night for all living things, and how light pollution is an urgent environmental threat that individuals can help solve.
- Dark Sky Protection: Protect exemplary dark skies through our certification program.
- Lighting Where We Live: Engage cities and communities in reducing light pollution through responsible lighting policy and practice.
- Skyshed Restoration: Implement coordinated, intentional, and scalable actions to slow, halt, and reverse the increasing rate of light pollution.

Bob Grossfeld, Observatory Manager of Sunriver Nature & Observatory (SNCO), spearheaded the Dark Sky Place effort. The very active SNCO's mission is to "inspire present and future generations to cherish and understand our natural world."

"We are honored that IDA has elected to welcome Sunriver into the IDA Dark Sky Places Program", said Keith Mobley, President of the Sunriver Owners Association Board of Directors. "And we are pleased that our ongoing efforts of the past 60 years to be one with nature are recognized now for our protection of pristine skies from light pollution."

Learn more about:

Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory – www.snco.org

The Oregon Chapter of IDA - www.darkskyoregon.org

IDA's global work to protect the night from light pollution - www.darksky.org

Contacts:

Bob Grossfeld – bob@snco.org

Oregon Chapter email: IDAOregon@darksky.org

International Dark-Sky Association Oregon Chapter, PO Box 777, Bend, OR 97709-0777



sunriver
nature center
& observatory

*"Of all the pollution we face, light pollution is perhaps
the most easily remedied". - Yerlyn Klinkenborg*

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 565, Bend, Oregon 97701

Website www.ecaudubon.org

Email ecaudubon@gmail.com

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	Howard Horvath

Autumn 2020 Zoom Board Meetings

October 6

November 3

December 1

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