



THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

WINTER 2017-2018

From the President -- 2017 - ANOTHER GOOD YEAR!

Due entirely to our great project leaders and wonderful volunteers, the East Cascades Audubon Society had another wonderful and successful year! At our recent Annual Event at the Bend Senior Center, Chuck Gates presented his “Year in Review”, a slide show showing all our programs, leaders, and volunteers. For those of you who missed it, the slide show is available on the ECAS website, but here are a few highlights:

- Our ECAS Volunteer of the year, Stu Garrett, is the leader of our Sage Grouse projects. Last year, he initiated and led a project that put protective flippers on many miles of fencing to protect low-flying Sage Grouse. This year he forged cooperative programs with State and Federal agencies to study whether West Nile virus might be impacting Sage Grouse.
- Tom Lawler and his team of volunteers have continued capping the vents on many Forest Service campground toilets to prevent birds and rodents from getting trapped. This program will continue into 2018.
- Mary Ann Kruse continued her leadership role in Lights Out Bend and her Vaux Swift surveys each spring and fall.

Lake Abert Surveys, Green Ridge Raptor Surveys, the Bluebird Project, the Kestrel Project, the Golden Eagle Camera, Winter Raptor Routes, the Lewis Woodpecker Project, Wednesday Birders, Birders' Night, and our Birding for Preschoolers and other programs for children all continue, thanks to our project leaders and a huge number of volunteers. These programs will continue in 2018 and are always looking for volunteers if you'd like to get involved!

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Our largest fund-raising project, the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival, was a success again in 2017, thanks to a huge number of volunteers. The annual picnic in July was well attended, as was our recent Annual Event.

This year we said good-bye to Board member Ted Groszkiewicz, who leaves the Board to pursue other interests. Our thanks to Ted for revising and revamping our web site and for his participation on the Woodpecker Festival committee. Carolyn Rochelle and Diane Burgess were elected at our recent Annual Event to replace Ted and to fill our vacant Board position.

It is a pleasure and an honor to be part of this very active Chapter. Our dedicated project leaders and cadre of volunteers make ECAS one of the best and most active chapters in the United States.

Ken Hashagen, President

From the Editor -- Farewell and Thanks

During the next few years I'll be doing too much travelling to continue as CALLIOPE's editor. It's been a fun and rewarding volunteer job and I've learned a lot doing it. ECAS members are a joy to work with -- gracious in providing articles, photographs, information, and much else. They're also very good writers. Special thanks to Chuck Gates for his Field Notes, to Judy Meredith for Blasts from the Past, to Marion Davidson for her poems, and to Sherrie Pierce for all she's written, proofed, and posted on our web site.

But it's time for me to move on, and as a result, there's a great opportunity for an interested person to take over the job. If you've ever worked as an editor on a high school yearbook or newspaper, you're probably familiar with what's involved.

Here's what I do. I identify topics that I hope will interest ECAS members, then solicit articles from Board members, Committee and Project chairs, and others. What I receive is invariably very well written, so I do very little copy editing beyond format the articles in our standard single-spaced Arial 11 point. I prepare the "What's Happening" and "Other Events" sections, solicit photos, and write occasional articles. Once the material is in hand, I format the newsletter using Word, its Text Box and Picture tools, and a great deal of patience, then run it through spell-check. I'm available to help a new editor learn how I use these tools, but there's no reason MAC or another system couldn't be used instead. After formatting, I send the working copy to another set of eyes for a final proof, then turn it over for posting on our web site and sending a link to the ECAS mailing list.

If you're interested in taking in stepping up or know somewhat who might be, please get in touch with me at meoppen@ibendcable.com or contact Ken Hashagen via our website.

Mary Oppenheimer

*Our New Board Members --
Diane Burgess*



My interest in birding began in 2007 while visiting a friend in Jekyll Island, Georgia. She suggested we take a guided birding tour. I saw so many beautiful birds in the woods, wetlands, and on the beach. My favorites were the Roseate Spoonbill, Black Skimmer, Wood Stork, and Anhinga. I joined ECAS after moving to Bend in 2012. I took outdoor recreation COCC classes led by Damian Fagan. During the snowshoeing outings, he always pointed out the birds. In February, I joined his birding trip to Klamath Falls. We saw so many waterfowl and raptors. I knew then that I wanted to go birding on a regular basis. Through regular outings with Wednesday Birders, I have learned a lot about birds and enjoyed the camaraderie of birders.

Diane Burgess

Carolyn Rochelle

For many years I have enjoyed observing and caring for the native birds that call Oregon and Washington home. Since childhood, birds have been a part of my life. I enjoyed many outings with the Tahoma Audubon Society in Tacoma, Washington.

Five years ago I was introduced to ECAS as a result of monitoring a local Bluebird trail. I am looking forward to my membership on the board and the opportunity to contribute to ECAS. An added plus is that "birders" are some of the nicest people I know.

Carolyn Rochelle



Crane's Nest Nature Center at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

ECAS members and other birders will soon have another opportunity for viewing birds at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, thanks to the Refuge's donation of the old superintendent's residence to the Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

The Friends are at work turning the building, which overlooks the pond, into the Crane's Nest Nature Center. The center will include a viewing area looking toward the pond, educational information, reference material and a nature store. It's scheduled to open in Spring 2018.



The Future Crane's Nest Nature Center at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

There will be raised garden beds to attract butterflies, bees, and other beneficial insects and, of course, lots of feeders to attract birds. The popular white board will live at the Center and a scope will be available for those who want a better look at the pond. The Nature Center will be staffed by volunteers in order to provide immediate information and expertise to visitors.

The Friends have also worked to improve the nearby Marshall Trail area with tree and shrub planting and lots of weeding in the hot sun!

Suzanne Staples

Annual Event 2017

Thank you to all who attended the ECAS Annual Event on November 11. Approximately 200 attendees enjoyed music, free pizza and beer, a book sale, raffles, t-shirt sales, kids' activities, and a silent auction. The funds from the raffles, silent auction, and the book sale will support ECAS programs throughout the next year.



Annual Event 2017 -- Photo by Kim Boddie

The purpose of the Annual Event is to thank all the volunteers who support ECAS throughout the year – so a big “thank you” to all of you who donated time, effort, and funds to keep our many programs staffed and functioning as well as seeing that our finances, our web site, our communications, and our membership efforts run smoothly. And a special “thank you” to the many volunteers who spent most of the afternoon setting up and getting ready for the Annual Event and then cleaning up afterwards.

Chuck Gates presented his ever-splendid “Year in Review” slide show. It was a fast-moving panorama of special birds seen this past year and of the many volunteers who make ECAS a wonderful organization.

A standing room only crowd enjoyed Paul Bannick’s presentation “A Year in the Lives of North American Owls.” His stunning photographs and vivid storytelling made for an excellent show. Snowy Owls, Burrowing Owls, and Great Gray Owls were the stars. OWL: A YEAR IN THE LIVES OF NORTH AMERICAN OWLS is available on his website www.paulbannick.com as well as at Amazon. (If ECAS is your Amazon Smile donee, you can support Paul and ECAS at the same time.)

Stu Garret was named Conservationist of the Year for his work with Sage Grouse. The Volunteer of the Year award went to Eric Klann for his leadership in the formation of the Crooked River Wetlands. Congratulations to both! Recognition of Service awards were given to Jan Rising, Sherrie Pierce, and Mary Oppenheimer in recognition of their hard work and generous amounts of time donated since ECAS was formed. Many thanks to all of them.

Diane Burgess, Board Member

Chuck Gates' Summer Field Notes 2017¹

Central Oregon is known as a summer vacation destination for human visitors. It's just as well known in the avian world. Nearly 200 species make our area their choice for summer habitation. Most will breed and raise young in the area. Below is a summary of some of the best bird sightings for the summer of 2017.

Since our climate is mostly desert-like, not many water birds spend their summers with us. A few break that trend. Two TRUMPETER SWANS were noted in Paulina Valley June (Hallman). Breeding HOODED MERGANSERS are uncommon in the area so when a pair with 17 young were located at Dark Lake, people in the know took note (Jett). COMMON LOONS are not known to nest in Oregon so single birds on Ochoco Reservoir (Gates) and the Redmond Sewer Ponds (Nordstrom) were considered wanderers. An adult RED-NECKED GREBE was found on Lava Lake opening the possibility of a breeding record (Zalunardo) and AMERICAN BITTERNS were found with young on Houston Lake (Gates). SANDHILL CRANES were spotted in Paulina (Meredith et al.) and on Sparks Lake (Vertefeuille-Cutler, Souhrada). Shorebirds and Larids can be found locally at the end of the summer season. Two BLACK-NECKED STILTS were seen at the recently opened Crooked River Wetlands (Gonzalez et al.) These wetlands also produced a **PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER** for a first Crook County record (Gates, Kutzen, Staats et al.) during a Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival field trip. Continuing the trend, the wetlands produced two SOLITARY SANDPIPERS (Low, Burton) and an unusual sighting of WILLET in western Crook County (Gonzalez). SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS were found in unusual numbers and in several locations (Rems, Kornfeld, Low, Gonzalez). Not to be overshadowed by the CR Wetlands, Hatfield Lake got into the shorebird game with two reports of SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (Low, Moodie). Wickiup Reservoir produced reports of BONAPARTE'S GULL, FRANKLIN'S GULLS (Low for both) and BLACK TERNS were found on a seasonal reservoir in Paulina Valley (Meredith et al.).

Game Birds can be a little hard to find, but many do summer and breed locally. CHUKAR were seen near the mouth of Trout Creek in Jefferson County (Hood) and heard near Lower Bridge west of Terrebonne (Gonzalez). MOUNTAIN QUAIL were discovered near Harvey Gap in the Ochocos (Curtis) and near Willowdale north of Madras (Smith). RUFFED GROUSE turned up at Wildcat Campground in Crook County (Curtis) and along the Lake Creek Trail near Camp Sherman (Chamberlain). A family group of 11 GREATER SAGE-GROUSE were found crossing Puett Road in eastern Crook County (Groo).

¹ Summer Field Notes 2017 are reprinted from the October CHATTER.



Great Gray Owl in the Ochocos 6/1/17
Photo by David Drake

Breeding raptors are well represented in our area. A surprisingly large number of NORTHERN GOSHAWK were reported from seven locations in the Cascade and Ochoco Mountains (Bogar, Moodie, Mathison, Hallman, Archer, Miller, Denzer). Summer RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS turned up along Hwy 97 near Metolius (Berg) and at Lucky Lake near Lava Lake (Walden). A pair of PEREGRINE FALCONS nested at Smith Rock (Vick) and a single peregrine was found at Calliope Crossing (Wolfe).

A BARN OWL was located at the Trout Creek C.G. north of Gateway in Jefferson County (Hallman). FLAMMULATED OWLS were discovered calling south of McKay Creek in Crook County (Gates, Hood) and near Black Butte in Jefferson County (Namitz, Gates, Nelson). The only local WESTERN SCREECH-OWL report came in from north of Sisters off Wilt Road (Tank). A rare record of GREAT GRAY OWL from the Ochoco Mountains was confirmed with the photograph (Drake) at the left. A LONG-EARED OWL was found in the same area while searching for the Great Gray (Gates, Hood).

Other Long-eared Owls were located at Ryan's Meadow on the Deschutes (Thomas) and Gray Butte in Jefferson County (Gonzalez). SHORT-EARED OWLS were found along Hwy 380 (Archer) and east of Paulina (Meredith et al., J. Anderson, S. Anderson), NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS were heard calling near Black Butte (Namitz, Sizoo, Kuntz, McLean, Linz) and in the Ochocos on NF 2610 (Mathison, Denzer).

Nightjars, woodpeckers and hummingbirds all nest locally but may be somewhat hard to find so a few made this highlight list. COMMON POORWILLS were reported from Black Butte (Namitz), Dark Lake (Jett) and Trout Creek Campground (Hallman). Two different COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRDS were located in Bend (Kline, Low). BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS are unusual in Deschutes County so a single male who spent most of the season at the Aspen Lakes Golf Course was kind of special (Tachmeier). Sapsuckers are not uncommon in the Ochocos but a RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER at Walton Lake was different from the more common Red-naped Sapsucker usually found there (Mathison, Denzer). Lots of woodpeckers were found during the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival with the NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER being the highlight species (Shunk, Horvath et al., Meredith et al.).

Passerines are the small perching birds we've all come to love. Though many species commonly nest here, some are a bit unusual. A **WILLOW FLYCATCHER** was seen at Camp Polk Meadow (Namitz). **EASTERN KINGBIRDS** turned up at Lower Bridge (Low), Hatfield Lake (Kuntz, Sizoo), Deschutes River near Trout Creek (Hood), near Paulina (Groo) and at Mecca Flats east of Warm Springs (Exum). **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS** were recorded at Hwy 380 (Gates, Kutzen, Staats), Alder Springs (Lewis), Gray Butte (Gonzalez) and Sawyer Park in Bend (Kutzen). **VARIED THRUSHES** were heard singing on station at 3-creeks Lake Road (Bruen-Morningstar), Soda Creek Trail near Sunriver (Cahill) and near Todd Lake (Zika) A **SWAINSON'S THRUSH** was located near Cache Mountain close to Suttle Lake (Low). A **GRAY CATBIRD** pair bred at the Lake Creek Lodge in Camp Sherman (Kutzen) and another pair nested at Ryan's Meadow south of Bend along the Deschutes (Low). An **AMERICAN REDSTART** was photographed at Shevlin Park in June (Shunk) and a **HERMIT WARBLER** was discovered at Walton Lake for a rare Crook County record (Mathison). Also a county rarity, a **LARK SPARROW** was seen near the Tetherow area in Deschutes County near Terrebonne (Kathol). **BOBOLINKS** again were found nesting on Puett Road in eastern Crook County (Meredith et al.) and **TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS** nested east of Prineville (Gates, Dougill).



American Redstart at Shevlin Park, 6/11/17
Photo by Eric Kancler

No wonder people and birds flock to Central Oregon for the summer. Sun, food and fun. What more could you want?

Chuck Gates

OBSERVERS (in order of appearance):

Tyler Hallman, Courtney Jett, Chuck Gates, Jeff Nordstrom, Cindy Zalunardo, Judy Meredith, Jean Vertefeuille-Cutler, Jack Souhrada, Mark Gonzalez, Tony Kutzen, Scott Staats, Peter Low, Henry Burton, Lew Rems, Steve Kornfeld, Jim Moodie, Andrew Hood, Jenna Curtis, Cody Smith, Ken Chamberlain, Tyler Groo, Mike Bogar, Jacob Mathison, Bob Archer, Craig Miller, Isaac Denzer, Danny Walden, Walker Berg, Brian Wolfe, David Vick, Russ Namitz, Nels Nelson, Sue Tank, David Drake, Evan Thomas, Jim Anderson, Sue Anderson, Bob Sizoo, Chris Kuntz, Patty McLean, Michael Linz, Margie Kline, Kristen Tachmeier, Howard Horvath, Steve Shunk, George Exum, Brody Lewis, Iza Bruen-Morningstar, Matt Cahill, Peter Zika, Kim Kathol and Steve Dougill.

Chuck Gates' Fall Field Notes - 2017

Falling leaves are an iconic image of autumn. When I see leaves begin to fall, I immediately scan for other movement. Among those falling leaves, one can find another autumnal icon; the migrant bird. Close examination of those migrants often produces unusual sightings. Below, is a summary of the unusual fall migrants (and a few resident rarities) from 2017.

Waterfowl, as usual, highlight any summary of local migrants. One of the biggest stories of the year was a complete absence of Ross's Goose reports from any location in Central Oregon. But by far the biggest waterfowl story of the year was Central Oregon's first ever **EMPEROR GOOSE** found in SE Bend (Low). SNOW GEESE were well represented with as many as 60 being reported from local watering holes (mult. obs.). CACKLING GEESE mirrored the Snow Goose year with good numbers sometimes reaching over 100 birds in a flock (mult. obs.).



Emperor Goose in South East Bend 11/27/17.
Photo by Don Sutherland

TRUMPETER SWANS were noted at Wickiup and Tumalo Reservoirs (Low). Hatfield Lake (Cahill) and Wickiup (Low, Meredith, Kornfeld, Zalunardo) were the only locations to produce EURASIAN WIGEON for the season. GREATER SCAUP were found at the Metolius Sewer Ponds (Meredith et al.), Ochoco Reservoir (Gates), Hatfield Lake (Low) and Wickiup Reservoir (mult. obs.). SURF SCOTER numbers were high this year at locations like Wickiup Reservoir, Ochoco Reservoir, Hatfield, Prineville Sewer Ponds, Suttle Lake and Haystack Reservoir (mult. obs.). WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were found at Wickiup Reservoir and Black Butte Ranch (Low). Over ten reports of RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were found for this time period but the strangest by far was a record setting 13 birds seen at Wickiup on Nov 19 (Low). The **RED-THROATED LOONS** that appeared in Crook (C. Miller, M. Miller) and Jefferson counties (Cahill) were both 3rd county records for that species. PACIFIC LOONS were spotted at Redmond Sewer Ponds (Nordstrom), Wickiup Reservoir (Low), Haystack Reservoir (Cahill), Suttle Lake (Sutherland). CLARK'S, HORNED and RED-NECKED GREBES were widely reported from most large water sources (mult. obs.).

The fall 2017 shorebird season was fairly normal with regular numbers highlighted by a few rarities. A BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER was found at Wickiup Reservoir (Low) and BLACK-NECKED STILT was tallied at the Redmond Sewer Ponds (Armstrong). SEMIPALMATED PLOVER are not often included in this report because they are common but the 35 individuals spotted at Wickiup Reservoir (Low) was a big number. SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were found at Houston Lake (Gates, Zalunardo), Crooked River Wetlands (mult. obs.) and Wickiup Reservoir (mult. obs.). A **HUDSONIAN GODWIT** turned up at Wickiup (Low) and offered several locals a good look. A 3rd county record **RUDDY TURNSTONE** was spotted at the Crooked River Wetlands in Prineville (C. Miller, M. Miller) and a lone SANDERLING turned up at Wickiup Reservoir (Low). Reports of SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER were pretty abundant this season

from multiple locations. A rare November record of PECTORAL SANDPIPER occurred at Houston Lake (Gates) and SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER was located at Wickiup Reservoir (Low).

Other water-oriented birds created a splash in Central Oregon this fall. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS are never common here so one found at the Crooked River Wetlands was of note (Cahill). A rare GREEN HERON was seen at Houston Lake (Gates) and GREAT EGRETS showed up at Haystack (Marjamaa) and Ochoco Reservoirs (Halvorson). A WHITE-FACED IBIS was found at Haystack Reservoir for a rare Jefferson County record (De Bryl) while HERRING GULLS and COMMON TERNS were found in the high mountain lakes (Low et al.) in small numbers.

Game Birds were sometimes common (California Quail), sometimes rare (Sooty Grouse) and sometimes just interesting enough to make this summary. Five Chukar were heard calling from the rim rock south of Prineville on Hwy 27 (Gonzalez). A single GRAY PARTRIDGE at the Redmond Sewer Ponds produced a very rare Deschutes County record (Gonzalez). The only MOUNTAIN QUAIL report of the season came from Whiskey Springs northwest of Sisters. BAND-TAILED PIGEONS were located along the Crooked River (Gonzalez), west of Prineville (Staats fide), Hosmer Lake (Meredith et al.) and Camp Sherman (Hough).

Raptors are not unusual in Central Oregon but a few sightings did merit some mention in this summary. Eight different reports of NORTHERN GOSHAWK were received from the timbered corners of Central Oregon (mult. obs.). At least one BROAD-WINGED HAWK was seen by the Hawk watch crew up on Green Ridge (Low et al.). FERRUGINOUS HAWKS rarely make this kind of report because of their relative abundance but individuals seen at Wickiup Reservoir and Green Ridge were unusual for those locations (Low). The first ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS arrived on Oct 16 (Gates, Zalunardo). RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS were found at Wickiup Reservoir (Low), Sparks Lake (Meredith et al.), La Pine State Park (Arnesan), Crooked River Wetlands (Low) and Houston Lake (Boddie). Up to 3 PEREGRINE FALCONS were tallied at Wickiup Reservoir (Low), and MERLINS began showing up as early as August 12 (C. Miller). WESTERN SCREECH-OWLS were located in Sisters (Tank) and at Skull Hollow Campground in Jefferson County (Neuman). It was a good fall for GREAT GRAY OWLS with sightings occurring in Sunriver (Lawler, Vine, Clarke), La Pine State Park (Arnesan) and along the Deschutes River (Vertefeulle-Cutler, Marsh). LONG-EARED OWLS turned up at Gray Butte (Kline) and Horse Ridge (Cahill). Separate BARRED OWLS were found at Sawyer Park (Ogle) and Sylvan Park (Lear) in Bend while migrating NORTHERN SAW-WHET reports were received from Sisters (Tank), Redmond (Grabenhorst) and Smith Rock (Vick).

Near Passerines include the woodpeckers, swifts, hummingbirds and nightjars among others. A few unusual Near Passerines were located this season. The latest COMMON POORWILL of the season was calling 11 miles north of Sisters on Sept 24 (Tank). A rare ACORN WOODPECKER was seen at the Warm Springs Museum in Warm Springs (Hunter) and an AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER was found on Green Ridge (Shunk). BLACK SWIFTS were seen by a few people on Green Ridge (Low et al.) and a late BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS was photographed at Powell Butte on Oct 8 (Gates). An earlier Black-chinned Hummingbird was found in Bend's Deschutes River Woods in August (Moodie).

The Passerines make up the largest and most diverse group of birds. It should not be surprising that they should make a prominent showing in any reports such as this. One BLACK PHOEBE in Sunriver (Lawler) and another in Warm Springs (Withgott, Hinkle) were notable especially considering the Warm Springs bird was only Jefferson County's 4th record.

SAY'S PHOEBES were still being seen at the end of the season at several locations (mult. obs.). A family group of 5 EASTERN KINGBIRDS were located on the Nature Conservancy's property in Crook County. **BLUE JAYS** made a brief eruptive burst in late October/early November with birds appearing in Prineville (Roberts), Sisters (Swarts) and Bend (Robinson). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were tallied near Gray Butte and along the Crooked River in Crook County. Two gnatcatcher reports stood out as 21 birds were counted on August 24 and a single bird was found at Ochoco Reservoir on the incredibly late date of November 27. A rare Crook County BEWICK'S WREN turned up at Prineville's Crooked River Park (Gonzalez) and migrating SWAINSON'S THRUSHES were seen at Eagle Crest (Golden) and Tumalo Reservoir (Thomas).



Tumalo Blue Jay 11/5/17
Photo by Jaqui Robinson

A very cooperative NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD stayed around Tumalo State Park for several weeks (Carlson) until the end of the season. A **PALM WARBLER** was photographed near Sunriver (Gregory) and a **BLACKPOLL WARBLER** was identified at Wickiup Reservoir (Low). 2017 was a big year for mid-fall SOOTY FOX SPARROWS (mult. obs.) with over a dozen reported but the big story was a RED FOX SPARROW located at Brasada Ranch near Powell Butte (Gates). Peter Low found a **SWAMP SPARROW** at Hatfield Lake and no fewer than 8 WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were reported from around the region (mult. obs.).

Only one HARRIS'S SPARROW was reported from the region and that was from Tumalo (Johnson). A late (9/16) LAZULI BUNTING turned up at Wickiup Reservoir (Low) and a **ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK** was photographed in Madras in Early October (Strickland). Peter Low heard migrating LAPLAND LONGSPURS flying over Green Ridge and Wickiup Reservoir on different occasions. TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS were sporadic west of Prineville early in the season and a very rare **ORCHARD ORIOLE** was seen and photographed at Hatfield Lake (Low).



Tumalo Harris's Sparrow -- 11/22/17
Photo by Harry Johnson

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES were noted at 6 different locations (Kline, Cahill, Little, Gates, Cook, Lowe, Underwood) and PURPLE FINCHES were found at in all three local counties (mult. obs.).

Try to imagine each record above as a leaf on the ground. Now gather these leaves in your hands and throw them in the air. Slow down time and observe each record as it falls. Note the colors, sizes and textures of the birds in the air as they slowly float down. Aren't they beautiful? Just like falling leaves.

Chuck Gates

OBSERVERS (in order of appearance)

Peter Low, Matt Cahill, Judy Meredith, Cindy Zalunardo, Steve Kornfeld, Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Jeff Nordstrom, Don Sutherland, Cindy Armstrong, Chuck Gates, Ron Halvorson, Scott Staats, David Marjamaa, Cedro De Bryl, Kim Boddie, James Arnesan, Karen Clarke, Lee Marsh, Milton Vine, Tom Lawler, Jean Vertefeulle-Cutler, Phillip Kline, Mike Ogle, Jerry Lear, Sue Tank, Michaele Grabenhorst, David Vick, Mark Hunter, Steve Shunk, Jim Moodie, Jay Withgott, Adrian Hinkle, Don Roberts, Diana Roberts, Danny Swarts, Jacqui Robinson, Mark Gonzalez, Mike Golden, Evan Thomas, Eric Carlson, Cory Gregory, Harry Johnson, Stacy Strickland, Josh Little, Diane Cook and Carl Underwood

ECAS Winter Events

Wednesday Birders continue to meet each Wednesday, generally at Nancy P's in Bend. During winter months, the starting time is 8am, but this will change to 7am as warmth and long days return. Be sure to check our web site or COBOL for exact starting time and place for each trip. 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.

Birders' Nights this winter cover topics listed below. 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.

Field Trips. A number of field trips have been planned. You can check them out at the "events" tab on our website at www.ecaudubon.org.

January 18 **The Golden Eagle Camera on Whychus Creek.**

Jim Hammond, a camera bug, birder, physicist, and Vice-chair of the Sisters Astronomy Club has been responsible for the telescopes and lenses used for the Golden Eagle Camera since ECAS became involved in the project in 2015. Jim will review the history of the nest and the observation facility and will briefly discuss the technical aspects of the camera, the lenses used and the internet connection used to stream the image. ECAS sponsors and in large part funds the Golden Eagle Camera, which appears to be the only one in existence.

February 15 **Jim Anderson and Banding Birds**

Jim, who needs no introduction, will share stories from over 50 years of banding birds, including American Kestrels, Bald Eagles, and Golden Eagles.

March 15 **The Messenger, a film from director Su Rynard**

"The Messenger", a film from director Su Rynard, attempts to answer the question of why 10 billion songbirds perish every year. According to a National Audubon Society review " With exclusive footage and high-tech cinematography, the movie offers an intimate look at the plight of the songbird. Stunning flight sequences... are conveyed in slow motion, making the complexities of wing movement, control, and rhythm visible to the human eye."

April 19

Into the Outback

Howard Horvath and Mary Oppenheimer will share photos and experiences from seven weeks in Australia in 2017, travelling from Tasmania off the southeast of the continent to Broome in the tropical northwest. The heart of the trip, however, was a three week birding tour into The Outback. Expect Wallaby rescues, orchids, a shorebird extravaganza, and tiny grasswrens hanging out in very spiny shrubs.

Other Local Birding Events

Winter Wings Bird Festival takes place in Klamath Falls on February 15-18, 2018. There are many new programs, and Steve Shunk is one of three keynote speakers. Registration is now open. Complete information is at www.WinterWingsFest.org.

Eagle Watch at Round Butte Overlook Park takes place February 24-25, 2018. 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 eagle viewing sessions at Round Butte and Smith Rock, "Eagle Village" features displays and presentations by regional birds-of-prey experts as well as kids' crafts and prize drawings. More information is at <https://covepalisades.wordpress.com/park-programs>.

Snow Goose Festival in Chico, California on January 24-28, 2018, is somewhat farther away, but worth considering. Jon Dunn is the keynote speaker, and information is available at www.snowgoosefestival.org.

Welcome New Members! *Thanks for your support!*

Kathryn Belluomini	Powell Butte	Kathleen McGill	Bend
Bobbie Bourne	Bend	Kathleen Miller	Bend
Sue Boyle	Bend	Joann Newman	Hines
Scott Brumburgh	Bend	Gary & Laura Nicholson	Sisters
John Danahy	Sisters	Jan Oetinger	Bend
Deby DeWeese	Bend	Louise Palmer	Bend
Jim Doucette	Bend	Jerry & Louise Pascoe	Bend
Linda Eisele	Bend	Kathleen Riopelle	Bend
Elaine Eisenbraun	Long Creek	Abbott Schindler	Bend
Tricia Gardner	Bend	Bonnie Thompson	Bend
Robert Haden	Prineville	Laura & Jon Thompson	Redmond
Maria Hill	Bend	Charles Thrash	Albany
Sara Joshel	Bend	Jean Tuomi	Sunriver
Lisa Mathews	Bend	Mary Webster	Bend

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 565, Bend Oregon

www.ecaudubon.org

<p> President Ken Hashagen Vice-President Danielle Lordi Secretary Tom Lawler Treasurer Terri Hyde Board Members John Brune Diane Burgess Tom Penpraze Diana Roberts Carolyn Rochelle </p> <p> Winter 2018 Board Meetings January 2 February 6 March 6 </p> <p> Winter Board meetings are held at 1pm 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>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> Annual Event Bluebirds Birders' Night Communications Conservation Education Field Trips Finance Grants Green Ridge Raptors Lake Abert Study Lewis's Woodpeckers Membership Newsletter Science Summer Lake Survey Technology Vaux's Swifts Volunteers Wednesday Birders Woodpecker Festival Winter Raptor Survey </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> Ken Hashagen Ken Hashagen Sue Bertsch Diana Roberts Tom Lawler Sherrie Pierce Tom Penpraze Terri Hyde Mary Oppenheimer David Vick John Reuland Diane Kook Jan Rising Mary Oppenheimer Ken Hashagen Mike Bogar Vacant Bob Johnson Mary Anne Kruse Mardi Jensen and Sherrie Pierce Judy Meredith Howard Horvath Ken Hashagen Jeff Fleisher </td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;"> <i>If you would like to volunteer for a committee or event, please contact Sherrie Pierce at 541-548-4641.</i> </p>	Annual Event Bluebirds Birders' Night Communications Conservation Education Field Trips Finance Grants Green Ridge Raptors Lake Abert Study Lewis's Woodpeckers Membership Newsletter Science Summer Lake Survey Technology Vaux's Swifts Volunteers Wednesday Birders Woodpecker Festival Winter Raptor Survey	Ken Hashagen Ken Hashagen Sue Bertsch Diana Roberts Tom Lawler Sherrie Pierce Tom Penpraze Terri Hyde Mary Oppenheimer David Vick John Reuland Diane Kook Jan Rising Mary Oppenheimer Ken Hashagen Mike Bogar Vacant Bob Johnson Mary Anne Kruse Mardi Jensen and Sherrie Pierce Judy Meredith Howard Horvath Ken Hashagen Jeff Fleisher
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<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>			

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.