



THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES
AUDUBON SOCIETY

AUTUMN 2015

From the Board

Welcome to Fall! Once again it's time for the East Cascades Audubon Society's Annual Event, Silent Auction, Raffle and Business Meeting. Mark your calendars for November 14, at the Bend Senior Center. Over ten years ago this Annual Event was started by the East Cascades Bird Conservancy as a celebration of birds and a thank-you to members and volunteers in the organization. Celebration and "thank-yous" are enduring concepts of the event, and this promises to be another great evening.

Always a popular gathering featuring complimentary food and beverages, this year's program will be an exciting one featuring Roy Lowe, recently retired manager of the Oregon Coast Natural Wildlife Refuge Complex. He will present a program entitled "Seabirds of the Oregon Coast, accompanied by his wonderful photographs, such as the one on the right showing Pigeon Guillemots in courtship display.



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Chuck Gates will perform another high-speed illustrated "ECAS Year in Review"; and we will again honor specific individuals as Conservationist and Volunteer of the year. As in years past, there will be a kids' corner, a silent auction, great raffle items, and music by NTT.

As the silent auction and raffle indicate, the Annual Event is also a fundraiser for ECAS. Funds raised at the Event will support programs and projects like Fledgling Fun, Lewis's and other Nest Box Projects, the Green Ridge Raptor Count, Winter Raptor Surveys, and other educational and citizen science programs. Raffle items this year will be big-ticket items including an airboat trip around Malheur Wildlife Refuge, a Woodpecker Festival/Eagle Crest package, a pair of LOWA boots, and Eagle Optics binoculars. And if you have donations for the auction, please contact me at sapierce@bendbroadband.com.

Sherrie Pierce

Bluebirds 2015 -- A Report from Ken Hashagen

The East Cascades Audubon Society sponsored four bluebird trails in 2015: Carol O'Casey (La Pine), Karen Gentry (Sunriver), Carolyn Rochelle (south of Sisters), and mine (Ken Hashagen, also south of Sisters). The boxes produced a total of 177 bluebirds (142 Mountain Bluebirds and 35 Western Bluebirds). Trail monitors began checking their boxes in mid-April and finished the season around the first week of August. All boxes were checked weekly.

Carol O'Casey's trail was brand new this year; 11 of her 12 boxes were used. Karen Gentry's trail was also new this year; unfortunately, 14 of her 20 boxes were used by swallows. A number of boxes will be moved this winter to reduce the incidence of swallow occupancy next season. Carolyn had 14 boxes used by bluebirds, and I had 11 of 15 boxes used.

For the second year, I banded my bluebirds (38 Mountain Bluebirds, 4 Western Bluebirds). Next season I'll attempt to band more birds from the other three trails as well as my own.

Anyone interested in observing the nest monitoring, banding, starting a trail, or helping with monitoring should contact me at khashagen@hotmail.com.

Ken Hashagen



Photo by Ken Hashagen

Kestrels 2014 -- A Report from Don McCartney

I have been waiting for over a decade to have ideal weather conditions for a Kestrel nesting season. In 2015 we got that, with warm weather, except for a few days in early June, making more prey available. And the Kestrels responded by fledging **236** young falcons! The nestlings were very healthy with almost no under-wing parasites. Nesting mortality was extremely low.

This is the first time in sixteen years that I have measured their nesting success in terms of fledglings, rather than active boxes. In prior years, when nestling mortality was much greater, I felt that I couldn't rely on the chicks surviving the interval from the last nest box visit to the point of fledging.

This is the third year that we have participated in sending all of our nesting data to the Peregrine Fund for the Kestrel research project known as the American Kestrel Partnership. What is the Peregrine Fund? It was founded 45 years ago with the mission of conserving birds of prey. They have projects for conserving 34 species of birds of prey in 27 countries worldwide. Our Kestrel project might just be making a difference. Chris McClure, PhD, director of the American Kestrel Partnership, stated that for Kestrels the trend is **positive** for the Deschutes and Madras BBS counts, while these two routes are much different than the trend across all of Oregon, which is significantly **negative**.

I have been blessed with a terrific group of a dozen volunteers. They can be proud of our accomplishments as they have been an integral part of the success of the Kestrel project. Occasionally one of the volunteers will ask about the number of Kestrels that have been fledged from our boxes over the life of the project. That number is now conservatively estimated to stand at 2,625.

Don McCartney

Welcome New Members! *Thanks for your support!*

John Amoroso	Bend*	Marlin & Nancy Icenogle	Sunriver
Cathy Atchley	N. Mankato, MN	Mary Ann Jestel	Bend*
Meg Bernens/Rich Stafford	Bend	Laura Jordan	Bend*
Sue Bertsch	Redmond	Sally Lybarger	Bend
David Burns	Bend*	Tom & Jane Merrow	Bend*
Polly Burns	Bend*	Suzy Murphy	Portland
Frank & Barbara Carl	Bend*	Brian O'Keefe	Camp Sherman*
Rick & Lynn Edwards	Bend*	Sandy Sharp	Bend*
Jean & Dewayne Fisher	Bend*	Lawry Thorn	Sisters*
Christine Frey	Bend*	Mick Tye	Bend*
Michael & Colette Hansen	Bend	Jim Voelzow	Bend*
Arthur Hart	Bend*	Rick & Stephanie Wagner	Lake Oswego

Thanks to Wild Birds Unlimited in Bend for hosting the membership drive at which the starred members joined ECAS.

Sage Grouse Exhibit Opens at High Desert Museum

Sage Grouse: Icon of the Sage Brush Sea opens at the High Desert Museum on October 16. The exhibit, which was produced in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, explores the grouse's natural history and role in the sagebrush ecosystem and its cultural value to Native Americans, hunters, and birdwatchers. The exhibit highlights the work of conservation groups and also describes specific ways the public can support conservation of this wonderful bird that we are so fortunate to have in Central Oregon.



Photo by Tom Lawler

The exhibit kicks off with an October 16 reception featuring Noppadol Paothong, author of *Save The Last Dance: A Story of North American Grassland Grouse*, an award winning book about North American grouse species. The reception, which begins at 6:00pm, is free for High Desert Museum members, \$5 for non-members. Please contact the Museum for reservations.

The Museum has planned a series of special presentations throughout the exhibit's run, which ends on April 24, 2016. One that will be of special interest to ECAS members will be on January 7: a screening of the recent Nature program *The Sagebrush Sea*, by its cinematographer Gerrit Vyn. If you haven't yet seen this film, be sure to mark the date!

For more information on the exhibit and special presentations, check out the Museum's web site at www.highdesertmuseum.org.

Mary Oppenheimer

In Memory of Jeanne Giersdorf

A recent donation to ECAS was made in memory of Jeanne Giersdorf. The donor reminisced that when she first moved to Bend "... there was a bird I was unfamiliar with and my dear neighbor, Jeanne Giersdorf not only told me it was a Bullock's Oriole but then informed me of an app that she used to ID all the birds of Central Oregon. I smiled when I visited her home and found bird feeders all about, bird paintings and even a beautiful bird themed bedspread. She was a quiet woman but one who I suspect found her spirit in birds."

Sherrie Pierce

ECAS Grants for Conservation and Education

The ECAS Board recently approved grants to three organizations whose work complements our goals of bird study and conservation.

Two of these organizations will probably be familiar to our members.

- The Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) received two \$500 grants. One grant will be used to repair boundary fences at Malheur Wildlife Refuge, while the other will be used for venue and other costs associated with a High Desert Lecture Series presentation on avian life and habitat in central and eastern Oregon. More information on ONDA's work and its High Desert Lecture Series is available at www.onda.org.
- The Deschutes Land Trust received a \$1000 grant for purchasing native plants as part of a large-scale stream restoration project for its new addition to the Wychus Creek Preserve. More information on the Preserve and other DLT projects is available at www.deschuteslandtrust.org.

The North Fork John Day Watershed Council may be new to our members. This organization, which engages in restoration, education, and community service, primarily in Grant County, received two \$500 grants. One grant will be used to assess and revitalize hardwood species to enhance bird habitat on the Middle Fork of the John Day River, while the other will be used to protect and restore aspen stands in Grant County. More information on the Council can be found at www.nfjdw.org.

Members of the ECAS Grant Committee are also working with additional organizations that may submit grant requests this year.

All of the grants described above were made from Laughrige funds, a bequest received many years ago by our predecessor, the Central Oregon Audubon Society. Laughrige grants are made pursuant to policies adopted by the Board in 2013 and are accepted by the Grant Committee throughout the year. Details on the grant application process are available on our website, or from the committee chair at meoppen@bendcable.com.

Mary Oppenheimer

What's Happening

Birders' Nights are open to everyone, ECAS member or not. Each meeting features announcements of coming birding events and unusual bird sightings before a talk on a topic of birding interest. Programs, which are free of charge, 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. Still coming this fall are:

- **"Nerdfest III"**, on October 15, a hands-on program for Birders' Night participants to share and experience an array of the latest birding technology and media opportunities including websites, software, and apps such as eBird (more on that in November), COBOL, I Bird Pro, and ABA Birding News.
- **"eBird"** will be covered in more depth on November 19. Tom Crabtree, the eBird coordinator for our area, will provide hands-on instruction on how to use eBird. Tom will walk us through setting up an account, entering sightings, and using the data in eBird to enhance our birding experiences.
- **Remember -- No Birders' Night in December!**

Field Trips will resume in the spring. Watch for announcements in the ECAS CHATTER and on COBOL, the Central Oregon birding listserve. To sign up for COBOL, go to <http://lists.oregonstate.edu/mailman/listinfo/cobol>. All field trips are free and open to the public.

Wednesday Birders continue to meet each Wednesday, generally at Nancy P's in Bend. Beginning on October 14, the start time is 8am unless special times are posted. Be sure to check our website, www.audubon.org or COBOL for the exact starting time and place for each trip. Everyone is welcome, whether a beginner or an expert birder. There is no charge, but expect to carpool and chip in for gas.

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

Fledgling Fun resumes on October 12 and continues on the second Monday of each month through May. Scheduled programs include Birds of Bend, Scavengers, Bird Habitats, Raptors, Feathers, Gulls, Hummingbirds, and a final celebration. The 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.

Young Birders of Central Oregon is for young people 9-18 and supporting adults. Meetings and field trips happen at least once each month. For information, contact Annette Gerard at 541-385-1799.

Out of Town

Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls, February 11-14.

The *Winter Wings Festival*, sponsored by Klamath Basin Audubon, is a wonderful festival with four days of activities for birdwatchers, photographers, families, and anyone interested in nature. This year's keynote speaker is James Currie, host of Nikon's Birding Adventures", which appears on the Discovery Channel's Destination America. Program details will be available in late November at www.winterwingsfest.org, with registration in early December. If you are interested in attending, register early for the programs you want. Some prime programs fill the first morning!

San Diego Bird Festival on Mission Bay, March 3-6

Registration is already open for this well-run festival, now in its 20th year. As always, there will be bike trips, kayak trips, beginning birder sessions, and service projects along with estuary walks, traditional field trips, pelagic trips, and a truly excellent vendor display. . For information and to register, go to www.sandiegoaudubon.org.

Central Oregon Summer 2015 Field Notes

In the Don Henley song "Boys of Summer", the title refers to boys or young men who come to a tourist area to work for the summer and then leave when the season is over. This reference could be used (with a little tweaking) to refer to our "Birds of Summer" as well. Our summer birds are almost all nesters and residents. This creates stability in the avifauna for the summer season. That said, there are still a few rarities that do show up in the summer season.

Water birds nest in small numbers (compared to the north) in our area. Four TRUMPETER SWANS were found at Gutierrez Ranch in Crook County but no evidence of nesting was observed (Chuck Gates). BLUE-WINGED TEAL are not all that uncommon but 22 at Hatfield Lake qualified as a large number (Peter Low, Lew Rems). Up to 20 BARROWS GOLDENEYE were found on Wickiup Reservoir (Peter Low). Summer loons are not common (lower case) but a COMMON LOON was found at Wickiup in late June (Lew Rems). Nesting EARED GREBES can be found at a few Central Oregon locations but Gutierrez Ranch in Paulina often has 1500 or more birds nesting (Chuck Gates). Wickiup Reservoir WHITE PELICAN numbers peaked at 750 in July (Peter Low). AMERICAN BITTERNs returned to nest at Houston Lake in Powell Butte (Chuck Gates) and a BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was found at Sunriver (Wendy Dandridge). WHITE-FACED IBIS make an annual appearance in our area in late July as some birds disperse after breeding (Jim Moodie, Cindy Zalunardo, Ned Austen).

Shorebirds leave our area by early June and start to find their way back to us by the 4th of July. This leaves only a few weeks where we are out of summer shorebirds. An AMERICAN AVOCET turned up at Hatfield Lake in June (Lew Rems). Both avocets and BLACK-NECKED STILTS were found in abundance in the Paulina area (Chuck Gates). Mike Golden found a SOLITARY SANDPIPER on the Redmond Sewer Ponds in July while Peter Low and Lew Rems found SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS at Hatfield Lake on two separate dates. Two RED-NECKED PHALAROPES were discovered at Hatfield for a rare early July record (Lew Rems, Peter Low).

The first BONAPARTE'S GULL of the season was spotted on July 29 at Gutierrez Ranch (Chuck Gates, Paul Sullivan). Being much rarer, FRANKLIN'S GULLS found at Wickiup and Hatfield created much more of a buzz (Peter Low, Lew Rems). A single BLACK TERN report came in from the Paulina area on July 18 (Chuck Gates, Tony Kutzen, Don Sutherland). Finally, SANDHILL CRANES were noted at Wickiup and Sparks Lake (Lew Rems, Peter Low).

Only three species of unusual Game Birds were reported this summer. A covey of ten Chukars was located near Lake Simtustus (Mary Reese). While CHUKARS nest here annually, they do so in small numbers. A worker at Wild Birds Unlimited reported seeing a BAND-TAILED PIGEON at her feeders (Mariena Swarens fide). The best game bird sighting was a report of a WHITE-WINGED DOVE in Bend on June 12 (Tim Lyden). Photos were taken of this bird which turned out to be only the second record in Central Oregon.

Since many build large nests that can be in plain view, summer raptors often expose their downy chicks to prying birder eyes. SWAINSON'S HAWKS don't often get noted in these field notes because they are common nesters in open, drier areas of Central Oregon but a bird found at Camp Sherman raised eyebrows since it is rarely seen in the forest (Judy Meredith, Steve Kornfeld). RED-SHOULDERED HAWK reports came in from Calliope Crossing and Black Butte Ranch (Rich Hoyer, Peter Low). Smith Rock State Park provided a very exciting report of nesting PEREGRINE FALCONS. This is the first nesting report in Central Oregon in over 50 years (David Vick). Another Peregrine was found at Hatfield Lake on June 29 (Peter Low). Resident FLAMMULATED OWLS were located near Virginia Meissner Snow Park (Tom Crabtree), near Trout Creek Swamp (Chuck Gates, Don Sutherland), and on FR 2061 (Chuck Gates). GREAT GRAY OWLS were reported more often than normal in La Pine (Noah Strycker, James Arneson) and in the Dry Creek Swamp area (Chuck Gates, Don Sutherland). BOREAL OWLS were heard in the high Cascades (Courtney Jett) and near Little Lava Lake (Tyler Hallman). Two LONG-EARED OWLS were located along North Shore Road in Crook County (Chuck Gates).

Nightjars, hummingbirds and woodpeckers are the next group of birds that we will look at. COMMON POORWILLS were seen or heard at Trout Creek Swamp (Chuck Gates, Mark Gonzalez), Powell Butte (Chuck Gates), Skyliners Road (Tom Crabtree, Beth McBroom) and the Ochoco Summit Road (Chuck Gates, Paul Sullivan). One was glimpsed as well as heard at the Wednesday Birders' annual evening trip to Pine Mountain. A Costa's Hummingbird (with photo) visited a feeder in Bend for a short time in June (Jim Moodie). WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER is not rare but finding one in the high desert junipers of Gutierrez Ranch is unusual (Chuck Gates, Paul Sullivan). Seven AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER sightings occurred this summer. They were at Hanks Lake (Tyler Hallman), Bridge 99 Burn (Judy Meredith, ECAS Wednesday Birders), Pole Creek (Beth McBroom, Tom Crabtree) and Park Meadow Trail (Judy Meredith, ECAS Wednesday Birders, Vickie Buck, Danielle Lordi, Erik Kancler).

We round out this report with a look at the unusual passerines that blessed us with a visit. Indian Ford Campground produced an EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE in June (Peter Low). Eastern Kingbird sightings occurred at Hatfield Lake (Rich Hoyer, Wayne Bowers) and the Paulina area (Chuck Gates, Tony Kutzen, Don Sutherland, Paul Sullivan). Crook and Jefferson counties provided us with BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER sightings (Chuck Gates, Rich Hoyer, Wayne Bowers, Paul Sullivan). VARIOUS THRUSH are not common nesters in our area, and birds were reported from Todd Trail (Rich Hoyer) and Todd Lake (Peter Low). The season's only GRAY CATBIRD was located at Lower Bridge in July (Tony Kutzen). CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLERS were found at Cold Springs Campground (Peter and Judy List) and Indian Ford Campground (Doug Robinson). Central Oregon's second record of KENTUCKY WARBLER came in from the West Hills of Bend (Tom Crabtree). After several years of being absent, we finally got another report of an AMERICAN REDSTART in our area (Rich Hoyer, John Reuland). A rare BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER was banded at an undisclosed location south of Bend (Steve Dougill). For the second consecutive year (at least) YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT was found singing at Lower Bridge (Jim Moodie). A male ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK was photographed at a feeder in Bend (Michael Thomas) and about 80 BOBOLINKS were located at their historic nesting site in eastern Crook County (Chuck Gates, Tony Kutzen, Don Sutherland). TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS are annual nesters in Crook County but a flock found on Richardson's Rock Ranch north of Madras was notable (Mike Patterson). PURPLE FINCHES were found at Whiskey Springs in Jefferson County (Chuck Gates Paul Sullivan)

That's it for the summer of 2015. I reflect back on the song that started this article and think of my own lyrics:

*But I can see you-
Feathers shinin' in the sun
You got your breeding plumes and your singing voice on, baby
And I can tell you my love for you will still be strong
After the birds of summer have gone*

My apologies to Mr. Henley.

Chuck Gates

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 565, Bend Oregon 99709

www.ecaudubon.org

Board Members

President	Ken Hashagen
Vice-President	Ted Groszkiewicz
Secretary	Sherrie Pierce
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	Ted Groszkiewicz
	Karen Gentry
	Jon Putnam
	Kevin Smith

Fall/Winter Board Meetings

November 3
December 1
January 5

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.

Contact information for Board members, Committee Chairs, and Project Leaders is posted at the "Contact Us" button on the ECAS website.

Committee and Event Chairs

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
Grants	Mary Oppenheimer
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
Volunteers	Sherrie Pierce
Website	Ted Groszkiewica
Wednesday Birders	Judy Meredith
	Howard Horvath
Woodpecker Festival	Ken Hashagen
Winter Raptor Survey	Jeff Fleisher

If you would like to volunteer for a committee or event, please contact Sherrie Pierce at 541-548-4641.

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.