



www.ecaudubon.org

East Cascades Audubon Society

2014 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 5th Annual Report written about the organization. It is intended as a useful document for our members and any others who are interested in 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.

2014 saw changes in the Board membership. After many years of service in ECAS and the predecessor Central Oregon Audubon Society, Tom Crabtree, at his retirement from the Board, was recognized for his contributions and given a lifetime membership in ECAS. At the Annual Meeting in November, new members Terri Hyde and Ted Groszkiewicz were elected. Jan Rising, Karen Gentry, Sherrie Pierce, Ken Hashagen, Jon Putnam, and Kevin Smith remained in their Board positions.



Tom Crabtree

The Finance Committee continued its meticulous work compiling the budget and overseeing fiduciary matters. A copy of the final Profit and Loss Statement can be found at the end of this document. Two Laughrige grant requests were received and approved. One was for bluebird nest box materials for the new LaPine project and another was from High Desert Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation for flight cages.

Thanks go to the many people who contributed time and energy making this past year one of success and completion. The 2015 Executive Committee, Ken Hashagen - President, Ted Groszkiewicz - Vice-president, Sherrie Pierce - Secretary, and Terri Hyde - 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 2014. A copy of the plan can be found on the ECAS website. Members and supporters contributed time, energy, and enthusiasm towards fulfilling 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 continued to provide 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 headed the Birders' Night program Committee and presided over the monthly gathering, while Nancy Merrick provided hospitality and refreshments for the meetings.

Membership in our local chapter of ECAS is approximately 400 individuals. Recruitment of new members is ongoing through contact in the community, publicity, and partnerships throughout the region. The membership committee continued to streamline the renewal procedures through on-line contacts and personal outreach. They are to be commended for their diligence.

Approximately 10,500 volunteer hours and 100,000 miles were logged in 2014. With large numbers of volunteers participating in the Winter Raptor Surveys, **over 500 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. 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 12th year of this innovative project using nest boxes designed and built by ECAS volunteers. Project Leader Diane Kook reported that volunteers monitored 7 project sites and tracked the nesting success of the birds. A link to the spreadsheet for complete data 2003 -14 can be found on the ECAS website under Projects.
- **Winter Raptor Surveys** – After completing its 10th year of collecting data, over 200 routes now exist covered by 210 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. Oregon State University Professor Doug Robinson is working with Jeff to integrate the survey data into the Project 2020 database. Idaho companies are asking to use the data as they look at wind power placements. As Jeff remarks, "This is a perfect example of how this project can directly affect raptor biology".
- **Green Ridge Raptor Migration** – The 2014 migration count continued to be a cooperative effort between ECAS and the High Desert Museum. This year David Vick took over as Project leader. The 2014 Bridge 99 fire almost burned through the observation site, but the only result was some heavy equipment damage to the surrounding vegetation. The final count was 1,692 raptors from 17 species. This is the 9th year of the project.
- **Camp Polk Meadow Survey** – 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** – 2014 was the 15th year of the project. Nesting data is entered into the database of the Peregrine Fund's Kestrel Partnership at the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise. Project Leader Don McCartney reported that when the Breeding Bird Survey was



Carol McCartney

conducted for the 25th time in Deschutes County, there was a record high of 12 American Kestrels. The Madras Kestrel count for June 2014 was also a record high of 15 birds. Chris McClure, director of the Peregrine Fund Kestrel Project, analyzes our project's data. He stated that the trend is

positive for our areas and that it is "much different than the trend across all of Oregon which is **significantly negative**". Don's feeling is that our volunteers and the monitoring of boxes are truly making a difference.

- **Bluebird Nest Boxes** – Project leader Ken Hashagen, with help of other volunteers, monitored the Sisters' area bluebird boxes. Nest construction started around April 15. Both Western and Mountain Bluebirds were banded for the first time this year. In the 15 boxes monitored in the north section, production was down in 2014, when compared to 2013. Complete data can be found on the www.ecaudubon.org website. The data is submitted to Cornell University.

*****New Projects***** Carol O'Casey proposed a new Bluebird Nest Box trail around LaPine. ECAS approved her project application and she will now be monitoring and reporting data from that location. Chuck Gates proposed a Crooked River National Grasslands Nest Box Project

that was also approved. This was in conjunction with a request from the Prineville Forest Service District. Volunteer Dick Tipton built the boxes needed and Chuck and volunteers will monitor these boxes as part of our overall Bluebird project reporting area.

- **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 2014 the Old Bend Library had the most birds, but we are always interested in having people scout for other chimneys in the area that are being used by roosting swifts. 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. The data gathered provides important numbers in the Central Oregon migration route of these birds.

- **Summer Lake Shorebird and Other Waterbird Survey** – The 6th annual survey of these birds was held in June, coordinated by project leader Steve Dougill and on-site partner Marty St. Louis, Summer Lake Refuge Manager. 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 2014 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. Data results can be found under the project heading on the website. However, the lowering water levels continue to be the deciding factor. In October ECAS held a meeting in Bend with National Audubon's Stan Senner, Director of Bird Conservation, Pacific Flyway, to discuss the continuing drought and share our input from the data that's been collected.

- **GIS/Geodatabase Project** - In the 3rd year of this project, Project Leader Kevin Black-Tanski continued to offer training salons for ECAS members. The technology this program provides is a way forward that can provide the information collected by our volunteers to the larger community. When the anticipated new ECAS website is launched in 2015, this program will have even more relativity for sharing capability.



Kevin and Kevin

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 will continue to support any needed work at this important conservation site.

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.
- **Birding by Ear** – springtime walks in Sawyer Park led by Dave Tracy.
- **Seasonal full day weekend trips** to surrounding areas led by ECAS bird experts, organized by Howard Horvath.



Crook county Field Trip

- **Old Mill Bird Walks** were continued in 2014 in co-operation 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.
- ******New Project**** Lights Out Bend** is a new project proposed by Mary Ann Kruse and Stephanie Beh and approved for support by ECAS. 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. The goals are to quantify light-caused bird/building collisions, educate our communities, and encourage building owners and local residents to take steps that reduce the human-caused mortality of birds. You can visit the LOB webpage at <http://www.lightsoutbend.com>.

Lights Out Bend

- [Visit us on Facebook](#)

Educational programs:

- **Birding for Preschoolers** – Monday mornings in Drake Park led by Mary Yanalcanlin and usually one or two other volunteers. Fifty outings were held; 459 children and 262 adults attended from July 2013 through June 2014.

- **Fledgling Fun** – a once a month, after-school program for K-6th graders. Eight programs were presented during the 2013/2014 school years; 172 youth and 87 adults attended.



Mary Yanalcanlin and friend

- **Young Birders of Central Oregon** – a program for youth 12-18, they pursued fundraising projects, outings, and activities focused on birding and gaining birding skill through fun activities.
- **School and community organizations** – Programs were requested by 4 schools and 4 organizations and attended by 235 students.

- **School Feeder Programs** – feeder installations were maintained at several schools in the area.
- ECAS volunteers led **Deschutes Land Trust** bird walks for children and presented programs at the **Cove Palisades State Park** and **Lava Lands Visitor Center**.
- **Birder’s Night** – held the third Thursday each month as a regular ECAS business meeting with a program for all interested in birds.
- **Senior Citizen Outreach** – Kevin Smith presented birding programs at several retirement centers.

Community Events:

- **Eagle Watch** – Yurt staffed with materials and activities for the 2-day event at Lake Billy Chinook overlook.
- **Earth Day** – Booth of fun and information as part 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, www.ecaudubon.org.

Also on the website visitors can link to a variety of resources and information, most notably the **BIRDING TRAILS OF OREGON**, a site developed and maintained by ECAS member Chuck Gates. **CENTRAL OREGON BIRD CHECKLISTS** are available from ECAS at various community outlets,.

Other Notables:

Oregon Audubon Council members met in Portland in November to discuss conservation issues. Board member Kevin Smith attended. Lake Abert was added to the statewide watch list.

The 4th annual ECAS-sponsored **Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival** was held June 19 - 22, 2014; 112 people attended and went on 19 trips. A popular countdown party at The Belfry was added to the activities. 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. Although not a primary fund- raiser, this event cleared \$3000.



Festival Chairman Ken Hashagen

The **Annual ECAS Picnic** at Shevlin Park was held in July in 110° weather. Folks stayed cool down in the trees.



The always-popular **ANNUAL EVENT AND FUNDRAISER** took place November 8th. 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 and a great program, "Condors of the Columbia", presented by the Oregon Zoo's Michael Illig. The silent auction and raffle were very successful and brought in over \$4000.



Jon Putnam

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

For the Birds!!

12:06 PM
01/25/15
Cash Basis

ECAS
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2014

| | Jan 31, 14 | Feb 28, 14 | Mar 31, 14 | Apr 30, 14 | May 31, 14 | Jun 30, 14 | Jul 31, 14 | Aug 31, 14 | Sep 30, 14 | Oct 31, 14 | Nov 30, 14 | Dec 31, 14 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| ASSETS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Current Assets | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Checking/Savings | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10100 · BOTC - Checking | 14,529 | 13,770 | 13,549 | 43,867 | 17,576 | 15,248 | 15,293 | 12,335 | 12,061 | 12,655 | 14,656 | 12,447 |
| 10200 · BOTC - MM | 20,108 | 20,109 | 20,110 | 20,110 | 20,111 | 20,112 | 20,113 | 20,114 | 20,115 | 20,116 | 20,116 | 20,117 |
| 10300 · BOTC - Laughrige Funds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 1,840 | 1,840 | 1,840 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 34,637 | 33,879 | 33,659 | 63,978 | 37,687 | 35,360 | 35,406 | 32,448 | 34,176 | 34,611 | 36,612 | 34,404 |
| Other Current Assets | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12000 · Undeposited Funds | 0 | 0 | 60 | 265 | 75 | 0 | 40 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18010 · Calvert - Investment | 124,977 | 128,795 | 127,853 | 100,559 | 101,687 | 103,905 | 101,845 | 105,489 | 103,265 | 105,819 | 107,621 | 107,777 |
| 18020 · Calvert - MM, Short Income | 25,970 | 26,342 | 26,709 | 27,081 | 54,467 | 54,839 | 55,176 | 55,550 | 53,851 | 54,181 | 54,512 | 54,839 |
| 18050 · COEC Loan (2002) | 12,210 | 11,934 | 11,656 | 11,377 | 11,096 | 10,814 | 10,530 | 10,246 | 9,959 | 9,671 | 9,382 | 9,092 |
| Total Other Current Assets | 163,158 | 167,071 | 166,278 | 139,281 | 167,325 | 169,558 | 167,592 | 171,334 | 167,075 | 169,671 | 171,515 | 171,707 |
| Total Current Assets | 197,795 | 200,949 | 199,937 | 203,259 | 205,012 | 204,918 | 202,998 | 203,783 | 201,251 | 204,282 | 208,127 | 206,111 |
| Other Assets | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18600 · Other Assets | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18610 · Inventory - ECAS T-shirts | 613 | 613 | 613 | 613 | 613 | 582 | 582 | 577 | 577 | 577 | 563 | 570 |
| 18611 · Inventory - DHWF T-shirts, 2013 | 347 | 324 | 324 | 324 | 313 | 243 | 243 | 243 | 243 | 243 | 243 | 243 |
| 18620 · Inventory - Hats | 221 | 221 | 221 | 221 | 221 | 182 | 182 | 182 | 182 | 182 | 156 | 156 |
| 18625 · Inventory - DHWF T-shirts, 2014 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (15) | 427 | 807 | 792 | 762 | 762 | 762 | 688 | 718 |
| 18630 · Inventory- misc merchandise | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 |
| Total 18600 · Other Assets | 1,251 | 1,228 | 1,228 | 1,213 | 1,644 | 1,884 | 1,870 | 1,835 | 1,835 | 1,835 | 1,720 | 1,757 |
| 18605 · Prepaid Expenses | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Total Other Assets | 1,251 | 1,228 | 1,228 | 1,213 | 1,644 | 1,884 | 2,070 | 2,035 | 2,035 | 2,035 | 1,920 | 1,957 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 199,046 | 202,178 | 201,165 | 204,472 | 206,656 | 206,803 | 205,068 | 205,817 | 203,286 | 206,316 | 210,047 | 208,068 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Liabilities | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20000 · Accounts Payable | (268) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) |
| Total Accounts Payable | (268) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) |
| Total Current Liabilities | (268) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) |
| Total Liabilities | (268) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) | (245) |
| Equity | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30000 · Opening Balance Equity | 174,457 | 174,457 | 174,457 | 174,457 | 174,457 | 174,457 | 174,457 | 174,457 | 174,457 | 174,457 | 174,457 | 174,457 |
| 32000 · Net Income | 26,626 | 26,626 | 26,626 | 26,626 | 26,626 | 26,626 | 26,626 | 26,626 | 26,626 | 26,626 | 26,626 | 26,626 |
| Net Income | (1,769) | 1,339 | 326 | 3,634 | 5,817 | 5,964 | 4,229 | 4,979 | 2,447 | 5,478 | 9,209 | 7,230 |
| Total Equity | 199,314 | 202,423 | 201,410 | 204,717 | 206,901 | 207,048 | 205,313 | 206,062 | 203,531 | 206,561 | 210,292 | 208,313 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 199,046 | 202,178 | 201,165 | 204,472 | 206,656 | 206,803 | 205,068 | 205,817 | 203,286 | 206,316 | 210,047 | 208,068 |