



THE CALLIOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST CASCADES
AUDUBON SOCIETY

WINTER 2016-2017

From the Board -- Highlights of 2016

The East Cascades Audubon (ECAS) had another successful year, thanks to its wonderful corps of volunteers. In addition to our usual programs (Lights Out Bend, our children's educational programs, bluebirds, kestrels, Summer Lake surveys, Lake Abert surveys, and others), in 2016 we added three new programs which will continue into 2017. Under the guidance of Board member Tom Lawler, who is also the Conservation Committee Chair, volunteers restored the photo blinds at Cabin Lake, installed escape ramps in stock watering tanks, and installed caps on vault toilets to prevent bird deaths. Sage Grouse efforts will be taking a larger role in 2017. Under the direction of Stu Garrett, ECAS has been opening lines of communication with the State and Federal agencies to see where our volunteers can help. One Sage Grouse program that had a modest start in 2016 was the installation of plastic flippers on fences so low-flying Sage Grouse will not hit the fence wires. A heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers!

In November, we had another successful Annual Event at the Senior Center in Bend. Approximately 180 members and guests enjoyed free pizza and beer, a silent auction, a raffle, and live music. Steve Shunk gave a great presentation on woodpeckers and Chuck Gates prepared a wonderful slide show of the Year in Review.

The only downside of the year was the "retirement" of Sherrie Pierce and Jan Rising. Both have been an integral part of the Board for the last 6 years. Board members are limited to two, 3-year terms and both Sherrie and Jan have "termed out". Their participation in all phases of

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ECAS programs and Board activities will be sorely missed! Karen Gentry has also left the Board after a 3-year term. The three board vacancies have been filled by two new Board members, Tom Penpraze and Diana Roberts, leaving us one Board member short. In this issue, you can read "farewells" from Jan and Sherrie, as well as a brief biography of Diana. The next issue will introduce you to Tom.

We have also continued our practice of making grants to other non-profit organizations that further our mission of increasing knowledge and appreciation of birds and their habitat. In a recent issue Calliope featured the Trumpeter Swan Society, which is working to establish a breeding population of Trumpeter Swans at Summer Lake. In this issue, we feature we highlight FANS -- Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area.

Happy Holidays!

Ken Hashagen, President

New Board Member -- Diana Roberts



Diana joined ECAS in 2011, after she moved with her husband, Don, to the juniper forest in the outskirts of Prineville. She participates in annual Christmas Bird Counts, monitors several Kestrel nest boxes and was responsible for organizing and moderating Birders' Night for five years. Diana retired from a management career with the Oregon Department of Human Services. Her child welfare work took her to many parts of Oregon, where she enjoyed exploring the diverse habitats and wildlife of our beautiful state. Diana holds a Master's Degree in Child Development and is currently working on OSU certification as a "Master Naturalist." She is excited to join the ECAS Board, bringing management skills, a commitment to conservation and appreciation of all things wild (especially birds!) to the Board.

Summing Up...

Ken Hashagen has given a nice summary of this year's Annual Event, a thank-you for our volunteers started many years ago by the East Cascades Bird Conservancy (ECBC). This year's income from the fund-raising part of the that function was on par with past years, the auction earning slightly more than last year. Thanks again to all of the donors and volunteers who made this a success. It was also a time for new memberships and renewals. With the Annual Event effort by Jan Rising and her Membership committee and the on-line capability, memberships have stayed strong.

When ECBC merged with Central Oregon Audubon Society (COAS) to form East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) in 2011, I was asked by then Secretary Mary Oppenheimer to stand for Board election. I agreed to do that and six years later I am finished with the two terms that ECAS By-laws allow. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as part of the Board and have served with great people. My thanks go to all of the volunteers of the ECAS Projects and Programs, Committee Members, Administrative volunteers, fellow Board members, and wonderful

members who are always interested in helping the birds. I plan on continuing in various volunteer capacities but am happy to let others continue the strong leadership position the Board has in the conservation community. Good birding to all in 2017 and beyond.

Sherrie Pierce, retiring Board Member

Parting Thoughts

I am a birder and my birding skills seem to be stuck at the intermediate level, but I am concerned about birds' well-being. This is one reason I've been an ECAS Board member for the past six year. My participation has given me knowledge about what our Central Oregon birds need to survive and thrive.

Another reason I have volunteered my time for the Board and other ECAS duties is because I enjoy the experience of working with different ECAS members. If you want to learn about how this organization functions and you care about Central Oregon birds, being on the Board of Directors is the way to do it. Diverse skills make for an effective governing board.

I am just one of so very many people who make this "bird club" what it is. You are most likely one of those people too. So, get involved. Volunteer on the Education, Conservation, or Science Committee, or on any of our projects and programs under these committees. You will enjoy working with some wonderful people and contribute to a great organization.

Jan Rising, Birder

Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area (FANs)



Barbara Kennedy and Katya Spiecker preparing the ground to plant milkweed for monarch butterflies along the Middle Deschutes River downstream from Steelhead Falls.

Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area (FANs) is a conservation organization with 230 members that was formed by residents of Crooked River Ranch to preserve and restore the wild landscapes of the Middle Deschutes and Lower Crooked Rivers and Lower Whychus Creek through stewardship, outreach, and education.

Although only six years old, FANs has grown into a major player in the Central Oregon conservation community and the largest member organization at Crooked River Ranch. In 2015, FANs completed a native plant restoration project at the Steelhead Falls trail on the Deschutes River. This year, restoration efforts have included juniper removal from grasslands to reduce wildfire risk and improve habitat for nesting birds, and milkweed planting in the Deschutes Canyon to attract and support migrating monarch butterflies.

In 2016, we led twelve guided hikes into public lands and offered six lectures on Central Oregon topics, including birds, rattlesnakes, mule deer and Native American rock art. In addition, we offered two half-day workshops, one on managing invasive weeds and one on landscaping with native plants. We also removed graffiti on Deschutes Canyon walls.

In addition to shared members, ECAS and FANs have many common interests and goals. It would be wonderful to strengthen the relationship between the two groups. One idea would be joining forces to establish a nest box trail (for kestrels and bluebirds) along the Crooked River Canyon rim north of Crooked River Ranch. In addition, FANs will be doing additional restoration work on the Steelhead Falls trail next spring. We'd love to have ECAS members involved in that project. Perhaps ECAS would like to offer some birding hikes in the public lands surrounding Crooked River Ranch. These are just a few ideas. If you'd like more information, our web site is www.fansofdeschutes.org. Let's explore more, together!

Marilynne Keyser, President of FANs and ECAS member

In Memoriam -- Lowell Franks

Readers of COBOL will be familiar with Lowell Franks as Kim Boddie's friend and companion on winter raptor routes. Lowell died on December 23 at the age of 95. Here is what Kim wrote that day:

"Lowell was a 95 year old retiree birder has lived in Ft. Rock for the last several years. He and his brother Don have built, placed and maintained over 150 passerine bird nest boxes in the high desert from Pumice Springs near Pine Mountain, south to Summer Lake. They have also been maintaining and hauling water to several water guzzlers including Cabin Lake and Cougar Mountain over the years. Lowell has also been keeping Jim and Sue informed on the status of several Golden Eagle nest locations in the Ft. Rock Basin. Lowell's influence on birds and wildlife in the Fort Rock Basin will be greatly missed in the years to come."



Lowell Franks at Summer Lake. Photo by Kim Boddie.

Fall Field Notes - 2016

TRAVEL! Not everyone wants to do it but most of us do. Many birds suffer the same compulsion. They are compelled to uproot themselves a couple of times a year, travel sometimes massive distances and plop themselves down in a foreign land only to uproot again in a short time to make the return journey. As birders, we reap the rewards of bird's travel obsession as the fall often provides us with the most variety and abundance of birds the year has to offer. Below you will find some highlights of the 2016 fall migration.

Water birds are big migrants. Some very nice sightings occurred this season. An unusually high number of 130 SNOW GEESE spent a couple of weeks at Houston Lake (Gates). ROSS'S GEESE were found flying over Green Ridge (Vick fide) and at Wickiup Reservoir (Low). The first CACKLING GEESE showed up in Powell Butte on Oct. 2 (Zalunardo). A record number (102) of TUNDRA SWANS were tallied at the Prineville Sewer Ponds (Gonzalez). About 10 EURASIAN WIGEONS were found scattered around the area's water bodies. GREATER SCAUP are annual at Wickiup Reservoir but this season birds were also seen at Prineville Sewer Ponds (Gonzalez, Gates) and Suttle Lake (C. Miller, M. Miller). New single location records of SURF SCOTER were set for Deschutes County (71 birds at Wickiup, Low) and Crook County (19 birds at Prineville Reservoir). Up to 3 WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS and a new record high count of 5 LONG-TAILED DUCKS were discovered at Wickiup Reservoir (Low). RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS turned up at Wickiup Reservoir (C. Miller, Low, Gonzalez), Suttle Lake (C. Miller) and Redmond Sewer Ponds (Dougill). PACIFIC LOONS were located at Haystack Reservoir (Dougill, Rems) and Wickiup Reservoir (C. Miller). Reports of RED-NECKED GREBES came in from Wickiup (Rems, Low, Miller), Haystack Reservoir (Rems), Ochoco Reservoir (Namitz) and Suttle Lake (C. Miller, M. Miller). Two GREAT EGRETS frequented the Powell Butte area until November 27 for a first county November record. The only regional BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON report came in from Wickiup in August (Kancler).



Red Phalarope, Prineville Reservoir, Crook County, 2nd Count Record, 11/17/16, Chuck Gates



Sanderling, Hatfield Lake, Deschutes County, 8/26/16, Tom Crabtree

A GOLDEN-PLOVER at Wickiup was a bit too far away to identify to species (C. Miller) but a BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER at the same location was a bit more cooperative (Low). Five SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS at Wickiup Reservoir set a single location record for Central Oregon (Low) and another record was set when 36 BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS were tallied at Wickiup Reservoir (Low). Wickiup produced Deschutes County's 5th record of RED KNOT (Low, C. Miller) and the season's only SANDERLING was seen there as well (Crabtree). SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS were noted at Wickiup Res. and Davis Lake (Low, Rems). It was a big year for RED PHALAROPE with individuals found at Hatfield Lake (2 different birds seen by Lew Rems almost a month apart), Prineville Reservoir (Gates) and 2 birds noted at Wickiup Reservoir (Low).

A rare FRANKLIN'S GULL showed up at the Prineville Sewer Ponds (Gates) and an even more rare MEW GULL was found at the Redmond Sewer Ponds (Gonzalez). HERRING GULLS appeared at Wickiup Res. (Low) and at the old Madras Sewer Ponds (Gates) while THAYER'S

GULLS were found at Wickiup on two different occasions (C. Miller, Low). Finally, 2 SABINE'S GULLS made a brief showing at Wickiup in September (Robinson).

We had a few unusual raptor sightings this fall. NORTHERN GOSHAWK reports came in from South Matthieu Lake (Cantor), Wickiup Res. (Low), Tumalo (Martin) and the Ochoco Mountains, (Gates fide). RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS were spotted at Black Butte Ranch (Low), east of Bend (Contreras, Boddie) and Tumalo Reservoir (Meredith). The ECAS Green Ridge Hawk Watch produced two BROAD-WINGED HAWKS (Dougill, Low, et al) and another was seen flying over Black Butte Ranch (Low). The first ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK of the season was found on Green Ridge by the Hawk Watch team (Low, et al). No fewer than 17 PEREGRINE FALCON reports were fielded from our area in the fall of 2016.

A civilian (P. Gates) forwarded a photo of a Madras BARN OWL and others of this species were reported from Haystack Reservoir (Neuman) and in Prineville (Gates). Gray Butte produced a LONG EARED OWL in early November (Dougill). WESTERN SCREECH-OWL were located at the High Desert Museum (Nelson) and along Skyliners Road west of Bend (Meredith, Horvath, Dyer). GREAT GRAY OWLS were spotted in a few places in the Sunriver/LaPine area (Lawler, Pope, Ward, Garrett, et al) and a BARRED OWL turned up near Eagle Crest in Redmond (Dougill). A NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL was calling at Deep Creek Campground in the Ochocos (Greer, Hemstrom) and the number of NORTHERN PYGMY-OWLS reported this fall stands at 13.



Left, Great Gray Owl, Sunriver, Deschutes County, 8/4/16, Tom Lawler

Below, Barred Owl, Eagle Crest, Deschutes County, 11/8/16, Steve Dougill



The only game bird to make this highlight list was BAND-TAILED PIGEON. They were observed on two different occasions on Green Ridge with one amazing report of 9 (Crabtree, Low et al). A final observation came in from the Whitewater Creek Trail north of Mt. Jefferson (Jett).

For ease of listing, we will clump the nightjars, woodpeckers, hummingbirds and corvids into one paragraph. A COMMON POORWILL was still singing at Crooked River Ranch on September 30 (Milan). The last AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER reported this fall was a single individual at Charlton Lake between Waldo Lake and Crane Prairie Reservoir (Mickel). An unusual BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD at Deschutes R. Woods (Moodie) was outdone by a report of COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD at Lower Bridge (Rems). An exciting BLUE JAY took up residence in SW Bend for most of the end of the season (Datwyler).



Blue Jay, Bend, Deschutes County, 11/11/16, Don Sutherland

Every serious birder (and many not-so-serious birders) just love to pick an unusual passerine out of a mixed flock of fall migrants. Some locals used their expertise and a little luck to do just that this season. Tom Lawler located a BLACK PHOEBE at Sunriver Marina and many got to see this Central Oregon rarity. A late SAY'S PHOEBE was still in the Powell Butte area on November 1 (Gates). EASTERN KINGBIRDS were spotted in the Trout Creek area north of Madras (Tubbs) and another turned up just east of Prineville in mid-August (Schlanger). A very late CASSIN'S VIREO still called Central Oregon home on October 12 (Gerke). Indian Ford Campground produced a well described BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (Kancler) and the Grande Dame of CO birding, Judy Meredith found the only NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD reported this fall. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were observed at the east end of Prineville Reservoir (Gates), Haystack Reservoir (Neuman) and Horse Ridge (Namitz, Kornfeld). Late in the season we got a smattering of BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS at places like Eagle Crest (Meredith fide), Lava Butte (Low) and in Bend's West Hills (Crabtree). The only rare bird reported from Camp Polk this season was a Black-and-White Warbler in mid-August (Kristovich). Craig and Marilyn Miller found WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS at Hatfield Lake and Suttle Lake while Kevin Smith had one at Crooked River Ranch. Finally, GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES were found at Smith Rock (Dougill), South Sister (Szeliga) and Lava Butte (Low)

All this talk of traveling birds has left me wishing I would have followed our MacGillivray's Warblers south to the forested hills of Western Mexico. As I type this, the weather man is warning of heavy snow tomorrow. Looks like I'm not as smart as a Mac Warbler.

Chuck Gates

Contributors: Chuck Gates, Steve Dougill, Lew Rems, Peter Low, Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, David Vick, Kevin Smith, Russ Namitz, Erik Kancler, Tom Crabtree, Jim Moodie, Mark

Gonzalez, Ellen Cantor, Sue Martin, Courtney Jett, Sue Tank, John Gerke, Anne Gerke, W. Douglas Robinson, Alan Contreras, Kim Boddie, Howard Horvath, Colby Neuman, Pat Gates, Jon Nelson, Steve Dyer, Tom Lawler, Jonathon Pope, David Ward, Hillary Garrett, Jessica Greer, William Hemstrom, Phyllis Millan, Tom Mickel, Zach Schlanger, Tammy Kaylor Datwyler, John Tubbs, Steve Kornfeld, Kris Kristovich, Walter Szeliga

ECAS Winter Events

Wednesday Birders continue to meet each Wednesday, generally at Nancy P's in Bend. As CALLIOPE goes to press, the starting time is 8 am, 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. To sign up for COBOL, go to <http://lists.oregonstate.edu/mailman/listinfo/cobol>.

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

Fledgling Fun next meets on January 9 and continues on the second Monday of each month through May. The January feature is "Owls" and other scheduled programs include Bird Beaks; Crows, Jays, Ravens, and Magpies; Bird Behavior; and "A Bird-Day Celebration." All 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 at www.eaudubon.org.

Birders' Nights this winter cover topics ranging from raptors to the plight of migratory birds to the wonderful new wetlands being constructed in Prineville. Programs, which are free and open to all, 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.

- On January 19, Jon Nelson presents, "**Avian Ambassadors of the High Desert Museum**". Jon is the Curator of Wildlife at the High Desert Museum and is responsible for all husbandry and training of live animals. He will relate the histories, care, and handling of some of the museum's non-releasable birds and share how the quality of their lives in captivity as animal ambassadors is as high as they can possibly make it. He will try to bring at least two birds to share with the group.
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- On February 16, Eric Klann, City Engineer of Prineville, updates us about the exciting progress on the **Crooked River Wetland Project**. This includes the creation of 120 acres of wetlands, riparian improvements to over two miles of the Crooked River, paved entrance road and 78 space parking lot, 5.4 miles of trails, some paved, restrooms, covered pavilion, two supported walks with viewing platforms, a supported walk over a new side channel of the Crooked, and a gazebo near the confluence of McKay Creek. Additionally, there will be 13 educational kiosks. What a wonderful addition to our area!
- On March 16, the film, "**The Messenger**", from director Su Rynard, will be shown. The film tracks the migration of songbirds with high tech equipment. It attempts to answer the questions of why 10 billion songbirds perish every year and the consequences for the health of the planet. The National Audubon Society has commented that "With exclusive footage and high-tech cinematography, the movie offers an intimate look at the plight of the songbird. Stunning flight sequences... are conveyed in slow motion, making the complexities of wing movement, control, and rhythm visible to the human eye."

2017 Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival

This year's Festival will be held the first weekend of June. Saturday, June 3 will feature full day trips centered around Sisters, while June 1 and 2 will feature full day trips to more distant locations like the Ochocos and Summer Lake. Half-day trips will be on June 4. The number of participants on each trip is limited under our Forest Service permit, and trips usually fill up rapidly. So MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR APRIL 1. Registration begins then. Details will be announced on our website in coming months.

Other Local Birding Events

Winter Wings Bird Festival takes place in Klamath Falls on February 16 - 19. This year's festival features three dynamic keynoters: author, researcher, and birding contributor Scott Weidensaul; Canon Explorer of Light and premier wildlife photographer Chas Glatzer; and award-winning wildlife photographer and author Paul Bannick. Go to www.WinterWingsFest.org for complete information. Registration is open now.

Eagle Watch at Round Butte Overlook Park takes place February 25 and 26. This is a very family-friendly event held each year at the Round Butte Overlook Park Visitor Center ten miles west of Madras. In addition to guided eagle viewing sessions both at Round Butte and at Cove Palisades State Park (shuttles provided), "Eagle Village" features displays and presentations by regional birds-of-prey experts as well as kids' crafts and prize drawings. The schedule of events will be available at <https://covepalisades.wordpress.com/park-programs>

Welcome New Members! Thanks for your support!

Isla Backus	Bend	Bob Bradley	Sisters
Linda Carstens	Bend	Adrienne Garrison	Bend
Tracy Glenn	Bend	Victoria Gordon	Sisters
Brandon Hagg	Bend	Michelle Jones	Bend
Lynn Kramer	Dallas, TX	Jim Lee	Bend
Kate Loughney	Bend	Debra Lumbert	Bend
Sara Morrison	Bend	Danny Swarts	Sisters

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 565, Bend Oregon

www.ecaudubon.org

<i>Board Members</i>	<i>Committee and Event Chairs</i>
<p>President Ken Hashagen Vice-President Ted Groszkiewicz Recording Secretary Danielle Lordi Corresponding Secretary Vacant Treasurer Terri Hyde Board Members John Brune Tom Lawler Tom Penpraze</p> <p>Winter 2017 Board Meetings January 21 (Board Retreat) February 6 (tentative) March 6</p> <p>Board meetings are held at 6pm at The Environmental Center on the first Tuesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend. Future Board meeting dates can be found in the activity calendar at www.ecaudubon.org. Board minutes are also posted at that site after approval by the Board.</p>	<p>Annual Event Board members Bluebirds Ken Hashagen Birders' Night Sue Bertsch Communications Vacant Conservation Tom Lawler Education Mary Yanalcanlin Field Trips Vacant, Finance Terri Hyde Grants Mary Oppenheimer Green Ridge Raptors Leanne Taylor and David Vick Lake Abert Study John Reuland Lewis's Woodpeckers Diane Kook Membership Jan Rising Newsletter Mary Oppenheimer Science Mike Golden Summer Lake Survey Mike Bogar and Danielle Lordi Technology Ted Groszkiewicz Vaux's Swifts Bob Johnson Mary Anne Kruse Volunteers Mardi Jensen Wednesday Birders Judy Meredith Howard Horvath Woodpecker Festival Ken Hashagen Winter Raptor Survey Jeff Fleisher</p>
<p><i>Contact information for Board members, Committee Chairs, and Project Leaders is posted at the "Contact Us" button on the ECAS website.</i></p>	<p><i>If you would like to volunteer for a committee or event, please contact Mardi Jensen at donmardi@bendbroadband.com.</i></p>

The East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) is a 501(c)(3) organization that furthers knowledge and appreciation of birds and their habitats through field trips, education, and field studies. Join ECAS and help preserve the birds of the Central Oregon region at www.ecaudubon.org.