

# THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2019



## President's Report

*By Tom Lawler*

We (the Board) have been trying to figure out how to more fully engage our members and to offer opportunities for volunteerism. I have written a number of times about volunteering and how critical it is to have volunteers to keep ECAS a viable organization. Mardi Jensen, who has been Volunteer Coordinator for two years, is “retiring” from this position at the end of the year. I want to thank her for her service to the organization. Now we need a new Volunteer Coordinator.

Jan Rising, our Membership Committee Chairperson, attended the last Board meeting and brought forth a number of questions about volunteering. I won't go into all the questions but the two that brought me the most thought were:

How should the Volunteer Coordinator connect volunteers with projects?

Should the Volunteer Coordinator wait until contacted by a Project Leader asking for volunteers or should they be contacting Project Leaders on a regular basis?

I feel that ECAS has trouble connecting volunteers to projects. I will be the first to admit that at times I was contacted about a volunteer but had no project to connect with that volunteer. In many cases there is not an active project to fit the volunteer's wants. There is also the case that many projects are quite small and require few people. I think we lose volunteers either by choice or by the fact that we can't provide an opportunity. What areas do we need volunteers? To name a few...Board members, a Treasurer, help with the Annual Event, help with third party events which ECAS participates, and leaders for field trips. As you can tell most of these are not the outdoor/conservation projects that many are interested in. The most pressing issue is that we need a new Volunteer Coordinator. Would you be interested in filling this position? If so, please contact me at [tjlawler@crestviewcable.com](mailto:tjlawler@crestviewcable.com). Your help would be really appreciated!

As mentioned in the previous article the Board needs positions filled. Just as the Board managed to get its nine positions filled we are now faced with two vacancies from Board

members that will not seek re-election. Per our By-laws when someone volunteers to fill a vacant position they must run for that position at the next annual meeting. You will see Garrett Durham and Gordon Wetzel's names on the ballot since they both were appointed by the Board to vacant positions. We would really like to have two more names on the ballot. We are still searching for someone to fill the Treasurer position. Our current Treasurer would like to leave this position but thankfully is hanging in there until we can find a replacement. Would you be interested in helping shape ECAS and have input into the administration of your society? Please contact me at [tjlawler@crestviewcable.com](mailto:tjlawler@crestviewcable.com) and I can discuss with you any questions or concerns about being on the Board. We would welcome your service.

## Annual Event

*by Diana Roberts*

**The East Cascades Audubon Society Annual Event** is happening on **Friday, October 18 from 6 to 9 pm**. We will be gathering at a new venue: the Pine Forest Grange at [63214 Boyd Acres Rd](#) in Bend. At the Annual Event we honor our volunteers and celebrate our many ECAS projects. We will also hold a short business meeting, elect directors to fill Board vacancies and announce the Volunteer and Conservationist of the year. In addition, Stu Garrett, director of our featured conservation project, will update us on local Sage Grouse conservation activities. Like last year, coffee, tea and desserts will be provided. (There is no Birders' Night in October.)

The speaker for this year's meeting will be **Harry Fuller**. Harry is an active birder, tour guide and author. He is a resident of Oregon and the author of "Freeway Birding, San Francisco to Seattle" and co-author of "The Great Gray Owl in California, Oregon and Washington."

Harry's program will be "**Great Gray Owls in Oregon**" - where they are and where they aren't, which habitats welcome this tallest and elusive of all American owls and what limits their range. In the past, many popular field guides included misleading range maps and inaccurate information sometimes calling the Great Gray Owl "a boreal species." Yet they are now known to nest as far south as Fresno County, CA. In Europe the Great Grays are found only in northern Scandinavia and yet, in the US, they are far south of the 45th Parallel. Harry will also discuss on-going research into possible breeding populations northwest of Deschutes, Clackamas and Marion counties.



Photo by Tom Lawler

## Green Ridge Fall Raptor Survey

*by David Vick (or.naturalist@gmail.com 541.923.6943)*

Feeling a change in the air? You're not alone. Restless raptors do too and they are on the move. East Cascades Audubon Society's 15th Green Ridge Fall Raptor Survey kicked off the last two weekends of September. Surveying will continue the first three weekends of October. Our goal is to catch peak migration but the third weekend of October can be touch and go due to weather. We welcome all visitors and volunteers as the more eyes to the sky the better to assist in spotting and tracking migrants. Come up for an hour or stay the day but either way, the scenery and other species are sure to please plus it's a fun way to hone one's skills in identifying raptors at a distance. Mornings often start slow with numbers building up as the afternoon progresses. The last 8 miles to the site are dirt but can be easily navigated by any passenger car. Detailed information and directions can be found on ECAS's excellent website under the PROJECTS tab. Hope to see you there!

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## ECAS Membership Drive

*by Jan Rising*

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 26, 10am to 2pm

**WHERE:** Wild Birds Unlimited

New ECAS members will get a coupon for \$20 off purchase, good Sat. Oct 26 only.  
Renewing ECAS members will get a coupon for 25% off one item, again good only Sat Oct. 26.  
The coupons exclude gift cards and binoculars.

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## Welcome New ECAS Members!

*from Miriam Lipsitz*

Cynthia	Claridge	Redmond, OR
Mechelle	Griffin	Sunriver, OR
KD/Kent	Lam/Bingham	Bend, OR
Craig	Lassen	Bend, OR
Joan	MacDonald	Glen Ellen, CA
Gary	Maschmeyer	Brookings, OR
Natasha	McFarland	Bend, OR
Valerie	White	Bend, OR

# November 21st Birders' Night

*By Sue Bertsch*

## Abbott Schindler's presentation on Eagles

Bird photography is one of Abbott Schindler's many interests in the natural world, and he has been photographing nature for many years. In this century, he's worked to get "close and personal" to birds in particular (they're generally safer than bison, moose, bear and elk, which he's also gotten uncomfortably close to.) His photographic work and equipment utilize his extensive R&D experience, studies of photographic technique and composition, and classroom experiences. His work has been published in scientific and industry journals and fine art books, and it is used extensively by the High Desert Museum.



In 2018 Abbott had a unique opportunity to observe and photograph a Golden eaglet—from an unusually close vantage point—from shortly after it hatched until it fledged. Abbott will describe the challenges and surprises that greeted him during this 3-month experience during a slideshow of the eaglet's physical and behavioral development and interactions with its majestic parents. He'll also contrast the Golden eaglet's development and interactions with those of Bald eaglets he's watched for several years.

Join us every third Thursday of the month 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

**Program:** Social gathering time is from 6:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Programs begin at 7:00 p.m. and usually lasts until 8:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

NOTE: There is no Birders' Night in December as ECAS focuses on Christmas Bird Counts.



# Whychus Canyon Golden Eagle Nest

**2019 Season:** From Snowmageddon to an eaglet falling from the nest to successful fledging of two strong young eagles

*by Jim Hammond*

**HISTORY** To the best of our knowledge, Golden Eagle parents Rocky and Petra started using the nest site in 2010 and have used it yearly over the past ten years. 2010 was also the first year a nest camera streamed video to the internet. Forrest Babcock and Janet Zuelke, owners at that time of the property with a view of the nest, regularly streamed video to the internet with the support of the property owner where the nest is located. In 2015, with new owners of both nest and camera properties, ECAS took over the funding of internet costs as a special project. In the ten years of nest activity so far, 16 eaglets have fledged from this nest. You can read a more detailed history on the ECAS website under Projects, Golden Eagle Cam: <https://www.ecaudubon.org/golden-eagle-cam> While each season has had its share of exciting moments and sometimes heart stopping activities, 2019 saw a new level of such phenomena.

**THIS YEAR** A camera was installed by February 20 when eagle activity in the nest area was noted by observers. Soon after the installation, the internet connection was renewed and a new website domain was established. Conflict with the previous domain, ending in “.com” necessitated registering a new domain: [www.goldeneaglecam.org](http://www.goldeneaglecam.org) A series of heavy snow storms, including “Snowmageddon” caused the camera to malfunction between 22 and 28 February. Petra was clearly incubating by early March when the camera image cleared.

Nest activities during incubation proceeded normally and eggs hatched on April 6 and April 9. Shortly after hatching, the Sisters Park and Recreation District Preschool pupils named the eaglets Metolius (first hatched) and Whychus. Videos of early feeding showed both eaglets getting fed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14ejb9AzNIM>

There were several incidents of severe sibling conflict observed between one and three weeks after hatching. During the week of April 22 Whychus was seriously picked on by her sibling; many viewers were afraid she would perish from injuries or lack of food. What I called “Battle Royale” occurred on April 22 with Whychus appearing, perhaps, injured after the battle ends. Caution: this can be disturbing to watch. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3I95omDVEY> On one occasion it looked like Whychus had been forced off the nest, but she reappeared from hiding after a day. After that week we saw very little additional aggression by the larger eaglet for several weeks.



By May 16, Whychus appeared a week to 10 days behind Metolius in her development. The week of May 20 and later, saw Metolius get more aggressive toward Whychus. Many observers thought this aggression was essentially starving Whychus and suggested “rescuing” Whychus from the nest. This suggestion was soundly shot down by experts such as Jim Anderson and Frank Isaacs.

On May 30 Whychus fell from the nest. It is my assertion that she was accidentally pushed out by Metolius. Look at the video and see if you agree.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaVI8nTNrLY&t=162s>

As soon as I saw this happen (I witnessed it almost live), I went to the camera site to see if I could see Whychus below the nest. A resident of the property, Greg Moring, saw the eaglet below the cliff using a spotting scope and he and I proceeded to figure out a way to get over there and rescue her. She was about 85 feet below the nest and probably had a pretty



rough fall down the cliff but may have been cushioned by landing on a currant bush. We went back up to where we had cell coverage, called Jim Anderson and Brad Nye at the Deschutes Land Trust for directions on how to get to the property. Jim gave me phone number for Gary Landers and Greg and I headed over to the DLT property. After hiking to the location, wrapping Whychus in a towel and putting her in a sack, we headed back to Leslie's. On the way back we contacted Gary and when I came back out to the main road, Gary pulled up shortly and took Whychus for rehab. Gary was not terribly optimistic about Whychus' survival but there didn't appear to be any broken bones and she was alert as can be seen in the photos.





Whychus was at Wild Wings Raptor Rehabilitation of Central Oregon under the care of Gary and Kelly Landers from May 30 to June 10. She was re-nested on June 10 by climbers enlisted by Gary Landers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHp-isqa7ko>  
Another view of the re-nesting is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUISTawcQjM>



The eaglets were getting along pretty well and being fed regularly through the rest of June, though Whychus was by then more than two weeks behind Metolius in her development as indicated by feathering. By the latter part of June, they were both so close in size to each other and their mother Petra that we started referring to both of them as female. Metolius fledged or fell from the nest on June 27

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=50&v=pLsS6EGzC10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=50&v=pLsS6EGzC10) and returned to the nest on June 29 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=12&v=d\\_Q2TGxVW7E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=12&v=d_Q2TGxVW7E) She continued to return regularly to the nest for more than another month (as did Whychus after she fledged.)



There was another episode of sibling aggression on July 9 when Metolius mantled a food drop and then picked a fight with Whychus. They appeared to lock talons for a while. Great closeup views in this video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=728&v=LxWCfgwabgs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=728&v=LxWCfgwabgs)

Whychus fledged on July 24. Their two fledge dates of June 27 and July 24, were the latest of any of the 16 eaglets fledged from this nest during 10 years of monitoring. In 2018 Charity fledged 79 days after hatching while the average time after hatching was about 72 days until then. This year Metolius fledged 82 days after hatching and Whychus fledged 106 days after hatching. She seemed to really like staying in the nest through that long period in July when our viewers were anxiously waiting for her to fledge!

To finish up the season, we kept the camera active long after both had fledged and they continued coming to the nest and the nearby cliff well into August. The last video of the two of them on the cliff was taken on August 16: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mui7c4EOHac>

This was truly a nesting season to remember! You can view videos posted by Marcia on her youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/AccSpec/videos> Videos posted by me on youtube are here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/drjhammond/videos> These two locations have videos from past years, and include topics other than the eagle cam.

### **Acknowledgements and Thanks:**

**Leslie Lawrence** - since 2015 property owner where the camera is located

**Jim Hammond** - Principal technical support and camera operation, project coordination with ECAS, management of resources, and lending of some camera equipment

**Kevin Smith** - ECAS liaison, provider of camera support, and lending of some camera equipment.

**Deschutes Land Trust** - since 2015 property owner of Aspen Hollow Preserve where the nest is located and grantor of permission for access needed for rescue of fallen eaglet

**Robert Robinson** - owner of property abutting Aspen Hollow Preserve and grantor of permission for access to re-nest fallen eaglet

**Gary Landers and Wild Wings Raptor Rehabilitation** in Sisters for accomplishing the rehabilitation and re-nesting of the fallen eaglet in a safe and successful manner in coordination with US Fish and Wildlife and the property owners

**Greg Moring** for help in rescuing the fallen eaglet

**Jim Anderson** for suggesting the method of rescuing the fallen eaglet and recommending the rehabilitation facility and for continuing advice about the development of the eaglets during this and previous seasons

**Marcia Langhorst** for continued support as a volunteer viewer who captures and posts videos to the website

**Yellowknife Wireless** for giving a reduced rate to ECAS for the internet service

**The climbers** who accomplished the re-nesting

**All the many viewers** who observe and provide expertise and comments and who often are the first observers of interesting behavior that can later be posted in videos on the website.



The saga of Rocky and Petra and their eaglets will continue in 2020 with ECAS video cam coverage. Bookmark the website [www.goldeneaglecam.org](http://www.goldeneaglecam.org) for viewing in the Spring. You can also donate to ECAS to help support the technology that makes this all possible. On the ECAS website <https://www.ecaudubon.org/> click on the Donate to ECAS button or go directly to <https://www.memberplanet.com/s/eastcascadesaudubonsociety/ecasdonationform>. Donations may be earmarked for the eagle cam as well as other ECAS projects. Thank you!

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## Vaux's Swifts - Fall 2019

*by Laura Hitt*

Like last year, Mary Ann Kruse along with other counters and observers began the Vaux's Swift fall migration count on August 10<sup>th</sup> at the Boys & Girls Club in downtown Bend. The count on that first night was 60 (almost five times the number last year!), and by the next night it had climbed to 78. The number of Vaux's Swifts rose steadily, finally peaking on September 16<sup>th</sup> at an incredible 2200! This almost doubles last year's high count of 1300. Rainy weather and chilly temperatures in the following days dropped the numbers significantly, but according to Mary Ann the swifts were "lollygagging even in the downpour," when they counted 330 on September 18<sup>th</sup>. And two days later the number was back up to 1200. LeeAnn Kriegh gave a great presentation on Vaux's Swifts at the Bend library on September 26<sup>th</sup> after which about 70 observers saw 110 swifts enter the chimney at the Boys & Girls Club. The estimated North American population of these long-distance migrators is 340,000 and each individual consumes an astounding 20,000 insects a day! Check out [vauxhappening.org](http://vauxhappening.org) for more great information. Thanks to everyone who came out at dusk to count and watch these spectacular birds!



# 2019 Summer Field Notes

*By Chuck Gates*

It was the summer of 1976. Throughout the country, the feel-good hit of the season was *Summertime* by War, ♪ “Summer. Summertime is here. Yes, it’s summer. My time of year.” ♪ Birder’s usually share this sentiment. Summer means early mornings, late sunsets and 16 hours of daylight to go chase birds. Below is a summary of the more unusual bird sightings from the summer of 2019 in Central Oregon.

Most water birds move north to spend the summer and raise their families. A few still show up in Central Oregon. A TRUMPETER SWAN was spotted on the Crooked River and may have been one of a mated pair on a local ranch (Houle). BLUE-WINGED TEAL were reported in unusually high numbers this season due, at least partially, to the continued maturing of the Crooked River Wetlands (Mult. Obs.). At least one pair of AMERICAN BITTERNs could be found at Houston Lake in Powell Butte (Gates, Cahill, Robinson) and a rare BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON turned up at the Crooked River Wetlands (C. Miller). A GREEN HERON was seen at Crane Prairie Reservoir (Weiser). SANDHILL CRANES were reported from Sugar Creek (Bradford) and Paulina Valley (Houle) in Crook County. One of the best finds of the year was a breeding group of **YELLOW RAILS** in Sunriver which was a first for Deschutes County (Jeske). SORA are difficult to find in Jefferson County so one reported at Rimrock Springs made this report (Robinson).

Shorebirds provide most of the excitement for a summer report. They begin arriving in July and unusual things start to happen halfway through the month. BLACK-NECKED STILTS appeared at Wickiup Reservoir (Low). Hatfield Lake produced a single AMERICAN AVOCET in mid-July (Low, Moodie, Thomas). LONG-BILLED CURLEWS were located on Puett Road in eastern Crook County where they likely nested (Archer, Gates). A **PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER** showed up at Wickiup Reservoir for only the 5<sup>th</sup> time in Deschutes County (Low) and nesting WILLETS were noted in their historic locations in eastern Crook County (Houle, Gates).



Pacific Golden-Plover, Wickiup Reservoir,  
7/5/19, Craig Miller



Willet, Puett Rd. Paulina, 6/10/19, Chuck Gates

A MARBLED GODWIT was spotted at Wickiup Reservoir on July 8 (Centanni, Jett) and an early BAIRD'S SANDPIPER turned up at the Crooked River Wetlands in July (Souhrada). Local birders are becoming more adept at identifying SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS so it may not



be surprising that over 10 individuals were found by various observers at multiple locations. Rounding out the shorebirds was a single report of a SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER at Hatfield Lake on July 21 (Crabtree).

Game Birds are mostly non-migratory, so they are seen throughout the year. Summertime can be a good time to look for them as they are often caring for young and less likely to flush. CHUKAR

Semipalmated Sandpiper, Crooked River Wetlands, 7/21/19, Chuck Gates

were tallied on the south side of Prineville Reservoir (Bowers) and at Lake Billy Chinook (Dwyer). RUFFED GROUSE are widespread forest nesters in our area but are seldom reported so a single sighting of one near Benham Falls was welcomed (Pitcher). Likewise, DUSKY GROUSE are present throughout proper habitat in the Ochocos, but their low numbers make a report near Lookout Mt. noteworthy (C. Scranton, P. Scranton). Another summer season went by with **NO Gray Partridge sightings**. We are close to losing this species in our area.

Many raptors use Central Oregon as their summer home. NORTHERN GOSHAWKS were spotted in the Sisters area (Cahill), LaPine area (Arneson) and in the Maury Mountains (Bradford). RED-SHOULDERED HAWK sightings were reported from Sunriver (Burgess, Lawler), Prineville Reservoir (Bowers) and an unusually northern sighting from Prairie Farm Springs on the north end of Green Ridge (Stervander). A summer PEREGRINE FALCON conjures the notion that nesting might occur so one report from the Crooked River Canyon is notable (Punches). Nesting FLAMMULATED OWLS were heard calling west of Sisters on Forest Roads 1030 and 1028 (Gonzalez, Cahill). BARRED OWLS were located at Trout Creek Swamp and on a different part of Forest Road 1028 (Basden, Cahill, Meyers). A LONG-EARED OWL was discovered in the junipers off Barr Road west of Redmond (Stervander) and a SHORT-EARED OWL was seen at Sunriver in mid-June (Pettey, Hill).

Our region is often called Woodpecker Wonderland because of the tremendous woodpecker diversity created by the varied habitats in the Cascades foothills. Most of the woodpecker excitement of the season centered around an ACORN WOODPECKER seen in Sisters (Burgess, Pitcher, Jakse, Thomas, Sizoo) and several AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS reported from Soda Creek Campground (Shunk), Trout Creek Swamp (Sizoo, Jakse) and Sparks Lake (McDonnell).



Gulls and terns are not particularly common locally so most species that are reported make it onto this summary. BONAPARTE'S GULLS were seen at Hatfield Lake (Freiboth, Erland), Crooked River Wetlands (Horvath, ECAS Wednesday Birders) and Suttle Lake (Reubon). FRANKLIN'S GULLS were spotted at Hatfield Lake (Lanning), Crooked River Wetlands (Gates, Davidson, Fainberg) and Wickiup Reservoir (Low). FORSTER'S TERN reports came in from Hatfield (C. Miller), Crooked River Wetlands (Houle) and Paulina Valley (Judy Meredith, ECAS Wednesday Birders). BLACK TERNS were found at Hatfield Lake (Jett, Moodie) and Paulina Valley (Gates, Burgess, Houle).

Finally, we come to the Passerines. These perching birds make up the bulk of summertime nesters and often provide us with surprising bird reports. A **LEAST FLYCATCHER** was seen at Calliope Crossing on June 6 but did not stay long (Mauer). A BLACK PHOEBE was seen by several birders in the Mary McCallum Park at Sunriver (Burgess, Lawler). Many EASTERN KINGBIRDS were reported from locales like Hatfield Lake (Lanning), Mecca Flats near Warm Springs (Kiacz), Tumalo Reservoir (Sizoo, Thomas), east of Paulina (Groo), North Shore Road on Prineville Reservoir (Judy Meredith, ECAS Wednesday Birders) and Little Willow Creek Reservoir east of Madras (Gates). BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were noted several times from the museum area in Warm Springs which is a historic nesting area for them (Cahill). CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES were found at Deer Lake (Proebsting) and Cultus Lake (Wilson-Fey). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were fairly easy to find in isolated areas like



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, North Shore Road, 7/10/19, Chuck Gates

North Shore Road at Prineville Reservoir (Gates, Bradford) and several areas around Gray Butte in Jefferson County (Gates, Johnson, Wolfe). VARIED THRUSH are confined to just a few parts of Central Oregon so reports from Camp Sherman (McElroy), Todd Trail (Cahill) and Fall Creek Trail (Mauer) were worthy of noting. A **GRAY CATBIRD** was found at Indian Ford Campground (Alcorn, Zika) and AMERICAN PIPITS were discovered high up

on Brokentop for an unusual summer record (Cahill). Nesting ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS are not often found in the Ochocos so several records this summer were interesting (Low, Gates). A possible nesting NASHVILLE WARBLER in the same area was also unusual (Gates). YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT were located east of Prineville (MacDonald),



Alder Springs (Kornfeld) and Camp Polk Meadow (Schas). One doesn't often find LARK SPARROWS in Deschutes County so reports from the Redmond Sewer Ponds (Kathol, Little) were exciting. Likewise, FOX SPARROWS, though common in the Cascades, are tough to find in the Ochocos so 4 individuals near Whiskey Springs (Ochoco, not the more famous Cascades. Whiskey Springs) made our summer report. BOBOLINKS returned to their

Bobolink, Puett Rd., 6/10/19, Chuck Gates

historic nesting spot on Puett Road in eastern Crook County (Mult. Obs.) and TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS nested in the Prineville area like they usually do (Mult. Obs.).



Tricolored Blackbird, Crooked River Wetlands, 7/31/19, and Leucistic Brewer's Blackbird, Crooked River Wetlands, 7/4/19, both by Chuck Gates

A leucistic BREWER'S BLACKBIRD spent most of the summer at the Crooked River Wetlands (Jakse). A **GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE** was spotted very briefly in Powell Butte (Zalunardo) and GRAY CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES were found by hikers on the North Sister (Fidorra), Brokentop (Cahill) and the Todd Lake Trail (Cahill).

One thing is for sure. ♪Summer...My time of year. ♪

**OBSERVERS** (in order of appearance in this report) - John Houle, Chuck Gates, Matt Cahill, J. Douglas Robinson, Craig Miller, Claire Weiser, Bill Bradford, Tye Jeske, Peter Low, Jim Moodie, Evan Thomas, Bob Archer, Caleb Centanni, Courtney Jett, Jack Souhrada, Tom Crabtree, Wayne Bowers, Bill Dwyer, James Arneson, Diane Burgess, Tom Lawler, Martin Stervander, Jill Panches, Mark Gonzalez, Linnaea Basden, Josh Meyers, Diane Pettey, Sally Hill, Kara Jakse, Bob Sizoo, Steve Shunk, Alec McDonnell, Kari Freiboth, Heidi Erland, Bryan Lanning, Glen Reubon, Marion Davidson, Denise Fainberg, Judy Meredith, Alan Mauer, Simon Kiacz, Tyler Groo, William Proebsting, Dan Wilson-Fey, Harry Johnson, Walt Wolfe, Margaret Alcorn, Peter Zika, Nancy MacDonald, Steve Kornfeld, Jake Schas, Kim Kathol, Joshua Little, Cindy Zalunardo and Jason Fidorra.

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## Christmas Bird Counts

*by Diana Roberts*

Information that's currently available on the **2019 Central Oregon Christmas Bird Counts**:

Saturday	Dec 14	Bend
Sunday	Dec 15	Sisters
Tuesday	Dec 17	Summer Lake
Wednesday	Dec 18	Madras
Wednesday	Dec 18	Hart Mountain
Thursday	Dec 19	Tygh Valley
Tuesday	Dec 31	Prineville
Saturday	Jan 4	Redmond

Oakridge, Antone, and Sunriver are not scheduled yet.

The specifics, i.e. where and when to meet and who to contact to participate, will be posted on the ECAS website as soon as this information is available.



Artwork by Summitt Rain Foltz-Moodie



# Lights Out Bend is Now International Dark-Sky Association Oregon Chapter

By Mary Ann Kruse <https://www.darksky.org/>

Exciting News! LIGHTS OUT BEND, a soon-to-be-former ECAS project, is transitioning to a new *International Dark-Sky Association Oregon Chapter!*

The IDA Oregon chapter will act as statewide base for IDA. The Oregon chapter joins a network of more than 50 chapters on 5 continents! We aim to elevate astro-tourism in Oregon, to remind people to look up, to galvanize groups around the state that are celebrating Oregon's world class skies!

*IDA's mission is to preserve and protect the nighttime environment and our heritage of dark skies through environmentally responsible outdoor lighting.*

## GOALS:

- \* Advocate for the protection of the night sky
- \* Educate the public and policymakers about night sky conservation
- \* Promote environmentally responsible outdoor lighting
- \* Empower the public with the tools and resources to help bring back the night

IDA works to raise awareness about light pollution – the inappropriate use of artificial light at night – which is an environmental pollutant that harms our planet and robs us of the opportunity to experience the wonder of a natural night sky.

IDA is the recognized authority for night sky protection and has taken the lead in identifying and publicizing the negative impacts of artificial light at night on human health, wildlife and climate change.

We work with the public, city planners, legislators, lighting manufacturers, parks, and protected areas to provide and implement smart lighting choices.

IDA's **public outreach** efforts provide solutions, quality education, and programs that inform audiences across the United States and throughout the world. At the local level, our mission is furthered through the work of our U.S. and international chapters representing five continents.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- \* Turn off lights when not in use.
- \* Use timers, dimmers and motion sensors when possible.
- \* Use fully shielded and hooded lighting fixtures.
- \* Use energy-efficient lighting sources and fixtures.
- \* Choose no more than 3000Kelvin bulbs, amber in color.
- \* Join the IDA! <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/ways-to-give/membership/>
- \* Donate to IDA! [https://darksky.salsalabs.org/supporting\\_pmt\\_form/index.html](https://darksky.salsalabs.org/supporting_pmt_form/index.html)

## Some Central Oregon Swan Success Stories

*From the Trumpeter Swan Society's August 2019 newsletter*

### "Grace and Gus" and their new swan family



"Grace" (left) and "Gus" (right) and their four cygnets, nearly three weeks old, at the Sunriver Nature Center - Margaret Smith photo July 2019

The Oregon Restoration Program's new male swan, "Gus" did not wait long to pair up with "Grace", our female swan who lost her previous mate "Chuck" to a shooter in November 2017.

Within the first week of meeting in mid-May, "Grace and Gus" mated and began nest building. On July 4, four cygnets hatched! All four cygnets were thriving in late July.

The cygnets will be released at Summer Lake Wildlife Area next spring as part of the Oregon Restoration Project, a partnership between The Trumpeter Swan Society, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

It was a delight to see this special swan family of one of our Oregon swan breeding partners. Thank you to Sunriver Nature Center for your care of this swan family!

## **Aspen Lakes swan family**

Aspen Lakes Golf Course is another Oregon swan breeding partner in the Oregon Restoration Project. Their swan pair, a female "Eloise" and male "Pete" became a pair in the spring of 2018, shortly after "Pete" was purchased through the generous donations of the local community. "Eloise" had lost her mate a few years earlier. In 2018, they hatched their first cygnet which was released in April 2019 at Summer Lake Wildlife Area in Oregon. This June, they hatched **eight** cygnets! It was lots of fun watching the entire family feast on food. The cygnets will be released at Summer Lake Wildlife Area next spring. We thank the local community for their wonderful care of this swan family and for the opportunity to share with them the importance of their swan family to returning trumpeter swans to Oregon.

## **Pronghorn Resort swan breeding pair doing well**



Pronghorn Resort 2019 Margaret Smith photo

Our third Oregon-based swan breeding partner for the Oregon Restoration Project is Pronghorn Resort. This beautiful development is home to a swan pair, still too young to breed. We purchased the pair last year and they arrived at Pronghorn in November. The female swan came from Indiana and the male swan came from Pennsylvania. We appreciate the care by Pronghorn Resort of this swan pair. It was a pleasure to meet the swans' neighbors to share with them the importance of their swan pair to restoring trumpeter swans to Oregon.

More info at <https://www.trumpeterswansociety.org/> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TheTrumpeterSwanSociety/>



# Welcome to our newest ECAS Board members!

## Gordon Wetzel

Because seasonal migrations were getting too long, Gordon and his wife Linda recently moved to Bend from Anchorage, Alaska, his home for the past 40 years. In 2000, after retiring from being an engineer in the oil industry, Gordon then pursued other interests including endurance sports and coaching cross country skiing. He served on the Board of the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage (NSAA) for 6 years, 4 years as president. NSAA is a non-profit that maintains trails and manages programs to promote Nordic skiing.



Birding has been an evolving interest. Gordon was always interested in the natural world and outdoor activities. After attending the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival in Homer, Alaska, he started developing a birding itch. Birding gets one in touch with the environment and helps to develop an understanding of ecology and the need for conservation. Also, as his running game turned to walking, it made sense to carry binoculars and a camera and take time to smell the roses.

As a Board member of ECAS, Gordon hopes to get involved in conservation efforts in Central Oregon and to share his love of the outdoors.



## Garrett Durheim

I was born and raised here in central Oregon and love everything about our little piece of paradise. I started birdwatching in high school and was immediately hooked. Now I never leave the house without binoculars! The wonderful folks in our birdwatching community have taught me so much about the beauty in our backyard, and I am excited to help spread that knowledge and give back to nature. My favorite bird in central Oregon is the Belted Kingfisher, but I do have a special place in my heart for woodpeckers as well.

## Donations to ECAS - Thank You!

*compiled by Jan Rising and Clare Stanfield*

From January through August 2019 over \$4600 from 28 donors was given to ECAS. Some donations are from individuals, families, or companies. Some are given in memory or in honor of an individual, and some are given to a specific project such as Cabin Lake, Eagle Cam, or Lights Out Bend. Some of the donors are ECAS members who give in addition to their membership dues. Some of the donors are not ECAS members. All gifts are greatly appreciated! Thank you for supporting ECAS and the work it does. You can donate to ECAS online by clicking on the DONATE TO ECAS button on our website at [www.ecaudubon.org](http://www.ecaudubon.org)

Isobar Systems- Shirley Rodgers (*additional donations made to Cabin Lake*)

Your Cause- Chevron Matching Funds (*additional donations made to Lights Out Bend*)

Grant Co Bird Club

Daniel & Helen Pyne

Joyce Kirk

Ken Hashagen (*additional donations made to Lights Out Bend*)

Keith & Linda Towne

James Bartlett

Kevin Smith

Elisabeth & John Farwell

Barton Hoag (*additional donations made to Cabin Lake*)

Jeannette Gailey

Elaine Karnes

Ann & Patrick Kilbride-Vaughan

Andrew Rivinus (*additional donations made to Cabin Lake*)

Sara Joshel (*additional donations made to children's programs*)

Ragina Anderson

Dierdre Pierson

Robert Piacentini

Michael Gibbons

Kristen Shields

Marilyn Stinnett

Don & Diana Roberts

Linda Phelan

Chuck Philo (*additional donations made to Cabin Lake*)

Margaret Zimet



# 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
Secretary	Diane Burgess
Treasurer	Terri Hyde
Board Members	Garrett Durheim
	Tom Penpraze
	Carolyn Rochelle
	Bob Sizoo
	Gordon Wetzel

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

## Fall Board Meetings:

October 1  
November 5  
December 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
Membership	Jan Rising
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)