



THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES
AUDUBON SOCIETY

WINTER 2015-2016

From the Executive Committee -- ECAS and Citizen Science

Thanks to a large corps of loyal and interested volunteers, ECAS supports a wide variety of citizen science-based projects throughout Central Oregon and beyond. Based on other Audubon Chapters with which I have been associated over the years, this is unusual. Other chapters have a once-a-month talk, and/or an annual picnic and may support conservation activities with grants or funds, but rarely do they get as heavily involved with citizen science programs as ECAS does. ECAS does have a very active grant program, donating money to many projects and to other conservation programs throughout the State, but the many citizen science programs are what makes ECAS stand out from other programs.

Our citizen science programs include:

- Lake Abert Surveys – Surveys have been conducted for many years to document declining shorebird populations as water levels drop. Meetings have been held with State and Federal officials and letters written to express our concerns.
- Lights Out Bend – This program encourages residents and businesses to turn off exterior lighting during the all-important fall and spring migration periods to lessen bird mortalities.
- Green Ridge Raptor Surveys – Each fall, counts are made of migrating raptors passing over Green Ridge northwest of Sisters.
- Summer Lake Shorebird Counts – Volunteers count the number and species of breeding shorebirds in this very important breeding site.
- Vaux Swift Counts – Evening counts in downtown Bend in the spring and fall document numbers of migrating Vaux Swifts. Numbers are sent to a statewide coordinator.

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- Lewis Woodpecker Surveys – This study documented declines in Lewis Woodpecker populations around Bend and has developed a very successful nest box program to augment populations.
- Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival – Nesting data from pre-Festival surveys is given to the US Forest Service as volunteers prepare for this fun and educational 4-day event each June.
- Camp Polk Surveys – ECAS volunteers document changes in the avian populations as The Deschutes Land Trust evaluates the success of the re-channelization of Whychus Creek.
- Winter Raptor Routes – From November through March, volunteers drive prescribed routes counting all species and numbers of raptors.
- Golden Eagle Cam – In this new program, a camera is pointed at a Golden Eagle nest on Whychus Creek. The daily activities of an eagle family can be watched on your home television or computer.
- Bluebird Nest Box Program – Approximately 60 bluebird nest boxes are monitored each spring to determine population fluctuations. Nest boxes are located in Sunriver, La Pine, and south of Sisters. A proportion of the fledglings are banded each year.
- Kestrel Program – Don McCartney's 15-year nest box program has resulted in 120 nest boxes installed in and around Central Oregon. Kestrel populations in our area are expanding, unlike other populations around the US.
- eBird – Many of our members contribute their bird sighting to eBird. Data was most recently used to identify bird species seen at Lower Bridge in an effort to comment on a nearby proposed project.

Long-term data on bird populations and numbers is important. It allows ECAS to comment on proposed projects and be aware of population fluctuations. Volunteers are always needed for these programs. Check our new web site for more information and contact information for the project leaders.

Ken Hashagen

ECAS Grant Helps Trumpeter Swans Return to Summer Lake

At its December meeting, the ECAS Board approved a \$1000 Laughrige grant to the Trumpeter Swan Society (TSS) for the purchase of Trumpeter Swans from the Wyoming Wetland Society. The swans (either cygnets or captive-reared yearlings) will be released at Summer Lake, which has very high quality wetlands and ample food for wintering swans. The introduced birds will have clipped wings and will therefore learn to fly at Summer Lake. Imprinting there, they will form a bond with those wetlands which ECAS members regularly visit. Other funding for the project will be provided by TSS and ODFW, with in-kind contributions from those organizations, USFWS and zoos. Gary Ivey, who last spoke at Birders' Night about a young Sandhill Crane, is the coordinator for the project.

Mary Oppenheimer

Season's Greetings

*Townsend's Solitaire:
O Juniper Tree, O Juniper tree
all your berries are for me
Tut . . . tut . . . tut . . .
tut . . . tut . . . tut . . .*

*Northern Flicker:
Clear Clear
It came upon a midnight klee-yer*

*Western Scrub-Jay:
Where's my milk and cookies?
Ho Ho Ho Ho*

*Pygmy Nuthatch:
Jingle jingle jingle jingle
dee dee dee dee*

*Bushtit:
ring-a-ling ring-a-ling
spit and sing*

*Mountain Chickadee:
Feeder feeder
Fill up the feeder
Fa la la la la*

Marion Davidson

New Board Members

Three new ECAS board members were elected at the November 14 Annual Event -- John Brune, Danielle Lordi, and Tom Lawler. As you'll see from the brief biographies that follow, they combine

a love of birding with strength in a variety of other areas. With their election, the Board is now at "full strength", with the maximum number of directors provided under the ECAS Bylaws.

The new directors step into their positions officially on January 1. Their first Board meeting will be the annual Board retreat, which will be held January 9, 2016. At that meeting, they will join returning Board members Ken Hashagen, Sherrie Pierce, Terri Hyde, Jan Rising, Ted Groszkiewicz, and Karen Gentry to elect new officers, review the accomplishments of 2015, and set priorities for 2016.

The new year will also see the departure of two valued Board members. Photographer extraordinaire Kevin Smith had served the maximum two consecutive terms permitted under the ECAS Bylaws. Jon Putnam served a shorter period but made invaluable contributions by improving consistency in our publicity efforts. Those of us who attend Birders' Nights especially appreciate the slide show and Power Point Jon developed to open the evening.

Mary Oppenheimer

John Brune



John's interest in birding goes back to his childhood days in the Midwest, watching Northern Cardinals and Blue Jays at the backyard feeder. John and his wife Lynn moved to Bend 6 years ago along with their cat, Layla (indoor only!). John joined ECAS two years ago, and within a year had joined the Finance Committee and taken over responsibility for maintaining the ECAS financial statements.

John has a Bachelors degree in Business Administration and an MBA from Arizona State. He spent 20 years working in various finance director and controllership roles at several California technology companies (Hewlett-Packard, Silicon Graphics, and Intuit).

Tom Lawler

Tom brings a southern Deschutes and Lake county perspective to the Board. He leads Saturday bird walks at the Sunriver Nature Center, as well as handling birds at the Center and giving talks about birds-of prey. He has also taught bird watching classes at La Pine Parks and Rec. He has helped out with ECAS field trips, and the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival, participated in Christmas Bird Counts, Spring and Fall Migration Counts, and run Winter raptor surveys in Lake County. Tom is a stalwart steward of Cabin Lake. If the water bowls and grounds are clean, it's probably due to his efforts. His newest project for that site is convincing the US Forest Service to let ECAS rebuild the lower blind at the site. In addition, he has recently taken over as administrator and monitor of the Cobol listserv.

Danielle Lordi



Danielle has been an avid birder since the summer of 2013, when she had a chance encounter with a Red Crossbill posing on top of the Dee Wright Observatory on Highway 242. Since then she has become a volunteer bird surveyor at Camp Polk Meadow and part of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "Feeder Watch" project, as well as an active member of ECAS.

She also serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the Humane Society of Central Oregon and as an intern with the Deschutes Land Trust. She combines all these activities with her work as a civil litigation attorney at Bryant, Lovlien & Jarvis, PC in Bend.

Eagle Watch at Round Butte Overlook Park

This year, Eagle Watch takes place February 27th and 28th. This is a very family-friendly event held each year at the Round Butte Overlook Park Visitor Center ten miles west of Madras. In addition to guided eagle viewing sessions both at Round Butte and at Cove Palisades State Park (shuttles provided), "Eagle Village" features displays and presentations by regional birds-of-prey experts as well as kids' crafts and prize drawings. Events take place from 10am to 6pm both days.

ECAS Winter Events

Wednesday Birders continue to meet each Wednesday, generally at Nancy P's in Bend. As CALLIOPE goes to press, the starting time is am, but this will change to 7am as the days grow longer. Be sure to check our web site for exact starting time and place for each trip. Information is also posted on COBOL. To sign up for COBOL, go to <http://lists.oregonstate.edu/mailman/listinfo/cobol>.

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

Fledgling Fun next meets on January 11 and continues on the second Monday of each month through May. Scheduled programs include Raptors, Feathers, Gulls, Hummingbirds, and "A Bird-Day Celebration." All Fledgling Fun programs are held at The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend, from 3:45 to 5:15pm. The programs are aimed at K-5th grade, but all ages are welcome. Details at www.ecaudubon.org.

Birders' Nights continue in January with programs on three fascinating birds: the Sage Grouse, the Snowy Owl, and hummingbirds.

- On January 21, local physician and conservationist Dr. Stu Garrett's topic will be **"Protecting the Sage Grouse in Our Backyard"**. He will discuss recent attempts to protect the Sage-Grouse as well as describing highlights of the grouse's life cycle. In the last few years, federal agencies have developed new protection guidelines in lieu of listing this uncommon bird as a Federally Endangered Species. ECAS member Kevin Smith will join Dr. Garrett in a discussion about what we (ECAS) can do to assist federal and state agencies in protecting and promoting the recovery of this amazing bird that lives on public lands in our own backyard.
- On February 18, local naturalist Steve Shunk will treat us to **"Humming Across the Americas"**, a true hummingbird extravaganza. In the last year, Steve has visited several Central and South American countries and has some outstanding hummingbird stories to share. Steve will discuss the natural history and distribution of our own backyard hummingbirds -- Anna's, Rufous, Calliope, with an occasional Costa's, Rocky Mountain Broad-Tailed, and Black-Chinned -- and throw in enough tropical eye candy to make you dust off your passport!
- On March 17, **"Southeastern Oregon's Snowy Owl"** will be Kelly Hazen's topic. Kelly, who lived in Burns for many years, will introduce us to the Snowy Owl's natural history, discussing the latest research into determination of the sex of a Snowy Owl, why Snowy Owls irrupt, and how they survive. Kelly will include some of her own study results, including how she collected diet and foraging data, pellet contents, and hunting success rate. She will also feature the story of the Burns Snowy Owl who arrived in November 2011 and left in late January 2012. ECAS members are encouraged to bring their photos of the Burns Snowy Owl. Kelly previously shared her experiences decoding the neckbands of Snow Geese.

Programs, which are free and open to all, are held at The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend. Doors open for coffee, snacks, and conversation at 6:30pm, with the evening's program beginning at 7pm.

ONDA High Desert Lecture Series Leads Off with "Sagebrush Sisters"

ECAS member Alice Elshoff, along with Julie Weikel and Helen Harbin, is featured in "Sagebrush Sisters", a documentary about their hike last June across the high desert from Nevada's Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge to Oregon's Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge. The land between the two refuges is one of the finest sagebrush strongholds of the West, and a critical wildlife habitat. Their journey fulfilled a shared dream to raise awareness about why the future of this area is critical.

The film will provide the jumping off point for a panel discussion moderated by ONDA's Greater Hart-Sheldon Region Conservation Coordinator Jeremy Austin. The free event will take place January 19, at the Old Stone Church, 157 NW Franklin, Bend. Doors open at 6:30pm. Space is limited, so register as soon as possible at www.ONDA.org.

2015 Fall Field Notes Field Notes

To some, spring suggests rebirth and vibrancy. In turn, fall causes those same people to conjure thoughts of decay, cessation, and slumber. Birders don't fall for such simple generalizations. We see the autumn season for what it is: a time of dynamic movement and new opportunities. The fall of 2015 was surely dynamic and provided local birders with plenty of opportunities to see something new. Below you will find a summary of the bird sightings from August through November of 2015.

On the waterfowl front, there were lots of wonderful happenings. SNOW GEESE made their annual stopovers in Powell Butte, Wickiup and Black Butte (Gates and Low). CACKLING GEESE followed suit as they were found from late September through November at local water features (Rems, Gates, Low, Wednesday Birders). EURASIAN WIGEON were located at Hatfield Lake and the Prineville Sewer Ponds (Low, Gates), and GREATER SCAUP were tallied at Wickiup Reservoir, Prineville Sewer Ponds and Suttle Lake (Gonzalez, Low, Wednesday Birders). SURF SCOTERS are in danger of being removed from this report because they are becoming quite common in the fall. This year they were reported from Wickiup Reservoir and Suttle Lake (Low, Crabtree, Wednesday Birders) while not a single White-winged or Black Scoter was found. RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were seen at Wickiup and Suttle Lakes (Low, Gates, Meredith, Horvath). Wickiup Reservoir was the only location to produce PACIFIC LOON (Low) and it maintained that primacy with the area's only RED-THROATED LOON (Low) as well. HORNED GREBES were seen multiple times on Wickiup and Haystack Reservoirs (Low, Gates). Like Surf Scoter, they are becoming so ever-present in the fall that they may one day lose their spot on this report. While not as abundant, RED-NECKED GREBES were noted at the same locations as Horned Grebes (Low, Gates, Wednesday Birders).

On October 18th, an AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN was found on Wickiup Reservoir. This is late for that species. Your chances of seeing a GREEN HERON in Central Oregon are only marginally better than seeing Chuck Gates pass on dessert. So when four different birds were seen at four locations (Bend Deschutes River, Redmond Sewer Ponds, Powell Butte, Houston Lake), this caused quite a stir (Carah, Carpenter, Zalunardo, Gates). GREAT EGRETS were much easier to locate as this species was reported in 7 different locations (Gates, Lawler, Low, Gibson, Lay, Crabtree, Vick, Meredith, Davidson).

Fall is THE time for shorebirds, terns and gulls. This year was a great one in Central Oregon. Wickiup reservoir produced the biggest prize of the year as Central Oregon's first LITTLE STINT was discovered there in August (Low, Rems). Many thanks to Brian Small for permission to reprint the marvelous photo below.



Wickiup also supplied a lone MARBLED GODWIT and a single Whimbrel (Low). Tumalo Reservoir produced the only BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER of the season (Rems). SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS were noted at Wickiup and Hatfield Lake (Low, Rems, Horvath, Oppenheimer, Miller, Meredith) and a RED KNOT was discovered at Wickiup on October 14 by ECAS's own Wednesday Birders. For only the 7th time, a RUDDY TURNSTONE turned up in Central Oregon (Low, Rems). An early DUNLIN was seen on Hatfield Lake in September (Meredith, Rems) and SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS were spotted on Wickiup Reservoir and Hatfield Lake (Low, Meredith, Rems). Wickiup Reservoir conjured both PARSITIC JAEGER and LONG-TAILED JAEGER and the latter was also seen on Prineville Reservoir for a new Crook County record (Low, Rems, Gates, Nordstrom). FRANKLIN'S GULLS showed up at Wickiup and Prineville Reservoirs (Low, Crabtree, Gates). Craig and Marilyn Miller found Central Oregon's first BLACK-HEADED GULL on Suttle Lake in November. COMMON TERNS were found at Wickiup and Tumalo Reservoirs (Low, Miller) while the only BLACK TERN reports came in from Prineville Reservoir (Gates). Peter Low located a SABINE'S GULL at Wickiup Reservoir on October 25th.

Topping the Game Bird news for the season was a single report of GRAY PARTRIDGE coming in from the Madras. Once annual, it has been more than 5 years since that species has been reported anywhere in Central Oregon (Beerman). WILD TURKEYS were tallied in the Deschutes NF near Sisters, Three Rivers. and south of Prineville (Boddie, Gates, Van Vlack). A family group of MOUNTAIN QUAIL made several visits to Whiskey Springs (Boddie), and this species was also noted near Prineville Reservoir (Peters). RUFFED GROUSE were spotted multiple times near

Green Ridge (Gates). BAND-TAILED PIGEONS were viewed at Black Butte Ranch, Green Ridge, and Powell Butte (Low, Crabtree, Hartmann).

Fall raptor watching takes on an increased fervor with the ECAS's Green Ridge Raptor Migration Count adding to the regular raptor-fest we have the rest of the year. RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS were seen in six different locations from Sunriver to Culver and from Houston Lake to Black Butte (Lawler, Low, Wednesday Birders, Smith, Miller, Low). The season's first ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was recorded by Peter Low at Wickiup Reservoir on October 17th. PEREGRINE FALCONS were located at Wickiup, Hatfield and Black Butte Ranch (Low, Miller). Reports of WESTERN SCREECH-OWL were received from Black Butte Ranch and Crooked River Ranch (Carpenter, Smith) and a single GREAT GRAY OWL was found near Lava Lake (Yeatts). BARRED OWLS were located in Prineville and Redmond (Gonzalez, Valdes) while a single NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL was spotted south of Sisters (Tank). LONG-EARED OWLS seemed hard to find this year but two were located near Prineville Reservoir and another two were spotted near Gray Butte (Gates, Wednesday Birders). The only SHORT-EARED OWL noted was a photographed bird just north of Culver (Thomas).

Small perching birds are often the stars of the migration show in the fall. Shorebirds probably edged them out this year but we had some very interesting birds nonetheless. Though not a passerine, 6 BLACK SWIFTS made the highlight page this year from the Redmond Sewer Ponds (Meredith, Penpraze, Beck). Calliope Crossing was the site of a rare LEAST FLYCATCHER sighting (Dougill). CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES were found in some strange places this year including Bend, Whiskey Springs and Mt Bachelor (Shunk, Hashagen, Crabtree, Kornfeld). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS also showed up in a diverse set of locations such as Bandit Springs, Prineville Reservoir, Gray Butte and Eagle Rock (Kutzen, Moodie, Gates, Crabtree, Wednesday Birders, Abrahms, T. Smith). The Crook County Library and the city of Bend both produced reports of SWAINSON'S THRUSH (Gonzalez, Miller).



Red-throated Pipit. Photograph by Craig Miller

One of the best finds of the season was a RED-THROATED PIPIT found at Wickiup Reservoir for only the second time in Central Oregon (Miller). Steve Dougill found a GRAY CATBIRD near Ryan Meadow and WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS showed up in Prineville, Bend and Sisters (Gonzalez, Moodie, Schas). A rare INDIGO BUNTING stopped in briefly at Hatfield Lake (Meredith, Beck) and an equally rare BOBOLINK was reported from Sunriver's Crosswater Golf Course (Jensen).



Gray-Crowned Rosy-Finch. Photograph by Chuck Gates

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES were found at the South Sister Summit, Grizzly Mt., Smith Rock, and Mt. Bachelor (Meinzen, Wednesday Birders, Lowe, Kornfeld, Barclay). Finally, twelve WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were counted along the Millican Trail west of Bend (Shunk, Elder) and a single COMMON REDPOLL was seen at a feeder in Deschutes River Woods (Moodie).

Decay, cessation, and slumber! Not hardly!

Chuck Gates

Names of observers (in order of appearance): Chuck Gates, Peter Low, Lew Rems, Tom Crabtree, Mark Gonzalez, Judy Meredith, Howard Horvath, Gloria Beerman, Kim Boddie, Patti Van Vlack, Sharon Peters, Tom Lawler, Scott Carpenter, Marty Carah, Dave Zalunardo, Yvonne Gibson, Steve Lay, David Vick, Marion Davidson, Kevin Smith, Craig Miller, Mary Oppenheimer, Jeff Nordstrom, Marilyn Miller, Kay Hartmann, Ted Yeatts, Michelle Valdes, Evan Thomas, Sue Tank, Tom Penpraze, Cathy Beck, Steve Shunk, Steve Dougill, Jim Moodie, Ken Hashagen, Steve Kornfeld, Tony Kutzen, Nancy Abrams, Tim Smith, Jake Schas, Erik Jensen, Thomas Meinzen, Cash Lowe, Elayne Barclay, Christine Elder.

Welcome New Members!
Thanks for your support!

Michael Allender & Susan Payne	Redmond	Bonnie Lamb	Bend
Rhianna Benicase	Bend	Gary Meyer	Bend
Chad Brindle	Bend	Ben Moore	Redmond
Ibby Gaunt	Bend	Dan & Margee O'Brien	Madras
Barbara Harris	Bend	Skip Paznokas	Bend
Vicki Jones	Bend	Gail Sabbadini	Bend
Erik Kancler	Bend	Joe Stevens	Bend

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 565, Bend Oregon

www.ecaudubon.org

<i>Board Members</i>	<i>Committee and Event Chairs</i>
<p>President Ken Hashagen Vice-President Ted Groszkiewicz Secretary Sherrie Pierce Treasurer Terri Hyde Board Members John Brune Jan Rising Karen Gentry Tom Lawler Danielle Lordi</p> <p>Winter 2016 Board Meetings January 9 (Board Retreat) February 2 March 1</p> <p>Board meetings are held at 6pm at The Environmental Center on the first Tuesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend. Future Board meeting dates can be found in the activity calendar at www.ecaudubon.org. Board minutes are also posted at that site after approval by the Board.</p>	<p>Annual Event Sherrie Pierce Bluebirds Ken Hashagen Birders' Night Diana Roberts, Nancy Merrick Merrick</p> <p>Communications Vacant Conservation Vacant Education Mary Yanalcanlin Field Trips Howard Horvath, Finance Terri Hyde Green Ridge Raptors Leanna Taylor Lake Abert Study Steve Dougill Lewis's Woodpeckers Diane Kook Membership Jan Rising Newsletter Mary Oppenheimer Science Vacant Summer Lake Survey Steve Dougill Technology Steve Dougill, Vaux's Swifts Bob Johnson Mary Anne Kruse</p> <p>Volunteers Sherrie Pierce Wednesday Birders Judy Meredith Howard Horvath</p> <p>Woodpecker Festival Ken Hashagen Winter Raptor Survey Jeff Fleisher</p>
<p><i>Contact information for Board members, Committee Chairs, and Project Leaders is posted at the "Contact Us" button on the ECAS website.</i></p>	<p><i>If you would like to volunteer for a committee or event, please contact Sherrie Pierce at 541-548-4641.</i></p>

The East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) is a 501(c)(3) organization that furthers knowledge and appreciation of birds and their habitats through field trips, education, and field studies. Join ECAS and help preserve the birds of the Central Oregon region at www.ecaudubon.org.