



# THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

SUMMER 2014

## *From the Executive Committee*



The 2014 Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival is one for the record books! As registrar it was a distinct pleasure to welcome all of the participants to our wonderful area. By the time they arrived, I felt I knew them from hours of entering their names and addresses, making nametags and printing out trip lists. It was the fourth iteration of what began as a modest attempt to feature our wonderful scenery and eleven species of woodpeckers, enjoy the birds with fellow birders, and employ our wonderful cadre of volunteers who embody the spirit of East Cascades Audubon. No one better exemplified that spirit than the late Dean Hale for whom the festival was named after his tragic death in 2012.

Several folks asked about him and next year we will feature a picture and biography of the festival's namesake and inspiration for bird enjoyment, conservation and volunteerism.

This year one hundred and three attendees enjoyed one hundred and ninety-five trips over seventeen areas. They came from the Province of Ontario and eleven states including Idaho, Virginia, Florida, Kansas, Arizona, Texas, Colorado, and Washington – and of course, Oregon. Festival Chair Ken Hashagen was joined by Guide Coordinator Chuck Gates, Publicity promulgator Jon Putnam, yours truly Registrar and many, many volunteer guides, set-up folks, registration workers, Social greeters, and Treasurer Jan Rising who, as always, kept careful eyes on the shirts and money. This event could not take place without their time and energy.

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**PICNIC ALERT: THE ECAS PICNIC HAS BEEN CHANGED TO WEDNESDAY JULY 16.**



Ken Hashagen, DHWF Chair doing his duties. Photo by DHWF participant Pam DiFazio.

Although fund-raising is not the sole purpose of this endeavor, it has become a source of income that is part of our budgeted funds, going to support the ECAS projects including education, conservation and data gathering. The goal is to keep the festival small enough that it is fun for the participants and volunteers alike. Resisting the potentially burn-out scenario of bigger is better, as long as woodpeckers are the focus and there is burned habitat for the always popular Black-backed and Three-toed, we are looking forward to the 2015 DHWF.

*Sherrie Pierce, ECAS Secretary*



Susan Groskiewicz, Carolyn Rochelle, and Ann Nora Hashagen register participants at Sisters Creekside Park. Photo by Cathy Beck.



Chuck Gates MCs The Belfy count-down. Photo by DHWF participant Bess Wong.

***Welcome New Members!***  
***Thanks for your support!***

Tiina Allas, Prineville  
 Mike Bogar, Milwaukie  
 John and Lynn Brune, Bend  
 Joan Carey and John Scoon, Bend  
 Patti Craveiro, Bend

Laverda Gallagher, Bend  
 Anne B. Jennings, Bend  
 Ken Johnson, Bend  
 Karen and Mark Plucinski, Bend  
 Debbie Spresser, Bend

Thanks also to Susan Dardis and Gary Folker, whose names were misspelled in the Spring 2014 CALLIOPE.

## HOFI's Rap

Hey look at me sittin in this tree  
sun's hot and so is me  
dee da da dee da da dee da da dee  
it's a bird's eye view  
broader than yours, Mister-Feet-on-the-Ground  
that guy can't hear my song  
what's up with that  
his ears all plugged  
somethin's wrong

Check out those shoes along the trail  
whole outfit big bucks beyond the pale  
my red so bright in new colors too  
we're all decked out for spring's review  
wheeeeze

The teacher says that I'm A.D.D.D.D.  
for keeping up talk so fast and free  
quite noisy up here in this alder tree  
I'm singin for Harry and Judy and Gene  
and those ground strutters – black birds  
I mean. Choose an old hat for a nest location  
lay in some grasses – life's no vacation  
on guard for that jay  
who's lookin for trouble  
there's always somethin  
in this life of bird nation  
wheeeeze



House Finch photo by Kevin Smith

*Marion Davidson*

## *Keeping In Touch with ECAS Members*

In the Spring CALLIOPE, I wrote about the volunteers who welcome our new members and encourage membership renewals. Another group of volunteers makes sure our members know about our activities. **Sherrie Pierce** composes the monthly email CHATTER, which contains information about upcoming events. **Wendy Caro** converts Sherrie's email to the format required by VerticalResponse, our group email host, and then sends that CHATTER to ECAS members via email.

**Mary Oppenheimer**, with help from Sherrie, solicits articles and photographs for our quarterly CALLIOPE newsletter, puts submissions in a consistent format, then lays out the publication and converts it to pdf format. Sherrie posts the pdf document on our website and provides Wendy with a URL link, which Wendy attaches to another VerticalResponse email to our members. Providing the CALLIOPE in email format has made it possible to expand the newsletter, to include color photographs, and to save several hundred dollars in printing and postage costs each year. (Thanks are also due to **Steve Dougill** who created our website and, with **George Jameson**, previously handled website posting.)

Because we send both our publications by email, an up-to-date email list is essential. **Mary Jensen** handles this task by editing any necessary email information on our VerticalResponse list. But this is where your cooperation is essential -- if your email address changes, please let us know by sending the new address to Miriam Lipsitz at [ecasmembership100@gmail.com](mailto:ecasmembership100@gmail.com).

*Jan Rising, Treasurer*

## *Blast From the Past*

Stealing Judy Meredith's usual newsletter slot, I have an article to share from the archives of the early Central Oregon Audubon Society (COAS). Those of you who have been involved in Central Oregon Birding for two or three decades will recognize the name Ivy Hilty. A founding member of COAS and stalwart of the birding community, Ivy lived in Madras and was a teacher in the Culver and Warm Springs schools.

When Ivy passed away in 1999, her daughter Sandra placed her mother's things in a storage unit in Madras and there they remained until this year. By chance, I was answering the ECAS voice mail and received a call from Sandra this past winter. She wondered if the current Audubon organization would be interested in boxes of COAS records, books, birdy knick-knacks and who knew what else. By chance, I had met Sandra, then Sandy, when she dated my Culver cousin in 1961. Forced to take his younger brother, sister and visiting Idaho cousin (me) to the drive-in on a date with Sandy, I had been in the back seat watching "Journey to the Center of the Earth" with them at the Madras drive-in.

After a chuckle over that serendipitous meeting, I agreed to meet Sandra and her husband and retrieve the box of records. What a job they faced! Ivy was a saver and a meticulous record keeper. Jim Anderson has the bulk of her earlier notebooks, but after three more trips to meet Sandra, I have several boxes of books and items that will be part of the Annual Event's silent auction.

Looking through the boxes, I found the following article from The Bulletin that describes a COAS survey project at Davis Lake.

*Sherrie Pierce, Secretary*

## They're plotting lake's future

# This club isn't counting sheep

By Steve Boyer  
Bulletin Staff Writer

LaPINE — The small black bird danced across the floating mat of reeds as Saturday afternoon's wind whipped up waves on Davis Lake.

"Okay, which one of the blackbirds is that out there, Lloyd?" Ivy Hilty asked Lloyd Sharp.

Sharp peered through his 20-power spotting scope. The blackbird bounced on the undulating reeds, revealing the tell-tale band of color on its wing.

"Yeah, that's a redwing, but he's this year's," Sharp said.

Farther out, two ospreys circled over the water on their perpetual patrols in search of unwary fish. Sharp and Hilty followed them with the interest expected of two of Central Oregon's most experienced bird-watchers, but they didn't make any notations. The official tally wouldn't start until Sunday.

Sharp and Hilty, along with about six other members of the Central Oregon Chapter of the Audubon Society, had gathered at Davis Lake to survey birds and plants in the area. Information from the survey will be used in a land-management plan the U.S. Forest Service is compiling for Davis.

Davis will get a special plan because it's a special lake, said Ted Lewis, ranger for the Deschutes National Forest's Crescent District. It's eutrophic, which means that eventually the lake will evolve to a marsh and then a meadow.

"We don't have very many of these eutrophic lakes in the high Cascades," said Lewis, who camped at Davis for the weekend.

Eutrophic lakes produce large quantities of vegetation, which provide food and habitat for wildlife. But the Davis Lake area also has significant stands of commercial timber and the kind of scenery that can attract enough visitors to love a lake to death. Those potential conflicts could best be juggled in a management plan.

But Forest Service officials didn't get far before they realized their agency didn't have the skills or the manpower to conduct the research on wildlife and plants needed for the plan, said Lewis.



Ivy Hilty (left), Lloyd Sharp warmed up for Sunday's count at Davis Lake

Hiring a biologist to conduct surveys would cost about \$15,000 annually, he said. Forest Service officials started looking for other ways.

"I guess the thing that came to mind was go to the people who know the most about it, and that's the Audubon Society," he said.

Society members were happy to help.

"I think it does more for us to go out and do something rather than just idly look at birds," said Carl Lewis, this year's field trip chairman for the Central Oregon chapter (he's no relation to Ted.)

The first survey of Davis was conducted last year on the opening day of fishing season. Twenty-eight society members gathered on a rainy, blustery day to count birds, but they didn't find many. Most of the birds had sense enough to stay out of the rain.

Sunday's sunshine and lack of wind insured that wouldn't happen this year. Unlike last year, the

members also conducted their counts along transects, or set routes, laid out by the Crescent District's staff wildlife biologist, Linda McEwan.

The same transects will be used every year to enable each count's results to be compared accurately.

The Davis Lake study isn't the first in which Audubon Society members have participated. The first was six or seven years ago, said Jack Schwartz, a past president of the chapter. It was conducted on Pine Mountain, located about 25 miles east of Bend, to give the Forest Service information on the area's wildlife populations for timber-sale planning.

The chapter has surveyed wildlife and wildflowers populations annually in the area burned in the Bridge Creek fire in 1979. The first survey was conducted

about two months after the fire. "And we have been back year since then to see what's coming back and what isn't," Barbara Sharp.

Information provided by group last year prompted Oregon National Forest officials to stop a timber sale to another area because the original area contained hawk nests, she said.

And the group will help with the Big Marsh area southwest of Bend for the management of the Forest Service expected to compile when it gains title to the area this year, said Ted Lewis.

Conducting the surveys is part of the responsibility should fall to any Audubon Society member, Barbara Sharp said.

"I get to be a permanent lobbyist for birds," she said. "I keep telling people if they want to enjoy birds, they ought to go and protect them."

## *Oregon 2020: A Benchmark Survey of Oregon's Birds*

Project 2020 is a collaboration of professional ornithologists, citizen scientists and birding enthusiasts spearheaded by Oregon State University Professor Doug Robinson, currently holder of the Bob and Phyllis Mace chair for Watchable Wildlife. The term 2020 refers to the goal of a state-wide benchmark for Oregon's birds by the year 2020 and to the hope that the data collected will give future generations the ability to see changes in bird abundance from our time to theirs with "20/20 vision".

Data from East Cascades Audubon Society's Winter Raptor Survey, directed by Jeff Fleischer and involving numerous volunteers, is already being integrated by Project 2020 into a format that will be archived and shared in eBird. This important data will then be viewable by anyone interested and can be the basis for future scientific analysis. Graduate students in the program have undertaken the monumental task of converting over 160 raptor routes in Oregon to GPS segments that will allow this integration as well as facilitate data input going forward. The resulting increase in reliability of the data collected makes this step extremely important to the overall concept of creating the 2020 benchmark. Jeff is analyzing the data collected last year to make certain this transition is going smoothly for the volunteers.

To create this benchmark, Doug recently shared two challenges to encourage birders across the state to contribute their observations. Both are based on "Hotspot Squares". These are one-square mile hotspots chosen at random from each of the 2800 plus Townships in Oregon. (For more information about this process go to <http://oregon2020.com/get-involved/birds-project-protocol/> ). On average, Hotspot Squares are about six miles apart.

The first challenge is the County Explorer Challenge. In this challenge, an individual is asked to visit as many Hotspot Squares as they can within their own county and to count the birds in the square. All of the 2800 plus Hotspots are shown on a map at the website just noted and they are loaded into eBird so you can easily find them if you enter your observations that way or in BirdLog. The project has also developed a free app, available for Android or iOS, for this purpose

The second is the Hot 300 Challenge. The Hot 300 are 300 Hotspot Squares scattered over the state, and the challenge asks individuals to visit as many of those Hotspot Squares as possible over the next few years. There is a county-by-county checklist of the Hot 300 that can be printed to keep track of which ones have been visited..

Getting too techy for you? Don't despair! If you do not want to use eBird, but still want to contribute to the Oregon 2020 effort to benchmark the birds of Oregon, you have two options. The best is to input your observations into a spreadsheet that you can mail to [oregon2021@gmail.com](mailto:oregon2021@gmail.com). You may also send hard copies of your data to Oak Creek Lab of Biology, 8840 NW Oak Creek Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330. If you do mail, be sure to include your name, the number of observers (if others joined you), name of the Hotspot Square you surveyed, date, time you started, time you finished, approximate distance you covered within the Hotspot Square, a list of the species you identified and the number of individuals of each species.

Yet another way to contribute to Oregon2020 is participation in a County Birding Blitz. So far, these have been held in Polk, Morrow, and Baker counties. For a Blitz, birders from around the state gather in a single county to survey as many birds in as many places as possible in just one weekend. Many “Blitzers” will survey areas that may never have been birded before. At the end of the Blitz, numbers are tallied and groups are recognized for their efforts. All the data collected is posted to eBird by Oregon 2020, shared with participants, and helps fill gaps on Oregon’s birds. With the demise of the local North American Migration Count (NAMC) ,this seems like a viable alternative for those of us who love to get out and see what birds are where. How about a Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson County Blitz? More information about this and other topics are available at <http://oregon2020.com/county-birding-blitzes/> .



*Sherrie Pierce, Secretary*

## *What's Happening*

ECAS Summer Picnic will be held at Shevlin Park on July 16, a Wednesday, rather than the usual third Thursday of July. The change is due to a scheduling conflict -- the picnic shelter was not available on the 17th! We start to gather at 4pm for fellowship and birding in the park, with a potluck picnic around 5:30. Please bring a dish to share, plus your own utensils. It's always fun to sample the the tasty dishes spread upon the table..

Fall Field Trips are in the planning stage. Watch for an announcement of dates, places, and leaders on COBOL in the near future. All the field trips will be one day trips; all are free; and all are a great opportunity to visit prime birding spots and get to know local birds and fellow birders. Detailed information about the starting time and place for each trip will be posted at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org) and on COBOL approximately a week in advance of each trip. To sign up for COBOL, email [jmoodie@cocc.edu](mailto:jmoodie@cocc.edu)

Wednesday Birders continue to meet each Wednesday at 7am, generally at Nancy P's in Bend. Be sure to check [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org) for exact starting time and place for each trip. Information is also posted on COBOL. .

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

Fledgling Fun is on vacation. It will resume in October. Details will be provided at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org) and in the next issue of CALLIOPE.

Young Birders of Central Oregon have planned several summer events, including raptor identification, drawing birds, and outings to local bird hotspots. For information, contact Annette Gerard at 541-385-1799

## *Summer Birders' Nights*

Two summer programs will feature ECAS members. On August 21, the topic is "**Beyond Binoculars: Birding Innovations & Nerd Fest II**". This is a hands-on opportunity for members to share and learn about new birding technologies. On September 18, Howard Horvath and Mary Oppenheimer will share what they've learned in many years of "**Planning an International Birding Trip**". Singly or together, Mary and Howard have birded in 23 countries on six continents..

Programs 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. For more details on speakers and programs, click "Birders' Nights" in the ECAS Info box on our home page at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org).

## *Out of Town: Oregon Shorebird Festival*

Shorebirds abound in the Bandon/Coos Bay segment of the Oregon coast in late summer, and the Oregon Shorebird Festival is a great way to see lots of them with great guides. It's a small, low-key festival centered around the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston. There are guided tours to shorebird areas, speakers, canoe tours through South Slough, an optional dinner, and a short (five-hour) pelagic tour that's a great experiment if you're not sure about whether pelagic trips are for you. The festival is reasonably priced (\$30 registration, no charge for field trips, \$85 for the pelagic), and inexpensive dormitory accommodations are available at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology. A number of us have attended this festival in years past and enjoyed it very much. This year the festival dates are September 5-7. For more information, and to register, go to [www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/shorebirdfestival.htm](http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/shorebirdfestival.htm).

*Mary Oppenheimer*

## *Spring 2014 Field Notes*

Some spring seasons are very memorable. Take the spring of 2001. That year, rare birds included Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Veery, Phainopepla, American Redstart, White-throated Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The spring of 2012 was another spring that produced amazing birds. That was the spring that Skyliners Road lit up with alpine rarities left over from an outstanding winter season. Other rare birds seen that year included Lapland Longspur, Tennessee Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-throated Sparrow and Great-tailed Grackle. Now 2012 was a spring to remember. What amazing memories did the spring of 2014 give us? Well, it turns out, not too many. That said, here are the spring highlights.

A few unusual water birds made a minor splash in our area this spring. SNOW GEESE were noted on three different occasions. A late CACKLING GOOSE was noted from the Prineville Sewer Ponds. A pair of TRUMPETER SWANS made Hatfield Lake their home for much of the season. EURASIAN WIGEON were found at Hatfield and the Prineville Sewer Ponds. Hatfield produced GREATER SCAUP on two occasions and HORNED GREBES were tallied at Haystack Reservoir, Cove State Park and Hatfield Lake. 30 WHITE-FACED IBIS were observed flying over the Madras Sewer Ponds for a rare Jefferson County record. An AMERICAN BITTERN showed up at Hatfield Lake but did not choose to stay and breed. A

GREAT EGRET was photographed south of Prineville and 2 SANDHILL CRANES were seen displaying near a pond north of Grizzly Butte in Jefferson County.

Shorebirds and gulls are prominent members of any spring rare bird compilations. Rare birds of this category included BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER and SNOWY PLOVER at Hatfield Lake. BLACK-NECKED STILT were found at Hatfield and the Old Mill District in Bend. Up to 31 LONG-BILLED CURLEWS were counted on Agency Plains north of Madras and several made appearances at Hatfield. Single SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were located at Hatfield and Slough Meadow. Hatfield hosted a SANDERLING and a very early and unusual spring BAIRD'S SANDPIPER was found by the ECAS Wednesday Birders Group on the Prineville Sewer Ponds. FRANKLIN'S GULL is always unusual in our area but the 26 that flew over Hatfield on May 23 were simply unprecedented. Finally, BLACK TERNS were noted at Hatfield and the Prineville Sewer Ponds.

The spring season seems to be the best season for finding some of the more secretive game birds. Up to 20 GREATER SAGE-GROUSE were found "lekking" east of Bend. RUFFED GROUSE were heard in the Ochoco Mountains and WILD TURKEY were reported from Trout Creek and Calliope Crossing. MOUNTAIN QUAIL were tallied north of Sisters, at Skull Hollow in Jefferson County and near Alder Springs northwest of Redmond. Few years produce a BAND-TAILED PIGEON sighting in Deschutes County but 2014 generated two of them (Bend and east of Tumalo Falls).

Everyone loves to hear about raptor highlights. A few migrating PEREGRINE FALCONS were reported and a pair of birds at Smith Rock made local birders wonder if nesting might be a possibility (This was never confirmed but it would be very exciting and may have occurred undetected.) A WESTERN SCREECH-OWL was heard north of Sisters and GREAT GRAY OWLS were noted again from the GW/Shadow Lake Burn area. While doing an NAMC in Crook County, Judy Meredith and Tony Kutzen located a SHORT-EARED OWL near Post. Migrating NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS were heard calling from Bend and near Skull Hollow Campground.

COMMON POORWILLS began arriving around May 12. WHITE-THROATED SWIFTS joined us beginning around the middle of April. A very unusual BLACK SWIFT sighting came in from Sisters.

There were very few rare passerines reported. An EASTERN KINGBIRD was reported from eastern Crook County BEWICK'S WRENS were spotted at Shevlin Park and Alder Springs. Alder Springs also produced a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. The resident CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES at Suttle Lake were noted and a NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD was seen passing by Lower Bridge. The only unusual warbler was a NORTHERN PARULA heard in the west hills of Bend. Two GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES posed for photos on top of Grizzly Mountain north of Prineville.

That's it for the 2014 Spring Highlights. Maybe 2015 will offer a little more excitement.

*Chuck Gates*

## *EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY*

P. O. Box 565, Bend Oregon

[www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org)

<i>Board Members</i>	<i>Committee and Event Chairs</i>
<p>President                      Vacant  Vice-President              Ken Hashagen  Secretary                     Sherrie Pierce  Treasurer                     Jan Rising  Board Members              Cathy Beck     Tom Crabtree     Karen Gentry     Jon Putnam     Kevin Smith</p> <p>Summer 2014 Board Meetings     August 5     September 2</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 <a href="http://www.ecaudubon.org">www.ecaudubon.org</a>. 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                Jon Putnam  Conservation                    Mike Golden  Education                        Mary Yanalcanlin  Field Trips                        Howard Horvath,  Finance                            Terri Hyde  Green Ridge Raptors          Kim Boddie  Lake Abert Study                Steve Dougill  Lewis's Woodpeckers          Diane Kook  Membership                     Jan Rising  NAMC                              Vacant  Newsletter                        Mary Oppenheimer  Science                            Sue Tank  Summer Lake Survey          Steve Dougill  Technology                        Steve Dougill,  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>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](http://www.ecaudubon.org).