



# THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

AUTUMN 2013

## *President's Message – Milestones*

A new season is upon us – autumn - and it marks not just the shortening of days but fall migration, more clothing layers, and the ECAS Annual Event. This is such a simple name for such an important event in our organization's yearly cycle.

Over ten years ago this Annual Event was started by East Cascades Bird Conservancy as a celebration of birds and a thank-you to members and volunteers in the organization. The celebration part is the enduring concept of the evening. This year we will again honor specific individuals as Conservationist and Volunteer of the year. There will also be special recognition of some other folks who have done outstanding things for the birds. There will be free food and beverages, a silent auction, music by NTT, and a program featuring wildlife artist, Rod Frederick. The date is November 9, 2013 with doors open at the Bend Senior Center at 5:15.

A short business meeting will take place at 5:30. At this time, pursuant to the ECAS Bylaws, we will also hold our Annual Business Meeting -- and this message is your official notice of that meeting. At this time, ECAS members will elect new Directors to the Board and conduct any other appropriate business.

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Another milestone that is personal is that with the election of Board Members and subsequent officer elections in December, my term as President will come to an end. I am going to stand for election for another 3-year term on the Board, but as specified in the Bylaws, an officer's term is limited to two years. That was specifically written in the Bylaws as a way to keep the membership vibrant and the leadership energized. I plan on staying actively involved in many aspects of our organization but will not be writing this particular message anymore. It has truly been a privilege to be part of so many exciting projects and work with so many like-minded, talented, hard-working people. As a retiree with many choices to make about how I use my time, I feel this has been one of the most rewarding ways I could contribute in such a satisfying way. Thank you to all who have made my time as President so enjoyable.

*Sherrie Pierce, ECAS Board President*

### *Blast from the Past – 31 years ago*

In summer 1982, Central Oregon Audubon Society (COAS) board meetings and the pot lucks accompanying them were being held at the home of Jim and Sue Anderson. At the time, Jim and Sue lived in Bend, off Jones Road, where what is now known as “Hollinshead Park” is located. (As many of you know, in 2010, the former East Cascades Bird Conservancy joined forces with COAS to become what is now ECAS, our East Cascades Audubon Society.)

COAS birding activity that summer included a breeding bird survey at Tumalo Reservoir, with results provided to the management of Tumalo Reservoir, which is called Swalley Irrigation District these days. There was also a trip led by Ed Styskel, with COAS birders, to carry out a survey around Pine Mountain after a conservation oriented “treatment” by the USFS. Other trips during the summer included Big Summit Prairie with Christy Steck for wildflowers and birds, Jack Lake with Wayne Eshelman, (I recall Wayne taught all of us to how to tell the difference between the songs of Chipping Sparrows and Juncos on that trip), and southeast Crook county with Harold Winegar. Christy Steck is gone, and we recently lost Harold Winegar also, but at the bottom of this article there is a link about projects Harold worked on, near and dear to the hearts of central Oregon birders and conservationists.

Madras birders noted nesting Golden Eagles at Smith Rocks and nesting Burrowing Owls northeast of Madras. A Northern Mockingbird was seen at the Van Hise farm near Madras; a Connecticut Warbler was found near the home of Tom Crabtree in Bend; and a Tennessee Warbler was along the river at Tumalo State Park on May 8th. Osprey were mentioned as “unusual” which has fortunately been a wonderful change for them. Charles and Ellen Lewis led a 10 mile Pacific Crest Trail birding hike and Lloyd Sharp (yes, the father of our Sisters USFS friend Sandy Sharp) was leading a birding and astronomy trip to Pine Mountain on Sept 20<sup>th</sup>. And 19 birders contributed to the “field notes” for that newsletter. Birders still visit these same places to enjoy the birds, wildflowers, and the night sky. And we hope, someday, we will see Burrowing Owls nesting again in central Oregon.

Here's the link to the article about Harold Winegar's work on riparian habitat --

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1243&dat=19820105&id=SZBTAAAIBA&sjid=t4YDAAAIBA&pg=5088,1321319>.

*Judy Meredith*

## *Science Project Updates*

Three of our active citizen science projects track the reproductive success of beautiful local birds -- Kestrels, Bluebirds, and Lewis's Woodpeckers. Thanks to project leaders Don McCartney, Ken Hashagen, and Diane Kook for the following updates, and thanks as well to the many volunteers who participated!

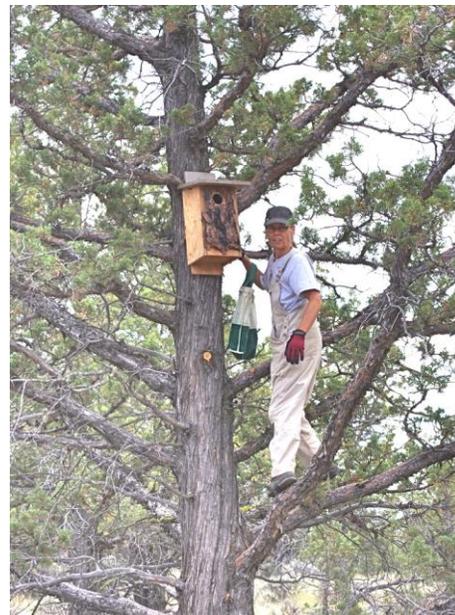
### Kestrel Success

This year marked a new high of 61 active Kestrel boxes. The prior high was 55 in 2008. With the 128 boxes in service, we had an occupancy rate of 48 per cent, slightly above the long-term average of 44 per cent. Banded Kestrel nestlings were also at a new high of 184. In addition, ten nestlings were banded from boxes erected by others, including five from a box that is part of team member Diane Kook's Lewis's Woodpecker project. The cumulative total of Kestrels fledged for the 15-year life of the project is now slightly in excess of 2,000. Several boxes will be moved to new locations for 2014, as they have not been used in the past three years.

Nesting data will be entered into the database of the Peregrine Fund's Kestrel Partnership at the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise. This is the second year of their long-term study of the slow but persistent decline of Kestrel populations over the past 30 years.

At the right, intrepid birder Marilynne Keyser shows that you don't need a ladder to band Kestrels. A big thanks to her and other members Jim Anderson, Mike Asher, Mark Barringer, Donna Barton, Nancy and Satch Esperancilla, Ken Hashagen, Kim Kathol, Diane Kook, Don and Diana Roberts, Loren Smith, Dick and Marjie Tipton, Carolyn McCartney, and Project Leader Don McCartney.

Adding to the successful season was our first box of Northern Saw-whet Owls. A box on Wilt Road contained six owlets, which were also banded. For a picture of owlets and bander, take a look at the Summer 2013 CALLIOPE.



Marilynne Keyser checking out a Kestrel box.

## Bluebird Boxes Produce

Both Mountain and Western Bluebirds made use of our fifteen Bluebird Boxes -- fourteen in the Delicious Burn, and one in Sisters. (Four new boxes have been added to the end of the trail with the final box (#15) in Ken Hashagen's back yard in Sisters.) Nest construction started as early as April 22 with complete clutches laid by the following week. Nesting lasted until August 7 when the last fledgling left. The boxes produced sixteen clutches of Mountain Bluebirds and two clutches of Western Bluebirds. Only one box was unused all season. Complete data will be on our web site.



Bluebird box in the Delicious Burn, on a "bluebird day" in the Cascades. Photo by Ken Hashagen.

Weather was normal except for one week of cold weather, which did not seem to affect the nestlings or eggs. Following a brood of Mountain Bluebirds, one box was taken over by Tree Swallows, who raised and fledged five young. Only six nests produced a second clutch with the average number of eggs less and mortality high. There were several unexplained predation incidents where eggs or young disappeared from one week to the next. The incidence of bot flies was low in all removed nests, with one to six or seven larva per nest. Volunteers, including Carolyn Rochelle and Ann Nora Kruger, Project Leader Ken Hashagen, and visitors Rachel Cornforth, Dennis Lee, and several young children, spent approximately eighty hours and drove about four hundred miles. Many thanks for their hard work!

## Lewis's Woodpecker (LEWO) Project Continues

This summer marked the eleventh year of this innovative project using nest boxes designed and built by ECAS volunteers. Project Leader Diane Kook reported that ten volunteers monitored seven project sites, tracking the nesting success of the birds. Numbers were down this year, approximately half of the results in previous years. Kevin Black-Tanski has input data from prior years into the Geodatabase project mentioned below, and that exercise has generated some interesting albeit tentative hypotheses about LEWO nesting behavior. For a complete description of where the nest boxes are located, historical data, and other reports, go to the "Projects" tab at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org).

## *Technology Transitions*

### North American Migratory Count Winds Down

After twenty years, Chuck Gates has stepped down as coordinator of the North American Migration Count (NAMC) in Oregon. In August, he submitted his letter of resignation to the ECAS Board, suggesting that “the NAMC has run its course.” He explained that “with the advent of new and improved technology, the NAMC format is obsolete and a waste of valuable volunteer time...[which] would be much better spent on the Oregon 2020 format.” The Board was in agreement with his analysis and accepted his letter with heartfelt thanks for the time and energy he has given to this fun and rewarding endeavor. Thanks to Chuck’s prodding, historical NAMC data was compiled by Ron Halvorson in 2012 and is available through Chuck. Information on Oregon 2020 is available in the Summer 2013 Calliope and at <http://oregon2020.com>.

### EBird Reporting Takes Off

ECAS members joining field trips and Wednesday Birders this year have probably noticed participants using the eBird format for recording and reporting bird sightings. The Winter Raptor Survey Project will be reporting in that format this year, and at the Fall Science Committee meeting there will be further discussion of the value of citizen science input through this platform.

### Geodatabase Software Available

Another exciting technology tool has been made available to ECAS members through Kevin Black-Tanski’s Geodatabase project. As an outgrowth of his use of ArcGIS mapping software, National Audubon is bringing staff to Bend on October 18 to provide training on how to share maps and data through this software. National Audubon has also made the software available to any ECAS member at no cost. This ability to share local data, projects, and information across the national network is another cutting edge way to be involved in Citizen Science and promote awareness, understanding, and conservation of wild bird species around the region. Kevin is already using the technology in the Lewis’s Woodpecker and Bluebird Projects. For more information on the software or the training, you can contact him directly at [Black-Tanski@gmail.com](mailto:Black-Tanski@gmail.com).

## *Laughrige Policy Revised*

At its October 2 meeting, the ECAS Board adopted a revised policy for investing and using funds received in 2001 by its predecessor, the Central Oregon Audubon Society, under the bequest of Katherine Kay Laughrige. Although these funds were not restricted by the donor, COAS and ECAS have always held these funds in separate accounts invested in socially responsible mutual funds and in a loan which helped purchase and renovation of The Environmental Center.

As under the prior policy, Laughrige funds may be used for projects in Central and Eastern Oregon that reflect the mission of East Cascades Audubon Society. The projects may promote

education, conservation, or research. Grants may be made to schools, section 501(c)(3) organizations, and government agencies. In addition, funds may be used for projects established by ECAS.

The revised policy clarifies that the Board must specifically approve expenditures of Laughrige funds and must allocate those expenditures to specific projects. In general, expenditures of principal are to be made only for the development and establishment of new programs or projects anticipated to exist for more than one year, while expenditures of income may be made for either existing or new projects. It also states that funds used to establish or maintain ECAS projects may not be used for salaries of any employees ECAS may have in the future. The text of the revised policy is posted at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org).

## *What's Happening*

Fall Field Trips began September 7 with a trip to the Bend and Redmond sewage ponds, and continued with the NAMC and trips to Crook County and the High Lakes. On October 19/20 an overnight field trip to the Coast is being coordinated by Judy Meredith. For information on that trip, contact Judy at [jmeredit@bendnet.com](mailto:jmeredit@bendnet.com).

Wednesday Birders continue to meet each Wednesday, generally at Nancy P's in Bend. As Calliope goes to press, the starting time is 7am, but this will change to 8am on October 16. 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, email [jmoodie@cocc.edu](mailto:jmoodie@cocc.edu).

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

Fledgling Fun begins on October 8 and continues on the second Monday of each month through May. 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 this fall feature ECAS member and shorebird rehabilitator Elise Wolf on "Long-billed Curlew and Shorebird Rehabilitation" on October 17, and Santa Monica Audubon members Check and Lillian Almdale on "Birding New Guinea" on November 21. No Birders' Night in December. 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.

## *And Don't Forget...*

### *Annual Event and Business Meeting November 9!*

The doors open at the Bend Senior Center at 5:15pm, with a short business meeting at 5:30pm, followed by free food and beverages, a silent auction, music by NTT, and a program featuring wildlife artist, Rod Frederick at 7pm. The Senior Center is located at 1600 SE Reed Market Rd, Bend, just east of the intersection of 15th Street and Reed Market Road.

## *Summer 2013 Field Notes*

As I sit and type, summer has gone and the nip of fall air comes through my window. I look up a quote from Shakespeare, "Summer's lease hath all too short a date" and I can't help but concur. The demise of summer calls for a review of the birding highlights in June and July. Such a review follows.

Water birds, ironically, are very fluid during the summer months. Some stay and nest while others exhibit what seems to be, constant movement. Two COMMON GOLDENEYE (never common in Central Oregon during summer) were found at the Prineville Sewer Ponds in June. AMERICAN BITTERN was found at Hosmer Lake for the first time in a few years. WHITE-FACED IBIS were spotted at Hatfield Lake and Wickiup Reservoir. Single BLACK-NECKED STILT and AMERICAN AVOCET were also noted at Hatfield. The only SOLITARY SANDPIPER of the season was reported from Tumalo Reservoir along with a probable MARBLED GODWIT. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER reports came in from Wickiup, Hatfield, and Tumalo Reservoir. A few BLACK TERNS were found in the area in June.



Canada Warbler at Calliope Crossing, June 2013. Photo thanks to Tom Crabtree.

Game Birds and Raptors nest in good numbers in Central Oregon. Some are a little more unusual than others. RUFFED GROUSE were reported "drumming" in Crook and Deschutes counties. WILD TURKEYS were seen at Calliope Crossing. MOUNTAIN QUAIL were heard calling near Eagle Rock on Highway 380 southeast of Prineville. NORTHERN GOSHAWK was spotted at Calliope Crossing but it is not known if they nested there. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK reports came in from the Sunriver Airport and Tumalo Reservoir. Hatfield Lake and Smith Rock State Park produced PEREGRINE FALCON reports. A very interesting sighting of a MERLIN in mid-summer brings up the possibility that this might be a nester (This species has not been known to nest in Oregon before.)

BARN OWLS were easily found near Prineville, and FLAMMULATED OWL reports came in from Deschutes and Crook counties. WESTERN SCREECH-OWLS were found in Powell Butte and near Tumalo Falls. A pair of BURROWING OWLS nested in the far eastern corner of Crook County. A single GREAT GRAY OWL was heard and seen in the Ochoco Mountains east of Prineville. Two BARRED OWLS were located in the same area. NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS were reported from the Cascades and Ochocos.

Nightjars, hummingbirds, woodpeckers and swifts are all common in our area during summer but some are a bit more unusual than others. COMMON POORWILLS were discovered near Lava Butte, Powell Butte, Skyliner Road and the Pole Creek Burn (The Pole Creek birds were calling during the day.) A BLACK SWIFT was seen buzzing through the area near Tumalo Falls. BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS are unusual in Deschutes County so two separate

birds found in Deschutes River Woods were nice. AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS were difficult to locate in the spring but summer birds were found at Hosmer Lake, Sparks Lake and Park Meadow Trail.

Around 100 species of passerines (perching birds) nest in Central Oregon. Others just show up, seemingly out of the blue. A few are unusual enough to note here. EASTERN KINGBIRDS were found along Highway 380 in eastern Crook County. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were located in Bend and along the Crooked River east of Prineville. Dick Tipton found the first ever June record of NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD for Central Oregon. More mockingbirds were found at Hampton later in the month. Deschutes County's first CANADA WARBLER was photographed at Calliope Crossing. A NORTHERN PARULA was spotted briefly east of Bend. A July PALM WARBLER was reported from near Summit Prairie but others failed to confirm this species (only one other record of this species in summer exists for the whole state). Finally, BOBOLINKS continue to nest in Crook County east of Paulina.

*Chuck Gates*

### *ECAS Membership Renewal Reminders - Email or Regular Mail?*

Your membership committee is eager to know if ECAS members would prefer to continue receiving renewal reminders via **regular mail** or change to **email**.

There are benefits to each method. We have decided to do a six-month trial during which time we will send renewal reminders BOTH via email and regular mail and then evaluate the results.

If you have not already given ECAS your email address, if there are changes to your email address, or if you have any questions, please leave a message for the membership committee at 541-241-2190 or contact the membership committee at [ecasmembership100@gmail.com](mailto:ecasmembership100@gmail.com).

Be assured that we will only use your email address for sending ECAS newsletters and to notify you of annual membership renewals.

*Miriam Lipsitz*

### *Welcome New Members!*

#### *Thanks for your support!*

Pat Bell, Prineville	Caroline Lincoln, Bend
Lori and Emily Decker, Bend	Gwen Lyons, Bend
Marilyn Dietrich, Bend	Cheryl McGinnis, Bend
Heather Downing-Barrier, Bend	Joanne R. Mulholland, Bend
Jim and Judi Gilles, Sisters	Diane Munger, Redmond
Sue and Ted Groszkiewicz, Bend	Jerry Pascoe, Bend
Ann Hand, Bend	Denise Reinhart, Prineville
Linda Hickmann, Bend	Beverly Samuel, Bend
Louise Horton, Bend	Larry Stephenson, Bend
Harry Johnson, Bend	Betty Vincent, Sunriver
Nancy Kerrigan, Bend	Claire Weiser, Bend
Janette Legg, Bend	Jack and Jill Williamson, West Linn

## *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>																																																						
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">President</td> <td>Sherrie Pierce</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice-President</td> <td>Ken Hashagen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Anne Gerke</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Jan Rising</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Board Members</td> <td>Tom Crabtree John Gerke Jon Putnam Kevin Smith</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Fall 2013 Board Meetings  October 1  November 5  December 3</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">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>	President	Sherrie Pierce	Vice-President	Ken Hashagen	Secretary	Anne Gerke	Treasurer	Jan Rising	Board Members	Tom Crabtree John Gerke Jon Putnam Kevin Smith	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Annual Event</td> <td>Sherrie Pierce</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bluebirds</td> <td>Ken Hashagen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birders' Night</td> <td>Diana Roberts, Nancy Merrick</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communications</td> <td>Jon Putnam</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservation</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>Mary Yanalcanlin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Field Trips</td> <td>Howard Horvath, Tony Kutzen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finance</td> <td>Terri Hyde</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Green Ridge Raptors</td> <td>Kim Boddie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lake Abert Study</td> <td>Steve Dougill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewis's Woodpeckers</td> <td>Diane Kook</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership</td> <td>Jan Rising</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NAMC</td> <td>Chuck Gates</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newsletter</td> <td>Mary Oppenheimer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Science</td> <td>Sue Tank</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Summer Lake Survey</td> <td>Steve Dougill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technology</td> <td>Steve Dougill, George Jameson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vaux's Swifts</td> <td>Bob Johnson Mary Anne Kruse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Volunteers</td> <td>Sherrie Pierce</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday Birders</td> <td>Judy Meredith Howard Horvath</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Woodpecker Festival</td> <td>John Gerke</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Winter Raptor Survey</td> <td>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	Sherrie Pierce	Bluebirds	Ken Hashagen	Birders' Night	Diana Roberts, Nancy Merrick	Communications	Jon Putnam	Conservation	Vacant	Education	Mary Yanalcanlin	Field Trips	Howard Horvath, Tony Kutzen	Finance	Terri Hyde	Green Ridge Raptors	Kim Boddie	Lake Abert Study	Steve Dougill	Lewis's Woodpeckers	Diane Kook	Membership	Jan Rising	NAMC	Chuck Gates	Newsletter	Mary Oppenheimer	Science	Sue Tank	Summer Lake Survey	Steve Dougill	Technology	Steve Dougill, George Jameson	Vaux's Swifts	Bob Johnson Mary Anne Kruse	Volunteers	Sherrie Pierce	Wednesday Birders	Judy Meredith Howard Horvath	Woodpecker Festival	John Gerke	Winter Raptor Survey	Jeff Fleisher
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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).