



THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES
AUDUBON SOCIETY

SPRING 2016

From the BOARD -- CONSERVATION PROJECTS

East Cascades Audubon's Conservation Committee is responsible for proposing and implementing conservation projects and also reviews the impact of recreation/environmental projects being undertaken by government entities. The Committee been around since ECAS was known as ECBC. You may be aware of some past projects such as: Lewis's Woodpecker, Kestrel and Blue Bird nest boxes, Abert Lake surveys, and working with the Forest Service on habitat/environmental changes to Calliope Crossing.

The Committee currently has six members consisting of myself, Stu Garrett, Judy Meredith, Tom Penpraze, Elise Wolf and Mike Golden.

I believe that ECAS's public image is presented in three ways: education, birding activities, and conservation projects. ECAS does education through Birder's Nights and participating in events such as Eagle Watch, Earth Day and so on. Birding activities are Wednesday Birding, Birding by Ear, and Spring and Fall field trips. The aforementioned are important and probably the most visible to members and non-members alike. Most conservation projects have been done behind the scenes with few ECAS members participating. New projects have been few and far between in the last couple of years. My goal for this Committee as a Board member and Committee Leader is to have three or four new projects every year, make those projects more visible to our members, and work with governmental and conservation organizations on bird-related projects.

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Conservation projects will be made more visible by educating our members about why the Board wants the project to proceed and then involving the members in the project. We would like to get people (ECAS members) out in the field working on projects to help birds and non-bird species. I hope many members would agree that we should not necessarily limit the scope of our projects to those that have a direct impact on birds. There are many other species that can benefit from projects we do for birds and visa versa. An example of this would be fence removal. This can benefit large mammal species but also benefits Sage Grouse, which can strike fences. Another example is removal of invasive plant species, e.g. Knapweed and Cheatgrass, which can improve foraging for birds and non-bird species alike.

There are already a good number of conservation projects in the pipeline. Some are in the planning stages and some are nearly ready to proceed after approval by the ECAS Board.

Following is a sampling of these projects:

- Fence markers for Sage Grouse - Placing markers on barbed wire fences dramatically reduces collisions with fences. These are simple plastic tags that are placed every three feet down the fence line. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of these markers to do a mile of fence.
- Stock tank escape ramps – When birds land in stock tanks the inevitable result is the bird's death. Large or small, escaping from stock tanks with vertical sides is not something birds (or even other small mammals) can do. Escape ramps are a simple way to allow a critter to get a toe hold in something solid and allow for a possible escape. We will be working with a local high school to have these ramps manufactured and then work with the Forest Service to get them installed in tanks on public lands.
- Pit Toilet Vent Caps - Those big plastic vents coming out of pit toilets are potential death traps for birds and bats. Slowly (as money is allocated by federal organizations) caps that allow venting but prevent animals from entering are being placed over these open pipes. Many toilet vents have been capped in the Deschutes National Forest, but there are a number that still need to be done. ECAS may be able to help with purchase and installation of these caps.
- Bird Surveys – Various agencies need help with bird surveys. This is a good way to help out with minimal cost to ECAS.

Do any of these projects sound interesting to you? If so, get involved! When bodies are needed for a project we will notify members via the CALLIOPE, COBOL, and the ECAS Facebook page. Do you have an idea for a conservation project? If so, please bring it to my attention or that of any other Conservation Committee member. Do you know of an organization that might need some assistance with conservation projects? Again please bring it to the attention of a Committee member. I hope to see some of you in the field working on ECAS conservation projects.

Tom Lawler, Conservation Committee Leader

Special Conservation-Oriented Field Trip April 9

Birds and Spotted Knapweed will be the focus of a special field trip to Lower Bridge on April 9. Wednesday Birders worked hard on March 23, but there's more to be done. Judy Meredith, the trip leader, will bring lots of trash bags. Participants should bring gloves and trowels as well as binoculars. More details will be announced on COBOL and the ECAS website.



Dark-Eyed Junco
Photo by Tom Lawler

Ubiquity of Juncos

Su-su-su studder

swoop swerve flash & light
on alder branches beside the river

slap slap sap

Marion Davidson

Students View Birds at Hatfield Lakes

Eighth graders at Pilot Butte Middle School recently completed a project on the journey water makes through our community. Their last stop was Hatfield Lakes. After a tour of the water treatment facility, ECAS volunteers accompanied the students and their teachers across McGrath Road to Hatfield Lakes to see the resultant water features and view the birds and wildlife that use this important resource.

Starting at the information kiosk, ECAS volunteers explained the overall area and the species that might be seen and reviewed the history of the area. The group then drove to the second pond, where the volunteers set up scopes. Using the scopes and binoculars, the students were able to view Tundra Swans, Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Killdeer, Mountain Bluebirds, Western Meadowlarks, waterfowl, and a few early migrants starting to set up territory..

ECAS volunteer Judy Meredith organized and led the group. Thanks also to Tom Penpraze, Sue Bertsch and Sherrie Pierce and to the educators for their wonderful work with students. The overall project on water's journey was developed by sustainability educators at The Environmental Center.

Sherrie Pierce

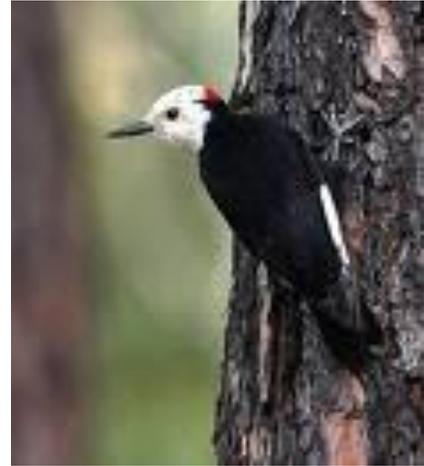
Golden Eagle Viewing Now Online

Kevin Smith and other volunteers have been working for several months to transition the live feed focused on the Golden Eagle aerie at Whychus Canyon from Wolfree to East Cascades Audubon. Tremendous help was also provided by Leslie Lawrence, the current owner of the property where the webcam is located, and Jim Hammond, from the Sisters Camera Club, who donated the camera. Watch at <http://www.goldeneaglecam.com>. Golden Eagles Rocky and Petra are the stars. This is the only nesting Golden Eagle live feed in Oregon, and I haven't been able to find any others elsewhere in the U.S.

Mary Oppenheimer

Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival 2016

For the sixth year, ECAS is sponsoring the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival, held this year on June 2 – 5th. Based in Sisters Oregon, this festival gives birders the chance to see the 11 species of locally nesting woodpeckers plus many other birds. On-line registration opened on April 1st on the ecaudubon.org website. Several new trips have been added including an overnight trip to Summer Lake on Thursday, June 2, a High Lakes trip on Friday, June 3rd, and a number of special shorter trips on Sunday. The Saturday Social at the Belfry, 5 – 8 pm, will feature local author and birder Steve Shunk whose long-awaited book, **PETERSON REFERENCE GUIDE TO WOODPECKERS OF NORTH AMERICA**, will be available that night. This program is open to community members as well as festival attendees, with food and drink available on site. This year's T-shirt, a depiction of male and female Williamson's Sapsuckers, is again a design by artist Lisa Walraven. The shirts will be available for sale at the Belfry Social. For any questions contact DHWF16@gmail.com.



Sherrie Pierce

Online Membership Now Available

Thanks to the efforts of Board members Ted Groszkiewicz and Terri Hyde and Membership Committee member Liz Thill, it's now possible to join ECAS, renew a membership, or make a contribution on the ECAS website. This is a benefit that ECAS members have requested for several years, but it wasn't feasible with our old website. The system uses PayPal, but a PayPal account is NOT necessary. Simply use your credit or debit card and save the cost of postage.

Welcome New Members! Thanks for your support!

Stephanie Black	Bend	Patricia Moreland	Bend
Jerry Freilich	Bend	Don & Daniele Nisewanger	Bend
Kara Jakse	Bend	Jeff Scheetz	Terrebonne
Beverly Kropp	Bend	Jill Ward	Portland
Robin Lawrence	Bend	Mary Zabilski	Redmond

In Memoriam -- Don Harker

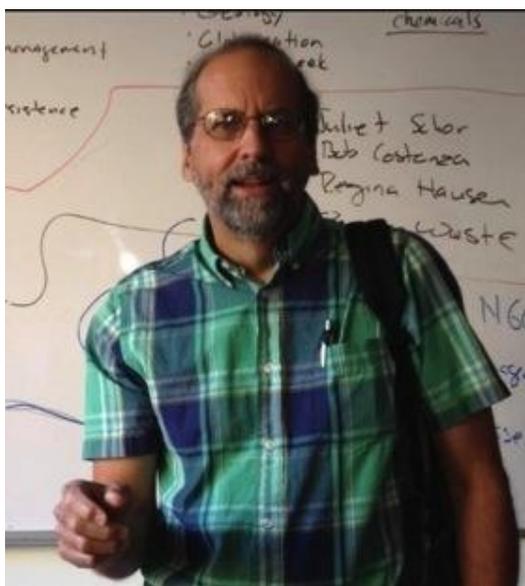


Photo by Martin Goebel

Don was an ECAS member and volunteer who passed away suddenly on February 25th, 2016. He was 68. Remembered at a memorial service held at The Environmental Center on March 5, many folks came from around the country, testifying to the impact Don had on their lives. Although he was known to many of us locally as a committed birder, conservationist and forward thinker, he obviously had a far-reaching impact throughout his career .

Don had a life-long passion for environmental stewardship and sustainable economic development and held multiple leadership positions in state government and in the nonprofit sector. He was also a published writer of non-fiction and fiction. He was known for his commitment to bringing out the best and for being a warrior grounded in love for the natural world and for the earth.

He will be especially missed by his fiancé Sherrie Arsenault and by his children, Heather and Hayden. In recognition of his lifelong love of birding, the family suggests donations made to ECAS, P.O .Box 565, Bend, OR 97709 or to the Friends of Malheur Refuge at www.malheurfriends.org. A special project will be chosen for the use of the ECAS donations.

Blast from the Past -- Central Oregon Birding 30 years ago

In the fall of 1985, Central Oregon birders kept busy in the field and at monthly Birders' Nights, which focused on studying and learning details about birds possible to see in the local area. Tom Crabtree had taught a birding class at COCC and offered one starting in January on raptors.

First local reports came in the fall of 1985 of Clark's Grebes and Red-naped Sapsuckers.. The AOU had just recognized them as new species, split from Western Grebe and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Splits still happen as biologists study DNA, habitat, and behavior. For us locally, splits are sure to happen again in the next few years, perhaps with a nuthatch, sparrow or jay, which means we will learn new ID marks, new field guides will be purchased, and listers will have some edits to their lists again.

Field notes for the late summer of 1985 included Costa's Hummingbirds in Bend and Sunriver, the start of a pattern that would repeat itself for quite a few summers. Three Stilt Sandpipers were at Hatfield, the first records east of the Cascades much less for Deschutes county. There were high counts of 35 Baird's Sandpipers at Hatfield and and 70 Pectoral Sandpipers at Ochoco Reservoir in September. A Red Knot at Ochoco Reservoir was a first

record for the area and later 10 Black-crowned Night Herons were reported there. What a great season at Ochoco Reservoir! It is still a good spot for unusual birds especially during migrations. Consider joining the June 11 or fall Crook County field trip with Chuck Gates to see for yourself what can be found in wet areas not far to the east.

Barb Combs of Eugene spent a few days in central Oregon and found a Northern Waterthrush and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Haystack Reservoir. Most of us have never seen a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Central Oregon or perhaps in Oregon. It is, sadly, one of many birds on the decline. (Barb's name may be familiar as she now does winter raptor surveys for our ECAS project.)

White-winged Crossbills were reported in the fall from several lakes in the Cascades , including Scott Lake and Waldo Lake. In recent years we have been fortunate to have them occasionally. Known spots include Sisters, near the home of Jake Schas and his feeders; along the Santiam Pass; Skyliner area near Tumalo Falls; and in the forest around Trout Creek Swamp and near Three Creeks Lake.

December 1985 was a cold month here in Bend. In the middle of the month, Mirror Pond iced over. The Bend CBC had only 64 species, and the Sunriver CBC had 42 species.

Finally, Malheur Lake was in the news, as the Army Corps of Engineers, supported by a certain eastern Oregon legislator, proposed artificially controlling water levels through a new system of dikes and impoundments. (The system those of us who visit the refuge are familiar with was constructed by Civilian Conservation Corps workers in the 1930s.) The proposed changes would have caused water levels to drop, which would have been a major problem for birds at the refuge. We were urged to write letters against the project. And, here we are 30 years later, dealing with recent threats to our beloved refuge again, and writing letters of support and signing up to volunteer our help. As Audubon members and birders, we seem to always have an important cause needing our support. We are a club of active people and we know that we can make a difference for birds if we continue our efforts to be active. We should never underestimate the influence and power of good relationships and communication.

Judy Meredith

Out of Town -- Good News from Harney County and the Refuge

The **Harney County Migratory Bird Festival** (formerly the Scharff Festival), headquartered in Burns April 8-10, would ordinarily be featured in this issue. However, thanks to the extraordinary interest in the festival, only a very few tours had any spots available as of March 13. This is very good news for Harney County, which benefits greatly from festival revenue. If you want to enjoy the birds of that area, please note the April 17 field trip described below or go on your own. Check out "Birding Locations" at the "Birding Oregon" tab and our website, enjoy the birds, and spend some money in town. Be sure to show your binoculars!

And there is more good news from **Malheur National Wildlife Refuge**. Central Patrol Road, Krumbo Reservoir, and all parts of the refuge, except for the Headquarters area and Boat Launch Road, are now open to the public.

Finally, for those interested in the environmental history of the refuge from ranching days through 2000, consider looking into Nancy Langston's *WHERE LAND & WATER MEET: A WESTERN LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMED*. The Deschutes Public Library now has five copies.

Mary Oppenheimer

Winter 2015-2016 Field Notes

Comedian Carl Reiner wrote, "A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water." That's kind of how I feel about winter. The only good things about it are the abundance of wintering species we have and the surprises that happen each winter. Here is a summary of the bird highlights for the winter of 2015-16.

If temperatures stay mild enough for water to remain liquid, Central Oregon is a great place to find water birds. **Snow Geese** were reported from north of Madras (Rems, Low) and from



Snow Geese at Brasada Ranch -- Photo by Chuck Gates

Powell Butte (Rems, Low). **Eurasian Wigeon** were found at the Prineville Sewer Ponds (Gates) and on Agency Plains (Rems). **Greater Scaup** reports came in from the Pelton Reregulation Dam near Warm Springs (Golden, Elshoff, Bowers, Wolfe) and from Hatfield Lake (C. Miller, M. Miller). The only shorebird of the winter was the flock of 6 **Dunlin** that appeared on the last day of 2015 at Hatfield Lake (Rems).

Winter Raptors are so popular that we do a winter raptor survey with about a dozen local routes. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found near the Old Deschutes area of Bend (Gonzalez) and at Cline Falls State Park in Redmond (Low). A **Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk** was identified north of the Prineville Sewer Ponds (Low, Rems), and another was seen northwest of Metolius (Wednesday Birders). **Western Screech-owls** were discovered in Deschutes River Woods (Moodie), Madras (Scranton) and Shevlin Park (Anonymous). Kingston Avenue in Bend (Garrett), Vista Del Sol in Bend (Gonzalez), Prineville Country Club (MacDonald) and Crooked R. Ranch (K. Smith) all produced **Barred Owl** sightings.

We had some pretty interesting woodpecker news this winter. Wintering **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** and **Williamson's Sapsuckers** are a little rare in winter, but a few were reported locally (Bend CBC, Namitz, Gates, Brandt). A **White-headed Woodpecker** seemed out of place when it showed up at Crooked River Ranch (K. Smith). **Three-toed WP** reports came in from the Skyliners Rd. area (Rems, Low) on two different occasions. Two different **Yellow-shafted Flickers** were found in Prineville (Gates) and Redmond (Klein) respectively.



January Say's Phoebe -- Photo by Chuck Gates

While no extremely rare passerines were found this winter, we did have some interesting sightings. **Say's Phoebes** began arriving in mid-January (C. Miller) and a Wintering **Loggerhead Shrike** (C. Miller) was pretty unusual. (Most of our winter shrikes are Northern). The first **Tree Swallows** showed up on Feb. 24 (Low) and **Violet-green Swallows** soon followed on Feb. 26 (Dougill). A Deschutes County **Black-capped Chickadee** is a rare event indeed, and one appeared along the First St. Trail in Bend (Cook). Maybe just as unusual was a **Chestnut-backed Chickadee** that was found

in Bend on Rocklyn Ave. in February (Crabtree fide). **Savannah Sparrows** were spotted at Agency Plains (Rems, Low) and near Prineville (Gates). **Lincoln Sparrows** were wintering near Prineville (Low, Rems) and Gateway (Low).



Red Fox Sparrow -- Photo by Jeff Nordstrom

The only **White-throated Sparrow** reported this winter was a single bird from Smith Rock State Park. (W. Bowers, P. Bowers). A very rare "**Red Form**" of the **Fox Sparrow** was photographed near Lower Bridge (Nordstrom). Wintering **Tricolored Blackbirds** were found near Prineville (Gates), on Agency Plains (Rems, Low) and in the Culver area (Kornfeld). A very unusual wintering **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was discovered in a large blackbird flock in Powell Butte (Rems). **Pine Grosbeaks** showed up on multiple occasions near the end of Skyliners Rd. (multiple observers), but one

along the First St. Trail in Bend was very unusual (Thomas). Just as rare was a **White-winged Crossbill** coming to a feeder in Sisters (Schas). Two different **Common Redpoll** reports came in from Crook County (Low, Rems, Bernt, Hartmann).

That was the winter of 2015-16. Bring on the spring and the wonders that await us.

Chuck Gates

What's Happening

Spring Field Trips. This year's spring trips will visit four diverse habitats.

- **Birds of the Sage to Snow Geese** -- April 17 with Howard Horvath.
- **Summer Lake** -- May 15 with Tom Penpraze and Tom Lawler
- **Calliope Crossing, Indian Ford, and Green Ridge** -- May 28 with Judy Meredith
- **Crook County** -- June 11 with Chuck Gates

These all-day trips, which are free and open to both members and non-members, are a great opportunity for beginners to learn more about birds and for more experienced birders to share their knowledge. They are also a good way to meet others and see some of the wonderful spots in Central Oregon. Meeting place and time will be announced on COBOL and our website.. Sign up for COBOL at <http://lists.oregonstate.edu/mailman/listinfo/cobol>.

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.

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

Fledgling Fun next meets on April 11 with a program on Hummingbirds and concludes the school year on May 9 with "A Bird-Day Celebration". 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.

Birders' Nights

Everyone, ECAS member or not, is welcome at our free Birders' Nights held every month except July and December. Each meeting features announcements of coming birding events and unusual bird sightings before a talk on a topic of birding interest. 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.

- April 21 -- "**Families of One**". Join John Keyser for an introduction to the 31 birds of the world that carry the description of "monotypic." John's program will include photos as well as providing an overview of why each bird occupies its own family...including range, numbers, unique habits, etc. Having seen seventeen of these "monotypic" birds, John will also have personal stories to share.
- May 19 -- "**Birds of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge**". Tim Blount, Executive Director of Friends of Malheur, will prepare us for visits to the refuge with photos from his forthcoming book. Wednesday Birders are scheduled to bird the refuge on June 1, so this will be an especially timely presentation.
- June 16 -- "**Mexico -- Anhinga to Yellow-winged Tanager**". Kevin Smith entertains us with spectacular avian photos from his visits to Mexico. We follow Kevin and his camera on day trips first centered around Veracruz and then out of Bacalar, in Quintana Roo. Kevin was able to photograph close to 200 species for his life list, including the Bumblebee Hummingbird, the Double-Striped Thick-Knee and an Eye-Ringed Flatbill on its nest.
- July 21 -- **Annual Picnic** replaces Birders' Night. Details will be posted in Chatter, on COBOL, and at www.ecaudubon.org.

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.

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 565, Bend Oregon

www.ecaudubon.org

<i>Board Members</i>	<i>Committee and Event Chairs</i>		
<p>President Ken Hashagen Vice-President Ted Groszkiewicz Corresponding Secretary Sherrie Pierce Recording Secretary Danielle Lordi Treasurer Terri Hyde Assistant Treasurer John Brune Board Members Karen Gentry Tom Lawler Jan Rising</p> <p>Spring 2016 Board Meetings</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">April 5 May 3 June 7 July 5</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 www.ecaudubon.org. Board minutes are also posted at that site after approval by the Board.</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Annual Event Bluebirds Birders' Night</p> <p>Communications Conservation Education Field Trips Finance Green Ridge Raptors Lake Abert Study Lewis's Woodpeckers Membership Newsletter Science Summer Lake Survey Technology Vaux's Swifts</p> <p>Volunteers Wednesday Birders</p> <p>Woodpecker Festival Winter Raptor Survey</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Sherrie Pierce Ken Hashagen Diana Roberts, Nancy Merrick Vacant Tom Lawler Mary Yanalcanlin Howard Horvath, Terri Hyde Leanna Taylor Steve Dougill Diane Kook Jan Rising Mary Oppenheimer Ken Hashagen Steve Dougill Steve Dougill, Bob Johnson Mary Anne Kruse Sherrie Pierce Judy Meredith Howard Horvath Ken Hashagen Jeff Fleisher</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Annual Event Bluebirds Birders' Night</p> <p>Communications Conservation Education Field Trips Finance Green Ridge Raptors Lake Abert Study Lewis's Woodpeckers Membership Newsletter Science Summer Lake Survey Technology Vaux's Swifts</p> <p>Volunteers Wednesday Birders</p> <p>Woodpecker Festival Winter Raptor Survey</p>	<p>Sherrie Pierce Ken Hashagen Diana Roberts, Nancy Merrick Vacant Tom Lawler Mary Yanalcanlin Howard Horvath, Terri Hyde Leanna Taylor Steve Dougill Diane Kook Jan Rising Mary Oppenheimer Ken Hashagen Steve Dougill Steve Dougill, Bob Johnson Mary Anne Kruse Sherrie Pierce Judy Meredith Howard Horvath Ken Hashagen Jeff Fleisher</p>
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<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.