

# THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022-23



## President's Report

*By Mary Shivell*

Season's Greetings!

You have to hand it to birders to come up with a way to have a fun AND mission-driven day outside despite the fact that it is c-c-cold out there! Of course I am referring to the round of Christmas Bird Counts this season. It is a fun reminder of the ECAS mission, and if you haven't looked at the variety of projects focused just on habitat protection and restoration lately, make a visit to [ecaudubon.org](http://ecaudubon.org) and take a look. The ECAS *Chatter* and *Calliope* newsletters are worth checking out to see all the remarkable ways our members and project partners find to work toward maintaining a better environment for us and for the birds, and Birders' Night presenters are often our project leaders describing the interesting work they do. It is important work, so support the ECAS mission by renewing your membership and including the gift of membership on your list of holiday or birthday gifts this year. Enjoy the surprises of winter birding!

Included in this issue:

**Upcoming events:** Birders' Night, Birding Basics Field Experiences, Winter Wings Festival

**Recent happenings:** CBC, Owl release, Green Ridge Raptor Survey, Board elections

**Member Spotlight:** Kim Boddie, New Member Welcome

**Online Birding Resources**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Birders' Night January 19, 2023 7:00pm**

*By Gordon Wetzel, Board member*

Birders' Night returns this month on Thursday, January 19 at 7:00PM. Marina Richie will tell us stories and read excerpts from her book, *Halcyon Journey: In Search of the Belted Kingfisher*, a 2022 National Outdoor Book Award winner. The presentation will be live at the Environmental Center and also online. The Zoom link will be <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87054580833> - log in a few minutes before 7pm January 19.



Marina Richie is a nature writer based in Bend, Oregon. She has worked as a journalist and managed communications for a number of wildlife-oriented public and private organizations. She has a master's degree in Journalism from the University of Montana and an undergraduate degree in Biology from the University of Oregon. Her articles and essays on the natural world are widely published and she is the author of two children's books. She will be the Saturday speaker at the Winter Wings Festival in Klamath in February. You can follow her bi-monthly blog on her website: [www.marinarichie.com](http://www.marinarichie.com).

---

### **Attention Novice Birders and Birders New to Central Oregon - Birding Basics: Field Experiences begin January 29th**

ECAS will offer a series of free field experiences designed for new birders and birders who are new to Central Oregon. Each month, January through June, there will be spots for 20 people to learn about a variety of Central Oregon birds, birding locations, skills, and resources. Details for future field experiences will be available on the ECAS website at [ecaudubon.org](http://ecaudubon.org)

**Continued next page**

## Details for the January 29th Birding Basics: Field Experience:

**Topic:** Water Birds of Mirror Pond

**Location:** Drake, Harmon, and Pageant Parks

**Date/Time:** January 29th (Sunday), 2:00-4:00PM

**Meeting spot:** Harmon Park, 1100 NW Harmon Blvd, Bend (or park at Drake Park and walk over)

**Group leader:** Gordon Wetzel



Hooded Merganser by Claire Weiser

**Focus:** Water birds identification. The Deschutes River in winter has many beautiful water birds, unlike summer when there are mostly Mallards and Canada Geese. We may see Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, American Wigeon, Common Merganser, Ring-necked Duck, and if we are lucky, maybe Hooded Merganser or Wood Duck.

**Additional skill:** Using field optics (binoculars and scopes).

**What to expect:** Walking 1-2 miles on level ground which may be covered with snow and ice.

**Bring:** Binoculars and a scope with a tripod, if you have them. Loaner binoculars will be available. Dress warmly in layers including gloves and a hat. Hand and toe warmers as well as ice-bud traction devices for boots are helpful. Optional: paper/pen for notes, camera, water.

**Who should sign up?** New birders or those who are new to birding in Central Oregon. ECAS members, non-members, and all ages are welcome. If, once registered, you find that you are unable to attend, please let the leader know.

**Sign-up here** starting January 1st which will take you to Member Planet:

[www.memberplanet.com/events/eastcascadesaudubonsociety/birdingbasicsfieldexperiences](http://www.memberplanet.com/events/eastcascadesaudubonsociety/birdingbasicsfieldexperiences)

**If you have questions,** email Gordon Wetzel [gordonwetzel@gmail.com](mailto:gordonwetzel@gmail.com) or Lynda Paznokas [lpaz@bendnet.com](mailto:lpaz@bendnet.com)

---

## Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls, Oregon Feb. 17 – 20, 2023



WWF is back with a four-day Festival again! Birders and photographers of all levels and other nature enthusiasts are invited to attend. This will be the 43rd annual Festival and organizers are hopeful that 500 visitors/locals will attend..

The Festival is headquartered at the Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, Oregon. For more information see Festival [Locations](#).

Great Blue Heron by Judy Phearson

Continued next page

Registration opened December 27, 2022 and you can still register at [WinterWingsFest.org](https://WinterWingsFest.org)  
Keynoters: Jen Hajj, bird educator/raptor specialist, and Ray Hennessy, photographer

- ★ Festival runs Friday through Monday (instead of Thursday through Sunday)
- ★ Free Friday afternoon presentations updating the Klamath Basin and stakeholder initiatives
- ★ Lots of new programs and presenters including new keynoters, pro photographers, and raptor workshops
- ★ Vendors (Friday afternoon through Saturday) include new optics and camera vendors plus many of your favorite local vendors
- ★ Free children's activities again on Saturday
- ★ Our first ever Sunday night reception gives you the chance to mingle with new birding and photography friends!
- ★ New photo contest prizes – click [here](#) for more info

**Birds?** We typically have about 120 – 133 species. Here is our [2022 festival bird species](#) count of 124.

**Covid Policy?** We recommend that vaccinated participants attend but won't require proof of vaccination this year. Masks may be required in indoor settings, buses, and carpools depending on the Oregon state guidelines in February.

The Winter Wings Festival is produced by [Klamath Basin Audubon Society](#) volunteers with support from sponsors, grants, and participant registration fees. Proceeds from this festival support local grants to teachers and other entities for outdoor education and community nature-related projects.

---

## RECENT EVENTS

### Christmas Bird Count 2022

Some CBCs are still going on in our area. A BIG thanks to all the observers. A preliminary description of the Bend CBC on 12/19/22 and also a final summary on 12/27/22 were both posted on COBOL by organizer Tom Crabtree. Here are two excerpts from those posts:

“The 55th Bend Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held on Saturday., Dec. 17, 2022. Despite miserable cold, windy conditions in the morning and single digit nightly temperatures in the few days leading up to the count, we counted a respectable 90 species so far. Most water in the count circle was frozen solid and the sub-freezing temperatures caused most lingering species to depart the area before Saturday. The rarest birds found were Western Grebe, Turkey Vulture (seen for only the second time) and Sora (3rd record). Other good birds were Swamp Sparrow (6th) and Eared Grebe, Bohemian Waxwing and White-throated Sparrow, seen for only the 10th time.”

“The final numbers are in and the 2022 Bend CBC finished with 91 species, which is exactly the average since 2000. (The 55 year average is much lower -- 77.6). The 38 participants counted a total of 11,552 individual birds, slightly below the average since 2000 of 13,911. All-time high numbers were recorded for these species: Anna's Hummingbird, 11; Bald Eagle, 25; Merlin, 12; and White-throated Sparrow, 3.”

# Great-horned Owl Rescue, Rehab and Recovery

*by Miriam Lipsitz, Board member*

*Photos by Laurel Collins*

On Saturday, October 22, 2022, Mark Gonzalez led an ECAS-sponsored field trip at Hatfield Ponds in Bend. Participants on that cold morning were Cindy Zalunardo and Amy Kieraldo-Sanchez. Cindy happened to notice what looked like a sick Great-horned Owl among some rocks on the ground. She quickly posted on COBOL asking for the best way to help this bird and two people immediately responded with the hotline phone number (541-241-8680) for Think Wild Wildlife Hospital and Conservation Center of Central Oregon. Less than 15 minutes later two technicians arrived at Hatfield and in just another few minutes they had efficiently and quietly captured the bird and put it into a carrying case to bring it back to the hospital.

A week later the owl was still there in an incubator to help regulate its body temperature. Sally Compton, Think Wild's executive director, said they were treating the bird for probable rodenticide toxicity and the prognosis was guarded. ECAS received weekly updates from Think Wild technicians Molly and Savanna and it was not until the week of November 21, a month later, that we had some good news. The owl was finally eating live prey on its own and had made an excellent recovery. Think Wild wanted to release it back to Hatfield on Sunday, November 27, and the ECAS folks at the field trip that day were all invited to take part in the release.

Participants at the release were Cindy and Amy, Lisa Cowan, Anne Ankrom, Miriam Lipsitz and Laurel Collins who took these beautiful photos. Witnessing the release was a "feel good" magical experience. The wind which had been howling all day stopped, the sun came out, and there was not another sound out there other than the birds talking quietly on the water. The owl took a good long look around at where it was, took off and then landed in a juniper tree. All of us had smiles from ear to ear and we knew that several of the group who regularly visit Hatfield would keep a watch out for this bird from now on.



Our heartfelt thanks go to Think Wild ([thinkwildco.org](http://thinkwildco.org)) for their dedication and hard work on behalf of our wild birds. Being part of the release and knowing this owl was given a second chance was a special experience for all of us.



# Green Ridge Raptor Survey 2022

*By David Vick*

As expected, this fall's raptor count was significantly lower than last year's due to an absence of conducive migration weather. However, the extended Native American Summer was beautiful while it lasted. We never had a single big day when it seems that the flood gates just open up and pour out raptors. Of course they had to migrate eventually but apparently this year's migration was more dispersed. If you are interested in comparing how other west coast hawk watches fared visit [HawkCount.org](http://HawkCount.org).

In 2022 we had a total of 1047 birds in 84 hours of observation or 12.5 birds per hour. Minus 529 TVs it comes out to 6.0 birds per hour.

In 2021 we had a total of 1829 birds in 74 hours of observation or 24.7 birds per hour. Minus 304 TVs it came out to 20.6 birds per hour.

## Species Totals

12	Osprey
38	Bald Eagle
3	Northern Harrier
180	Sharp-shinned Hawk
128	Cooper's Hawk
89	Red-tailed Hawk
1	Broad-winged Hawk
10	Golden Eagle
7	American Kestrel
14	Merlin
5	Peregrine
1	Prairie Falcon
20	Unid. Accipiter
2	Unid. Buteo
6	Unid. Raptor
529	Turkey Vulture (The year of the Vulture!)
101	Humans (visitors/participants in addition to the crew)



Red-tailed Hawk by Chuck Gates

Many thanks to our ever dedicated observers Peter Low and Judy Meredith as well as all the visitors and participants for another fun year of comradery and watching migrating raptors up on Green Ridge.

## ECAS Board Elections

The ECAS Board is very happy to welcome three newly elected Board members (Wendy Andrick, Aaron Jenkins, Brian MacDonald) and grateful that one re-elected Board member (Gordon Wetzel) will still be working with us!

### MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

#### Wendy Andrick

My love affair with our feathered friends has been lifelong. I cannot remember a time in my life I was not enamored, intrigued and in awe of birds. Some of my favorite moments on our planet have been with birds, sitting with a snowy owl in winter beside a lake in Idaho for over an hour, swimming out to a Blue-footed Booby in the Caribbean, tracking a wren through thick underbrush in a forest, never coming to learn which species but loving the chase! And at the end of each adventure, I am eagerly awaiting the next. In addition to adventures in birding, I'd like to be more involved in habitat preservation, education, and other ways to support our diverse bird populations and in turn working towards an earth in balance



#### Aaron Jenkins

After spending his first 39 years east of the Mississippi River, Aaron moved to Oregon in 2011 to work as an Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife economist. After that, he taught economics at Linn-Benton Community College for a few terms while his interest in birds started to take off. Intrigued by field work, he has since held three seasonal positions conducting avian point count surveys in Wyoming, Idaho, and Malheur NWR, respectively. In the meantime, Aaron relocated to Bend in 2018 to more effectively pursue cherished outdoor activities such as hiking and cross-country skiing. Aaron wishes to become more involved in bird conservation and education east of the Cascades by joining the ECAS Board. He currently volunteers locally as a bird surveyor for Deschutes Land Trust and for the Winter Raptor Survey Project. From 2015-18, he served as a member and officer (Secretary, President) on the Board of Directors for Corvallis Environmental Center. Aaron holds a B.A. in Literary Studies and Spanish from Middlebury College and a M.S. in Environmental Economics from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

#### Brian MacDonald



Brian MacDonald is a research physician now semi-retired from a career in academic medicine and the biopharmaceutical industry. Born in Montreal, Canada in his childhood and early adulthood he lived in the United Kingdom before moving to Philadelphia and the mid-Atlantic region with his young family in 1992. He moved further west to Bend with his wife Maxine in 2020 to find the perfect combination of outdoor and small town life and has not been disappointed. Though interested in birding for several years prior to moving to Central Oregon his interest (and ability) has greatly increased by regular participation in the Wednesday birding field trips led by Judy Meredith and he is now rarely seen without binoculars. By joining the ECAS Board he would like to become a more active participant in the birding community of this region.

## Member Volunteer Spotlight: Kim Boddie, a Long-Time Volunteer

*Interviewer, Duke Tufty, Board member*

This is the third in a series of interviews based upon an early newsletter tradition which Judy Meredith suggested we revive. We are continuing to spotlight an ECAS member volunteer who has generously contributed the time and talent to help ECAS with important tasks.



Kim Boddie's interest in birds started at an early age. He remembers feeding and watching birds with his dad while growing up in Foxboro, Massachusetts. A particularly special moment occurred when his father brought him to his office building in downtown Boston at an early age. He recalls looking out the window and seeing a Peregrine Falcon on its nest on the ledge of the office building across the street. This was in the mid 1940's before the precipitous decline of Peregrines starting in the 1960's. This moment likely contributed to Kim's passion for hawks and falcons as an adult.

Like many people who initially become interested in birds as kids, Kim's interest in birds took a back seat during his early adulthood. He was drafted and served in the U.S. Army for three years including a year in Vietnam. Before the Army, he went to college at Colorado State University and received a degree in forestry. It was his work with the US Forest Service that reignited his interest in birds. Kim was lucky enough to work in Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, and Oregon in seven National Forests. Kim particularly enjoyed the time he was able to spend outdoors enjoying the splendor of these areas.

Kim requested a transfer to Oregon in 1974 to be closer to his children's grandparents in Puyallup, Wa. After four years in Chemult he transferred to the Deschutes National Forest in Bend where he worked until retirement in 1997. During that time, he became particularly interested in hawk watching in the Fort Rock and Christmas Valley areas and became involved with the Central Oregon Audubon Society which later became the East Cascades Audubon Society..

For several years, Kim served on the board of the Central Oregon Audubon Society. During this time, he broadened his connections with the local birding community and made a lot of great friends. One of those people was Jeff Fleischer, the project developer and coordinator of the **Winter Raptor Survey Project**. Jeff and Kim shared a passion for hawks which led to Jeff asking Kim to set up raptor routes in the Christmas Valley area and the Bend area. From there, Kim established the Christmas Valley route which he continued to run until just a couple years ago. He also set up the Bend - Alfalfa route which he continues to run today and he was active in overseeing two additional runs in the Fort Rock Basin. While listening to him describe his involvement with these routes, it's clear that he thoroughly enjoyed doing the work and developing some life-long relationships.

In addition to the raptor routes, Kim took over the maintenance of the 200+ **nesting boxes** that Lowell and Don Franks had set up. The nesting boxes were primarily designed for bluebirds and tree swallows. The project consists of cleaning out the nest boxes after nesting season, and repairing or replacing them as necessary. The Franks brothers' project was a huge benefit for birds across the region. However, when Kim was taking the project over, he discovered that all of the information about the project, including the location of all of the boxes, was in the



heads of the brothers. So, while taking the project on, he created GPS points for all of the nest boxes which enabled Kim to effectively hand the project off to a new generation of volunteers

And, not surprisingly, Kim was instrumental in the creation of the **Green Ridge Fall Raptor Survey**. He remembers Hawkwatch International using the fire lookout on Green Ridge as a test site for hawk watches. He noted that the tower had good views to the west, but did not have great views overhead. He spent time exploring the area and found a clearcut area with views that were ideal for hawk watching and included amazing views of Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams and the Ochoco Mountains as well. This area eventually became the primary area for the ECAS survey that continues today. Kim has fond memories of the many people that contributed to the formal creation of the raptor survey at Green Ridge. In 2017, he enjoyed the view of the total solar eclipse from this site and said it was truly amazing!

When reflecting on his time volunteering, it was clear just how special his time spent outdoors enjoying the birds and the friendships he made along the way were. When I asked him what he would tell someone who was thinking about volunteering with ECAS, he said the first step was just getting involved and seeing what that leads to. After you take that first step of getting involved, he shared that you should follow your interests and passions, which could lead to some amazing experiences and relationships.

Last year, Kim saw his first Peregrine Falcon on the Bend/Alfalfa raptor route. This had been a long-time goal of his. After seeing the Peregrine Falcon nest on the office building ledge so many years ago and witnessing the sad decline and subsequent comeback of Peregrines from near extinction in this country, observing a Peregrine on one of his raptor routes was truly special. Kim is looking forward to another year of raptor routes and what he might see along the way.

If you are interested in learning more about and becoming involved in any of these projects that Kim has been involved with (nesting boxes and the Fall and Winter Raptor Surveys) go to [ecaadubon.org/home](http://ecaadubon.org/home) and click on Projects from across the top of the page and then select from the drop down menu.

---

## A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

*By Miriam Lipsitz, Board member*



Wendy Andrick	Redmond, OR
Liam Bielat	Bend, OR
Jess Daiger	Bend, OR
Monicade Alicante	Bend, OR
Stephanie Everett	Bend, OR
Leslie Johnson	Redmond, OR
LeeAnn Kriegh	Bend, OR
Brian MacDonald	Bend, OR
Alan Mauer	Bend, OR
Carol Mosman	Eugene, OR
David Willingham	Bend, OR



# Birding Resources Online

*By Claire Weiser, Calliope editor*

There is an ever increasing number of resources online for birders. These will never replace being outside birding in person but they do provide ways to learn, interact with other birders, and record and keep track of our sightings. The internet brings us together with these resources over distances and time which has never been more appreciated than during a pandemic and in cold winter months when field trip outings and other travel may be more difficult. This article attempts to highlight a few of these types of online resources.

## ECAS Facebook page

East Cascades Audubon Society's Facebook page at [facebook.com/groups/ecasfacebookpage](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ecasfacebookpage) allows local birders to interact by describing bird sightings and sharing photos of Central Oregon birds. Questions can be posted about bird identification and other members can reply with answers. This is a private group and although anyone can find this group, only members can see who's in the group and what they post.

Here is a sample of photos posted on Facebook which were taken by various local birders over the past few months. Many posts include notes about behavior and habitat and some ask for help identifying a bird.



**Golden Crowned Sparrow, Belted Kingfisher, and White-throated Sparrow by David Sowards-Emmerd**



**Bald Eagle/duck chase and a Prairie Falcon by Donald Sutherland**

Continued on next page



American Kestrel by Terry W. Smith, Northern Pintail and Great Blue Heron and by Sevilla Rds



Northern Goshawk by Scott Redd and American Dipper by Chuck Gates

## Central Oregon Birders Online

Central Oregon Birders Online (COBOL) at [COBOL@groups.io](mailto:COBOL@groups.io) is a site to report interesting birds that you are observing in the Central Oregon region (typically Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties, but surrounding counties are welcome as well.) Resident Central Oregon birders are also welcome to post their interesting birding adventures in other Oregon counties when it relates to a sponsored event such as a Birding Blitz, raptor survey, ECAS trip, etc. December posts include information about winter raptor surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, an upcoming pelagic tour out of Newport, a requested hawk ID, and the local places to find certain birds.

What should be posted on COBOL? Your bird-related recent observations of common, uncommon or rare birds in the area, useful tips on identification of bird species, and birding-related field trips, festivals and meetings, and rescue-and-release posts are all OK to post to COBOL. Please sign your name to your posting so we know who you are. Not-OK to post on COBOL: photographs, recordings, and commercial-based promotions. For further information about what gets posted on COBOL go to [groups.io/g/COBOL](https://groups.io/g/COBOL)

COBOL was begun in October 2018, has about 500 members and has postings just about every day. Email addresses to contact COBOL include:

- Subscribe: **COBOL+subscribe@groups.io**
- Post: **COBOL@groups.io**
- Unsubscribe: **COBOL+owner@groups.io**

Continued on next page

## ECAS website

The ECAS website home page at [ecaudubon.org](http://ecaudubon.org) has some updated news and events. There is also information on some of the subjects found in this newsletter. The website is in the process of being updated.

## A Sample of Other Online Resources That You Might Want to Check Out

**Websites** (of organizations which may also be on Facebook and Instagram)

**Portland Audubon** [audubonportland.org/](http://audubonportland.org/) conservation and education including zoom classes

**Oregon Birding Association OBA** [oregonbirding.org/](http://oregonbirding.org/) birding locations, field trips, photos

**National Audubon Society** [www.audubon.org/birding](http://www.audubon.org/birding)

**All About Birds from Cornell Lab** [www.allaboutbirds.org/](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/)

**Apps** (many are free, some cost, available from iTunes and GooglePlay)

**eBird** [ebird.org/home](http://ebird.org/home) Find more birds, keep track of your bird lists, photos, and sounds, explore latest sightings from around the world, join the world's largest birding community, and contribute to science and conservation

**Merlin** - bird identification by sight and sound, one of the best of many

**iBird Pro** Guide to Birds - a bird book in your phone

**iNaturalist** [inaturalist.org/](http://inaturalist.org/) crowd source IDs of birds, bugs, plants, etc., citizen science

**Whatsapp** [groups.io/g/COBOL/topic/central\\_oregon\\_whatsapp\\_group/77376102?p=,,20,0,0,0::Recentpostd](https://groups.io/g/COBOL/topic/central_oregon_whatsapp_group/77376102?p=,,20,0,0,0::Recentpostd)

## Podcast

**BirdNote** <https://www.birdnote.org/listen/shows/rusty-blackbirds-unique-beauty?fbclid=IwAR1MbjbWg20pCFLTzaLWOpNGZTt1tU2tB5VLmIJ35NrLfa63iY5bjfJ7RU8>

Chuck Gates's photo of a Rusty Blackbird was used on this national podcast 12-21-22



# EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 565, Bend, Oregon 97701

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

Email [ecaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ecaudubon@gmail.com)

## ECAS Board

Wendy Andrick  
Laurel Collins  
Aaron Jenkins  
Miriam Lipsitz  
Brian MacDonald  
Mary Shivell  
Duke Tufty  
Gordon Wetzel

## Newsletters

Sherrie Pierce, *Chatter* (monthly) Editor  
Claire Weiser, *Calliope* (quarterly) Editor



## Winter Board Meetings

January 11

February 7

March 7

Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month 6 - 8pm. Members are welcome to attend. Email [ecaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ecaudubon@gmail.com) at least 2 days in advance for the Zoom code.

Minutes and meeting dates are posted at [www.ecaudubon.org/board-meeting-minutes](http://www.ecaudubon.org/board-meeting-minutes)

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



A jetty under construction is still birdable! ECAS members Bob Sizoo and Diane Burgess scope some seabirds in October 2022 on a birding trip to the Oregon northern coast.

Photo by Tom Penpraze