



# THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

FALL 2012

*Welcome to the newly named ECAS newsletter. The winner of the naming contest, John Thomas, was announced at the July picnic. John and his wife Pam live in Silverton and belong to many birding organizations, and, although they don't get to attend many of our meetings, they have been at the last two Woodpecker Festivals. For those of us in Central Oregon, "calliope" refers not only to a beautiful bird, but to Calliope Crossing, a favorite birding site and regular summer home of the Calliope. Calliope is also the Greek muse of poetry, and thus one of the more appropriate bird names for a newsletter. John received an ECAS hat as his prize, so "hats off" to him! Thanks, too, to Kevin Smith for the photo of the calliope hummingbird.*

## **A WAY FORWARD -- BOARD ADOPTS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2013-2014**

On September 4, 2012, the East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) Board of Directors unanimously adopted a Strategic Plan for 2013-2014. The result of a planning session held April 7, 2012, this plan builds on a document originally written in 2008 to guide East Cascades Bird Conservancy (ECBC) in the years 2009-2010. With the merger of ECBC and Central Oregon Audubon Society (COAS) into ECAS in early 2010 and the resultant transition tasks of 2010-2011, the current Board felt it needed to review the status of the organization's structure and activities. Using the 2009-2010 Strategic Plan as a framework, the missions, goals, strategies, objectives and activities were evaluated, discussed, modified and expanded by the April work group resulting in a draft Strategic Plan for 2013-14. This document was then distributed to approximately fifty ECAS members for their comments. This group included committee members, project leaders, lifetime members, and active volunteers. Many thoughtful, useful reflections were elicited and then distributed to the Board.

One of the critical areas of discussion concerned our ability as a volunteer-based non-profit organization to accomplish an ambitious set of goals and activities. Steve Dougill, ECBC and ECAS past president, stated the question most succinctly -- "What can we do without outside (paid) help?" Much of the answer to this question lies in the vitality and interests of the membership. The current Board feels that, although ECAS has substantial assets, these are non-renewing, and our charge is to be fiscally responsible, authorizing expenditure of those funds for worthy, substantial projects and seeking additional operating funds through an expanded membership, fund-raising activities, and grants.

The 2013-14 Strategic Plan retains the same mission, similar values and vision of the original plan. The goals of Species and Habitat Conservation, Avian Research, Adult and Youth Education, Community Awareness, Member Involvement and Enjoyment, and Effective Organizational Management also stay the same. Additional strategies and activities reflect the

REMEMBER THE ANNUAL EVENT -- NOVEMBER 10, 2012!  
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foundation on which ECAS has to build. Committees and projects are in place and can be expanded; new technology exists to be utilized in various platforms; a more holistic approach to integrate information can be mapped; better communication electronically facilitates much activity.

This plan is not set in stone. Not everything will be accomplished nor should that be expected. On-going evaluation and direction will be needed by an active Board of Directors. Ultimately it is the membership and the volunteers that will make things happen. As our Mission states, we are all in it together to “further the knowledge and appreciation of birds.” With new members joining the Board this winter, we will use our January meeting to outline an action plan, putting in place a vision for the way forward. If any one would like a copy or has questions about this plan please contact me at [sapierce@bendbroadband.com](mailto:sapierce@bendbroadband.com).

For the birds --

*Sherrie Pierce, Board President*

## **ANNUAL EVENT 2012**

### ***EAGLES: WATCHING THEM WATCH US WATCH THEM***

Frank Isaacs is THE man to ask about eagles in Oregon, and he'll be the featured speaker at our 2012 Annual Event and Fundraiser on November 10 at the Bend Senior Center. Doors will open at 5:15, and a short business meeting will take place at 5:30 to entertain nominations for the Board of Directors from the floor. After that, the party will be begin. Light refreshments will be served, and a silent auction and raffle will add to the fun of the evening. Several packages of Guided Bird trips and extra goodies will be part of the offerings this year. A special Kid's Corner will be set up to spark the interest of our younger birders. Master of Ceremonies Chuck Gates promises to have his stellar “Year in Review”, including a special tribute to Dean Hale, and President Sherrie Pierce will present recognition awards.

At 7:30, it will be time for Frank's presentation on “The State of Eagles: Watching Them Watch Us Watch Them.” Frank is Senior Faculty Research Assistant in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University, and an expert on both Bald and Golden. Eagles. He has been studying these magnificent birds since 1978. After the de-listing of the Bald Eagle as an endangered species in 2007, Frank has turned his interest to studying Golden Eagles, particularly in relationship to wind power developments. His programs always get rave reviews, and his topic is timely.

It promises to be an outstanding evening of fun, food and entertainment so mark your calendars! The Bend Senior Center is at 1600 SE Reed Market Road, right at the intersection of 15th and Reed Market. There's plenty of parking.

## NEVER TOO OLD.....

Doris Featherstone Ray and Roy Brown peer intently at the picture of an American Kestrel Kevin Smith has projected on the wall at The Heights Assisted Living Center in Redmond. Kevin, an East Cascades Audubon Board member and nature photographer par excellence, has a mission. He has been taking his slideshow of birds and selected mammals to the residents of care centers in Central Oregon.

The enjoyment of birds is something most of us can access by merely going into our yards or taking a quick jaunt to a favorite site. The residents of these care centers are mostly restricted to the views out their windows, TV and magazines. Failing eyesight and hearing are evident as ears are cocked to catch the names of the birds. Kevin moves two ladies closer to the wall so they can see the images he is projecting.



Kevin Smith talking to residents of The Heights Assisted Living Center

As he moves through the selections he has brought, he asks for names. “Does anyone know what this black bird is?” “Crow?” Close. It is a Raven. He tells stories. Our Mountain Chickadee is hungrier than the valley Black-capped because it says ”Cheeseburger!”

After the show is finished most attendees are taken back to their room or wheel away on their own. Two residents remain with questions and obvious interest. Doris tells Kevin she was raised on a farm east of Vale with the Malheur River flowing through the back forty. She left there for the valley and work but longs to be there again and remembers how she enjoyed the birds. At 86 her body is frail with osteoporosis, but her eyes light up with the conversation and she wishes she could take a ride to the country. Roy tells of a life working for the CCC in the 30’s, house painting, and finally volunteering at the High Desert Museum, working with the raptors. He is now 96 with limited hearing and bad knees (both replaced), but a sharp mind. He lights up when talking with Kevin about the Eagles he handled.



Roy Brown & Doris Featherstone Ray listen as Kevin answers a question.

I have attended this program to see what Kevin has been doing and find myself sitting next to a young man in an electric wheel chair. He looks familiar and I find I know him. He grew up on my street and in his thirties, was felled by strokes four years ago. It is a reminder of how fragile life is and no matter our age, how important it is to share our interests and ourselves with folks such as these.

Thanks to Kevin for his time and talent, bringing the outside in. He is planning other presentations at Cougar Springs on October 16 at 6:30 pm, Touchmark on October 19 at 7 pm, and Whispering Winds on November 13 at 2:30 pm.

*Sherrie Pierce*

## *A WINTER POEM FROM MARION DAVIDSON*

*Juncos*

The winter birds

return

to my yard

flitting

nervously from

branch

to branch—

the territory

not yet familiar.

## *CHIP NOTES.....*

- Green Ridge Hawk migration counts continue through October 19th. Check the website for directions.
- Fledgling Fun has begun a new year of after school programs for kids. Sessions are the second Monday of the month, October – May, 3:30- 5 pm. at the Environmental Center. Children must be accompanied by a parent.
- Clean out your birding bookshelves! Books about birds or birding are needed for the \$1.00 book table at the Annual Event. Bring your books to Birders Night or get in touch with Sherrie ([sapierce@bendbroadband.com](mailto:sapierce@bendbroadband.com)).
- Wednesday Birders will meet at Nancy P's at 8am starting October 17. For details, check the web site and COBOL postings.

## CAMP POLK RESTORATION TOUR

On a beautiful sunny Saturday in July, eight ECAS members gathered at the Camp Polk kiosk to meet with Ryan Houston, executive director of the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council. Ryan had volunteered to lead our group on a walk through the restored Camp Polk Meadow, highlighted by a newly meandered Wychus Creek. Under the direction of The Deschutes Land Trust, various partners have worked diligently for several years to bring this area back to its original ecology. The banks of the creek have been planted with vegetation, restoring native habitat. An ECAS contribution of \$1000.00 helped make this possible and the results are impressive.

Although distracted occasionally by bird song and sightings, Ryan's description of the movement of water in the system, water rights legalities, fish migration, and wetlands distribution kept everyone intent upon the intricacies of the project. Since general public access



**L to R: Mary Oppenheimer, Sherrie Pierce, Kei Smith, Kevin Black-Tanski, Howard Horvath, Lynn Putnam, Jon Putnam, Ryan Houston**

to the meadow is restricted, guided tours are offered occasionally, given by volunteers who have had training that enables them to knowledgeably lead groups across the meadow. Several of these trained volunteers are ECAS members who specialize in the bird life that can be seen.

The area is one included in the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival field trips -- if you are interested, the date for next year's Festival has been set for June 13-16, 2013.

We finished our tour before noon and all agreed this was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and learn from an expert. Admittedly not a birder, Ryan even learned a couple of things from us!

*Sherrie Pierce*

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE EFFORT EFFECTS CHANGE IN BLM POLICY

Last April, several of our members were made aware of an issue relating to bird deaths from open PVC pipes used to mark mining claims throughout the West. Lauri Turner of the Forest Service forwarded an article from the American Bird Conservancy dated April 25, 2012. In part it read:

*The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S.D.A. Forest Service (FS), and American Bird Conservancy (ABC) have begun identifying and implementing solutions to solve a widespread and potentially enormous bird mortality threat that is associated with 3.4 million mining claims on public lands, mainly in the West. Official state birds from at least nine western states have so far been killed by deadly mining claim markers (Cactus Wren (AZ), Mountain Bluebird (ID), Western Meadowlark (KS, MT, NE, ND, OR, WY), Mountain Bluebird (NV)). Small birds apparently see the opening of PVC pipes used to mark mining claims as a hollow suitable for roosting or nesting or possibly gathering to pool body heat during migration. The birds may enter the holes, only to become trapped because the walls are too smooth to allow them to grapple their way up the sides and the pipes are too narrow for the birds to extend their wings and fly out. Death from dehydration or starvation follows.*

After doing some research it was determined that each state has the responsibility for legislating legal materials to mark claims. In Oregon the statute for lode claims (ORS 517.010) states:

*(2)(a) Such boundaries shall be marked within 30 days after posting of such notice by four substantial posts, projecting not less than three feet above the surface of the ground, and made of wood measuring not less than one and one-half inch by one and one-half inch, or by substantial mounds of stone, or earth and stone, at least two feet in height, one such post or mound of rock at each corner of such claims. (b) During the course of normal maintenance of the claim location posts or monuments, any post that requires replacement and is not constructed of naturally occurring materials shall be replaced by posts that are made of wood measuring not less than one and one-half inch by one and one-half inch on a side and that project not less than three feet above the surface of the ground. (3) At such time as any lode mining claim is declared invalid by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management or is otherwise dropped by the last claim holder of record without transfer through lease or sale to another person, all claim location posts not made of natural materials shall be removed from the public domain of the United States and at the same time any post made of natural materials shall be removed or dismantled. [Amended by 1991 c.215 §1]*

Conservation Committee member Lynn Putnam wrote a letter requesting clarification of Oregon BLM policy and actions that could be taken to mitigate the hazard. The letter was approved by the Board of Directors and sent to Tim Barnes, Lead BLM Geologist for Oregon and Washington. Based in Prineville, he responded very quickly and as a result of our letter, the

BLM Policy has been updated on their website - [www.blm.gov/or/programs/minerals/claim-posts.php](http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/minerals/claim-posts.php) - with these statements:

*Mining claim markers are becoming a problem for wildlife due to the use of uncapped metal and plastic (Polyvinyl Chloride-PVC) pipes found on public lands. Uncapped pipe mining claim markers can be a death trap to birds and other animals. Wildlife Animals trapped in the pipes cannot climb out due to the smooth walls of the pipe. Oregon and Washington state law says opened topped pipes are not legal as claim markers. We strongly encourage the public and BLM partners to help us prevent future wildlife mortality by filling any open pipe with sand, rocks, or cap it with a large well-fitted rock.*

Since it isn't legal for the public to pull the pipes on its own,(pipes are considered private property on a valid claim) it seems our mission is to educate and assist the BLM. Their staff have the authority to determine whether a claim is valid and notify the claim holder that the pipes must be replaced. If the claim is invalid, BLM staff can pull the pipes. Our first opportunity to provide this information to the public came at the ONDA Desert Conference. ECAS staffed a table at the Social Hour and many attendees were very interested in the issue, including ONDA Staff who are out in the field and said they see these pipes all the time and wondered what they were about. We have offered to assist BLM district managers if they would like volunteer work parties to legally pull identified hazards and will continue to provide education and awareness to the public.

It is always gratifying to see real change take place, but more than that, it speaks to our mission, which is commitment to bird conservation. Thanks to the time and effort of all those involved, many birds will live!

*Sherrie Pierce*

## **FALL BIRDERS' NIGHTS**

Mark your calendars for the final two presentations of 2012. As usual, Birders' Night will be held at The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas Avenue, Bend. Coffee, cookies, and fellowship are on tap at 6:30pm, followed by announcements and program at 7pm. Birders' Night is always free and open to the public so consider inviting a friend or neighbor who's interested in birds.

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|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 17  | Terry Steele returns with "Birding on the Texas Gulf". Terry always brings great photos and great stories.              |
| November 15 | Elise Wolf of Grebe Acres will fill us in on bird rehabilitation. Elise's special interest is shorebird rehabilitation. |
| December    | Birders' Night resumes in January.                                                                                      |

## *Field Notes-- Summer 2012*

My favorite part of summer birding is the urgency. By the middle of June, the days become so hot that birding must be suspended for much of the day. This puts a premium on the first few hours of daylight and that sense of urgency to find as much as you can before the heat sets in is a driving force for summer birding. I think it just adds to the fun. Below you will find a list of the birding highlights for the summer season of 2012, which encompasses all of June and July.

A few interesting water birds made an appearance this summer in Central Oregon. BLUE-WINGED TEAL were seen a few times in Deschutes County and nesters were noted in Crook County. COMMON GOLDNEYE are not known to nest in Oregon but two different individuals (one at Redmond Sewer Ponds and one in E. Crook County) spent the summer here. A nesting HOODED MERGANSER was found by the Wednesday Birders group along the upper Deschutes in July. HORNED GREBES were located in Madras and Redmond while CLARK'S GREBES were found in their usual Crook County haunts. AMERICAN BITTERNs were noted at Houston Lake and GREAT EGRETS could be found at Wickiup and Prineville Reservoir. A GREEN HERON was found by one observer in Warm Springs (There are historical nesting records for this species in Jefferson County.) A July Hatfield Lake WHITE-FACED IBIS was a bit unusual. A BONAPARTE'S GULL showed up at Tumalo Reservoir and a HERRING GULL was located at the Redmond Sewer Ponds in July.

Shorebirds begin arriving in Central Oregon around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. BLACK-NECKED STILTS were noted at Hatfield Lake and the Redmond Sewer Ponds. Deschutes County's second SNOWY PLOVER stopped in briefly at Hatfield. Hatfield also produced a SOLITARY SANDPIPER in mid-July. A MARBLED GODWIT made a good appearance at the Redmond Sewer Ponds and a WHIMBREL appeared at the same location for a rare Deschutes County record. Hatfield Lake (Are you beginning to see a pattern here? Hatfield in July and August is the place for shorebirds) also produced a SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, a SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER and some early RED-NECKED PHALAROPES.

Game birds and raptors nest in our area and we even occasionally get a visitor or two that doesn't nest here in summer. SOOTY GROUSE were abundant in the Sisters area and WILD TURKEY populations were noted from Sisters as well. At least two broods of MOUNTAIN QUAIL were seen sporadically along North Shore Road near Prineville Reservoir. NORTHERN GOSHAWK reports came in from Pumice Springs and Cow Meadow south of Bend. RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS were found at Tumalo Reservoir and in eastern Crook County. Four different PEREGRINE FALCONS were seen at 4 different locations. FLAMMULATED OWL, WESTERN SCREECH-OWL, BURROWING OWL, and NORTHERN PYGMY-OWLS were all located in Crook County during the season. A BARRED OWL showed up in Bend around Knoll Avenue.

Near Passerines as their name implies are not quite perching birds and not quite something else so they get their own colloquial term. COMMON POORWILL were heard calling at Pine Mountain and the Ochoco Mountains. A BLACK SWIFT flew past an observer at the Redmond Sewer Ponds. BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS were noted in Crook County and ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS were abundant in Bend and other Deschutes County locales. Tom Crabtree had a brief visit from a BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD in west Bend. The Shadow Lake Burn west of Sisters produced a couple of AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS for the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival.

*Chuck Gates*