



www.ecaudubon.org

East Cascades Audubon Society

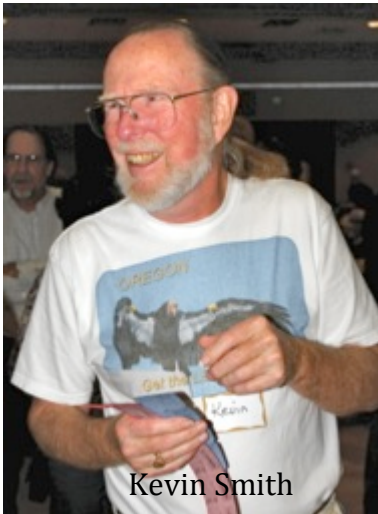
2015 Annual Report

Our mission: The East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) is organized for the charitable, educational, and scientific purpose of bird study and conservation through 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 6th 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.



Kevin Smith

2015 saw changes in the Board membership. After many years of service in ECAS and serving six years on the Board, Kevin Smith was recognized for his contributions and given a lifetime ECAS membership at the Annual Meeting in November. New Board members elected were Danielle Lordi, Tom Lawler, and John Brune. Board President Ken Hashagen was re-elected to a second term and Jan Rising, Karen Gentry, Ted Groszkiewicz, Terri Hyde, and Sherrie Pierce 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 2015 Financial Summary, prepared by 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 the Board approved five of these:

- Approved in 2014, High Desert Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation was issued a check in 2015 for \$1000 to build flight cages for rescued birds.
- \$1000 to Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) - \$500 for fence repair at Malheur NWR and \$500 their Speaker Series
- \$1000 to North Fork of the John Day Watershed Council for bird habitat enhancement on the Middle Fork of the John Day River
- \$1000 to North Fork of the John Day for revitalizing hardwood stands

in riparian areas

- \$1000 to Deschutes Land Trust for Wychus Creek restoration plantings
- \$1000 to The Trumpeter Swan Society for purchase and transportation of swans to the Summer Lake Wildlife Area

The Board also approved Grant Committee recommendations of small grant donations made from budgeted Science, Conservation and Education project funds to fifteen non-profits for a total of \$3525. The recipients were Friends of Malheur NWR, ONDA, Deschutes Land Trust, Friends of the Metolius, Oregon Wild, Klamath Bird Observatory, High Desert Museum, Cascades Raptor Center, Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area (FANS), Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Sunriver Nature Center, Oregon 2020, the Oregon Eagle Foundation and Discover Your Forest. Also \$250 was given to the Nancy Chandler visiting scholar program

The **Website Committee**, chaired by Board Vice-president Ted Groszkiewicz, produced a new, improved ECAS website. Ted's technical knowledge and many hours of work created an updated, modern platform that can still be found at ecaudubon.org. He was assisted by Steve Dougill, past webmaster and Chuck Gates, Birding Oregon author, in making this project come to life.

Thanks go to the many people who contributed time and energy making this past year one of success and completion. The 2016 Executive Committee, Ken Hashagen - President, Ted Groszkiewicz - Vice-president, Sherrie Pierce - Corresponding Secretary, Danielle Lordi - Recording Secretary, Terri Hyde - Treasurer, and John Brune - Assistant Treasurer, anticipates a year of continued ECAS advocacy, being a strong voice for birds and birders in Central Oregon and our region.

Focus on the Mission

The Strategic Plan continued to provide guidance for the year 2015. 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 standing committees of Conservation,

Education, and Science provided leadership, research, and outreach, advising the Board on many issues and spearheading projects.

Jon Putnam, now retired from the Board, provided **Publicity and Community Outreach** for our events, while 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, a Volunteer of the Year recipient, headed the **Birders' Night Program Committee** and presided over the monthly gathering. Nancy Merrick provided hospitality and refreshments for the meetings.

The **Membership Committee**, chaired by Jan Rising, continued to streamline the renewal procedures through personal contact and outreach. Recruitment of new members is ongoing through contact in the community, publicity, and partnerships throughout the region. This paid off last year in a revenue increase of 32%. The goal of on-line membership application and renewal was in the offing as the year ended. Committee member, Miriam Lipsitz, was recognized as a Volunteer of the Year for her efforts with membership activities.

Excluding the Winter Raptor Survey numbers, **7474** volunteer hours and **50,829** miles were logged in 2015. **292** volunteers reported time spent on event and program support, conducting bird surveys, leading field trips, monitoring nest boxes, improving habitat, and delivering educational programs to youth and adults. The **Winter Raptor Survey Project**, headed by leader Jeff Fleischer, covered 249 routes in 4 states, added **2897** volunteer hours provided by approximately **150** folks and **42,115** miles to the totals. Individuals made a difference through their commitment to conservation and by sharing a passion for birding with others in the community. Thanks to Kevin Smith for compiling the volunteer data and for all of the volunteers who submitted their information to him. ECAS supports a Green Policy of recycling, carpooling and reducing paper waste.

Science and Conservation Projects

- **Lewis's Woodpecker Nest Boxes** – This summer marked the 14th 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 fledging, along with a stalwart group of volunteers . A link to the spreadsheet for data can be found on the ECAS website under Projects.
- **Winter Raptor Surveys** – After completing its 12th year of collecting data, 249 routes now exist covered by more than 150 volunteers surveying 15,000 transected miles in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and California. Co-ordinated by Jeff Fleischer, this is one of the oldest and largest raptor surveys in the country. 2015 saw the integration of the survey data into eBird and the Oregon State University Project 2020 database. The monthly data is in the process of being translated into interactive observation maps that are now available on the ECAS website. The importance of this data collection continues to be recognized in many areas of application.
- **Green Ridge Raptor Migration** – The 2015 migration count was coordinated by Leanna Taylor, stalwart ECAS volunteer, who stepped up to organize and record the data for 2015. 74 volunteers made observations of the raptor numbers passing over this site. This was the 10th year of the project.
- **Camp Polk Meadow Survey** – Chronicled by Eva Eagle, 29 volunteers continued to conduct avian surveys for Deschutes Land Trust in their restoration project. With the re-meandering of Wychus Creek complete, bird data will still be collected throughout the year, with a special emphasis on nesting and migration seasons.
- **Kestrel Nest Boxes** –In the 16th year of the project, Project leader Don McCartney said he had been waiting over a decade for the kind of weather conditions we had in 2015. 236 young Kestrels were fledged from the



monitored boxes. For the third year, nesting data was entered into the database of the Peregrine Fund's Kestrel Partnership at the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise. 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**. A dozen volunteers made this success possible with a conservative estimate of 2625 American Kestrels fledged over the life of this project.

- **Bluebird Nest Boxes** – ECAS sponsored four bluebird trails in 2015: Carol O’Casey (La Pine), Ken Hashagen (south of Sisters), Carolyn Rochelle (also south of Sisters), and Karen Gentry (Sunriver). 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, swallows used 14 of her 20 boxes. A number of boxes were to be moved this winter to reduce the incidence of swallow occupancy next season! Carolyn had 12 of 14 boxes used by bluebirds and Ken had 11 of 15 boxes used. For the 2nd year, Ken banded his bluebirds (38 Mountain Bluebirds, 4 Western Bluebirds). Next season he’ll attempt to band more birds from the other three trails as well as his own. Complete data can be found on the ecaclubon.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 4 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 2015

most of the birds were seen at the Boys & Girls Club – 1242; In Fall 2015 the Old Bend Library had the most birds, 3492. 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 at vauxhappening.org/or-sb-2015-.html.

- **Summer Lake Shorebird and Other Waterbird Survey** – The 7th 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. Over 20 volunteers counted nesting shorebird species in this important effort used by the Refuge to maintain and regulate water levels and plan conservation strategies.



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 2015 Steve Dougill continued to lead this ECAS cooperative program to survey and gather data on bird migration and populations related to this unique ecosystem, thus meeting the goals of the initial project. National Audubon's Stan Senner, Director of Bird Conservation, Pacific Flyway, continues to be an active member of the coalition and is compiling the data for delivery to different agencies as well as monitoring legal issues at the state and federal levels. Data results can be found on the website. The lowering water levels continue to be the deciding factor.

- **GIS/Geodatabase Project** - In the 4th 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.



Kevin & class

- **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. ECAS volunteer and newly elected Board member Tom Lawler, has made plans for some much-needed work at this important conservation site in 2016.
- **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.
- **Whiskey Springs Restoration** - After vandalism destroyed many trees and vegetation at this important water source in the Green Ridge area, ECAS will work with the landowner to restore and repair the landscape in Spring of 2016.
- **Indian Ford Aquatic Restoration Project** - ECAS is working with the Sisters Ranger District, US Forest Service, as it plans its activities in this corridor, specifically at the Calliope Crossing area. A comment letter was submitted at the scoping part of the project and ECAS will stay involved as it progresses.

- **Lower Bridge** – 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. **Conservationist of the Year**, Mike Golden, composed this and the Indian Ford Restoration Project letter that were then forwarded to the Board for approval. A list of the 150+ bird species that have been recorded in this immediate area was part of the information given to the county

Community Projects

Lights Out Bend (LOB) is a volunteer-operated education and advocacy program. It is modeled after Lights Out programs in cities such as Portland, Columbus, New York, Minneapolis, and other U.S. cities. In its 2nd 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 added in 2015 are St. Charles Bend, Deschutes County Library, Walgreens and Ruffwear. You can visit the LOB webpage at <http://www.lightsoutbend.com>.

*****New Project*** Golden Eagle Camera** – With encouragement from many locals in the birding community, the ECAS Board voted last Spring to underwrite the continuing operation of a Golden Eagle nest camera streaming 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. Costs will be evaluated on a yearly basis and donations to support the project are welcomed.

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.

Field trips include:

- **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.



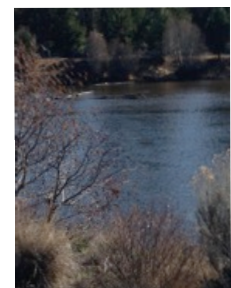
Dave

- **Seasonal full day weekend trips** to surrounding areas led by ECAS bird experts and organized by Howard Horvath.



Howard

- **Old Mill Bird Walks** were continued in 2015 in cooperation with the Old Mill District. Led by ECAS



volunteers, these outings continue to be a popular community offering. Binoculars are available at the ticket kiosk as is a checklist of area birds.

Educational Programs:

- **Birding for Preschoolers** – Monday mornings in Drake Park led by Mary Yanalcanlin and usually one or two other volunteers. 51 outings were held; 403 children and 232 adults attended from July 2014 through June 2015
- **Fledgling Fun** – a once a month after-school program for K-6th graders. 8 programs were presented during the 2014/2015 school years; 154 youth and 74 adults attended. 9 different volunteers helped deliver the programs.
- **School and community organizations** – Programs were requested by 3 schools and 3 organizations and attended by 215 students.
- ECAS volunteers led **Deschutes Land Trust** bird walks for children and presented programs at the **Cove Palisades State Park**.
- **Birder's Night** – held the third Thursday each month as a regular ECAS business meeting with a program for all interested in birds. Diana Roberts, ECAS Volunteer of the Year, facilitated the meetings while Jon Putnam prepared PowerPoint photos and publicity materials. Nancy Merrick provided refreshments.
- **Senior Citizen Outreach** – Kevin Smith presented birding programs at several retirement centers.



Mary Yanalcanlin and friend

Community Events:

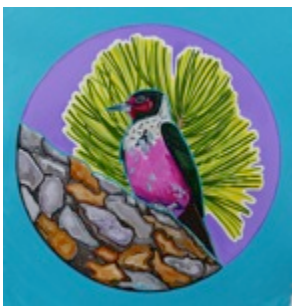
- **Eagle Watch** – Held at the Oregon State Parks Pelton Dam Overlook campground, a yurt was staffed by ECAS volunteers with materials and activities for the two-day event.
- **Earth Day** – An ECAS booth was part of the fun and information of the April community celebration sponsored by the Environmental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



ECAS maintains a **Facebook** page and invites those interested to become a “friend”. There is a link on the website, ecaudubon.org.

Also on the website visitors can link to a variety of resources and information, most notably **Birding Oregon**, a site developed by ECAS member Chuck Gates. **Central Oregon Bird Checklists** are available from ECAS at various community outlets.

The 5th annual ECAS-sponsored **Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival** was held June 18 - 21, 2015. 135 people attended from 11 states and went on 23 trips. A popular countdown party at The Belfry was held with guest guide Rich Hoyer presenting a program of woodpeckers he has seen. 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.



A **2015 Mindful Birding Award** was given to ECAS for the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival. The award recognizes the DHWF’s adherence to the code

of ethical birding behavior as set forth in the American Birding Association's *Code of Ethics*. This includes limiting party size, non-harassment of birds during nesting season, and proper use of electronic bird calls. The Award included a grant of \$500 to ECAS.

The **Annual ECAS Picnic** at Shevlin Park was held on July 16th. Folks shared their most interesting bird stories while enjoying a relaxed atmosphere and collegiality.

The always-popular **Annual Event and Fundraiser** took place November



Dorothy and David

14th. Serving as the ECAS yearly business meeting and election of officers, approximately 150 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, "Seabirds on the Oregon Coast", presented by Roy Lowe, retired USFW manager of the Oregon Coast Wildlife Refuges. The silent auction and raffle were very successful and brought in over \$4000.

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 2015 Financial Summary

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Donations, Nat'l Audubon	3256
Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival	6100
Membership Dues	7895
Interest Income	1363
T-shirt/Hat Sales (net of cost)	295
Annual Event Income	4824
TOTAL REVENUE	23733
<u>Expense</u>	
Administrative	5027
Fundraising	3464
Conservation Programs	364
Adult Education Programs	4132
Youth Education Programs	3483
Science Programs	3473
TOTAL EXPENSE	19943
NET INCOME BEFORE GRANTS/DONATIONS	3790
<u>Grants/Donations</u>	
Laughrige Grants	6000
Small Grants/Donations	3525
TOTAL GRANTS/DONATIONS	9525
TOTAL NET INCOME	(5735)
<u>2015 Yearend Assets</u>	
BOTC Checking	13592
BOTC Money Market	17151
BOTC Laughrige Funds	5982
Calvert Funds	155975
COEC Loan	5489
Inventory (T-Shirts, etc.)	2356
TOTAL ASSETS	200545