

THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

SPRING 2017

From the Board -- 2016 in Review

2016 was once again a very successful year for our Audubon chapter.

We had a very active grants program, granting funds to many other bird-oriented programs to help them in their conservation efforts. You'll hear about one of the projects we supported, for the North Ford John Day Watershed Council, at our April Birders' Night.

Our Conservation Committee, under the guidance of Tom Lawler, completed a restoration of one of the Cabin Lake photo blinds, installed metal ramps in stock watering tanks, put plastic "flippers" on fence wires to warn low-flying Sage Grouse, and began a program of capping the vent pipes on all the vault toilets in Deschutes National Forest and other national forests in our area. Stu Garrett is leading a major effort to work with State and Federal agencies to improve protections for Sage Grouse.

We had another successful and well-attended Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival in June and closed out 2016 with a great Annual Event. Both events are fund raisers for our chapter and, together, contributed over \$9000 to our bank accounts. Under the guidance of our Treasurer, Terri Hyde, and John Brune, our assistant Treasurer, we continue to be fiscally solvent.

And our volunteers – I can't say enough about them – many, many hours and many, many hours on our various programs. Thanks to each and every one of you! Most of you don't even

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EDITOR'S WARNING: Due to a software glitch on the editor's comp	outer, hyperlinks to
the ECAS website sometimes DO NOT WORK. Other times they do Other hyperlinks are fine.	

claim mileage reimbursement, although reimbursement is available! We couldn't take on half the programs we do without our volunteers. More about this on page 4.

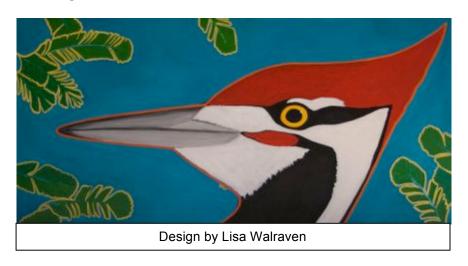
Our CALLIOPE, edited by Mary Oppenheimer, and THE CHATTER, produced by Sherrie Pierce, continue to provide on-line information for our members. Our financial reports and annual reports are also available on our website and together, provide much more information about our programs than I've touched on here. The Board will be reviewing and updating our Strategic Plan in 2017.

At the end of 2016, the Board said good-bye to Sherrie Pierce and Jan Rising, both an integral part of the Board the last six years. Both have "termed out", but both will continue to assist the chapter in many of our activities. Jan and Sherrie's replacements, Diana Roberts and Tom Penpraze, are already actively involved. We also said good-bye to Board member Karen Gentry, who left the Board after one 3-year term.

So – here's to a good 2017! Get involved. Volunteer (we're always looking for new volunteers). Come to our Birders' Night. Go birding with Judy Meredith and the Wednesday Birders or Bird by Ear with Dave Tracy. Go on one of our field trips! Enjoy the birds!

Ken Hashagen, President

Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival 2017



The seventh Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival will be held June 1-4 this year. Based in Sisters, Oregon, and sponsored by ECAS, this festival gives birders the chance to see the eleven species of locally nesting woodpeckers plus many other birds. On-line registration, beginning at 8am April 1, can be accomplished at www.ecaudubon.org.

Several new trips have been added this year. On Friday a tour will begin in Sisters, travel to Bend's Shevlin Park, on to the Lewis's Woodpecker Nestbox Project off Century Drive in Bend, and then to the new Sheridan Burn site by Sunriver. Also on Friday will be a tour of the Ochocos. On Sunday a trip will go to the drier areas of Juniper and Sage.

Popular last year, an overnight trip to Summer Lake on Thursday, and Friday, June 1 and 2, will again be offered, as well as a one day Thursday trip to the area. As usual, a nice variety of full day trips on Saturday and shorter trips on Sunday will travel to woodpecker rich territories in the Sisters area.

The Saturday Social and countdown will again be held at from 5 to 8pm at The Belfry in Sisters, with food and drink available on site. This year's T-shirt, a depiction of the Pileated Woodpecker, continues in the series of designs by artist Lisa Walraven. The shirts will be available through the on-line registration form or for sale at the Belfry Social. All profits from this festival help fund the many ECAS projects. For any questions contact DHWF17@gmail.com . Sherrie Pierce

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

Birders kept busy during winter 1986. Audubon night programs included Stu Garrett on the endangered plants of the area, travels with Jim Anderson, and Bob Powell on Haley's Comet and comets in general. A door prize, a book on Haley's Comet, was given away at Bob's presentation. Sixty to seventy people attended each of these meetings.

Birding activities included trips to Brothers for Sage Grouse and Sycan Marsh for Sandhill Cranes. Projects included building Bluebird and Kestrel boxes and bird surveys at Davis Lake and Big Marsh near Crescent. At USFS Forest Planning meetings, Audubon representatives, questioned the need for clear-cut when selective cutting had worked and emphasized the need for roadless areas and for raptor nesting habitat.

Field notes mentioned a warming trend in January. In January, Karen Theodore found a flock of six Common Redpolls on the COCC campus, only the second county record for them. Common Redpolls were also mentioned in Madras in February. Siskins, waxwings, and grosbeaks were largely absent in the area during January, but during a week in February, there were suddenly "hordes" of Robins, and an estimated 5,000 waxwings, including **500(!) Bohemians** in a flock of Cedar Waxwings. The same month, birders in Redmond and Prineville mentioned Northern Pygmy-Owls and Sharp-shinned Hawks hunting around their feeders. Say's Phoebes were returning in February.

Singing or on territory were first of season Red-winged Blackbirds at the "airport pond" (now defunct) at the Bend Airport on February 9; singing Canyon Wren at Smith Rocks on February 17; Tree Swallow over Harmon Park on February 25; and Violet-green Swallows at Hatfield on March 9. The "drum corps" of Northern Flickers had also started, a welcome sound of spring to some, but very annoying to others.

Forty Sage Grouse displayed on the lek near Brothers, a much higher number than seen for years in the Millican Valley. The first Turkey Vulture was seen March 3 near Tumalo, and soon after they were reported in all local areas. Osprey were noted returning March 29.

Tom Crabtree provided local birders with a useful calendar of average (not earliest) return dates of our common species as of 1986. Here are the data:

April 8	Barn Swallow
April 10	Blue-winged Teal
April 13	Rough-winged Swallow
April 19	Western Sandpiper
April 22	Lincoln's Sparrow
April 24	Orange-crowned Warbler
April 26	Least Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Yellow Warbler
April 27	Western Kingbird, Nashville Warbler

April 29	Chipping Sparrow
May 1	Rufous Hummingbird, Dusky and Western Flycatcher, Western Tanager,
	Lark Sparrow and Brown-headed Cowbird
May 3	Spotted Sandpiper, Cassin's Vireo, Wilson's Warbler
May 4	Common Yellowthroat
May 5	MacGillivray's Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow
May 6	Hermit Thrush, Bullock's Oriole, Lazuli Bunting, Golden-crowned
	Sparrow
May 9	Bank Swallow
May 10	Willow Flycatcher, Western Wood-Peewee, Townsend's Warbler
May 11	Warbling Vireo
May 12	Yellow-breasted Chat
May 13	Ash-throated Flycatcher, Red-necked Phalarope
May 14	Black-throated Gray Warbler, Green-tailed towhee.

Perhaps you may find it interesting to check your calendars or lists for your first sighting this spring. Were your dates earlier than those on the list? And what reasons might there be for changes? Report your sightings to compliers, namely, eBird, COBOL, or directly to Chuck Gates. This historical and current "citizen science" information is so valuable!

Judy Meredith

Volunteers Make the Difference

As President Ken Hashagen has noted in "From the Board", the East Cascades Audubon Society is fueled by volunteer energy. The many conservation projects, administrative duties, committee work, and community education efforts all take people willing to give of their time and expertise in the interest of furthering the ECAS mission. In 2016 152 individuals, including only local Raptor Survey folks, recorded -- and probably under-reported -- putting in 9574 hours and driving 86,023 miles.

The extensive Winter Raptor Survey volunteers' 3098 hours and 44,314 miles bolster these numbers. One of the oldest ECAS Projects, this endeavor now has 205 total volunteers and encompasses routes all over Oregon, a few in northern California and southern Washington, and many in southern Idaho. Compiled and meticulously recorded by leader Jeff Fleischer, mileage reimbursement is small recompense for the valuable data generated by the volunteer reporting.

Other projects generating significant miles and hours were the Green Ridge Raptor Count, 54 volunteers, with an average of 4 hours and 50 miles per visit; Camp Polk Meadow, 24 volunteers with 793 hours and 2006 miles; Lake Abert, 9 volunteers with 100 hours and 4180 miles; Lewis's Woodpeckers, 12 volunteers with 172 hours and 381 miles; Kestrel Nest boxes, 9 volunteers (definitely underreported) with 321 hours and 2259 miles; Bluebird Nest boxes, 5 volunteers with 165 hours and 1095 miles; Summer Lake Shorebird Survey, approximately 18 volunteers, 3360 hours and 5400 miles. Some projects involved fewer volunteers and time and distance reported but were certainly important for the activities undertaken and results achieved.

Thanks to all who helped with any of these activities. Summary data is reported below.

Sherrie Pierce

	MARK DAGGER	Terror and the second	N Anti-
	Volunteers	Hours	Miles
Administrative	22	1290	2809
Board, Membership, Finance, Grants,			
Newsletter, Website			
Projects	343	5330	64,202
Camp Polk, Greenridge, Summer Lake			
Cabin Lake, Sage Grouse, Vent covers, Calliope,			
Abert, Lewis', Kestrels, Bluebirds, Swifts			
Winter Raptor 3098 hrs 44,314, ml.;			
205 volunteers included in totals			
Education	36	1956	11,80
Pre-schoolers, Fledgling Fun, Ed Requests,			9
Birders Night, Birding by Ear, Weds. Birders			
Lights Out, Old Mil Walks, Eagle Cam			
Trips/Events	82	992.25	7209
Field Trips, Earth Day, Eagle Watch, DHWF,	0.5	0	10
Annual Event			
Grand Totals	476	9574.25	86,023

Making It to Wild: Saving Baby Birds

Raising an orphaned baby bird to a fully flighted, healthy bird ready for the wild is challenging. ECAS member Elise Wolf, Executive Director of Native Bird Care, will explain why these birds wind up in care and share fascinating stories, pictures/video, and insights into the lives of our native birds at 7pm Tuesday April 11 at The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas St, Bend. Doors open at 6:30pm for this free event. Like ECAS, Native Bird Care is now live on Amazon smile, so there are now two options for supporting local bird-oriented non-profits.

Winter 2016-2017 Field Notes

There's a well accepted axiom in biology called Allen's Rule which states that animals (or animal parts) with larger surface area to volume ratios will lose heat faster. In English, this means small animals lose heat faster than large animals. This also means that small warm-blooded animals (like birds and mammals) must eat more to maintain their core body temperatures. One would think that small birds would have to leave Central Oregon in winter to deal with this issue. The fact that we have many small birds (nuthatches, chickadees, hummingbirds...) that winter here is just one of the fascinating wonders of our local winter birds. They should migrate out but, wonder of wonders, they stay and survive. Below, you will find examples of more wonders as I summarize the birding highlights for the winter of 20016-17.

Central Oregon waterfowl are relatively abundant as long as the water remains unfrozen. Frigid temperatures this winter froze water early, but we still managed to find some good birds. A few WHITE-FRONTED GEESE and SNOW GEESE stayed in the Redmond and Madras areas into January and in Powell Butte into February (Gonzalez, Smith, Jett et al.) A few CACKLING GEESE managed to beat the ice in Crook County and stay into January and February (Gates. Namitz). December "CACKLERS" were found at Wickiup, Old Mill and Agency Plains (Low). EURASIAN WIGEONS were located in at least 20 locations around Central Oregon this winter (multiple observers). An amazing 5 LONG-TAILED DUCKS (the largest number ever recorded in Central Oregon) were found at Wickiup by Peter Low, and another turned up at Lake Billy Chinook (Horvath). Single Surf Scoters were spotted at Lake Billy Chinook and Wickiup Reservoir in December (Horvath, Low). Wickiup also produced a WHITE-WINGED SCOTER and several GREATER SCAUP in early December (Low). A RED-NECKED GREBE and a PACIFIC LOON were on Lake Billy Chinook for the Utopia CBC, and another Pacific Loon was found at Suttle Lake in early December (Horvath, Dougill). Lake Billy Chinook also produced the only 2017 COMMON LOON, seen by Russ Namitz in early January. DUNLIN and LEAST SANDPIPERS were located at the Prineville and Redmond Sewer Ponds (Dougill, Gates).

Game Birds and raptors often over-winter in our area. CHUKAR turned up at Trout Creek Campground in northern Jefferson County (Low) and GRAY PARTRIDGE were found for the first time in several years around the Agency Plains region north of Madras (Walters). WILD TURKEYS were fairly abundant in the Sisters area and others showed up just southeast of Prineville (Hashagen, Schas, Halvorson).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS were pretty abundant with winter birds spotted in Powell Butte, Prineville, and Bend (Zalunardo, Gonzalez, Gerke). A couple of "HARLAN'S" RED-TAILED HAWKS were found by Peter Low and Tom Crabtree in the Powell Butte area. A single



PEREGRINE FALCON was located at Pelton Overlook near Warm Springs in January (Low, Rems). Another Peregrine was seen in Sisters (Schas) and several people reported this species throughout the winter at Smith Rock (Thomas, Namitz et al.). WESTERN SCREECH-OWLS were heard in Powell Butte, Crooked River Ranch, and north of Sisters (Gates, Smith, Tank). Sue Tank also reported a calling SAW-WHET OWL at her place 11 miles north of Sisters on January 11. OSPREY remained in the area into December and began coming back near mid-February (Dougill, Blue Heron).

Many perching birds move out of our area, especially when we have huge snowfall like we had this winter. Sparrow numbers were especially low. That said, a few goodies did show up. SAY'S PHOEBES began showing up on February 17 (Zalunardo). BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were tallied a couple of times near Trout Creek Campground north of Madras (Low, Miller, Scranton). A CANYON WREN was also seen in the same area (Low). AMERICAN PIPITS were tallied at the Old Mill, near Redmond, and at Ochoco Reservoir (Low, Gonzalez, Gaspari). Central Oregon's third record for WHITE-WINGED DOVE showed up in Central Redmond and spent the winter (Miller fide).

It was a nice winter across the state for BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS. While several were reported in Bend, the real excitement came from Crook County. In the last 30 years, only once had this bird been reported from Crook. This year, three different flocks were found in the eastern part of the county (multiple observers in Bend, Crook observers were Groo, Gates, C. Miller, M. Miller, Nordstrom, Wolfe, Staats).



Bohemian Waxwing at Prineville Reservoir
Photo by Chuck Gates

Occasionally, SAVANNAH SPARROWS can be found locally in winter, and a single bird was noted on Agency Plains (Low). WHITE-THROATED were found on the First Street Trail in Bend (Low). and this species was joined by a HARRIS'S SPARROW at Jake Schas's feeders in Sisters. A small group of LAPLAND LONGSPURS were pulled out of a large Horned Lark flock on Agency Plains in mid-January (Namitz, Gates). Two COMMON REDPOLLS found by Steve Dougill in Redmond were the only reports of this species this winter.

The next time you are sitting in your cozy nook watching the snow fall, think of those little birds out there losing heat at a rate faster than you and wonder how they do it. This is just one of the things that makes what we do so fun.

OBSERVERS: Mark Gonzalez, Kevin Smith, Courtney Jett, Chuck Gates, Russ Namitz, Peter Low, Eric Horvath, Steve Dougill, Spencer Walters, Ken Hashagen, Jake Schas, Ron Halvorson, Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Pat Blue Heron, Cindy Zalunardo, John Gerke, Anne Gerke, Tom Crabtree, Lew Rems, Evan Thomas, Sue Tank, Chris Scranton, Andrew Gaspari, Tyler Groo, Jeff Nordstrom, Walt Wolfe, Scott Staats

Spring Specials -- Migration and Breeding Birds

- **Birding by Ear** meets in the Sawyer Park parking lot at 8am each Tuesday from March until early June. Dave Tracy leads this informal group, which walks through the park for approximately an hour and a half observing and listening to the birds of spring. Sawyer Park stretches along the Deschutes River in Bend, and is located at 62999 O. B. Riley Road, just north of McKay's Cottage and the Shilo Inn. Free and open to all.
- The Harney County Migratory Bird Festival (formerly the Scharff Festival), headquartered in Burns, will take place April 6-9, with World Big Year record-holder Noah Stryker as the keynote speaker on Saturday, April 8. The number and variety of tours and other activities have increased each year, and this year a number of tours still have a few seats available as we go to press. For information, or to register, go to www.migratorybirdfestival.com. If you want to enjoy the birds of that area 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!
- Old Mill Bird Walks will take place April 7 & 21, May 5 & 19. These are free weekly bird walks offered to the public on Friday mornings. The walks are guided by volunteers from the East Cascades Audubon Society and wind around the trails of the Old Mill District that run along the Deschutes River. The bi-weekly, approximately two-hour walks are appropriate for all ages and interested parties, from novices to experienced avian experts. Groups will meet at 10 am at the Ticket Mill in the heart of the Old Mill District, where binoculars are available for check out. Participants can also pick up a specially designed birding list to help identify birds and some common animals seen along the walk.
- Summer Lake Shorebird Breeding Survey on May 20-21 provides a great opportunity to
 visit areas of the Summer Lake Wildlife Refuge that are usually closed to the public while
 engaging in citizen science that greatly helps refuge manager Marty St. Louis. ECAS
 member Mike Bogar has stepped into the role of coordinator, replacing long-time ECAS
 coordinator Steve Dougill, who is doing research in Australia. If you are interested in
 participating, contact Mike at mike@aviNord.net.

What's Happening

<u>Field Trips</u>. Tom Penpraze, our new Field Trip Coordinator, has put together a full schedule for spring, summer, and fall. In a departure from past practice, several trips will involve overnight stays. These trips, which are 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.

- May 6 -- Wilds of Crook County with Chuck Gates. Full day.
- May 7 -- Sage & Juniper East of Bend with Judy Meredith. Full day.
- June 9-11 -- Malheur NWR with Tom Penpraze. Three days.
- June 25 -- Fort Rock and Summer Lake with Tom Penpraze. Full day.
- August 20-21 -- Ochocos and Total Eclipse with Judy Meredith. Two days.
- September 8-10 -- South Oregon Coast with Tom Penpraze. Three days.
- Mid-October -- **Oregon Coast** with Judy Meredith. Dates to be announced.

Starting time and location, contact information and other details will be announced on COBOL and our website.. Sign up for COBOL at http://lists.oregonstate.edu/mailman/listinfo/cobol.

<u>Wednesday Birders</u> 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.

<u>Fledgling Fun</u> next meets on April 10 with "Bird Behavior" and concludes the school year on May 8 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 are on our website.

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 20 -- What's Going on at the North Fork of the John Day? Elaine Eisenbraun, Executive Director of the North Fork of the John Day Watershed Council, will give us an overview of the Council's habitat restoration work and how it has involved the local community, especially teens. She'll touch on some critical species as she explains historical bird data of the Blue Mountains. She will describe how ECAS grants have helped serve the Council's purpose and also describe their new acoustic monitoring program for birds and bats.
- May 18 -- Coastal Conservation Issues and Strategies The Land and Sea Connection.
 Paul Engelmeyer, Coastal Important Bird Area Coordinator Audubon Society of Portland,
 Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary, and respected coastal conservation voice, will speak about the
 conservation work he is doing. He will talk about Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve, efforts to

protect the prey base for seabirds, and the unique habitat requirements for the Endangered Species Act listed Marbled Murrelet. His presentation will include information about the designated Globally Significant Central Coast Marbled Murrelet Important Bird Area. He will also update us on the status of Oregon's marine reserve process, including the formation of the Oregon Marine Reserve Partnership.

• June 15 -- Oregon Trumpeter Swans. Gary Ivey has worked with wildlife for forty years, concentrating his work on water-birds, waterfowl, and wetland conservation in the western U.S. He served as a biologist at several western National Wildlife Refuges for 18 years, including 15 years at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. He has worked for the International Crane Foundation since 2007, serving as their lead for Sandhill Crane conservation and research in western North America. Gary also serves on the Board of the Trumpeter Swan Society and is their lead on Oregon's Trumpeter Swan Restoration project.

Special thanks to the Grant County Bird Club for its donation to ECAS in consideration of ECAS's support of their club and birding in general in Oregon.

Welcome New Members!

Thanks for your support!

Jette Morache Susan Bettis Portland Bend Wayne & Patty Bowers Terrebonne Mark Neudorfer Bend Nancy Chaffee Mary Ann Pogany Prineville Bend Pat Corkill Warrenton, OR Robin & James Robinson Bend Daniel Grieser Bend Scott & Janice Staats Prineville Caroline Howe Bend Karen Sweigert Sisters Jean Vertefeuille-Cutler Karen Lester Bend Bend

Thanks as well to our Life Members, For their major commitment to supporting ECAS programs and projects

Ann Aines

Jim & Sue Anderson
Susan Cobb
Tom Crabtree
Lynn & Chuck Cross
Cal & Alice Elshoff
Kris Falco

Ted Groszkiewicz
Steve Kornfeld
Glen Lindeman
Georgia Marshall
Mary Oppenheimer
Kevin & Kei Smith
Sandra & David Smith

Elizabeth & John Farwell Loren Smith

Chuck Gates Darwin & Lynette Wile

John & Anne Gerke

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 565, Bend Oregon www.ecaudubon.org

Board Members

Ken Hashagen Tom Lawler Danielle Lordi Terri Hyde John Brune

Assistant Treasurer John Brune
Board Members Ted Groszkiewicz

Tom Penpraze Diana Roberts

Spring 2017 Board Meetings

April 4 May 2 June 6

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Vice-President

Board meetings are held at 6pm at The Environmental Center on the first Tuesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend. Board minutes are posted at ecaudubon.org after approval by the Board.

Contact information for Board members, Committee Chairs, and Project Leaders is posted at the "Contact Us" button on the ECAS website.

Committee and Event Chairs

Annual Event Ken Hashagen Bluebirds Ken Hashagen Birders' Night Sue Bertsch Communications Diana Roberts Tom Lawler Conservation Education Diana Roberts Field Trips Tom Penpraze Finance Terri Hyde Green Ridge Leanna Taylor & Raptor Count David Vick Lake Abert Study John Reuland Lewis's Woodpeckers Diane Kook Membership Jan Rising

Newsletter Mary Oppenheimer Science Ken Hashagen Summer Lake Survey Mike Bogar

Technology Ted Groszkiewicz
Vaux's Swifts Bob Johnson

Mary Ann Kruse Mardi Jensen &

Volunteers Mardi Jensen & Sherrie Pierce

Judy Meredith Howard Horvath

Woodpecker Festival Ken Hashagen Winter Raptor Survey Jeff Fleisher

Wednesday Birders

If you would like to volunteer for a committee or event, please contact Mardi Jensen at donmardi@bendbroadband.com.

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.