

# THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019



## President's Message

*By Tom Lawler*

**The Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival (DHWF) 2019** has come and gone. This year we had attendees from three countries, England, Australia and Canada and 14 states outside Oregon. National attendees came from near and far with a good number traveling from the east coast, south and Midwest. Our "local" attendees came from the Central and Western areas of the state. The DHWF attracts and keeps attracting attendees from national and international locales.

All this would not be possible without a dedicated group of volunteers who organize this event. A shout-out to the DHWF Committee members Ken Hashagan, Chuck Gates, Judy Meredith, Terri Hyde, Ted Groszkiewicz, Diane Burgess and Sherrie Pierce. Speaking of Sherrie, she put in a tremendous amount of time registering the attendees. This is the first year we used Member Planet for registration. That would not have been possible without all the help from Liz Thill. In addition to these volunteers, there were 26 guides who led 24 trips over a period of four days. These guides put in 875 volunteer hours and over 6300 miles of driving for scouting and guiding trips. A big thank you to everyone who helped make the 2019 DHWF a success.

The common theme is that volunteers are responsible for the DHWF. The DHWF is the biggest fundraiser for your Audubon Society. As Committee members decide they have served "their time" it will take new blood to keep the DHWF going. Same with the guides. If you are interested in working on the Committee or being a guide next year please let our volunteer coordinator, Mardi Jensen, know at: [donmardi@bendbroadband.com](mailto:donmardi@bendbroadband.com). A good way to become a guide is to help out an experienced guide. Please give it some thought.

An upcoming opportunity to help out is the **Green Ridge Hawk Watch**. Watch for information about this event on Central Oregon Birders Online (COBOL) <https://groups.io/g/COBOL> or on the ECAS website [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org). David Vick will be the coordinator for this event.

In the meantime, enjoy our beautiful summer, whether bird watching or whatever outdoor activity you enjoy.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Annual ECAS Potluck Picnic July 18

There will be no Birders" Night in July. Instead join members at the Shevlin Park Aspen Pavilion (first main shelter on the south side of the road) from 4 pm until dark. Please bring a food item to share and bring your own eating utensils and beverages. **Alcoholic beverages are NOT permitted.** Come early and bird before the picnic.

### SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, October 17 - Annual Event

- Honor ECAS Volunteers
- Watch the ever-popular Year-in-Review
- Speaker to be announced
- Socialize and enjoy refreshments
- Annual business meeting and election of new board members
- At NEW venue: the Pine Forest Grange, 63214 Boyd Acres Road, Bend

### Wednesday Birders

Meet at Nancy P's Bakery on Newport Avenue just east of Newport Market in Bend. From there we depart on weekly half day or full day trips by carpool to birding spots in our area. Meet-up time is 7AM in the Spring and Summer. Transportation is via carpool depending on who can drive and individual schedules. Dress for the weather; be prepared with food, sunscreen, etc; dress in layers and bring a pair of binoculars; spotting scopes are helpful on many trips. Trip plans are posted on [COBOL](#) each week prior to the trip. Contact [Judy Meredith](#) at [jmeredit@bendnet](mailto:jmeredit@bendnet) for more information.

### Birder's Nights

*by Sue Bertsch*

Come gather with ECAS every third Thursday of the month (except July) at the Environmental Center in Bend. There's time for coffee and conversation with other birders, a slideshow of pictures taken by featured photographers, and informative presentations on a wide range of topics.

**Location:** [The Environmental Center](#), 16 N/W Kansas, Bend, Oregon 97701

**Time:** Social gathering time is from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Program from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Free and open to the public.

**August 15 - Linda Sharp.** Linda grew up in Paulina, Oregon, watching her family's yardbirds. After her move to Africa in 1968, she became more interested in birds and photographing them. She was a member of a wetland bird research group and did bird counts for them. She will be showing about 80 pictures of birds that she has taken in Côte.



Purple Glossy Starlings



Linda at home in Ferkessoudougou

## **September 19 - Patty McGill, Ph.D**

### **Penguins in Peru? 32 Years Saving an Endangered Species**

Dr. McGill will talk about penguins found in temperate and tropical zones. Her primary emphasis will be her field work monitoring Humboldt penguins in Peru. During extensive field expeditions, she was able to uncover some of the patterns aligned with success or failure of populations along the coast. Dr. McGill also works with conservation of the rapidly declining African penguin and will briefly compare some of the challenges facing the two species.

Patty McGill recently retired from a career in ornithology, conservation and education. She served as Vice President for Conservation & Education at the Dallas Zoo, Director of two North Texas Audubon Centers, and Senior Vice President of Animal Management at Brookfield Zoo in Chicago. Because of her long involvement with Humboldt penguins both in Zoos and in the wild, she was encouraged to lead the conservation efforts for African penguins. Dr. McGill earned both her Master of Science in Wildlife Management and PhD in Vertebrate Biology/Ornithology from Cornell University. She studied the ecology and behavior of seabirds in New England and Tasmania, Australia.

Questions? Contact Sue at [lindasuebertsch@gmail.com](mailto:lindasuebertsch@gmail.com)

# Birding for Preschoolers

*By Mary Yanalcanlin*

Twelve youngsters and their parents/caretakers enjoyed a great hour of birding and nature exploration at Drake Park on a recent June Monday.

It started with an overabundance of energy so a tree touch and run was necessary before looking for birds...to the maple, the juniper, the larch, the ponderosa pine, the locust (at least that's what I've been calling it), and ending at a different maple. A couple of the regulars know their trees by now and the rest of the kiddos just race after them.

There were some busy House Sparrows and Pygmy Nuthatches flitting around but the kiddos were more fascinated by their hearts beating fast. So we talked about exercise being good for muscles...and that the heart is a strong muscle that keeps pumping for as long as we live (or until the end of the world according to one of them). Suddenly Myra (4 years old) shouted and pointed out an accipiter that flew over and landed deep in a far away juniper. And then Ivy (6) located an American Crow perched at the top of a nearby ponderosa. We were debating whether it was a crow or a raven when it cawed and flew away...American Crow for sure.

Uhhh...they still had an excess of energy now that their heart rates were back to normal so we raced to the tree with palmate leaves "because it has five leaflets from the center part just like our palms" (I'm always fascinated with these youngsters' interest in and retention of new words.) I'm not sure what the tree is...I've wondered if it's a buckeye. Anyway it has a brick circle surrounding it so they ran five times around the circle before taking turns climbing on and jumping off the petrified wood pieces. (Some weeks are better for actual birding than others.)

From there they recognized the mallard decoy still anchored in the river and (you guessed it) raced to throw pine cones at it. I did have to intervene and defend them when a very distraught woman started to reprimand them to NEVER throw things at animals. She acted quite surprised when we pointed out it was a fake...and then to demonstrate what good naturalists these kids are, some Mallards started to swim our way and all of the kiddos immediately stopped their throwing...AND SPONTANEOUSLY STARTED MAKING OBSERVATIONS! Great group of kids!!!!

From there we headed to the "popcorn" flower tree (no clue as to its name). They did become distracted by a mud puddle with water in it. They were putting bits of grass and cones and mud in it when one of them discovered a bug drowning so they had to save it.

After that excitement I had them all sit on the retaining wall and watch "nature TV". We have to be silent for this part and try not to excitedly point once the House Sparrows and Brewer's Blackbirds start their busy activities flitting in and out of the bush. There was at least one adult House Sparrow trying to feed a fledgling. We then moved to the railing/fence at the edge of the river and once again became silent to watch the river show. There was a goose-scattering kayak with companion dog doing its job so we got to observe several take offs and landings of Canada Geese. And then they discovered the ladybugs on the plants!



Our action packed hour was winding down so they all chose a bird to imitate as they ran/flew/hopped/soared to the designated tree. Then they were able to choose any animal (cheetahs are a favorite...although there was at least one elephant and a couple of Peregrine Falcons) to imitate as they ran (at this point birds no longer fly...they run...and try to be faster than any of the others) to the waiting spot to get a coloring sheet to take home.

And another Birding For Preschoolers is declared a success.

**Preschoolers and their adult can join Mary every Monday at 10am at Drake Park (meet near the restroom in the center of the park) for more nature adventures. Questions? Contact Mary at [birdingfun@gmail.com](mailto:birdingfun@gmail.com)**

Artwork by Summitt Rain

Summitt Rain Foltz-Moodie is an 8th student at Cascade Middle School and has always had an interest in art. So when her social studies teacher, Mrs. Boon, made an assignment to help a non-profit, Summitt decided to create artwork for ECAS. Such a great idea! Her artwork has appeared in the June *Chatter* and above in the Summer *Calliope*. Thank you, Summitt!

"I was so impressed with Summit's volunteer work for your newsletter. The entire 8th grade class at Cascade Middle School participated in a service learning project to give back to their community by committing ten hours of non-compensated time back to the community. The project, Helping Hands, has been at Cascade for over ten years, so it's truly a right of passage, so to speak, for our school. We are always looking for ways to help support connecting students to our community, so I'd be happy for you to include our project information in the newsletter."

-- Leah Boon, Cascade Middle School 8th grade Humanities teacher

# Sunriver Nature Center Saturday Bird Walks

Saturdays | 8:30am - 11:30am

Join local expert birder Tom Lawler to discover the rich bird habitats of Sunriver. Bird walks are offered most Saturday mornings throughout the summer and binoculars are available to borrow. Register online or drop-in. The schedule is at:

<https://snco.org/learn-explore/educational-programs/adult-lectures-programs/>

## 2019 Summer and Fall Field Trips

*by Mary Shivell, field trip coordinator*

**June, 2019 Hosmer Lake Birding by Kayak** Diane Burgess, ECAS Board Member, offered a birding-by-kayak experience on Hosmer Lake located off the Cascade Lakes Highway.

**September, 2019 Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Steens Mountain** Judy Meredith is developing a trip of the Wednesday Birders with an overnight stay possible depending on weather and other factors.

**October, 2019 Oregon Coast** (TBD) late October is a possible time frame for the anticipated arrival of winter birds.

Interested in offering a trip this fall? Contact [mvshivell@gmail.com](mailto:mvshivell@gmail.com)

### Trip Registration Process: Five Things to Remember

- ECAS members (those who have paid the membership fee) are invited **first**. At the leader's discretion, a COBOL broadcast can be made if the trip doesn't fill with members.
- If you are a member, the trip invitation will arrive in your email, with a general description, an RSVP tab (Yes/No) and trip information. If you RSVP **Yes**, you will get a confirmation email.
- If the trip is filled, feel free to contact the trip leader (email is in the trip information) and tell him/her you want to be contacted if anyone cancels.
- Be sure to **cancel** if your plans change!
- Don't forget the **trip waiver**, which must be done for each trip you attend. This is because the physical demand and risks for each trip are different.

A copy of the Field Trip Policy is available [here](#).

**THANK YOU** to Mark Gonzalez, Chuck Gates, Howard Horvath, David Vick and Diane Burgess for the trips they offered this spring and summer!

## Cape Perpetua Land-Sea Symposium

*By Tara DuBois, Communications Coordinator, Cape Perpetua Area Collaborative*

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Cape Perpetua Land-Sea Symposium will be on **Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:00pm-8:30pm**. More details to come once we finalize the agenda. RSVP [here](#) to receive updates as the event date nears and the agenda has been confirmed.

## Lake Abert Surveys - Volunteers Needed

*By John Reuland, coordinator*

Thanks to the winter snow and spring rainfall water levels in Lake Abert are high and rising right now. Birding this spring has been good, but a little more difficult than last year because the high water has spread the birds out and away from the east shoreline. But, with a little help from the weather (some summer sunshine will help), we should have another great birding season this summer.

The data that we have collected since 2011 has been very helpful to those studying the lake and other brine lakes throughout the west. And national Audubon has taken an interest in our study as well as the bigger picture. And most important, ECAS would like to continue the surveys.

So – a call for help: We hope to conduct weekly surveys beginning the first week in July and running through mid-September. If you are interested in helping with these surveys, have a free day during that period, and have access to a scope, please contact me at [jreuland@comcast.net](mailto:jreuland@comcast.net) I can provide you with protocols and general information on the surveys and sign you up for one of the 12 weeks. (Past surveyors – just send me the dates you want or, if you have access, just put your name in the appropriate column on the google spreadsheet.)

If you are a little unsure about doing the surveys alone but would like to help– let me know also. You are welcome to join me on one of the surveys that I will do. I will be doing a few surveys this summer, but don't have dates picked yet. (I prefer to let other volunteers choose their dates first and I can fill in where needed.)

Dates (weekend indicated, but doing the survey earlier in the week is OK if that works for you)

Jun 29-30

Jul 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28

Aug 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25

Aug 31 - Sep 1

Sep 7-8, 14-15

Thanks in advance for your support, and good birding.

John Reuland

## RECENT HAPPENINGS:

### 2019 Spring Field Notes

*by Chuck Gates*

The thing I love most about spring birding is the daily anticipation of something weird. You just never know when a rare bird or unusual sighting will occur. Below is a summary of the weird and the wonderful birds of Central Oregon in the spring of 2019.

Waterfowl are a spring staple. Spring water bird news was headlined by the presence of a **TUNDRA BEAN-GOOSE** discovered at the Crooked River Wetlands in Prineville (Beerman). It stayed into the spring season and was last seen on May 3 (Robb).



Tundra Bean-Goose, Crooked River Wetlands, April 20, 2019, Don Sutherland

TRUMPETER SWANS were located at Ochoco Reservoir (Pihl), Crooked River Canyon (Webster), near Post (Gates) and at Haystack Reservoir (Gates). The last GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE of the season was found on Houston Lake on May 29 (Gates, Bowers). SNOW GEESE popped up in many locations like Houston Lake, Hatfield Lake, Johnson Pond in Alfalfa and the Crooked River Wetlands Complex (Mult. Obs.). A late CACKLING GOOSE was seen at Pelton Overlook on May 9 and a VERY late SURF SCOTER was at the same location through the middle of May (Bradford, Mult. Obs.). A HYBRID AMERICAN X EURASIAN WIGEON loitered at the Crooked River Wetlands for several weeks (Gates) and a GREATER SCAUP was spotted at Hatfield Lake on April 27 (Horvath). Another



GREATER SCAUP was seen at the Crooked River Wetlands on May 18 (Cook). A rare spring PACIFIC LOON was found on Wickiup Reservoir (Moodie) and a RED-NECKED GREBE was at the same location on May 8 (Jenkins, Burgess). HORNED GREBE reports came in from The Old Mill Area (Moodie), Wickiup Reservoir (Low) and Haystack Reservoir (White). In addition to the traditional AMERICAN BITTERNs that nest at Houston Lake, bittern reports came in from the Crooked River Wetlands (Ramos, Gates) and, surprisingly, from Calliope Crossing (Kershner, Green). A GREAT EGRET was spotted near Paulina (Gates) and **GREEN HERONS** were seen at Suttle Lake (Burgess, Vine, Thomas, Jakse), Prineville (Zalunardo) and near Dillon Falls (Rein). **YELLOW RAILS** were found near the Sunriver Marina for a first Deschutes County record (Cahill). An astonishing flock of 89 SANDHILL CRANES were seen flying over Bend on March 3 (Low, Popp).



American Bittern, Houston Lake, May 8, Chuck Gates

Shorebirds and gulls are more commonly seen in the fall migration, but a few good spring birds show up annually in our area. The Crooked River Wetlands alone produced the following unusual shorebirds this spring: BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (Low), several BLACK-NECKED STILT (Kimball, Wolf), AMERICAN AVOCET (Gates), LESSER YELLOWLEGS (Gonzalez), WILLET (Gonzalez), BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (Cook, Reubon), SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (Bowman) and very late RED-NECKED PHALAROPES (Gates, Wolf). A GREATER YELLOWLEGS stayed at Hatfield Lake through May for a late date (Ostrander). A SOLITARY SANDPIPER was seen north of Brothers on May 22 (Reuben) and a LONG-BILLED CURLEW was at Hatfield on March 24 (Souhrada). HERRING GULLS were reported from The Old Mill (Kruse) and Wickiup Reservoir (Low). FRANKLIN'S GULLS were located at the Crooked River Wetlands (Gates, Authier), Hatfield Lake (Jett) and Houston Lake (Gates). For the very first

time, a **SABINE'S GULL** was seen in Central Oregon in the spring (at Hatfield, C. Miller, M. Miller) and a very early FORSTER'S TERN was found at the Crooked River Wetlands on April

20 (Zalunardo, Jett, Gates, Authier). After a drought-driven absence of several years, the historic BLACK TERN colony in Paulina Valley had several attending birds in the late season (Corkran).

Spring is perhaps the best season to find the more unusual game birds. They are often more vocal this time of year and reveal themselves to the intrepid birder. The Millican SAGE GROUSE LEK was sparsely used this year with a high of 3 birds seen on April 9 (Wright). The only local MOUNTAIN QUAIL report for Central Oregon came in from the Sisters area (Tank). Also, the only CHUKAR report was a single bird from Mecca Flats near Warm Springs (Crouch). A BAND-TAILED PIGEON was seen coming to a feeder above the Crooked River Wetlands in Prineville on May 18 (Niwa, French).

Many of our local raptors are abundant and fairly easy to find. Others may be less abundant, more secretive or they may migrate out of the area. The first SWAINSON'S HAWKS of the year appeared over the Crooked River Wetlands on April 20 (Gonzalez). PEREGRINE FALCONS are not rare in Central Oregon but an individual at Calliope Crossing seemed a bit out of place (Denzer). Camp Sherman produced the only GREAT GRAY OWL report this spring (Kiacz) while the only WESTERN SCREECH-OWL was found near Crane Prairie (Cahill). FLAMMULATED OWLS were heard calling west of Sisters (Gonzalez) and one was found perching in the open during the day near Ryan Meadow (Thomas). A pair of BURROWING OWLS were found near Paulina, but they failed to stay for the nesting season (Tomlinson). The only NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL sighting happened near the Great Gray Owl west of Camp Sherman.



Flammulated Owl, Ryan Meadow, May 28, Evan Thomas

The Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival was a categorical success with 170+ species seen over the extended weekend. Eleven species of woodpeckers were tallied. Though 20 people drove over 4500 miles and spent 450 hours scouting for the festival, no one was able to locate an American Three-toed Woodpecker nest. As a consolation prize, an **ACORN WOODPECKER**

turned up at a feeder near Sisters (Freudenthal) to bring the total historic number of woodpecker species seen at the festival to 12. Several hybrids between RED-NAPED and RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKERS were located and one **LEUCISTIC RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER** was found attending a nest cavity. This marks the second time a leucistic woodpecker has been found in Central Oregon. According to Steve Shunk (Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America), leucism is rare in North American woodpeckers. Elsewhere, a YELLOW-SHAFTED NORTHERN FLICKER was found on Fort Rock Road on March 30 (Moodie). A migrating LEWIS'S WOODPECKER showed up in the town of Powell Butte, well away from appropriate habitat (Zalunardo).

Passerines (perching birds) migrate through our area on their way to rich feeding grounds to our north. Some stop in for a visit and a few stay to take advantage of resources in our little version of bird paradise. BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS turned up at feeders in Sisters (Tackmier), east of Prineville (Peters), and in Bend (Souhrada). An early HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER was located by the Birding-by-Ear class at Sawyer Park on April 16 (Tracy). The big news in Wheeler County was the presence of a LEAST FLYCATCHER for a county first (Strycker). The wintering BLACK PHOEBE at the Crooked River Wetlands stayed until March 24 (C. Miller) and EASTERN KINGBIRD reports came in from Mecca Flats (Crouch), Paulina (Authier Jr.) and Hatfield Lake (Williams). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were found at Sawyer Park (Jett), Paulina Hwy (Gates, Tice), Lithgow Spring on Gray Butte (Gates, Strycker) and Powell Butte Cemetery (Gates). BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were found by several people near Trout Creek Campground and near the Warm Springs Museum in Jefferson County (Mult. Obs.). A single birder reported seeing 4 CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES along the Corral Swamp and Winopee Lake Trails in SW Deschutes County (Addison). A HOUSE WREN that appeared at Camp Polk Meadow on March 28 was especially early (Dougill). It seemed to be a good year for SWAINSON'S THRUSH with reports coming in from Indian Ford Campground (Jenkins), Black Pine Springs (Frueh) and Trout Creek Swamp (Shunk, Erland, Freiboth, Cahill). YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT were located at Lower Bridge (Moodie, Golden) and Tumalo Reservoir (Low) as well as more expected locations in Crook County. Early in the



spring, several locations including Agency Plains (Cahill, Gates, White), Brothers (Cahill), Hatfield Lake (Burgess, Sizoo, Jakse) and Powell Butte (Gates, Zalunardo, Tinsley, Vick) produced nearly 15 total LAPLAND LONGSPURS.

Lapland Longspur, Hatfield Lake, May 2 Bob Sizoo

April 14 was an early date for the first Lark Sparrow of the year (Sizoo) and a VESPER SPARROW found at Hatfield Lake on March 17 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> earliest record ever for Central Oregon (Low). The last SOOTY FOX SPARROW of the year was seen in Sisters on March 4 (Crofton) and the first THICK-BILLED FOX SPARROW was seen on March 23 in Gateway

(Miller, Low). HARRIS'S SPARROWS turned up at Gateway (Low, C. Miller) and The Old Mill in Bend (Mauer).

The Old Mill (Cahill), La Pine (Lawler) and Wickiup Reservoir (Jenkins, Burgess) were all locations where WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were seen. Incredibly, a LAZULI BUNTING was heard and then seen south of Sisters a full 5 weeks earlier than any previous record on March 15 (Tank). A GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE was briefly noted at Reynolds Pond in Alfalfa on May 7 (Buck) and a COMMON GRACKLE flew over a car traveling in Redmond (C. Miller). Traditional breeding sites in Crook County produced TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS (Gates, Engler) and BOBOLINK (Authier, Authier Jr.). A surprising March COMMON REDPOLL report came in from Bend (Meredith) and 15 GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES were found near Dee Observatory on May 3 (Wilson).

There you are. There certainly were some weird sightings and some wonderful sightings. That's what makes birding fun.

**OBSERVERS** – Roberta Pihl, Mary Webster, Chuck Gates, Aaron Beerman, Roger Robb, Wayne Bowers, Matt Cahill, Peter Low, Kara Jakse, Evan Thomas, Bob Sizoo, Cindy Zalunardo, Mark Gonzalez, Judy Meredith, Milton Vine, Bill Tice, Bill Bradford, Noah Strycker, Audrey Allison, Howard Horvath, Justin Cook, Jim Moodie, Brian White, Aaron Jenkins, Diane Burgess, Will Wright, Suzanne Hansen, Rachel Hudson, Sue Tank, Carter Crouch, Scott Ramos, Eric Kershner, Michael Green, Dorothy Gates, David Vick, David Rein, Isaac Denzer, Diana Popp, Daniel Kimball, Erik Wolf, Erik Ostrander, Glen Reubon, Peyton Cook, Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Courtney Jett, Bob Authier Sr., Robert Authier Jr., Mary Ann Kruse, Char Corkran, Doug Niwa, Mary French, Simon Kiacz, Iain Tomlinson, Kristen Tackmier, Sharon Peters, Jack Souhrada, Allen Freudenthal, Dave Tracy, Dick Williams, Mike Golden, Ben Frueh, Kai Frueh, Steve Shunk, Heidi Erland, Kari Freiboth, Joel Tinsley, David Vick, Clay Crofton, Alan Mauer, Tom Lawler, Vickie Buck, Joseph Engler, Heather Wilson.

## **BLUEBIRDS 2019 - A Mid-Season Report**

*by Ken Hashagen, ECAS Bluebird Project coordinator*

ECAS currently supports two bluebird trails. One, headed by Carolyn Rochelle and Bob Burke, has a total of 15 boxes at their house and about 10 miles south of Sisters. The other trail, monitored by Ken Hashagen, has 11 boxes in Sisters and another 14 boxes about 10 miles south of Sisters. Ken bands as many of the young birds from both trails as he can.

2019 has not been a good year so far. We had a cold, wet spring at the time both Mountain Bluebirds and Western Bluebirds were looking for nest sites. Cold weather affects insect production and birds are not ready to nest until there is a good insect hatch to feed the nestlings. Carolyn and Bob reported (as of 06.08.19) that 7 of her 15 boxes are empty, as opposed to just 1 empty box at this time last year. Three boxes have been taken over by swallows, nuthatches, and wrens. Six boxes have had no activity in them at all this year. Of his 14 boxes south of Sisters, Ken reports 9 boxes with bluebirds, 3 with no activity at all, and 2 inhabited by wrens or tree swallows. Another indication of how poor 2019 is: Ken had banded

53 young bluebirds by 06.09.18; this year he has banded only 18. Ken found 3 young Mountain Bluebirds dead in their nest and another 3 were eaten by ants this year.

Ken will submit a final report at the end of the 2019 nesting season. Hopefully, the results will improve, with some of the birds producing a second clutch.

## **DHWF 2019 - A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!**

*by Ken Hashagen, Festival Coordinator*

Sunday, June 2 was the conclusion of another very successful Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival. All the trips for the 3½- day Festival were fully booked, and the weather was great! Participants came from all over: Australia, Texas, Vermont, and North Carolina, among other states. California and Oregon, as usual, were well represented.

Many of our members may not know that the Festival is an all-volunteer effort that nets the Chapter between \$5,000 - \$6,000 each year. Expenses are minimal – porta potties, renting the Belfry for the Saturday night count-down dinner, and the USFS permit. A great money-maker for our Chapter!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank several of our volunteers who went above and beyond with their efforts: Chuck Gates (with help from Garrett Durham) contacted all the guides and assigned them to the various tours – a really big job. Another huge job was registration, wonderfully handled by Sherrie Pierce (with help from Liz Thill). Sherrie, as well as getting everyone registered, made all the name tags, registration packets, and met the tours each day to keep everything on track. The guides – we couldn't do it without you - and all you got for your efforts was a free t-shirt! Judy Meredith and the Wednesday Birders spent hours scouting nest sites, as did many of the guides and tour leaders. Terri Hyde, ECAS Treasurer, paid all the bills and kept all the money from all the participants straight. A big "thank you" to all these folks and the many others that made this year's event a success.

## **Welcome new ECAS members!**

Connie Axelrod	Bend, OR
Anna Chapman	Portland, OR
Julie Clayton	Bend, OR
Andrew Coffaro	Bend, OR
Heidi Erland	North Bend, WA
Linda Fava	Bend, OR
David Gutt	Bend, OR
Winona Hubbard	Bend, OR
Lisa Kieraldo	Bend, OR

Jenny Mueller	La Pine, OR
Tammy Palumbo	Charlotte, NC
Steve Ray Gonzalez	Bend, OR
Hank Rupprecht	Jefferson, MD
Heather Sullivan	Bend, OR
John Thompson	Bend, OR
Michael Weinstein	Millburn, NJ

## ECAS GRANT MONEY AT WORK:

### Trumpeter Swans - Oregon Restoration Project

*Excerpted from TTSS's May 2019 Trumpetings*

ECAS awards grants on an as-needed basis and as decided by the Board. Three such grants (\$1000 in 2018, \$500 in 2016 and \$1000 in 2015) were awarded to The Oregon Restoration Project, begun in 2009, which tracks nesting grounds and migration routes of Oregon wintering Trumpeter Swans. Project partners include The Trumpeter Swan Society (TTSS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Sunriver Nature Center, Aspen Lakes Golf Course, and Pronghorn Golf Club.

Summer Lake Wildlife Area (SLWA) in southeast Oregon is an important place for these birds. Swans have been released there to restore breeding swans to Oregon. It is also a wintering and staging site for a growing number of Trumpeters. Over 400 Trumpeter Swans were surveyed in February at SLWA as they stopped there on their northward trek.

Five satellite transmitters were purchased for tracking wintering/spring migrant Trumpeter Swans at SLWA. Severe February weather delayed capture until March when only one male was successfully collared. (The Project will attempt to collar more swans next winter.)



The collared male's journey from SLWA to Canada was incredible! He was captured and collared March 7 there, took off a few days later, and by April 1 was in northeast British Columbia just across the border from Alberta. On his way, he spent time on Oregon's South Fork Crooked River and Thief Valley Reservoir, Idaho's wetlands east of Coeur d'Alene, Montana's Flathead Lake and Glacier NP, and Alberta's southern prairies. Since April 8 he's

confined his movements to a wetland chain near Swan Lake by Tupper, BC suggesting this may be where he'll spend the summer. But it's also possible that this is just a stop on his way further north into the wilds of northwest Canada. (Photo of Martin St. Louis, ODFW, releasing the male swan with a (white) transmitter collar. Photo by Gary Ivey, reprinted from *Trumpetings*)

So far, his travels seem to indicate he is affiliated with breeding regions of the Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) of Trumpeters. It is not clear whether swans wintering in eastern Oregon and eastern Washington belong to Trumpeter Swans of the RMP or the Pacific Coast Population (PCP.) One of the tasks listed in the Pacific Flyway's Management Plan, which includes both Populations, is for agencies to analyze genetic samples from these wintering swans to learn their genetic origin and mark a sample with transmitters to document wintering sites, migration pathways and breeding locations. For more information: [www.trumpeterswansociety.org](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org)

## **Black Butte School Grant --** Excerpts from thank-you letter

*By Delaney Sharp, Head Teacher,  
Black Butte School, Camp Sherman*

On behalf of our students and teachers I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to ECAS for granting \$1900 to our school to purchase birding equipment (guide books, binoculars, and spotting scope.) Each year Black Butte School students engage in an annual examination of the Metolius River ecosystem which includes field trips and research. This year all K-8 students focused on habitats of the Metolius, in particular native bird habitat with an emphasis on stewardship. An ECAS volunteer met with students to teach the basics of bird observation. Middle grade students collected data in the field and submitted it to eBird. We will be using the equipment and guides every year as we continue our Metolius River Study project.

Thank you so much for your generous donation to our school. It is fun to see the excitement, wonder, and confidence on students' faces as they see, observe, and then identify birds.



# EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

*P.O. Box 565, Bend, Oregon 97701*

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

## ECAS Board

President	Tom Lawler
Vice-President	Diana Roberts
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Treasurer	Terri Hyde
Board Members	Tom Penpraze Carolyn Rochelle Bob Sizoo Gordon Wetzel
Non-Board Officer Assistant Treasurer	John Brune

Contact information for Board members, Committee chairs, and Project leaders is posted on the ECAS website under MORE - Contact ECAS and ECAS Board.

## Spring Board Meetings:

July 2

August 6

September 3

## Committee and Event Chairs

Annual Event	ECAS Board
Bluebirds	Ken Hashagen
Birder's Night	Sue Bertsch
Communications	Diana Roberts
Conservation	Tom Lawler
Education	Sherrie Pierce
Field Trips	Mary Shivell
Finance	Terri Hyde
Grants	Mary Oppenheimer
Green Ridge Raptors	David Vick
Lake Abert Study	John Reuland
Lewis's Woodpeckers	Diane Kook
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Newsletter	Claire Weiser
Science	Ken Hashagen
Summer Lake Survey	Mike Bogar
Vaux's Swifts	Bob Johnson Mary Ann Kruse
Volunteers	Mardi Jensen Sherrie Pierce
Website	Ted Groszkiewicz
Wednesday Birders	Judy Meredith Howard Horvath

Board meetings are held at 1pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Environmental Center. All members are welcome to attend. Board minutes and upcoming meeting dates are posted at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org).

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 central Oregon at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org)