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East Cascades Audubon Society

2016 Annual Report

Our mission: The East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) is organized for the charitable, educational, and scientific purpose of bird study and conservation by engaging the public in volunteer field studies, through educational programs, and by supporting projects that further the knowledge and appreciation of birds and their habitats.

This passion for birds and birding fuels the East Cascades Audubon Society to take action, inspire others, and engage in projects that promote a better understanding of the natural world. We believe that our actions and activities can make a difference in our community and our world.

To all East Cascades Audubon Society Members and our friends:

This is the 7th Annual Report written about the organization. It is intended as a useful document for our members and any others who are interested in the ECAS projects or would like to delve deeper into the data or activities that have been generated during the past year. It is done in a spirit of transparency and reflection.

Thanks go to the many people who contributed time and energy making this past year one of success and completion. Led by the Board of Directors, 2016 was a year of continued ECAS advocacy, a strong voice for birds and birders in Central Oregon and our region.

2016 saw changes for the **ECAS Board**. After serving 6 years on the Board, Jan Rising and Sherrie Pierce were recognized for their contributions and given a lifetime ECAS membership at the Annual Meeting in November. Karen Gentry was also recognized for her term of Board service. New Board members elected were Tom Penpraze and Diana Roberts. Board President Ken Hashagen, John Brune, Ted Groszkiewicz, Terri Hyde, Danielle Lordi, and Tom Lawler remained in their Board positions.

The **Finance Committee**, chaired by Treasurer Terri Hyde, continued its meticulous work compiling the budget and overseeing fiduciary matters. A copy of our 2016 Financial Summary, prepared by Assistant Treasurer John Brune, can be found at the end of this document.

The **Grant Committee**, chaired by Mary Oppenheimer, reviewed applications for the Laughrige Grant funds and grants made from accumulated funds. The Board approved eight of these:

The Oregon Eagle Foundation	\$1000 for travel reimbursement
Discover Your Forest	\$1500 for Hummingbird Garden at Bend HS
ECAS Vent Cap Project - internal grant	\$1750 for materials

NFJWC (North Fork of the John Day Watershed Council)	\$1000. for software for acoustic monitoring of wildlife
ONDA (Oregon Natural Desert Association)	\$1000 for Fall 2016 Desert Conference
DLT (Deschutes Land Trust)	2 phases- \$1000 for Hindman Springs weeds; \$1000 for native plants after weeding
ONDA	\$2000 for Sage-grouse monitoring
City of Prineville	\$2000 for bird kiosks in wetland project

The **Website Committee**, chaired by Board Vice-president Ted Groszkiewicz, continued to support and improve the ECAS web presence. Ted and GIS Project Leader Kevin Black-Tanski produced links to interactive maps of the Winter Raptor Survey Data. Chuck Gates, Birding Oregon author, updated the information and made it more accessible from the website home page. On-line registration forms and payment capability for the Woodpecker Festival were created as well as on-line payment for memberships.

Mary Oppenheimer oversaw the publishing of the quarterly newsletter, *The Calliope*. A monthly bulletin, *The Chatter*, was also delivered on-line to keep the membership notified of current happenings.

Diana Roberts headed the **Birders' Night Program Committee** for the first half of the year and Sue Bertsch volunteered to take on that task going forward. Nancy Merrick continued to provide hospitality and refreshments for the educational meetings.

The **Membership Committee**, chaired by Jan Rising, continued to streamline the renewal procedures through personal contact and outreach. On-line payment became possible in February 2016.

Membership Data as of December 2016:

Number of active members - 346

Number of active members at each membership level -

- student- 2
- senior- 100
- individual- 61
- contributing- 12
- family- 176
- sustaining- 39
- lifetime- 25

Members renewed their memberships in the following way -

- computer print-out form- 48
- Brochure enrollment form- 42
- other (sent check only, at BN, in person, bank sent check)- 22
- Wild Birds Unlimited membership drive- 19
- Annual Event- 52
- PayPal- 69 started taking online payments 02.23.16

Focus on the Mission

The Strategic Plan continued to provide guidance for the year 2016. Members and supporters gave their time, energy, and enthusiasm to help fulfill our goals of engaging in science-based projects, supporting educational activities, and working on habitat enhancement projects. The committees of Conservation, Education, and Science were reorganized and are now led by Board Liaisons. The committees continue to provide valuable input, research, and outreach.

Volunteers are the backbone of East Cascades Audubon. In 2016 152 individuals made a difference by sharing a passion for birding with others in the community. These volunteers put in a combined 9,574 hours and traveled 86,023 miles. Sherrie Pierce compiled the data for 2016. Thanks to all of the volunteers who submitted their information to her.

Science and Conservation Projects

- **Lewis's Woodpecker Nest Boxes** – This summer marked the 15th year of this innovative project using nest boxes designed and built by ECAS volunteers. Project Leader Diane Kook continued to monitor the progress of nesting and fledgling, along with a stalwart group of 12 volunteers who put in 172 hours and traveled 381 miles. A link to the spreadsheet for data can be found on the ECAS website under Projects.
- **Winter Raptor Surveys** – After completing its 13th year of collecting data, 249 routes now exist covered by more than 200 volunteers surveying 15,000 transected miles in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and California. These volunteers traveled over 44,000 miles in 2015-16 gathering the data. Co-ordinated by Jeff Fleischer, this is one of the oldest and largest raptor surveys in the country. The monthly data has been translated into interactive observation maps that are now available on the ECAS website. The survey data is integrated into eBird and the Oregon State University Project 2020 database. The importance of this data collection continues to be recognized in many areas of application and is the oldest project of its kind in the country. .
- **Green Ridge Raptor Migration** – The 2016 migration count was coordinated by Leanna Taylor and David Vick. They organized and recorded the data for 2016. A total of 54 volunteers made observations of the raptor numbers passing over this site. They put in 216



hours and 2700 miles. This was the 11th year of the project.

- **Camp Polk Meadow Survey** – Chronicled by Eva Eagle, 25 volunteers continued to conduct avian surveys for Deschutes Land Trust. They put in 793 hours and drove 2996 miles. With the re-meandering of Wychus Creek complete, bird data will continue to be collected throughout the year, with a special emphasis on nesting and migration seasons. Restoration work will continue around Hindman Springs with some financial help from ECAS.

- **Kestrel Nest Boxes** –In its 17th year, the project was written up in the Summer Issue of American Kestrel Partnership Quarterly. It highlighted Don McCartney and the history of the project.

“Don’s foray into the kestrel monitoring world, began with his monitoring of just one kestrel nest box. The next year he monitored five and the year after, 20 boxes. This year marks his seventeenth working season and he is now monitoring upwards of 103 American Kestrel nest boxes! Of course, he doesn’t do this all by himself! Don took on his first volunteer, Diane Kook, 15 years ago. Today, he and his team of a dozen extremely dedicated volunteers monitor boxes that extend into three Oregon counties. In all that time, not one volunteer has quit! They must be having fun! As a testimony of the team’s dedication, the team banders, Jim Anderson and Ken Hashagen, go the distance to make sure their birds get banded. “They’ll drive 30 miles for a box even if there is only 1 chick to band...they never want to let a single bird go unbanded,” Don describes. And the team’s impact for American Kestrels? Last year, they set a record with 236 chicks fledged.

Don’s conservative estimate of the TOTAL number of American Kestrels his boxes has fledged: 2800! Don’s passion for kestrels is great, but his enthusiasm toward the team he leads is truly extraordinary....A dozen volunteers made this success possible with a conservative estimate of 2625 American Kestrels fledged over the life of this project. “



Ken and Sath banding kestrels

- **Bluebird Nest Boxes** –ECAS sponsored four

bluebird trails in 2016: Carol O'Casey (La Pine), Ken Hashagen (south of Sisters), Carolyn Rochelle (also south of Sisters), and Karen Gentry (Sunriver). Trail monitors began checking their boxes in mid-April and finished the season around the first week of August. This year a particularly cold period at the beginning of nesting season led to high mortality in first clutch nestlings but rebounded nicely in the second round. All boxes were checked weekly. Complete data can be found on the ecaudubon.org website. The data is submitted to Cornell University.

- **Oregon Vaux's Swift Survey** – Vaux's (rhymes with foxes) Swifts, a Pacific Coast bird commonly seen during summer, migrate through Bend both spring and fall. In spring, they're seen migrating north from approximately mid-April into early June. Counts are done both spring and fall at the four chimneys in Bend that are currently known as roosting sites for the Vaux's Swift. These are: Christmas Presence on Harriman Street; Old Bend Library; Boys & Girls Club; and 5th and Saginaw. In Spring 2016, most of the birds were seen at the Boys & Girls Club, 1498; 50 were reported at the Old Library. In Fall 2016 no swifts were reported even though over 30 observations took place. Bob Johnson and Mary Ann Kruse again led the local effort to count Vaux Swifts and report this data to the larger research project coordinated by National Audubon and more regionally by Larry Switters, west coast compiler. More data about this project can be viewed from the link on the ECAS website. .

- **Summer Lake Shorebird and Other Waterbird Survey** – The 8th annual survey of these birds was held in June, coordinated by project leader Steve Dougill and on-site partner Marty St. Louis, Summer Lake Wildlife Refuge Manager. 18 volunteers counted nesting shorebird species in this important effort used by the Refuge to maintain and regulate water levels and plan conservation strategies. These volunteers put in approximately 360 hours and drove 5400 miles.



Snowy Plover

- **Lake Abert IBA Coalition** – Starting in 2011, ECAS undertook a partnership to monitor the bird count at this unique inland salt-lake ecosystem that is critical migratory bird habitat. This ecosystem had no protection, no guaranteed fresh water in-flow, no monitoring of the bird’s main food source (micro invertebrates), and no monitoring of the migratory birds themselves. In 2016 Steve Dougill continued to lead this ECAS co-operative program to survey and gather data on bird migration and populations related to this unique ecosystem, thus meeting the goals of the initial project. Nine volunteers gathered data, traveling over 4000 miles. A scientific paper, “The Lake Abert Ecosystem Changes”, was published by the Western North American Naturalist, Fall 2016. Co-authors included Steve Dougill and Ron Larson. The intent is to let the science be used by the decision makers as they ponder water usage in the area. National Audubon’s Stan Senner, Director of Bird Conservation, Pacific Flyway, continues to be an active member of the coalition and provides input on political and legal issues at the state and federal levels. Data results can be found on the website. John Reuland will now be the Project Manager for data collection.
- **GIS/Geodatabase Project** - In the 5th year of this project, Project Leader Kevin Black-Tanski continues to use the technology this program provides as a way to provide the information collected by our volunteers to the larger community. With the new website capabilities, the project is now focused on interactive maps that display project data such as that collected on the Winter Raptor Survey. These maps are available on the ECAS website under Winter Raptor Project
- **Cabin Lake** is one of the oldest and most popular birding areas in our region. The blinds provide excellent cover for photographers and the guzzler ponds provide needed water for the local birds and wildlife.

Volunteers monitor the area for cattle and habitat damage. In 2016 ECAS Board member Tom Lawler, Conservation Committee Board Liaison, led the rebuilding and restoration of much of the lower blind site. He also established a Friends of Cabin Lake Facebook page and continues to monitor the area, clean the guzzlers, and bring in food for the birds. Next year will continue the improvements with donations made to ECAS in Don Harker's memory designated for roof replacement at the upper blind. A plaque will be placed in Don's honor.



- **Hatfield Lakes** – ECAS maintains maps and bird checklists at the kiosk located at this popular birding location. Working with the City of Bend and the Environmental Center, educational programs were delivered to students at this important conservation area.

- **Indian Ford Aquatic Restoration Project** – ECAS worked with the Sisters Ranger District as it continued its activities in this waterway corridor, specifically at the Calliope Crossing area. Volunteers joined Trout Unlimited with vegetation planting after the placement of a new culvert over the creek. Selective tree removal has taken place and undergrowth burning will occur next Fall, protecting the nesting season of birds in the area.



- **Lower Bridge** – In 2015 ECAS submitted a comment letter to the Deschutes County Commissioners stating our opposition to a proposed housing development on the verge of this Wild and Scenic stretch of the Deschutes River. The request from the local landowner's was subsequently withdrawn in 2016.

- *****NEW***** Escape Ramps and Sage-grouse protection were efforts undertaken to improve the viability of wildlife in the desert east of Bend. Conservation Chair Tom Lawler oversaw the production of the metal escape ramps that were fabricated by the LaPine High School's Life Skills students. ECAS paid for the materials and the students used the project as a learning experience. These ramps were then taken to the public grazing areas and placed in stock tanks. The ranchers are able to move the ramps with the tanks as needed.

To mitigate Sage-grouse mortality, triangular tags were placed on fences by a group of ECAS volunteers. This is a recommended approach to help the grouse not fly into fences and be negatively impacted. Ongoing placement of these will be done as well as other monitoring efforts in cooperation with the Federal and State Wildlife agencies. Conservation Committee member Dr. Stu Garrett spoke at an ONDA High Desert event on the "The Secret Lives of Sage-grouse". This event was sponsored in part by ECAS grant funds.

- *****NEW***** Vent Cap materials for vault toilets were purchased and assembled by the Conservation Committee. With permission from the US Forest Service, Bend-Fort Rock District, volunteers began placing them on toilets in campgrounds in the Deschutes National Forest. This prevents the mortality of birds and small mammals that enter open vent pipes. As on ongoing project, the goal is to place a cap on all Deschutes National Forest campground toilets in the area. Internal ECAS funding is covering the cost at approximately \$1500 for 50 caps

Education and Events

Enjoyment and education are two key components for introducing birds and conservation to a wider audience. A variety of field trips, educational programs, and community events continue to be part of the ECAS offerings to members and the general public. Our volunteers make these programs possible.

- **Lights Out Bend (LOB)** is a volunteer-operated education and

advocacy program. Led by Mary Ann Kruse, it is modeled after Lights Out programs in cities such as Portland, Columbus, New York, Minneapolis, and other U.S. cities. In its 3rd year, LOB continued to quantify light-caused bird/building collisions, educate our community, and encourage building owners and local residents to take steps that reduce the human-caused mortality of birds. Partners in 2016 are St. Charles Bend, Deschutes County Library, Walgreens, Pine Mountain Observatory, Worthy Garden Club, and Ruffwear. You can visit the LOB webpage at <http://www.lightsoutbend.com>.

- **Golden Eagle Camera** – After a successful first year of sponsoring the ECAS Golden Eagle nest camera, the underwriting will continue in 2017. This camera streams live pictures of the birds' nest on the side of Wychus Canyon opposite the property where the camera is located. ECAS is now paying the costs of internet service and support for this educational service to the greater viewing public. This is the only such Golden Eagle nest camera in the world. Donations can be made on the ECAS website. Last year they were sufficient to cover its operation. Deschutes Land Trust now owns the property where the nest is located and will partner with the effort going forward.

Field trips:

- **Wednesday Morning Birders** – mid-week outings led by Judy Meredith and Howard Horvath.



Judy

- **Birding by Ear** – springtime walks in Sawyer Park led by Dave Tracy.



Dave

- **Seasonal full day weekend trips** to surrounding areas led by ECAS bird experts. Howard Horvath, stepping in after Dean Hale died, retired from this project last year. Tom Penpraze will now organize these outings.
- **Old Mill Bird Walks** continued to be held in 2016 in co-operation with the Old Mill District. Led by ECAS volunteers, these outings are a popular community offering. Binoculars are available at the ticket kiosk as is a checklist of area birds. They are held in April and May on alternate Fridays.

Educational Programs:

- **Birding for Preschoolers** – Monday mornings in Drake Park led by Mary Yanalcanlin and usually one or two other volunteers. 52 outings were held; 376 children and 242 adults attended from July 2015 through June 2016.
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- **Fledgling Fun** – a once-a-month, after-school program for K-6th graders. A total of 8 programs were presented during the 2015/2016 school years; 159 youth and 76 adults attended. Six different volunteers helped deliver the programs.
 - **School and community organizations** – Programs were requested by 3 schools and 3 organizations, primarily The Environmental Center Education providers, and attended by 520 students.
 - ECAS volunteers led **Deschutes Land Trust** bird walks for children and families and presented programs at the **Cove Palisades State Park**.
 - **Birder's Night** – held the 3rd Thursday each month as a regular ECAS business meeting with a program for all interested in birds. Diana Roberts, and Sue Bertsch facilitated the meetings. Nancy Merrick provided refreshments.

- **Senior Citizen Outreach** – Kevin Smith presented birding programs at several retirement centers.
- **The ECAS Facebook Page** continues to have a presence with 638 “likes”, up from 382 in 2015. It has been an increasingly popular forum for photos and teachable posts. Most of these have a range of 150-800 views with an occasional 1000+. Mary Yanancanlin is Administrator assisted by Chuck Gates, Tom Lawler, and Don Sutherland.

Community Events:

- **Eagle Watch** – Held at the Oregon State Parks Pelton Dam Overlook Campground, a yurt was staffed by ECAS volunteers with materials and activities for the two-day event.
- **Earth Day** – An ECAS booth was part of the fun and information of the April community celebration sponsored by the Environmental Center.



- **Birding Oregon**, a site developed by ECAS member Chuck Gates, is now prominently displayed on the ECAS website. Chuck continues to update and improve the amazing resource.



The 6th annual ECAS-sponsored **Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival** was held June 2-5, 2016. A total of 108 people attended from 11 states and went on 23 trips. A popular countdown party at The Belfry was held with guest Steve Shunk presenting a program on local woodpeckers. All of the 11 resident woodpecker species were seen. Many volunteers spent many hours scouting, organizing, and leading the tours making this event a rousing success. The event cleared \$4200.

The Annual ECAS Picnic at Shevlin Park was held on July 21st. Folks shared their most interesting bird stories while enjoying a relaxed atmosphere and collegiality.



The always-popular **Annual Event and Fundraiser** took place November 12th. Serving as the ECAS yearly business meeting and election of officers, approximately 180 people attended. They enjoyed food and drink, entertainment by Kevin and Debby Black-Tanski, the “Year in Review” by Chuck Gates, and a great program, “Woodpeckers in History, Myth and Legend”, presented by local expert and author Steve Shunk. The silent auction and raffle were very successful and brought in over \$4000.

ECAS supports a Green Policy of recycling, carpooling and reducing paper waste.

Thanks again to all of the members and volunteers that make East Cascades Audubon Society a great organization.

For the Birds!!

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY 2016 Financial Summary

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Donations, Nat'l Audubon	9327
Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival	5946
Membership Dues	8340
Interest Income	1609
T-shirt/Hat Sales (net of cost)	378
Annual Event Income	4891
TOTAL REVENUE	30491

<u>Expense</u>	
Administrative	5753
Fundraising	3097
Conservation Programs	619
Adult Education Programs	3755
Youth Education Programs	1405
Science Programs	2658
TOTAL EXPENSE	17287

NET INCOME BEFORE GRANTS/DONATIONS	13204
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<u>Grants/Donations</u>	
Laughrige Grants	9034
Small Grants/Donations	6339
TOTAL GRANTS/DONATIONS	15373

TOTAL NET INCOME	(2169)
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<u>2015 Yearend Assets</u>	
BOTC Checking	38186
Calvert Funds	159636
COEC Loan	1663
Inventory (T-Shirts, etc.)	2130
TOTAL ASSETS	201615