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EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023



President's Report

By Mary Shivell

The Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival 2023, our largest annual fundraiser, was a success again this year! Excellent weather was had for 14 planned field trips; 8 of the destinations offered Central Oregon hotspots such as Summer Lake and a circuit of beloved locations in the Oregon Outback. The Social and Keynote attracted 45 guests **in addition** to field guides and volunteers who were hosted by the ECAS Board of Directors. See photos of the event on the following page.

Our friend and local author Charles Gates provided a reminiscence of Dean Hale and his significance to the Central Oregon birding community. Dr. Matt Orr of Oregon State University presented a history of human impact in the Columbia Basin which provided valuable context for his research on the woodpecker nesting array in the Eastern Cascades. The ECAS Board of Directors is proud to support this important work.

What's up next? Stay tuned for the Annual Event in October, which is the Board's party to celebrate our members and thank our volunteers!

And, a final item to provide an update about: the ECAS name change the Board resolved to achieve. A pleasant surprise was finding out that a name change in our Constitution is unnecessary because our "Doing Business As" name is, and always has been, East Cascades Bird Conservancy. When ECBC and Central Oregon Audubon Society merged, ECAS was adopted as a "trade" name. This means that the ECAS Board work group will be developing tasks to make our business name the one used conducting our daily business. Questions? Send them our way ecaudubon@gmail.com, and enjoy summer birding by using our website's Oregon Birding Guide at Oregon Birding Guide - East Cascades Audubon Society.

RECENT EVENTS

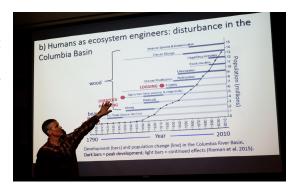
Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival 2023

Photos by Frances Nause



ECAS members Anne and Bob Jennings donated a collection of hand-crafted birds to us that they bought from a young and popular artist named Sergey at a craft event in downtown Moscow. The bird species is written in both Russian and English on the underside of each bird. The back of each bird is a hinged lid that gives access to a small hollow space for storing small items. Shown is a happy winner of one of the beautiful birds. Thank you Anne and Bob!

Keynote speakers, Dr. Matt Orr and Dr. Kurt Trzcinski of OSU, with Steve Shunk, gave an interesting presentation about East Cascades Woodpeckers as Keystone Nesters. Pictured is Matt explaining a slide about the Columbia Basin ecosystem.





Many outings led by local experts were offered. Pictured is a half-day outing in Shevlin Park along Tumalo Creek led by Lynda Paznokas and Gordon Wetzel. Target species were Lewis's Woodpeckers and sapsuckers.

ECAS Board members Duke Tufty, vice-president, and Mary Shivell, president, were among the many who enjoyed the Social and Keynote. The ECAS Board and members look forward to next year's DHWF!



UPCOMING EVENTS - OUTINGS AND EDUCATION

Wednesday Birders' Schedule By judymeredit@bendnet.com

This is a tentative schedule which could always be altered for exciting opportunities for birds elsewhere, adverse road or weather conditions, etc. When directions aren't given, the intent is to encourage birders to use https://www.ecaudubon.org/oregon-birding-guide/, the online ECAS birding site guide, and get used to using those directions and the "how to bird it" tips for the locations. Simply select the county and the hotspots which are listed alphabetically. Watch COBOL https://groups.io/g/COBOL for announcement of meeting and carpooling times and places or for changes in the plan. Wednesdays are group birding where we help each other and learn together, not always a "guided" field day.

July 5 - Santiam Pass, PCT for Northern 3-toed, and Lost Lake.

July 12 - Todd Lake, Sparks Lake. arrive early to find parking. Walk the trails around the lakes for finches, chickadees, RS Hawks and waterfowl. Walk 2 to 3 miles.

July 19 - Warm Springs. Boat ramp area, trail near sewage treatment area and then Museum trail. Consider supporting the museum by visiting exhibits.

July 26 - p.m. birding Millican area. Finish after dusk with Poorwill.

August 2 - Tumalo Res and Hatfield.

August 9 - Haystack for shorebirds, waterfowl. Springs and Gray Butte if mid day temp permits.

August 16 - Lower Bridge, Redmond Sewer Ponds. Willows at Lower Bridge and Lynx could be stuffed with migrants.

Aug 23 - Cascade high Lakes. Begin with willows along "kiosk ponds" at Wickiup and loop around to North, Wickiup Butte, etc. Passerines and shorebirds are on the move.

August 30 - shorebirds. Hotspot to be determined for this date.

September 6 - Hatfield, Houston Lakes and Crooked River Wetlands.

Sept 13 - Wickiup, Crane Prairie, Sheep Bridge, etc

Sept 20 - Smith Rocks trails (state park pass in each vehicle), ag fields to the east, Redmond ponds

Sept 27- Haystack, Culver, Metolius and The Cove Palisades SP. Early loons, gulls, Scoters, shorebirds.

October and November. Instead of scheduling spots in advance, will work on using the ECAS source of birding sites, for Crook and Jefferson, with focus on spots new or rarely visited by the group.

Crooked River Wetlands Bird Walks

The first Saturdays of the month: **July 1, August 5, Sept 2**. 7:45am meet/8am start. No registration required, a few golf cart ride seats and some loaner binoculars available. 4035 NW Rimrock Acres, Prineville. Sponsored by CRW and Prineville Bird Club. https://www.cityofprineville.com/wetlands/page/events

Deschutes Land Trust Bird Walks

Sept 16, 8-11am at the new DLT Paulina Creek Preserve with ECAS board member Duke Tufty and Merrill Maiano. Registration opens August 16.

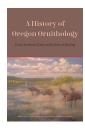
https://www.deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes-events/hikes/bird-walk-11

Birders' Night, the Third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm at the Environmental Center and on Zoom

Birders' Night is on summer vacation in July and August. The next Birders' Night is:



September 21: A History of Oregon Ornithology: From Territorial Days to the Rise of Birding by Alan L. Contreras. Contreras has had five books published by Oregon State University Press, including *Birds of Oregon*, which he co-edited, A History of Oregon Ornithology, and the more personal *Afield: Forty Years Birding the American West*. Contreras was a mentor to renowned birder Noah Strycker when Strycker was a teenager.



Malheur Field Station

Three birding-related programs are being offered in Harney County, Oregon, this summer: Entomology in August, Birding in September and Geology in September. Check them out at: https://malheurfieldstation.org/educational

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

By Miriam Lipsitz

Coatt Dirdman Diabarda	Dand OD	la an Lanham	Dand OD
Scott Birdman Richards	Bend, OR	Joan Lapham	Bend, OR
Jamie Clark	Redmond, OR	Lori Laufert Cobourg	Ontario, Canada
Linda Collins	LaPine, OR	Laura Neale	Fairfield, VA
Judith Duffy	Reno, NV	Karen Plucinski	Cincinnati, OH
Ted Forman	Bend, OR	Teresa Roether	Portland, OR
Beverly Forman	Bend, OR	Robin Rose	Bend, OR
Jodi Grossman	Bend, OR	Rebecca Taylor	Prineville, OR
Carol Hasenberg	Portland, OR	Mark Thibert	Bend, OR
Marcia Huntley	Bend, OR	Barry Weinmann	Bend,OR
Karen Kane	Sisters, OR	Susan Zimmerman	LaPine, OR
Holly Knight	Eugene, OR		

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Get to Know Our Newest Board Member: Wendy Andrick



Central Oregon has been home to my family and I for just over 20 years. Before moving to Oregon, I lived in Sandpoint, Idaho for 5 years, Missoula, Montana for 6 years and am originally from Pennsylvania. Central Oregon has been a wonderful place to raise a family. I have enjoyed a 30-year career supporting youth and their families as they navigate addiction, depression and other challenges as they prepare to launch. It has been and continues to be a privilege to serve.

My husband and I were drawn to the area as it supported our extensive list of interests which include most things outside. Climbing, telemark skiing, Nordic skiing, mountain biking, hiking, camping,

backpacking, kayaking and ... birding of course! I also enjoy gardening, painting, drawing and we picked up some horses a few years ago for our daughter. She is off to college this year, so the horses are now ours and we enjoy time riding as well.

When I first moved here my passion for making the outdoors accessible to everyone led me to volunteer for years with Oregon Adaptive Sports. Supporting folks to get out skiing, biking, climbing and hiking, I made some great friends along that way and am grateful for all the fun adventures shared. I served on the board briefly for CODSN which served as a compatible overlap with OAS. Habitat for Humanity is another organization I have enjoyed volunteering with over the years. As I love to travel, I have especially enjoyed international opportunities to support housing efforts in addition to local efforts.

This past year, I explored "what comes next". What will the next half of my life look like? I have dedicated 30 plus years to supporting families and communities in crisis. It was time for a change. My heart was being called to the Environment and the Arts. With my love of birding throughout my life, expanding my connection to ECAS was an obvious choice. This past year I became a member of ECAS again after a 10-year hiatus. I was thinking of dipping my toes but dove in instead. This past December I joined the Board. Within 2 months I stepped into the position of Secretary. In another month I had signed on to host booths at the Earth Day Celebration and the Spring into Nature Festival in Madras. I had my first experience with the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival, something I have been wanting to participate in for years. I am so impressed with the wealth of knowledge, commitment and community amongst ECAS and its members. My expectations to share in the study and conservation of birds and their habitats with fellow bird enthusiasts have been exceeded. Every experience has proven to be rich in knowledge, joy and community.

As I continue my journey with ECAS I look forward to every opportunity that I can be a part of around my work. I am so grateful to all those hosting events and managing projects, websites, membership and more. I have been able to attend a Saturday hike at Crooked River Wetlands with Chuck Gates, Birding by Ear with David Tracy, Empids and Woodpeckers with Steve

Kornfeld and more. I have enjoyed Birders' Nights hosted by Gordon Wetzel and will support these efforts in the future. This fall I look forward to planting seeds and whatever else is needed in the ongoing efforts to protect Sage Grouse habitat and more.

My introduction to ECAS started many years ago at the Environmental Center under the guidance of Mary Y. when I took my daughter to Fledgling Fun. As my daughter is now spreading her own wings and flying off into her new adventures, it is my hope to be able to invest more time this fall into Education and Outreach with ECAS and with the many wonderful volunteers that make up this community.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There is SUCH a need for volunteers of all kinds in a variety of roles and time commitments, and there is something for EVERYONE to be involved in. Please take a look at all these possibilities and find the one that's right for you. Thank you!

ECAS Volunteers are needed for:

Volunteers are what make ECAS such a vibrant organization! We have 2 volunteer positions available:

- Board Member attend monthly meetings via Zoom, influence ECAS's future
- Membership Committee Chair this can be a two-year limited term and a great way to be involved with and serve ECAS without a huge time commitment.

Need to know more about the tasks and time involved for these positions? Email Mary Shivell at mvshivell@gmail.com. Interested? Contact ECAS at ecaudubon@gmail.com.

Green Ridge Raptor Survey volunteers needed mid-September through October. Info and sign up at https://www.ecaudubon.org/projects/green-ridge-raptor-survey/

Summer Lake Wildlife Area Breeding Bird Survey - volunteers needed to count breeding shorebirds. Info and sign up at https://www.ecaudubon.org/projects/summer-lake-shorebird-survey/

Count Birds for Community Science at Malheur

August 16-19: Fall Shorebird Survey; August 30-September 3: Blitzen River Mussel Survey July 15-September 15 (weekly): Greater Sandhill Crane Recruitment

(volunteers can stay for 1-week or more, depending on their availability)

On-your-own project: March-August: Project IBiS

Various kinds of camping arrangements are offered depending on the project.

Sign-ups for these "Community Science Trips" are available at:

https://audubonportland.org/get-involved/community-science/

More information: Teresa 'Bird' Wicks, Ph.D. (they/she)

Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator, Portland Audubon, 541-450-7560

GOOD BIRD NEWS

American Kestrel Project (AKP) News

by Sherrie Pierce

After 11+ seasons of data collection and nearly 16,000 box-years reported, we don't see a lot of AKP firsts these days. So when long-time AKP partner and Central Oregon Kestrel Team member Kim Kathol reported finding an active Bufflehead nest in one of their project's boxes, we took notice. After combing through our records, we believe this is the first time a nest of this small duck species has EVER been reported to the AKP by one of our partners!

Photos by Charles Gates (Bufflehead female) and Kim Kathol (eggs)





Orphaned Kestrel Chicks Get Foster Parents

Read about how ECAS and Think Wild found foster parents for two kestrel chicks in June 2023:



https://www.ecaudubon.org/ecas-think-wild/?fbclid=lwAR05wMUeSHyue1Wk1H5qcodZuvVl92e 2D1lqRK66En4O8cCH7OFoWH uWl4

https://ktvz.com/news/wildlife/2023/06/20/bends-think-wild-e-cascades-audubon-society-find-foster-parents-for-orphaned-kestrel-chicks/?fbclid=IwAR0IGP1pxlyIgoY8zE9f-1Gxaxe5_2LhAlQ6Hre87XC8t1hesGLiBJ3BAt4

Ranchers Create Habitat Benefiting Birds and the Bottom Line

By SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN Capital Press From the Bend Bulletin 4.13.23 https://www.bendbulletin.com/business/rancher-creates-habitat-benefiting-birds-and-bottom-line/article_b488b74c-ba3f-5a18-9bc5-98e3d74e6c04.html





Chaylon Shuffield, left, and Amber Shuffield have changed some ranching practices to help their business and migrating birds. Courtesy of Chaylon Shuffield via Capital Press The Shuffields have created wetlands that can support migrating waterfowl. Courtesy of Chaylon Shuffield

SUMMER LAKE — Growing up, third-generation rancher Chaylon Shuffield, 39, watched as his neighbor transformed a sandy property pockmarked with sagebrush into a private fly fishing resort with man-made ponds and lush bird habitats. When Shuffield, who grows alfalfa and raises about 250 mother cows annually, has run cattle on his neighbor's land, his cattle have performed well because the neighbor's restoration work has improved the forage and increased carrying capacity. Shuffield wondered if he could make similar improvements to his land, simultaneously boosting bird habitat and his bottom line. Over the past two years, Shuffield and his wife, Amber, have worked toward that goal with a series of projects. "For me, it's very exciting to see all of this coming together," said Shuffield.

The Shuffields use a variety of irrigation practices — including wheel lines, sprinklers with center pivots and flooding — on different pieces of land. On a parcel with sprinklers, they installed a new low-elevation, low-energy pump-and-sprinkler system that has increased alfalfa yields by 20% and decreased the power bill by about 15%. They have another project called the "Shuffield Ranch Wetland Enhancement Project" on a 160-acre parcel they own near the Summer Lake Wildlife Area. There, the Shuffields are building better levees and installing pipes to replace open ditches. Their goal is to use the new infrastructure to flood-irrigate the property's historical floodplains without compromising the uplands. Chaylon Shuffield plans to pipe water into ponds, which he will let overflow during the wet season. The ponds and surrounding wetlands will support migrating birds, and when the water recedes, Shuffield expects the vegetation to be richer, better supporting his cattle's forage needs as has been the case on his neighbor's land.

To fund this \$200,000 project, Shuffield has partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service and Ducks Unlimited, a nonprofit.

"We weren't going to shy away from collaboration," said Shuffield. Each partner has helped Shuffield cover his equipment costs. Ducks Unlimited has also provided engineering and mapping support. Shuffield said working with the agencies and the nonprofit has been a positive experience with no strings attached; the partners have not put any burdensome restrictions on his land use.

Chris Colson, a regional biologist for Ducks Unlimited, said Shuffield's property is well-positioned to support waterfowl migrating along the Pacific Flyway. Colson said waterfowl need wetlands to rest and feed in along the flyway to replenish their body condition. Limited water access means poorer breeding success and smaller clutches, or the number of eggs laid. Colson said many birds thrive better in habitats with short grasses, which make it easier for birds to get at the tender shoots, floating seeds and invertebrates that are harder to reach in tall grass. For that reason, farms that graze livestock or cut hay are well-suited to host waterfowl. "We need to have agriculture on the landscape," he said.

In recent years, critical bird habitats across the West have been shrinking due to periods of drought, producers leaving land fallow and officials managing water with other priorities in mind, according to Ryan Sabalow, a Ducks Unlimited spokesman. Colson, the biologist, said the move away from flood irrigation in recent decades has also contributed to a loss of bird habitat. "Flood irrigation got a bad rap for a while," said Colson. He said Ducks Unlimited is trying to educate the public about the value of flood-irrigating and is seeking more farms to partner with. "There is no project that is too small," said Shuffield, the rancher.

Research on Birds Who Thrive Best in Old-Growth Forests

By Marina Ritchie

I wrote a blog about my experience in June going out with a bird banding crew at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest--breathtaking! Here's a list of the species caught in mist nets that day: Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Hermit Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, and Oregon Junco. Below are photos I took of the MacGillivray's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, and Pacific Wren.







Read about this important research and see amazing photos of the researchers at work at https://marinarichie.com/2023/06/15/what-do-birds-ask-of-us/?fbclid=IwAR21exqKkMu5U-vLTx4oTnXx8gjtvx0Fu7NCdUXraSEyo1gFQkdTWZ4Xg8c

Opinion: I was busted by the light police. They had a point.

By Dana Milbank
Reprinted from
The Washington Post, May 5, 2023



Just eight weeks after I bought a place in the Virginia countryside, I was busted by the light police.

First came an email from somebody who lives across the valley from me. "Your new place has a lot of intense white, all-night exterior illumination that I don't recall before," he wrote. "From our front windows, it sort of looks like the scene in 'E.T.' where the spaceship has landed." I apologized, explaining that I had merely turned on the existing exterior lights of the home, which had been vacant, and therefore dark, for months. I said I would install some new bulbs that brighten only when motion is detected, and I thought the matter closed.

Two weeks later, I got another email. The guy across the valley had turned me into the "Dark Sky Committee" of the Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection. The committee wrote to say it had been made aware of my lighting and it was prepared to send a representative to my home to "help you figure out your best options" to darken the mood. I fought for my right to light. "I won't be bullied," I told a member of the committee. Happily, I remain a free man today and have thus far avoided a dark cell in lighting jail. It was an annoying welcome to my new community — but in retrospect, I'm grateful to the Dark Sky Committee. Its members have no authority (there's no law restricting my lumens), but they were persuasive. It turns out my lights weren't doing much harm to neighbors, but they were doing a whole lot of harm to other living things.

Night skies have been getting nearly 10 percent brighter per year over the past decade, American and German researchers reported in January, a doubling in brightness every eight years. The dramatic growth of LED lights, and the bluish, short-wavelength light they give off, compounds the "skyglow" effect of light pollution. Light-polluted skies cover an estimated 80 percent of the world's population and 99 percent of the U.S. and European populations, another international group of researchers found several years ago. Here in North America, 80 percent of us can no longer see the Milky Way when we look at the night sky.

That's a shame for humanity. But it's much worse for the insects, birds, reptiles and mammals that have had their ecosystems disrupted by the sudden change. In the evolutionary blink of an eye, artificial light has altered migration, mating, foraging, pollination and predation rhythms that developed over eons. Light pollution isn't as severe an ecological threat as climate change or habitat loss, but it's accelerating the decline of many animal populations.

And, unlike climate change and habitat loss, this problem has a cheap and painless fix: Just turn down the damn lights.

I asked Torney Van Acker, a retired engineer on the Dark Sky Committee, to visit my home one night for a demonstration. With my "E.T."-spaceship lights on, we stood outside and he aimed his light meter at the zenith. Using a measure of brightness called "magnitude per square arc-second," the brightest, Monday-Night-Football night sky is about 16 mpsas, and the darkest

sky, with zero light pollution, is 22. The sky above my home scored 18.65 — what you'd expect in a brightly lit suburb.

We turned the lights off and the darkness score shot up to 21.23 — that's 100 times darker than before, Van Acker said, and typical of a rural night sky. Though there was a crescent moon and still a faint glow in the West from the setting sun, thousands of stars revealed themselves as our eyes adjusted. The Big Dipper pointed us to the North Star and to Deneb, which led us to Vega and the Lyra constellation in the northeastern sky, from which a shooting star, part of the Lyrid meteor shower, streaked above us. The Milky Way formed a river from horizon to horizon.

"You've got a good sky," Van Acker remarked. I felt oddly flattered - and suddenly protective of it.

This was the sky humans took for granted for almost all of our history. In 1901, the conservationist John Muir wrote that "the floods of light from the stars ... must always be wild, for man can change them and mar them hardly more than can the butterflies." He was wrong. Man found a way to blot out the floods of light from the stars.

"For 4½ billion years there was no artificial light at night. It's really only in the last five human generations that we transformed that," says Ruskin Hartley, who runs the International Dark-Sky Association in Tucson. "It's one of the most profound transformations of our environment."

Black-backed Woodpecker Study

Research at OSU Corvallis shows that Black-backed Woodpeckers that like burned forests can breed in unburned woods. You can read their article at the link below.

https://today.oregonstate.edu/news/woodpecker-likes-burned-forest-can-breed-unburned-woods-too-research-shows#:~:text=CORVALLIS%2C%20Ore.,conservation%20and%20forest%20management%20efforts

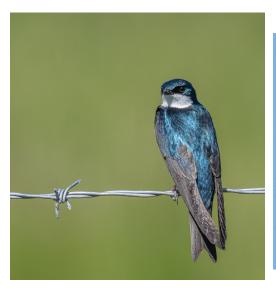


June 2023 Photos in Central Oregon by Local Photographers

Barn Swallow and Lazuli Bunting by Chuck Gates, Tree Swallow and Common Nighthawk by David Sowards-Emmerd, California Quail by Steve Lay and Chukar by Chuck Gates













Canyon Wren by Lena Land, Western Meadowlark by Harry Johnson, Killdeer by Lori Maloney, Mountain Bluebird by Mary Webster, Western Tanagers and young Killdeer by Chuck Gates















Yellow-breasted Chat by Chuck Gates and Sandhill Crane adult with two colts by Lena Land





EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Website www.ecaudubon.org
Email ecaudubon@gmail.com

ECAS Board

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

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Birders' Night Gordon, Duke,

Wendy, Aaron

Field Trips Mary Shivell

Volunteers Miriam Lipsitz, temporary

Newsletters

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

Summer Board Meetings

August 1 September 5

Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month 6 - 8pm. Members are welcome to attend. For the Zoom code, email ecaudubon@gmail.com at least 2 days in advance..

Minutes and meeting dates are posted at 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

https://www.ecaudubon.org/become-a-member/

