



# THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

WINTER 2015

## *From the Executive Committee -- New Year's Greetings*

Many exciting opportunities await ECAS in 2015. At its annual Planning Retreat in late January, the Board will review past activities, revise and set goals for the upcoming months, and look to a future of continued community engagement. A major project is the upgrading of our website at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org). With the resources available through technology, the Board is committed to providing a platform of access that supports our various projects and activities.

Investment in conservation and education will be an ongoing focus with financial resources available through the Laughrige Grant funds. As a volunteer supported non-profit, the challenge is always to keep the interest and energy levels focused on the mission of the organization while producing outcomes that benefit both birds and people. We welcome any proposals, ideas, questions, or volunteer interest.

Let's make the coming year one for everyone!

*Sherrie Pierce, Secretary*

## *2014 Annual Event Highlights*

On November 8, ECAS members and friends gathered at the Bend Senior Center for an evening of fun, fellowship, and fundraising. An annual thank-you to all of the wonderful East Cascades Audubon volunteers, the event also provides the opportunity for the yearly business meeting and election of new Board members (see related article).

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After a social hour, the evening's events were kicked off by a Chuck Gates-created video of the Year in Review, followed by recognition of people who have made special contributions to ECAS programs. This year's awards were presented to:

- Dick Tipton - Conservationist of the Year
- Kevin Black-Tanski - Project Volunteer of the Year
- Annette Gerard - Education Volunteer of the Year

Outgoing Board member Tom Crabtree was also honored for his many years of leadership, energy, commitment to the mission of the organization, as well as his expertise on all things avian.



Marion Davidson's book table is always a popular feature at the Annual Event. New Board member Terri Hyde, Jan Clark, Craig Miller, and Denise Feinberg are among the browsers. Photo by Diana Roberts.

The highlight of the evening was an excellent presentation by Michael Illig, the Oregon Zoo Animal Curator, about the zoo's California Condor breeding and recovery program. We are grateful to Michael for donating his time and energy to this program.

The Annual Event is also a fundraiser that provides major support for all our education, conservation, and science programs. This year, sixty-eight people became members or renewed their memberships for a total of \$1680. The raffle generated \$980, the silent auction brought in \$2959, and \$394 came in from donations, book sales, and donated tips.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, donors, purchasers, and members who made the evening a great success.

*Sherrie Pierce*

*New Board Members -- Terri Hyde and Ted Groszkiewicz*



I became interested in nature and conservation as a child growing up on a South Dakota ranch located in the Missouri flyway. I would go with my father in the early-summer dawn to watch the prairie chickens dance, and with my mother to meetings to oppose (unsuccessfully) the Big Bend Dam on the Missouri River. I have been a tax lawyer with a Washington DC law firm (now WilmerHale) for more than 30 years where my practice included representation of tax-exempt organizations and numerous pro bono projects for conservation organizations. I received an introductory course in bird watching on a World Wildlife Fund trip to Belize and Costa Rica in 1987, and bird watching has been a source of enjoyment for me since that time. I moved to Bend in 2010 and am now semi-retired from my law firm. I joined ECAS when I arrived in Bend and joined the Finance Committee last year.

*Terry Hyde*



Ted was born at Camp LeJeune and spent his childhood roaming the woods, fields, streams, and lakes up and down the East Coast. The outdoors receded as Ted married Susan while in college. After grad school, the USAC provided a 4 year epidemiology "internship" in Europe. In 1975 the couple settled in Oregon where Susan went to law school and Ted worked for DEQ; most of Ted's time off was spent in the wilderness. After the birth of their first child, a 20-year period of raising a family ensued. Annual escapes to Rocky Mountain National Park provided respite. After Susan began a career as an attorney for the US Government, Ted's interest in emerging technology led to an offer from a small tech firm in the Bay Area and a fast-paced career as a software developer. 2013 saw Ted and Susan return to Oregon and join the troupe of Wednesday Birders. When not watching birds, fly-fishing, or hunting for mushrooms, Ted studies violin and piano and takes long walks in the woods with Susan -- or short walks in the park in the dark with his cat.

*Sherrie Pierce*

## *Blast from the Past – 30 years ago*

Reading the old “Eagle Eye” newsletters from the past gives quite the historical perspective on this thing we call birding. From field notes to books, the changes in resources, means of communication, habitat alterations, etc, can be noted and mostly celebrated.

In the Fall/Winter issue of 1984, we learn that a new monthly Audubon event called Birders' Night was being started in Bend by Tom Crabtree. The first meeting covered the field marks/ID of American versus Eurasian Wigeon. The next month, it was field marks of our swallows and the phenology of local migrants. These meetings would focus on building our skill and knowledge of birds, especially related to local information. If you like this type of thing, please give your ideas to the current planners for Birders' Night.

Tom also reviewed a new field guide, the first edition of the National Geographic Guide to Birds of North America, which was the third comprehensive field guide for North America, updating the Golden Guide by Chad Robbins and the Peterson guide. Think of how many books we have now for references -- 6<sup>th</sup> edition National Geographic, on to the second edition of Sibley, the Stokes, Peterson, many apps, and endless books specializing in families such as warblers, sparrows, seabirds, and the like. There is so much more known now about birds and their identification.

In addition, Tom contributed a piece about Hatfield “Lake”, as it had been birded actively for about two years since its discovery by birders. He noted that in those two years, fourteen species new to the county had been found at Hatfield. Someone could perhaps research the count since the beginning of 1984. How many more new birds have been discovered at Hatfield? What location in the tri-county area has offered up as many birds new to the respective county? What location claims second place? Would it be Prineville ponds? Wickiup? A committee recently updated the checklist for Hatfield, and copies are in the box out at the kiosk at the gated entry, compliments of our ECAS.

Ivy Hilty of Madras wrote a regular column highlighting birds reported in the Madras area. Reading her columns, it is very obvious how much she loved wild birds and how many people in “the Madras flock” sent reports to her reflecting how they enjoyed recording birds at their feeders and ranchland. In a sampling of newsletters from 1984, Ivy had 24 people reporting birds to her from Jefferson county, while 12 or fewer usually reported from Deschutes. The plea was always for more reporting.

Ivy's winter season notes for Jefferson county mention Gray Partridge north of Madras - how many years since anyone has seen them in that county? She also mentions Tree Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, and the popularity of the Madras birdseed sales program, which was a fundraiser for the Audubon club. Ivy is gone now, but her family donated many of her birding books to ECAS for the 2014 Annual Event.

Ivy also led a field trip north of Madras to Ashwood and Pony Butte. It ended at her house for tallying and pizza. A field trip led by Jim Anderson to the Fossil Beds near John Day had eleven vehicles, and a total of 36 participants. They hiked two miles and listed early wildflowers and nice birds. Birding and botanizing, that two-mile hike may have taken many hours!

Field notes for Deschutes county were prepared by Tom Crabtree. They included a late Green-tailed Towhee and a Black-throated Gray Warbler in the Bend area in mid-November; White-winged Scoter on the Bend CBC; American Crows and Western Scrub-Jay starting to be seen in the area; thirty Sage Grouse on the Millican lek; and a comment that reports of White-crowned Sparrows Jan/Feb were unusual ("all sparrows other than Song Sparrows are rare in Deschutes county in winter"- TC). So what changed, as we now have more sparrows in the dead of winter? More birders reporting or habitat changes or more feeders or climate change - or all of the above?

Persons noted in the newsletters included Mike Golden, the regional manager for ODFW, who met with Audubon members about the management of wildlife along the Deschutes River and did the program for March. Mike Elmore, a BLM biologist, gave a talk on riparian habitat locally, and Greg Robart of Bend office of ODFW opened up his garage for a big nest box building party. There were and still are many benefits to partnering with our friends in these agencies who share our concern and passion for birds. ,

*Judy Meredith.*

## *What's Happening*

Eagle Watch at Round Butte Overlook Park takes place February 21st and 22nd. 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 4pm on Saturday and 10am to 3pm on Sunday, with a special presentation of tribal drumming and dancing by the Quartz Creek Drummers and Dancers at 2pm on Sunday.

Spring Field Trips will be announced on our website and on COBOL in March. These field trips are free and open to all.

Wednesday Birders continue to meet each Wednesday, generally at Nancy P's in Bend. As CALLIOPE goes to press, the starting time is 8am, 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 meets on January 12 and continues on the second Monday of each month through May. Scheduled programs include Owls, Life Cycle of Birds, Cranes, and Bird Migration. 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](http://www.ecaudubon.org).

Birders' Nights continue in January after the usual December break. Diana Roberts and Nancy Merrick have scheduled programs that will take us from winter into spring.

- On January 15, Tom Lawler and Kim Boddie will take us on "**Central Oregon Winter Raptor Surveys**". They'll talk about where routes are located, what data is recorded, how the data is compiled, and how this all got started. Several other route participants

will join Tom and Kim, sharing highlights about different routes and captivating photos of Central Oregon's wildlife, landscapes, and hinterlands.

- On February 19, it will be time to start thinking about spring. Sisters Forest Service biologist Julie York, silviculturist Will Brendecke, and a local birder will talk about "**Birds of Calliope Crossing**" and the future of that prime birding area.
- On March 19, as spring migration begins, and we begin to think about our gardens, Karen Theodore and Rick Martinson of WinterCreek Restoration will talk about "**Bird-friendly Native Landscaping**".

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.

## *Out of Town*

Once again, a reminder of three excellent birding festivals.

Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls, February 12-15. Registration for this almost-local festival sponsored by Klamath Audubon is now open. Speakers include Richard Crossley, photographer and author of the "Crossley ID Guide" series; Michael Sutton, National Audubon Vice-President for the Pacific Flyway; and photographer Jennifer Wu, who specializes in night sky and stars. New this year is a tracking and snowshoe adventure. For more information, and to register, go to [www.winterwingsfest.org](http://www.winterwingsfest.org)

### San Diego Bird Festival on Mission Bay, March 2-5

If you're a Bernd Heinrich fan, try to attend this excellent festival -- he's the keynote speaker. As always, there will be bike trips, kayak trips, beginning birder sessions, and service projects along with estuary walks, traditional field trips, and a pelagic, plus a truly excellent vendor display and "Birdy Bluegrass" with Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum. For information and to register, go to [www.sandiegoaudubon.org](http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org).

### Olympic BirdFest in Sequim, Washington, April 10-12

In addition to field trips and a cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, this festival sponsored by the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, includes a two-day pre-festival trip exploring northwest coastal Washington. The featured speaker is Lynsy Smithson Stanley, National Audubon Deputy Director for Climate Change and Strategic Initiatives, on "Climate Change as a Bird Issue". For more information, go to [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org) .

*Mary Oppenheimer*

## *2014 Fall Field Notes*

I always look forward to the fall season. If you ask me, no place on Earth has nicer weather than Central Oregon in the fall. The days are warm and the nights are cool. Perfect in my book! The season is about constant change. We certainly see that in the local bird life. Below is a summary of the bird highlights for fall 2014, from August 1 to November 30.

Waterfowl are on the move for the entire fall season. If a rare bird is reported in the fall, it's an even bet that it will be a water bird. A few straggling CACKLING GEESE were still around. Four different EURASIAN WIGEONS were found in Deschutes and Jefferson counties. GREATER SCAUP were tallied at Wickiup and Haystack Reservoirs. Single PACIFIC LOON reports came in from Suttle Lake, Pelton Overlook, Tumalo Reservoir and South Twin Lake. A very unusual RED-THROATED LOON sighting occurred at Wickiup Reservoir. A dozen WHITE-FACED IBIS flew over the Madras Sewer Ponds on October 11 for a very rare Jefferson County record. No fewer than thirteen RED-NECKED GREBES were seen at six different locations throughout the season. CLARK'S GREBES were less abundant with a total of five birds reported from three locations. AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS are expected but the 200 reported from Wickiup Reservoir in September was a very big number. Over thirty GREAT EGRETS were tallied in our area while the much rarer BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was only reported from two locations. Sunriver Nature Center was one place that had Black-Crowned Night-Heron, and an AMERICAN BITTERN was reported from there as well.

Fall is by far the best shorebird season. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER were located at both Wickiup Reservoir and the Redmond Sewer Ponds. BLACK-NECKED STILT and AMERICAN AVOCET are pretty rare in Deschutes County so four stilts and seven avocets at Hatfield Lake were a welcome surprise. Five different SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were seen at five different locations. Wickiup produced the only MARBLED GODWIT of the season, and SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS were seen at Wickiup, Redmond Sewer Ponds and Crane Prairie. Wickiup and Redmond Sewer Ponds were also the lone locations for SANDERLING sightings.

On the gull/tern front, BONAPARTE'S GULLS made their annual late fall appearance at many locations. A FRANKLIN'S GULL was spotted at Hatfield Lake, and a rare THAYER'S GULL was located at Wickiup Reservoir. HERRING GULLS were seen at the Culver Sewer Ponds, Wickiup and Suttle Lake. Wickiup also produced reports of GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL, SABINE'S GULL and COMMON TERN.

Some of our raptors are resident but a few migrant species do bless us with their itinerate presence. At least six different RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS were found in the region. Red-shouldered Hawks are exciting but they can't hold a candle to the BROAD-WINGED HAWK as a rarity. Five Broad-winged Hawks were tallied on the ECAS Green Ridge Hawk Migration site. An early MERLIN showed up at Wickiup on August 3. Twelve PEREGRINE FALCON reports were very impressive considering that number did not include all the birds tallied on the Hawk Watch location. Owl species seen this fall included BARN (SE Bend and Redmond), FLAMMULATED (Deschutes NF Road 1220), WESTERN SCREECH (North Shore Rd. in Crook County), NORTHERN PYGMY (various locations in all three counties), BARRED (Bend), SHORT-EARED (Bend Gosney Road) and NORTHERN SAW-WHET (Deschutes NF Road 1220).

Most game birds are non-migratory. That doesn't mean they are always easy to find. Some of the more unusual game bird sightings were: eight WILD TURKEYS at Ochoco County Park east of Prineville, thirteen MOUNTAIN QUAIL off of Deschutes NF Road 1150 and six more at Crooked River Ranch, DUSKY GROUSE on Ochoco NF Road 27 in Crook County, and seven BAND-TAILED PIGEONS seen on the Mirror Lake Trail near Mt. Bachelor.

Woodpeckers sometimes feel like our special native family. We have more than most regions our size, and we take great pride in them. The most unusual woodpecker sighting of the season -- a fly-by ACORN WOODPECKER that was seen on Green Ridge September 21st. There are

fewer than ten records for this species in Central Oregon. THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS were reported from the Park Meadow Trail, the Mirror Lake Trail, the Matthieu Lakes Loop Trail and Green Ridge. PILEATED WOODPECKER sightings were reported from Hand Lake and Jack Lake. While not a woodpecker, the BLUE JAY spotted and photographed in Deschutes River Woods deserves a spot in this summary.

We found a few really good migrant passerines in Central Oregon this fall. Large numbers of CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES were reported from the hiking trails west of Mt. Bachelor. Three BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES showed up at Lower Bridge for a very unusual Deschutes County record. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were reported from North Shore Road near the east side of Prineville Reservoir. A SWAINSON'S THRUSH was found in Bend during migration. A lone NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH was located at Thorne Springs east of Green Ridge for only the second Jefferson County record. Peter Low located a SWAMP SPARROW at Hatfield Lake late in the season. WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were found at six different locations. Peter Low and Lew Rems found a rare BOBOLINK at Hatfield Lake on August 24. Not to be outdone, Will Hemstrom and Jessica Greer found and photographed Central Oregon's first RUSTY BLACKBIRD. Late YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS showed up in Culver (Oct 22) and Alfalfa (Nov 15). A PINE GROSBEAK stayed a couple of days in the Millers' yard east of Bend. Finally, GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH reports were abundant this year with birds seen in eight different locales.

*Chuck Gates*

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

Eli & Dottie Ashley, Bend  
Diane Bohle, Prineville  
Gordon Detzel, Redmond  
Diane & Bruce Dorn, Prineville  
Steve Edwards, Bend  
Eric & Heather Helmy, Bend  
Karen Kronner, Pendleton  
Caleb Lockyer & Stephanie Beh, Bend  
Jason & Sarah Mattox, Bend  
Vivian Olsen, Redmond  
Carolyn Rochelle, Sisters

Chris & Pam Scranton, Madras  
Michael Sequeira, Bend  
Cecile Shoheit, Bend  
Warren & Sarah Spady, Redmond  
Marilyn Stinnett & Clay Crofton, Sisters  
Mariena Swarens, Bend  
Karen Theodore, Bend  
Scott Trottier, Bend  
Curtis Wilson, Bend  
Mark & Lucy Yerby, Bend

## *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              Terri Hyde      Ted Groszkiewicz      Karen Gentry      Jon Putnam      Kevin Smith</p> <p>Winter 2015 Board Meetings      January 31 (Board Retreat)      February 3      March 3</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                      Vacant  Education                      Mary Yanalcanlin  Field Trips                      Howard Horvath,  Finance                              Terri Hyde  Green Ridge Raptors  Lake Abert Study                  Steve Dougill  Lewis's Woodpeckers              Diane Kook  Membership                      Jan Rising  Newsletter                      Mary Oppenheimer  Science  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>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](http://www.ecaudubon.org).