



# THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

SPRING 2014

## *From the Executive Committee*

East Cascades Audubon is truly a "volunteer-powered" organization. In 2013 over 500 volunteers contributed approximately 10,000 hours and drove over 70,000 miles running winter raptor routes, counting shorebirds at Summer Lake, planning Birders' Nights, and doing other tasks that keep our many activities going. One of those tasks, keeping up our membership roster, is the work of our Membership Committee.

The Membership Committee is a collaborative group. I act as the chair, but the majority of the work is done by other members. I pick up the mail, process membership payments, then scan enrollment forms to **Miriam Lipsitz**. Miriam enters the member's information into our membership roster and sends out thank you letters, which should be retained if you plan to deduct your dues. For the last six months, **Jan Clark** has been sending renewal reminders in which she asks how members would prefer to receive these notices. Not surprisingly, most have said they would like to get those reminders in an email rather than a letter. This will reduce our spending on postage, paper, and printer ink. We don't yet have a method of renewing online, but perhaps that won't be too far off. An ad hoc committee is looking at how we might revise our website, and it's possible members will be able to renew online in the future.

Our newest volunteer, **Eldon Spay**, is in charge of sending new National Audubon Society (NAS) members a welcome letter informing them about East Cascades Audubon activities and inviting them to join as local chapter members. (Local chapters receive limited financial support from NAS -- that's why your local chapter membership dues are so important.) NAS has around 700 members assigned to our chapter by virtue of their zip codes, while our dues-paying

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chapter membership is currently 462. Obviously there are local people interested in birds and birding who may not know about ECAS, and we want them to be informed so that they can join ECAS if they choose.

Other volunteers keep members informed about what ECAS does. In the next issue, I'll fill you in on that part of our collaborative process.

*Jan Rising*

## *2014 Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival -- Registration Now Open*

Planning for the Festival, which takes place June 11 through 14, has been underway for several months under the leadership of ECAS Vice-President Ken Hashagen, and registration will open on April 1. As in years past, the Festival will feature four days of tours: Summer Lake on Thursday, June 11; the Ochocos on Friday, June 12; a full menu of Woodpecker tours and an Owl Prowl on Saturday, June 13; and a variety of half-day tours on Sunday, June 14. Once again, there will be an informal Saturday evening social and countdown at The Belfry in Sisters

Two new tours have been added to the agenda: the Pole Creek burn area will be featured Saturday, and Kevin Smith and Tom Lawler will lead "Shooting Woodpeckers" on Sunday. The Lisa Walraven design shown at the right will be featured on the festival T-shirts.

The tours are very reasonably priced (\$30 full day; \$20 half-day and Owl Prowl), and each trip is limited to 10 people.

Trips can fill quickly, so if you're interested, it's important to register promptly. Details about all the activities and information on registration are available at the Woodpecker Festival tab on our website, [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org). Even if you don't participate in the field trips, you're welcome to join the crowd at the Saturday evening social.



Black-backed Woodpecker  
by Lisa Walraven.

*Mary Oppenheimer*

### *Save the Date: July 17 is the ECAS Picnic*

There's no Birders' Night in July, but everyone is invited to a potluck picnic in one of Bend's parks. Details will be posted on our website and on COBOL.

## *Mariena Swarens Wins Youth Scholarship*



Mariena Swarens in the field. Photo by Chuck Gates

Mariena Swarens, local resident and Crook County High School graduate, is the recipient of this year's prestigious Western Field Ornithologists' Youth Scholarship. Her award covers all expenses (except transportation) for a \$1950 tour of "Eastern Montana Prairies and Wetlands" led by local experts Ed Harper and Bruce Hallett. Mariena will enjoy a fascinating trip filled with diverse birdlife at the height of the season. Applicants aged 16-21 were eligible.

Mariena wrote an essay and secured recommendation letters from adults as part of the application process. As one of her references, I did not hesitate to write that "she first caught my eye as a young birder and over the next couple of years, I was impressed by her continued passion and interest in studying birds. She was obviously becoming a great birder!"

Local birders who know Chuck Gates will not be surprised to hear that Mariena was his student. In her application essay, she wrote that as a high school student looking for career choices in the sciences, she "asked my bird-crazed biology teacher about his 'birding career' and he invited me to go on a raptor count with him." That opened a new world to her and, from that point on, in her words, "she has been captivated by birds." Enrolled in Chuck's Advanced Biology class, he says she "quickly caught the birding bug." She would go out "after school.... began keeping various lists," and "soon ... was a full-blown birder."

Mariena is now a part-time college student and, when possible, goes birding with ECAS groups, Chuck, and any other time she can. Those of you who attended last year's Annual Event may remember her excitement as the raffle winner of the binoculars. It couldn't have happened to a more deserving person. All of us in ECAS should be proud of Mariena, her initiative and success in attaining this scholarship. I hope, she will be able to share her experiences this summer at a future Birders Night . Have a great trip, Mariena. Good birding!

*Sherrie Pierce*

## *For Fred Meyer Shoppers --An Opportunity to Contribute*

Fred Meyer donates \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. East Cascades Audubon is now registered with them. If you choose, you can sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to East Cascades Audubon Society at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number 80441. Every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping ECAS earn a donation! You will still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.

*Sherrie Pierce*

## *Conservation News: ECAS Comments on Sage Grouse Listing and Habitat Improvements at Calliope Crossing*

At its March meeting, the ECAS Board approved comment letters on two conservation issues of great importance to local birds and birders -- Sage Grouse and Calliope Crossing. Both issues were brought forward by our Conservation Committee, which considered the issues at its February 11, 2014 meeting. The Committee is chaired by Mike Golden, who welcomed new members Don Harker, Jan Landeau, and Karen Gentry. Continuing members are Kevin Black-Tanski, Tony Kutzen, and Board Liaison Tom Crabtree.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has final authority concerning whether to list the Greater Sage-Grouse as an endangered species. Because Sage Grouse habitat is often managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), BLM has input into that decision and, in November 2013, released a draft plan to protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat throughout Oregon as an alternative to endangered species listing. Echoing a letter ECAS sent to the Oregon Department of Fish and Game in 2011, the Conservation Committee drafted a proposed comment letter on the BLM draft plan, stressing that a moratorium on hunting should be established immediately.



Sage Grouse photo by Cathy Beck

The comment letter proposed by the Conservation Committee was approved unanimously by the Board and submitted to BLM. As one of the lead Oregon Audubon chapters on this issue, it was an important opportunity for our opinions to be heard.

The Conservation Committee also recommended that ECAS comment on the Indian Ford Aquatic Restoration Project proposed by the Sisters Ranger District. The District has received funding to go forward with this project pending a documented environmental assessment (EA). Although the purpose of the project is to restore fish passage and aquatic habitat along Indian Ford Creek, it impacts Calliope Crossing, a locally important bird area. (Calliope Crossing is the area where Pine Street intersects the Indian Ford Creek before joining Indian Ford Road.) The proposed action would remove two culverts and road fill at the stream crossing and close that section of the road to auto traffic. The Committee prepared a letter that commented on the impact of the proposed plan on habitat and avian species. This letter was adopted unanimously by the Board and sent to the Sisters Ranger District. Since this was a "scoping" request, we anticipate being apprised of any future actions and hope to have further input.

Both letters are available on our web-site. Click the "A-Z" tab, then go to "Conservation" and click on the letter you wish to read.

*Sherrie Pierce*

## *Winter 2013-2014 Field Notes*

What a Jekyll and Hyde winter that was! At times, T-shirt weather prevailed. Then one of the coldest arctic blasts in many years hit and caused a mass exodus of birds from our region. Snow was almost non-existent until one of the largest snow storms in decades buried most of the region. I guess I'm just glad I wasn't a bird living outside in that schizophrenic weather. Overall, there were very few unusual birds seen this winter season. Below is a summary of the birding highlights for the wacky winter of 2013-2014.

A few slightly unusual water birds were reported this winter. One ROSS'S GOOSE stayed near the Hatfield Lake area for quite a while. Scattered reports of CACKLING GOOSE and SNOW GOOSE were received, with the majority being seen in December and January. EURASIAN WIGEON reports came in from Madras, Hatfield Lake, and the O'Neil Valley near Prineville. A REDHEAD spent most of the winter at Fireman's Pond in Redmond and a RED-BREASTED MERGANSER was seen in a couple of areas around Terrebonne.

There were a few winter raptor highlights. John and Anne Gerke saw TURKEY VULTURES in both January and February on their Cloverdale Winter Raptor Surveys (Not a raptor report but where else am I going to put it?) PEREGRINE FALCONS were seen near Terrebonne, twice at Hatfield Lake, and on Holmes Road east of Sisters. WESTERN SCREECH-OWLS were located in Powell Butte and Deschutes River Woods. The only NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL sighting came from Warm Springs near the museum. Many people got to see the BARRED OWL on NW Albany in Bend. Peter Low found a LONG-EARED OWL near Smith Rock while doing the Redmond Christmas Bird Count and John Gerke heard the only winter NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL of the season northeast of Sisters.

Small bird reports were few and far between. A few ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS managed to survive in the city of Bend. A very unusual LEWIS'S WOODPECKER showed up between the Old Mill and Drake Park in Bend right around Christmas (most leave our area in early fall). The first Say's Phoebe showed up on January 26. TREE and VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS both arrived around February 22-23. Three BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were seen at Mecca Flats near Warm Springs, and more were seen near the museum in Warm Springs. A SAGE THRASHER, uncharacteristically, spent the winter in a Powell Butte yard. BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS were seen at Hatfield Lake and on Pilot Butte. A SAVANNAH SPARROW was found on Barnes Butte Road north of Prineville in December and a LINCOLN'S SPARROW report was received from the Old Mill area of Bend. Only one WHITE-THROATED SPARROW was seen this winter (east of Bend) while two HARRIS'S SPARROWS were located on the Prineville CBC. TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS were reported from the Madras Stock Yards and north of Prineville. Finally, GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES were found on Gray Butte and on Hwy 27 south of Prineville.

That's it for the 2013-14 highlights. Not a very eventful winter but maybe nature is saving the best for this spring.

*Chuck Gates*

## *What's Happening*

Spring Field Trips include "**Sage Grouse to Snow Geese**" with Judy Meredith on April 13; "**Wickiup Reservoir**" with Jim Moodie on April 19; and **Crook County** with Chuck Gates on May 17. All these are day-long trips; all are free; and all are a great opportunity to visit prime birding spots and get to know fellow birders. Information about the starting time and place will be posted on COBOL approximately a week in advance, or you can contact Judy Meredith at [jmeredith@bendnet.com](mailto:jmeredith@bendnet.com).

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 soon change to 7am as the mornings grow warmer. Be sure to check [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org) for exact starting time and place for each trip. Information is also posted on COBOL. To sign up for COBOL, email [jmoodie@cocc.edu](mailto:jmoodie@cocc.edu).

Birding by Ear with Dave Tracy began in March and continues each Tuesday through June 10. Meet at 8am in the Sawyer Park parking lot for 1 ½ hours of migration-season birding.

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

Fledgling Fun meets on April 8 and May 13 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](http://www.ecaudubon.org).

Young Birders of Central Oregon have a full schedule of spring and summer events, including several overnights. Information is under "Education-Kids" at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org) or from Annette Gerard at 541-385-1799

## *Spring Birders' Nights*

Programs this spring begin on April 17 with an evening of "**Pelagic Birding with Tom Crabtree**". Tom, an ECAS Board member, is currently second on the list of birders who have seen the most species in Oregon, in no small part due to the pelagic species he has seen. Tom will take us on a pelagic birding adventure to view albatrosses, shearwaters, jaegers, petrels, and whales. On May 15, International Crane Foundation research associate Gary Ivey returns with "**Raising Kid Colt – A Story of a Young Sandhill Crane**", a remarkable film about Sandhill Crane family life, including how a young Sandhill Crane colt is raised. On June 19, our program is "**So Much White: Is it Snow or Snow Geese?**" Kelly Hazen, a natural resource specialist with BLM, will deepen our appreciation of the glorious flocks of white geese that appear at Summer Lake, Burns, and Malheur Wildlife Refuge each spring.

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. For more details on speakers and programs, click "Birders' Nights" in the ECAS Info box on our home page at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org).

## *Out of Town: John Scharff Migratory Bird Festival*

The spectacular flocks of white birds that appear on the opening segment of OPB's "Oregon Field Guide" are one of the great birding treats for those of us who live in Central Oregon. You can experience them on our April 13 field trip with Judy Meredith and Karen Gentry (see below) and you can, of course, simply make a day trip to Summer Lake or Burns in late March or the first half of April. Yet another option, one Sherrie Pierce, Cindy Zalunardo, and I enjoyed last year, is the John Scharff Migratory Bird Festival in Burns. This year, the festival will be held April 11-13, at the Burns High School. There will be tours, workshops, speakers, an art show, films, and even a free "Harney County Cattlewomen Beef Tasting". The Saturday night keynote speaker is Noah Stryker on "Bird World: Insights for Humans from the World of Birds". For more information, or to register, go to [www.migratorybirdfestival.com](http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com).

*Mary Oppenheimer*

## *ECAS Grants Now Available*

The ECAS Board of Directors recently adopted an application form and grant-making procedure for funds received under the Laughrige bequest. As a result, grant requests are now accepted from schools and section 501(c)(3) organizations for projects consistent with ECAS' exempt purpose of furthering bird study and conservation through engaging the public in volunteer field studies, through educational programs, or by supporting projects that further the knowledge and appreciation of birds and their habitat. Requests must be focused on activities or projects within Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, Wheeler, Lake, Harney, Sherman, Wasco, or Grant counties. Grant requests up to \$1000 will be accepted, but it's anticipated that the typical grant will be \$500 or less. For an application form, and more information about the application process, please go to "Laughrige Funds" in the "A-Z" topic list on our website. If you know a teacher, school, or organization that may be interested, please pass the word!

## *2013 ECAS Annual Report*

For detailed information on our projects, volunteers, and finances, please check out the Annual Report. Find it in the right-hand box on our Home page at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org)

***Welcome New Members!***  
***Thanks for your support!***

Sally J. Curtis, Crescent  
Susan Daddies, Redmond  
David Drake and Pat Perkins, Redmond

Gary Fokker, Bend  
Don Harker and Sherrie Arsenault, Bend

## *EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY*

P. O. Box 565, Bend Oregon

[www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org)

<p>President                    Vacant  Vice-President            Ken Hashagen  Secretary                 Sherrie Pierce  Treasurer                 Jan Rising  Board Members          Cathy Beck                                       Tom Crabtree                                       Karen Gentry                                       Jon Putnam                                       Kevin Smith</p> <p>Spring 2014 Board Meetings                                       April 1                                       May 6                                       June 3</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 <a href="http://www.ecaudubon.org">www.ecaudubon.org</a>. 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%;">Annual Event</td> <td>Sherrie Pierce</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bluebirds</td> <td>Ken Hashagen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birders' Night</td> <td>Diana Roberts, Nancy Merrick</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communications</td> <td>Jon Putnam</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservation</td> <td>Mike Golden</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>Mary Yanalcanlin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Field Trips</td> <td>Howard Horvath,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finance</td> <td>Terri Hyde</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Green Ridge Raptors</td> <td>Kim Boddie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lake Abort Study</td> <td>Steve Dougill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewis's Woodpeckers</td> <td>Diane Kook</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership</td> <td>Jan Rising</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NAMC</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newsletter</td> <td>Mary Oppenheimer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Science</td> <td>Sue Tank</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Summer Lake Survey</td> <td>Steve Dougill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technology</td> <td>Steve Dougill,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vaux's Swifts</td> <td>Bob Johnson</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Mary Anne Kruse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Volunteers</td> <td>Sherrie Pierce</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday Birders</td> <td>Judy Meredith</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Howard Horvath</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Woodpecker Festival</td> <td>Ken Hashagen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Winter Raptor Survey</td> <td>Jeff Fleisher</td> </tr> </table>	Annual Event	Sherrie Pierce	Bluebirds	Ken Hashagen	Birders' Night	Diana Roberts, Nancy Merrick	Communications	Jon Putnam	Conservation	Mike Golden	Education	Mary Yanalcanlin	Field Trips	Howard Horvath,	Finance	Terri Hyde	Green Ridge Raptors	Kim Boddie	Lake Abort Study	Steve Dougill	Lewis's Woodpeckers	Diane Kook	Membership	Jan Rising	NAMC	Vacant	Newsletter	Mary Oppenheimer	Science	Sue Tank	Summer Lake Survey	Steve Dougill	Technology	Steve Dougill,	Vaux's Swifts	Bob Johnson		Mary Anne Kruse	Volunteers	Sherrie Pierce	Wednesday Birders	Judy Meredith		Howard Horvath	Woodpecker Festival	Ken Hashagen	Winter Raptor Survey	Jeff Fleisher
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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](http://www.ecaudubon.org).