

# THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020



## President's Report

*By Tom Lawler*

Summer is here! For our resident birds this is the time of year for feeding nestlings or fledgelings. I always enjoy the early part of summer because I have many nest boxes filled with noisy chicks begging for food or groups of fledgelings chasing around their parents asking to be fed.

In the real world we are in the fourth month of what is our new normal. We are probably all wishing we could get back to the old normal but many of us realize this is not going to happen anytime soon. As most of our members know, we hold an annual event in the fall to honor our volunteers, projects, socialize with others and vote on officers. Being that we, the ECAS Board, have no idea what will be going on with the COVID pandemic in the fall, **we decided to cancel this year's Annual Event, traditionally held in October.** There are just too many unknowns to go ahead with this event. We do not know how many people will be allowed to socially gather and it would be difficult in any meeting space to keep social distancing. What do we want to do in its place? We are working with the idea of putting some of the presentations online. This could be the review of our projects, which might be very brief this year, and the featured conservation project.

**The Board also will have a number of vacancies to fill this year.** Most, if not all, of the officer positions will also need to be filled. Are you interested in serving on the Board? **We also need someone who would be interested in maintaining our web page.** Please contact me at [ecaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ecaudubon@gmail.com). Yes, we now have an email address for ECAS. I was kind of surprised that we did not have an email address in the past and thought it would be a good idea to have one! It was also time to remove officers' email addresses from our website. They were being used by Spammers to send us phishing emails. The email is checked two to three times per week so if you would like to contact any offices it can be done via the email ECAS gmail address.

Enjoy the outdoors and the birds!

# 2020 Spring Field Notes

*By Chuck Gates*

You've gotta love the English language. Just the abundance of homonyms alone must drive English learners to their knees. For example, take the word spring. There are no fewer than 7 distinct meanings of the word S-P-R-I-N-G! Luckily for Central Oregon birders, S-P-R-I-N-G just means great birding. Below is a summary of the top spring bird sightings between March 1 and May 31, 2020.

Trumpeter Swan Crooked River Wetlands 3/28/20 Chuck Gates



Water birds migrate through Oregon in the spring and often bring pleasant birding surprises. TRUMPETER SWANS were seen in Crook County on several occasions which is not all that unusual but a small group of 4 at the Redmond Sewer Ponds was out of the ordinary (Kathol). Most GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE are gone by mid-May so a single individual at Houston Lake on May 29 was interesting (Cahill). Spring SNOW GEESE are expected in small numbers locally but a big flock of 28 was noted at the Crooked River Wetlands on Mar 13 (Zalunardo, McAtee). The only ROSS'S GOOSE reported this spring was found at the Prineville Sewer Ponds (Gates). CACKLING GEESE were scarce this year with reports from Hatfield Lake (Low) and Crooked River Wetlands (C. Miller, M. Miller) completing the entire list. EURASIAN WIGEONS were tough to find early in the season but were well represented later with sightings at Lake Billy Chinook (Weiser), Redmond Sewer Ponds (Kathol), Crooked River Wetlands (Kaiserman) and Houston Lake (Gates, Staats). A LONG-TAILED DUCK turned up at Wickiup Reservoir on April 9 and stayed about 10 days (Centanni, Jett). COMMON GOLDENEYES usually migrate early so an individual seen at the Crooked River Wetlands on May 15 was notable (Gates, Staats). GREATER SCAUP visit us in small numbers but an

unusually large flock of 30 was recorded at Wickiup Reservoir on May 3 (Low). Breeding plumaged HORNED GREBES are always a local surprise so finding 6 on North Twin Lake in early May was nice (Gates, Nordstrom). CLARK'S GREBES were seen at Houston Lake (Gates, Sutherland) and Hatfield Lake (Horvath). A GREAT EGRET was found along the Crooked River (Gates) and AMERICAN BITTERNs were heard "galumphing" at Houston Lake (Gates) and Sunriver Nature Center (Selberg). WHITE-FACED IBIS turned up at the Crooked River Wetlands (Wolfe), Elliott Lane west of Prineville (Golden) and at Hatfield Lake (Horvath, Oppenheimer, Zalunardo, Sutherland). Scattered reports of BONAPARTE'S GULLS came in from multiple sources and locations while FORSTER'S TERN reports were limited to Hatfield Lake (Horvath, Oppenheimer, Low) and Crooked River Wetlands (Gates, C. Miller, M. Miller). The only Black Terns seen this spring were two that briefly turned up at the Crooked River Wetlands on May 10 (Beerman).

Shorebirds deserve their own paragraph away from the other "water birds". In spring, they are a highlight reel in and of themselves. A beautiful breeding plumaged BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER



Black-bellied Plover – Hatfield Lake 5/5/20 Tom Crabtree

turned up at Hatfield Lake and stayed for nearly two weeks (Jonas). AMERICAN AVOCETS and BLACK-NECKED STILTS were more common than normal this spring with the bulk of sightings coming from multiple observers at Redmond Sewer Ponds, Hatfield Lake, and Crooked River Wetlands. A late GREATER YELLOWLEGS were counted at Redmond Sewer Ponds on May 21 (Gates) and a late LESSER YELLOWLEGS showed up at Houston Lake on Apr 21 (Gates). SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were found at the Redmond Sewer Ponds (Kathol, Golden) and Hatfield Lake (Low). WILLETS were found nesting in eastern Crook County at their normal spots but a WILLET at Hatfield Lake was a bit unusual (Thomas). The flat farmland north of Madras known as Agency Plains has been great for producing LONG-BILLED

CURLEWS the last few years and this year did not disappoint (Jett, Centanni). Single SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS were recorded at Hatfield Lake on May 1 (Horvath) and May 13 (Reisenbichler). At least one and maybe two SANDERLINGS were located at the Crooked River Wetlands on May 20 (Gates) and May 22 (C. Miller, M. Miller).

Sanderling Crooked River Wetlands 5/20/20 Scott Staats



As I am writing this section on Game birds, I cannot help but wonder if there may come a time when we have no game birds to report in a summary like this. Birds like Greater Sage-grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Chukar, Gray Partridge and Mountain Quail keep getting harder and harder to find as the years roll on. The status of GREATER SAGE-GROUSE at the Millican Lek is a bit shadowy to this reporter as locals are becoming less likely to report their sightings and bird numbers continue to hover around zero. RUFFED GROUSE were heard drumming near Ochoco Ranger Station (Beerman) and on FR 2620 in the Ochocos (Gates, Sutherland). RING-NECKED PHEASANTS continue to be seen or heard around Prineville (Gates, Staats) and Gateway (Gates) but their future is tenuous at best. CHUKAR sightings came in from Indian Park Campground in Jefferson County (Chen), North Shore Road near Prineville Reservoir (Williamson) and Mecca Flats near Warm Springs (Thomas). BAND-TAILED PIGEONS show up locally at random times and twice this spring we had reports of this species (Centanni, Jett, Jervis).

We enjoyed a good volume of exciting raptor sightings this spring. The first migrating OSPREY began arriving on Mar 13 (Zalunardo, McAtee) and the first SWAINSON'S HAWK sighting was on Apr 10 (Gates). NORTHERN GOSHAWKS were spotted at Eagle Crest (Golden), Shevlin Park west of Bend (Thomas), Ochoco Ranger Station (Beerman), Sawyer Park in Bend (Gonzalez) and in SE Bend (Low). PEREGRINE FALCONS were found at Hatfield (Low) on two occasions and nesting Peregrines were noted again at Smith Rock State Park (Vick).



Barred Owls materialized in SE Bend (Tank fide), Tumalo (S. Miller), Redmond (Neff) and Virginia Meissner Snow Park (Fagan, Tennyson, J. Freilich, H. Freilich). It is rare to find a



Great Gray Owl Ochoco Mountains 5/13/20 Chuck Gates

GREAT GRAY OWL anywhere in Oregon but a Crook County bird found in the Ochocos is very rare (Tomlinson). FLAMMULATED OWL reports came in from Lemon Creek in the Ochocos (Gates, Staats), Virginia Meissner Snow Park (Fagan, Tennyson, J. Freilich, H. Freilich, Jakse, Burgess) and Swampy Lakes Snow Park (Fagan, Tennyson, J. Freilich, H. Freilich, Jakse, Burgess). NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS were detected on Ochoco NFR 2610 (Tomlinson), on the Summit Rd. also in the Ochocos (Jett, Centanni), Steins Pillar Trailhead (Gates, Staats), Deschutes NFR 18 & 45 (Fagan) and near Lolah Butte (Centanni, Jett).

Near Passerines include the nightjars, hummingbirds, and woodpeckers among others. COMMON NIGHTHAWKS first arrived on May 21 (Gates) and COMMON POORWILLS were first detected on May 1 (Tank). The first RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD was discovered on Apr 21 (Tackmier) and the earliest CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD was found on Mar 20 which is an exceedingly early date (Bohnert). BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS are somewhat rare in Deschutes County, but reports came in from Aspen Lakes (Tackmier), Deschutes River Woods in Bend (Moodie) and Turquoise Rd. in Bend (Richie). A pair of AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS were easily seen by many in the Trout Creek Swamp area all spring (Lowe). PILEATED WOODPECKERS were located at Round Lake (Nordstrom), Ochoco Summit Rd. (Gates, Sutherland) and Trout Creek Swamp (Crabtree, Low, Hashagen).

Spring Passerine migration often produces some of the most exciting birds of the whole year. A LEAST FLYCATCHER was discovered just south of Indian Ford Campground on May 31 (Cahill) for the 17<sup>th</sup> county record. A BLACK PHOEBE was seen near LaPine (Hibbs) and an Eastern Kingbird showed up in Powell Butte (Zalunardo). After getting our first HUTTON'S VIREOS ever this winter, the surprises kept coming with birds reported from Whychus Creek



Hutton's Vireo Whychus Creek 3/10/20 Tom Crabtree

(Kornfeld, Pierce), Bend's Shevlin Park (Zalunardo, Timony, Pidgeon), Benham Falls (Centanni, Jett) and a first county record for Jefferson County at Whiskey Springs (White). A PURPLE MARTIN buzzed through Cline Falls on May 3 (Turner). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS are becoming so common that they hardly merit mentioning in this report. That said, gnatcatchers were found at Hatfield Lake (Jett, Centanni), Arnold Market Rd. in Bend (Low), Gray Butte (Cahill, White), Wickiup Res. (Low) and Alder Springs (Mathison). The BLUE JAY that spent the



Blue Jay – Crouch Market Rd. Tumalo 3/10/20 Tom Crabtree

winter on Couch Market Rd. in Tumalo was found throughout most of the spring as well (Cahill, Low). PINYON JAYS can be fairly regular in southwestern Jefferson County, but 25 birds found at the Pelton Re-regulation Dam were out of that normal range (Talbot). A rare white variant of



White Variant of Varied Thrush Camp Sherman 4/3/20 Janet Keen

VARIED THRUSH was photographed near Camp Sherman on Apr 3 (Keen). A NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD was spotted on Horse Ridge on May 24 (Dachenhaus) and a LAPLAND LONGSPUR report came in from Hatfield Lake in mid-March (Low). A very early CHIPPING SPARROW was photographed in Tumalo on Apr 4 (Johnson). Late HARRIS'S SPARROWS were noted at Bend's Old Mill District on Apr 5 (Swiney) and in LaPine on March 24 (Hibbs). WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were seen in 8 locations and by multiple observers throughout the season with the latest birds noted on May 4 (Kristovich, Boever). A ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK made a brief appearance at a feeder 11 miles north of Sisters (Tank) and Central Oregon's third record of ORCHARD ORIOLE was discovered in Bend's



Orchard Oriole Bend 5/5/20 Tom Crabtree



Bobolink Puett Road 5/28/20 Don Sutherland

Miller's Landing Park on May 3 (Wilson). TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS and BOBOLINKS were fairly easy to find in their historic Crook County locations and were noted by multiple observers. Two GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES were reported from Trout Creek Swamp on May 3 for an unusual sighting for that date and location (Centanni, Jett).

Well, that's the spring report. I hope this summary will encourage you to spring out and find some great birds. If you do, Central Oregon will spring forth with an abundance of avian surprises and add an extra spring in your birding step. As always, it will help if you spring for some good optics. If you are stealthy, you can hide near a spring and spring a trap for some of these rarities and see them yourself. ENGLISH...you gotta love it!

OBSERVERS (In Order of Appearance) – Kim Kathol, Matt Cahill, Cindy Zalunardo, June McAtee, Chuck Gates, Peter Low, Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Claire Weiser, Steve Kaiserman, Janice Staats, Caleb Centanni, Courtney Jett, Jeff Nordstrom, Don Sutherland, Howard Horvath, Scott Selberg, Walt Wolfe, Mike Golden, Mary Oppenheimer, Tucker Jonas, Evan Thomas, Reg Reisenbichler, Aaron Beerman, Emile Chen, Jack Williamson, Mark Gonzalez, David Vick, Christine Jervis, Sue Tank, Suzan Miller, Cheryl Neff, Damian Fagan, Raven Tennyson, Jerry Freilich, Helen Freilich, Iain Tomlinson, Kara Jakse, Diane Burgess, Kristen Tackmier, Brett Bohnert, Jim Moodie, Marina Richie, Cash Lowe, Tom Crabtree, Ken Hashagen, Ondi Hibbs, Cindy Zalunardo, Boyd Turner, Steve Kornfeld, Sherrie Pierce, Sheila Timony, Colleen Pidgeon, Brian White, Jacob Mathison, Brodie Cass Talbott, Janet Keen, Jon Dachenhaus, Harry Johnson, Chaney Swiney, Kris Kristovich, Nancy Boever, Tyler Wilson.

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## Welcome Newest ECAS Members!

Ingrid Akerblom	Cedar City, UT
Karen Garber	Sisters, OR
Jim/Monica Greer/Tomosy	Sisters, OR
Basey Klopp	Bend, OR
Laura McWhorter	Bend, OR
Robin Prigan	San Jose, CA
Patti & Bob Truhn	Wilsonville, OR
Duke Tufty	Portland, OR
Nanci Weaver	Bend, OR



## Collaborative Partnership Helps Birds

*By the ECAS Board*

Many of our members will recognize these sites. These vault toilets are located at Buena Vista, Krumbo Dam, Krumbo Reservoir and P Ranch on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Several individual donations and one \$200 contribution from ECAS made possible the purchase of the screens and associated hardware. Teresa Wicks, Portland Audubon's Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator and Janelle Wicks, The Friends of Malheur NWR Executive Director, installed vent screens on all four of the vault toilets amid the pandemic closure and just in time to prevent nesting in the pipes. Janelle appreciated the views from atop a pit toilet roof! Read more about this project and its history at <https://malheurfriends.org/2020/06/working-together-for-the-birds/>  
Photos by Janelle Wicks.



## Vaux's Swifts Update

*By M.A. Kruse*

For the impressive 2020 Northbound migration, 55 observers made 500 observations at 41 sites finding 39 active and documenting 400,375 Vaux's Swifts going to roost.

For comparison, 2019 data documented 218,658 total roosting swifts. No conclusions have been drawn re: these stellar 2020 numbers—your speculations are always welcome. Perhaps with more people becoming birders during COVID19 (based on binocular sales, bird app purchases, etc), there might have been more people watching & submitting their findings? More details here: <https://www.vauxhappening.org/>

# Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Birding

*By ECAS Members*

We are normally spoiled by a vast and continuous array of birding outings, activities and events here in Central Oregon thanks to this active East Cascades Audubon Society which is led by knowledgeable and energetic birders. Due to the new normal of the Coronavirus, those activities aren't possible now and carpooling and traveling are limited. Instead we must be creative with Do-It-Yourself birding (photography! poetry! technology! graphs!) using the guidance of local leaders. The following articles are offered by those experts as ideas of ways to DIY-bird in your backyard, in local areas, and on field trips. Although not the same as being in a group led by those experts, these ideas offer ways to get outdoors, enjoy birds, and continue exploring and learning safely. Many thanks to all who contributed.

## Why (and how) I Yardbird, and Why You Should Too

*by Jim Moodie*

I began keeping track of the birds I observed in my yard in late October 2001, a few months after moving to our one-acre property in Deschutes River Woods. DRW, as it is called, is a development SW of Bend known for large lots and many Ponderosa Pines. Our place is snuggled up to the lava flow that is part of the Newberry National Volcanic Monument. My first recorded bird was a calling Canyon Wren, up on the lava flow just south of our house. Within a week after paying attention to the birds again, I decided to set up a feeding station in the front yard near one of the windows. Within the first year I observed 80 yard species. I was hooked. My record keeping became more and more sophisticated, not just recording a species that was new to the yard or new for the year in the yard, but daily records (when I was home). This October will mark the start of my twentieth year of yardbirding in Central Oregon.

### What is Yardbirding?

Birding in your yard, or yardbirding, is straightforward: any bird observed through sight or sound while on your property (owned or rented) can be counted. If you have ever inspected eBird Yard Lists (<https://ebird.org/site/yard>), you can see that what is a yard varies greatly, from birding out a high-rise apartment window in New York City to birding on your hundred plus acres ranch in Texas (or any other state). Having a large 'yard' can certainly increase the chances of adding more species, but location likely is more important; a birder in New Jersey has a ¼ acre yard, but he has observed nearly 300 species! Of course, it helps that he lives on the famous Cape May Peninsula.

What birds can you count? Yellow Warbler spotted out the front window in your crabapple tree, count it. Bald Eagle soaring over your yard while gardening, count it. Trumpeter Swans flying above the tree line over the Deschutes River seen from your deck, count it. Pileated Woodpecker seen in a distant neighbor's yard while returning from a neighborhood walk, cannot count it. To be honest, I have on occasion, picked up the pace on those neighborhood walks if I

hear or see something uncommon in the neighborhood attempting to arrive on my property, then listen and look for the bird so I can add it to my daily list.

If you want to bird beyond your property, you can set up a Patch (<https://ebird.org/site/patch>) to count all the species in your neighborhood, your regular walking route, etc. A popular type of patch birding is creating a five-mile radius (5MR) circle around some center point, like your property, and counting all the birds within the circle. What I like about yardbirding compared with patch birding is that I know that I can find a bit of time to yard bird, because I am already at my destination...right here.



Rufous Hummingbird by Jim Moodie

Month	Biggest Surprise for the Yard
January	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
February	Anna's Hummingbird
March	Rough-legged Hawk, Killdeer
April	Caspian Tern, Swainson's Hawk
May	Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Sora
June	Costa's Hummingbird, Greater Yellowlegs
July	American White Pelican
August	Red-shouldered Hawk
September	Canada Jay, White-throated Swift, (too many)
October	Bonaparte's Gull
November	Common Redpoll, Northern Shrike
December	House Sparrow (very rare here)

*Table 1. Some of our biggest surprise species by month*

### Why Yardbird?

The short answer is yardbirding is fun and easy. It connects us with nature every day. There are always surprises that pop up, whether it is a new species for the yard—sitting on our upper deck, Kim and I were enjoying a beer after the sunset in May 2013 and heard the Sora's distinctive whinny—an odd plumaged common species, a study of the variation that exists for a species (e.g. Dark-eyed Junco), or a behavior that you have never seen before. Odd behavior led me to another new species for the yard. In August 2004, I watched a hummingbird chasing away Rufous Hummingbirds from one of our hummingbird feeders. As we know, around here Rufouses rule! Given it could not be one of our other common hummers, I observed it more closely and discovered it matched a female Costa's Hummingbird! Not only that, but she molted all her tail feathers and stuck around, guarding her feeder, for six weeks until the new tail feathers came in. She returned for the next two summers to repeat her feather shedding stopovers. Of course, there are times of the year that tend to be 'uneventful'. Same bird

species day after day after day. The winter months and mid-June through July seem to fit this mold (see the narrowness of the confidence intervals for those months in figure 1). However, you never know what might visit, which is why I keep looking. This year, I observed at least two new month-species for January (2), February (2) and March (5).

Personally, I enjoy building a dataset that I can review to look for trends. While I kept a list starting in 2001, I didn't really start daily (or as many days as I could) tabulations until 2003; thereafter, I have consistently recorded what I observe from the yard. Data provide information that you just can't replicate by simply remembering. Data help tell stories (figure 1 below.)

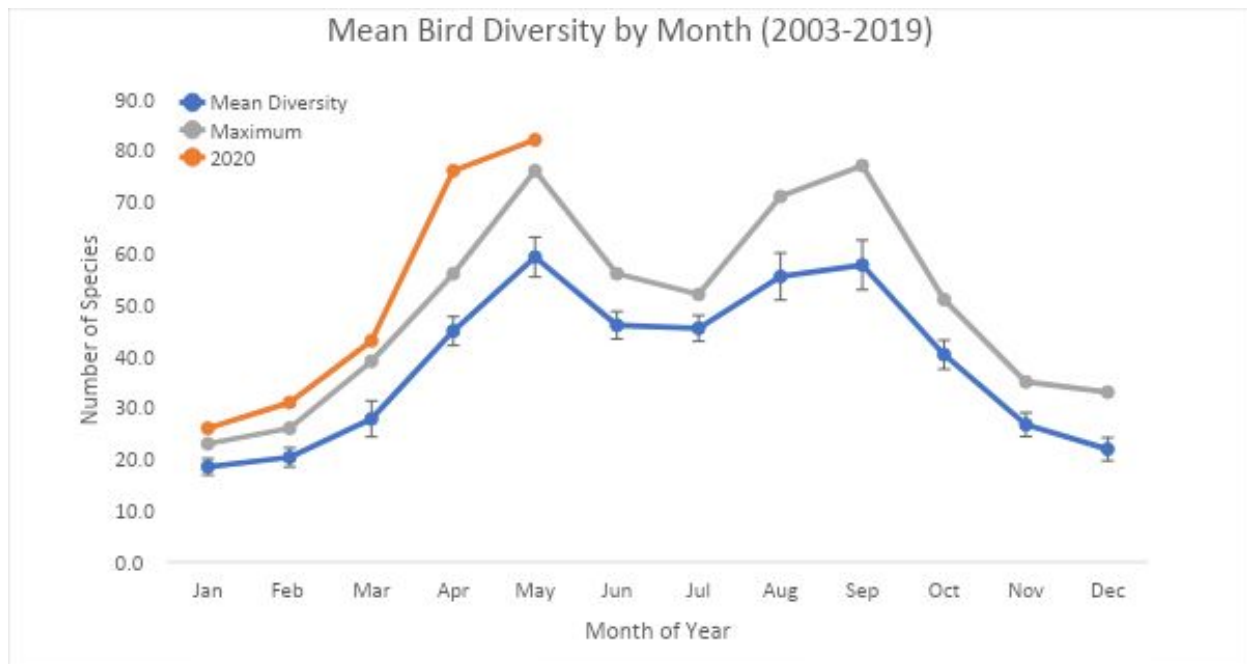


Figure 1. Mean species diversity  $\pm$  95% confidence intervals (blue line) by month for 17 years. Gray line represents the maximum diversity for each month (2003-2019). The orange line indicates species diversity by month for 2020 only.

For a seasonal perspective, I know that I shouldn't get excited to see a diversity of species until at least April, but really it is May when diversity spikes. June and July settle down with breeding birds, and then things pick up again in August and September. I find it interesting that August is as diverse (statistically) as September here; eBird informs that this is one of the least birded months based on submitted reports. August is a great month to see a greater variety of birds in your yard.

Of course, with years of data from one location, you can begin to predict when you should expect to observe certain species (and wonder where they are when that species doesn't show up), when they should be nesting, fledgling, migrating through, etc. Hypothetically, you should also be able to denote changes. For example, I have noticed that Red-breasted Nuthatches (RBNU) overwinter in the yard only some years, and I thought that the pattern was every other



year, but when I reviewed the dataset, it suggests otherwise. Ebird records indicate that Red-breasted Nuthatch is common in Deschutes County all year for every month, however that doesn't seem to be the case, at least not in the Bend area. I created a table for the percentage of total days where I observed at least one RBNU for winter months. If I do not observe RBNUs in November, I am not going to observe them the entire winter (one exception: winter of 2015-2016). For a broader perspective, I added Bend circle Christmas Bird Count data (run in mid to late December and organized by Tom Crabtree) for RBNU and, with few exceptions, the data correlate well with my yard observations. But more interesting, when I added my yard records for August, September, and October, I can apparently predict with a high degree of accuracy if we are going to see Red-breasted Nuthatches in our yard for the upcoming winter months by noting how often I see them in August! I will be interested to see the Christmas Bird Count data for 2018 and 2019 and see if it is low in 2018 and high in 2019.

Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	CBC
2002-2003	64	79	67	56	38	23	83	???
2003-2004	4	0	9	0	0	0	0	0.03
2004-2005	93	90	91	91	96	92	92	0.68
2005-2006	68	94	88	73	87	80	100	0.83
2006-2007	8	8	14	0	0	0	0	0.26
2007-2008	16	11	4	0	0	0	0	0.03
2008-2009	56	100	100	94	33	56	75	0.49
2009-2010	4	29	38	8	4	13	46	0.15
2010-2011	77	70	24	0	0	0	0	0.08
2011-2012	0	25	10	0	0	0	0	0.01
2012-2013	65	100	63	73	95	79	89	1.06
2013-2014	43	66	82	92	40	46	80	0.12
2014-2015	78	82	58	43	36	10	13	0.25
2015-2016	50	31	19	0	6	50	18	0.05
2016-2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017-2018	95	100	100	83	96	82	62	1.60
2018-2019	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	???
2019-2020	95	97	100	100	92	93	87	???

*Table 2. Red-breasted Nuthatch presence/absence in the yard by month. Numbers represent the percent of days the species was observed to the total days I observed birds that month. Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data are the number of birds detected/party-hours. Gray boxes represent percentages lower than 30% for yard data or lower than 0.1 for CBC data.*

Thus far, 2020 is an exceptional year for species diversity that cannot be explained completely by working from home this spring because of the pandemic. January, February and March are all at least three species higher than the previous high mark, well above the average (mean) diversity and the time to observe birds was like previous years (figure 1). April and May 2020 diversity numbers, however, could certainly be due to a sampling bias. I was able to bird at home every day and sometimes, several times a day. My home office has windows giving me

views of the backyard water feature and the front yard feeder station, and I regularly took breaks to peer at the front water feature and backyard feeder station. Still, 76 species observed in April is 20 species (!) more than I have ever recorded for the month, while May was only six species more than the previous high. It will be curious to keep tracking species diversity over the next several Aprils to see if migration is starting earlier.

Lastly, birding in your yard provides greater opportunities to capture photographs of different species. At first, I just wanted to document the species coming to my feeders, water features and nest boxes, but in recent years, I started photographing species to use in my spring bird ecology class that I teach at Central Oregon Community College. It was almost like I knew that the photos would come in handy for this spring, given I couldn't take students out on field trips (Sure Jim. Sure, you did). This spring, I have taken things to another level; after watching YouTube videos on bird photography, I have added perch branches above my feeder stations and above the water features. Much more natural looking than a bird sitting on a feeder (although I still take those photos too). Sitting still near the perch has allowed me to get some nice close ups of species that otherwise can be difficult to obtain.

In the past 18+ years of birding in the yard, I have added at least one new species each year, including four this year and it is only June! It has been a blast, and I suspect it will continue to be a great source of entertainment for years to come.



*Figure 3. Male Western Tanager. Photo taken as the bird perched on the stick just for that purpose. I blew it when we had two (2!) male Bullock's Orioles come to the water feature when I attempted to slip out the door with my camera. Instead, I should have shot through the window. <Head slap>*

## How I Yardbird

Mostly, I attempt to poke around the yard, if there is time, once or more a day. This usually takes 30-60 minutes. If I don't have that kind of time, I will attempt to look out a window that allows me to observe the feeder station and water feature at the same time to maximize the opportunity to find birds, even if it is for only five minutes. I find that water features are more important for attracting birds (and other wildlife: we recorded a Western Spotted Skunk coming to drink using a Trail Cam) than the feeder station. Why? While some birds use seed and suet, nearly all birds need water for drinking and bathing. Our water features have attracted flycatchers, vireos, wrens, thrushes, warblers and more. The front water feature (below), has attracted even more species because it includes a small pond at the bottom (about five feet across), and usually has goldfish in it. One January morning while my daughter, Summitt, and I were eating breakfast, we looked out the window to see a Great Blue Heron, stalking along the lava rocks towards the pond. It swiveled its head to look at us, then flew away, but I told Summitt there wouldn't be any goldfish in the pond when we returned home from school! No room for a water feature? Bird baths work great, and adding a trickling device makes it even better.



Habitat certainly helps to attract birds too. Our several Ponderosa Pines attract finches. The deciduous trees, native willows and species we planted, attract flycatchers, vireos and warblers. The Wax Currant bushes growing along the edge of the lava flow provide food for hummingbirds in the spring, fruit eating species like tanagers in the late summer. Some species show up that seem out of place. We have had one Sagebrush Sparrow, a few Sage Thrashers and a Common Poorwill visit. You just never know what might pass through during those migratory months! We also were lucky to be home in early September 2003 when a thunderstorm stopped migratory birds which 'fell out' of the sky into the yard: Red-eyed Vireo, Gray Catbird, and Chestnut-sided Warbler were among the more common migrants found when the storm ended. Wow!

When I started keeping daily lists, I kept records on a sheet clipped into a binder, but soon decided to keep the records on a spreadsheet. I still keep a spreadsheet for each year, but have found that it is more convenient to eBird my yard observations while I am birding using my phone and their birding app. You can review your yard records on the eBird website, and recently, they added the bar chart graphic for yards, so you can view abundances over the course of the year by species. A quick glance at the bar chart can tell you when you should expect to see a certain species. For example, I know that the best time to find a Pacific Wren in the yard is from September through mid-December. This species doesn't seem to stop here in the spring (but I will keep looking.)

I also spend some time looking up. Scan above the trees and buildings. I am amazed by how often, while standing on the upper deck, when I sweep my binocular across the skyline, I spot

something flying in the distance. Sure, many times it is another Turkey Vulture, but sometimes it is an eagle, hawk or even an American White Pelican. If there are possible perching spots, make sure and check them too. When a neighbor cut in their long driveway to access their property, the construction workers cut a major root of a large Ponderosa Pine. It died. I make it a habit to always check this snag, which I can see from our upstairs bedroom (even while in bed!), for birds. This spring, a Lewis's Woodpecker was making a daily stop. I've spied Northern Shrike and Western Kingbird perched on the top of the snag (not at the same time!). Falcons and hawks will perch near the top. Olive-sided Flycatchers sing from the upper branches. When the snag falls over, and it will, I am sure I will shed a tear or two.

I hope that I have given you some insight into yardbirding, and perhaps you'll give it a try if you aren't doing so already. As I said, I find it fun and easy. Over time you will have your own database with your own stories. It has provided me with a way to connect with nature when I really didn't have many other opportunities to do so for work and family reasons. Now it is a part of my daily routine. And it can be yours...wait; what's that bird at the water feature? Whoa, it's a...



**Jim Moodie's Photo on the eBird Home Page in June. Congratulations, Jim!**



# A GARDEN AND YARDBIRD COMPARISONS

*by Mike Golden*

With nothing better to do around the house (actually that's not true, Susie reminds me that I have lots of things I should be doing) I have been perusing some old birding records.

We moved to Eagle Crest in 2001. For many years we kept daily records of birds. Several years ago I quit doing that except for new yardbirds. Under present stay at home orders we have revived the daily records for this year. I thought a comparison of April of 2010 and 2020 might be interesting.

The numbers shown are for the highest number of birds seen at one time. Actual numbers for some species are probably quite a bit higher.

<b>Species</b>	<b>April 2010</b>	<b>April 2020</b>
Canada Goose	3	7
Mallard	5	2
Turkey Vulture	2	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1
Red-tail Hawk	2	2
American Kestrel	-	1
California Quail	19	7
Eurasian Collared Dove	-	5
Mourning Dove	11	5
Great Horned Owl (HO)	1	2
Anna's Hummer	-	1
N. Flicker	3	2
Downy Woodpecker	-	1
Calif. Scrub Jay	2	2
Steller's Jay	-	1
Black-billed Magpie	1	2
C. Raven	3	2
A. Crow	2	-
Tree Swallow	2	2
Violet-green Swallow	8	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	2
Mt. Chickadee	5	5
Bushtit	-	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	1
Townsend's Solitaire	1	-
American Robin	3	2
Mt Bluebird	-	1
European Starling	30	10
Cedar Waxwing	20	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	2
Nashville Warbler	1	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	-

Spotted Towhee	1	2
Song Sparrow	1	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1
White-crowned Sparrow	17	50
Golden-crowned Sparrow	4	20
Dark-eyed Junco	8	25
Red-winged Blackbird	2	3
Brewer's Blackbird	3	-
Red Crossbill	-	5
Cassin's Finch	-	3
House Finch	18	25
Lesser Goldfinch	6	6
American Goldfinch	6	-
House Sparrow	4	12
Evening Grosbeak	3	-
<b>Species Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>

During our 19 years here there have been dramatic changes. For many years we had no close neighbors. At Eagle Crest in 2010, habitat was juniper, sage of various species and bitterbrush. About 2014, Eagle Crest started an aggressive program to reduce fire fuels. In the common areas all Junipers less than six inches were removed. All brush, I mean ALL was removed and the land scarified. All remaining junipers were trimmed up to above six feet.

We have always attempted to make our property bird friendly with plantings and water. With devastation all around us, we got more aggressive to improve the habitat around the yard. We added bird friendly species of trees and shrubs as well as more water. Here is a good spot for a disclaimer. When I say "we" have done a lot of work, it would be a gross misstatement. I am not much of a gardener and most of the work gets done by Susie. I am fairly good at digging holes, wheeling mulch and leaning on my shovel.

With all the habitat changes a lot remains the same. There are 31 species that appear on both lists and I imagine they are the basic staples of most Central Oregon yards. The big numbers of WC and GC sparrows are an anomaly and regular annual numbers are in line with what we saw ten years ago. We have added more species, at least this year in an area that is less conducive to birds except in our yard, though maybe the flyovers now see us as a little oasis. It would appear that even with the changes we have made, we have not made much difference in the number of species that frequent our yard. Although I have no records, I suspect that individual species may stay longer. Some observations over the years:

- Spring warblers and flycatchers, with some exceptions, are being seen less than in past years.
- Have only had Anna's Hummers since 2015.
- Downy Woodpecker showed up about three years ago and has shown up every spring since. Same male?
- Steller's Jays are pretty regular, just missed in 2010.
- Crows are a one and done. Never seen any since. Must have been a fly-by when one of us happened to be looking.

- Red-breasted Nuthatch showed up about a year ago and stays year around. Had a partner last fall but now only one.
- Bushtits are regular every year.
- Mountain Bluebirds stop by occasionally in the spring but ignore our nest boxes or get chased out by swallows.
- Red-crossbills and Cassin's Finch are new yardbirds this year, #106 and #107.
- First spring ever that we have not seen Yellow-rumped Warblers.
- Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds are regulars.
- For years American Goldfinches were not numerous but regular through the winter, but now have not seen for several years.
- Seldom see Evening Grosbeaks.
- We used to feed well over 100 Pinyon Jays on a regular basis but have not seen one in our yard now for six years.

We have always had a water feature that is used regularly by many species. With Susie's new area, she put out several small twelve inch diameter dishes about two inches deep. They are at ground level and filled by the sprinklers and they are scattered throughout the yard. The birds use these continually and the bathing and drinking in the waterfall feature has declined except when everything is frozen.

Our spring resident Mallards (I am assuming they are the same pair) have taken over one of the dishes, rest by it and guard it. I have seen them actually squat in it to cool off. They do however still come up to the larger pool to swim about once a day. These two started showing up about four years ago in the spring and have returned every year since. Never seem to be interested in breeding and usually about June they disappear. Was not sure for a while that they could even fly, as they walk most everywhere they go and don't pay much attention to Susie when she is in the yard. They will fly if the dog gets too close but only in a circle and usually come right back or land among the junipers a short distance away and waddle back. I assume they are part of the resident Eagle Crest flock

We had not thought much of Barberry as a great bird planting but have quite a bit of it around as it is about the only thing at Eagle Crest that the relentless deer don't eat. A couple of ours got large, probably 10 feet in diameter and five feet tall. This spring Anna's hummers chased insects in them. All the White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Lesser Goldfinches, and Juncos chased insects and continually pick off the new buds. Our winter resident Towhee spent much of the day time in its interior. Quail are in or around them most every day. What few warblers we had this spring passed through the Barberries. Our local juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawk has used it as an educational tool. He spent parts of several days trying to figure out how to get the birds out of it. Pretty comical to see him picking his way through thick brush after all the smaller birds had laughed at him and left.

It would be interesting to hear from others about what they regularly see in their yards during this time period, and what changes they may or may not have seen.

Without Susie we would not have much of a garden or the birds that thank her for it.

## SUSIE IN THE GARDEN

by Mike Golden, November 2019

The early morning light sparkles dew upon the grass  
The quail find the water as they oh so quiet pass  
She sits beside her window, coffee wrapped in calloused hand  
And wonders how to gently make her mark upon the land

Mary's Garden is accomplished though not quite as she pictured it  
But gardeners know that soil unturned is a challenge to be met.

Wild sage, grass and weeds hide opportunities  
A path, a tree, a bush, that only she can see

As with all challenges she meets upon the ground  
She wants to do it all alone, to turn this spot around  
Sweat forms upon her brow, her muscles cry their needs  
She digs up rocks, moves heavy earth and tackles gnarly weeds

A garden in itself is friend, but also can be foe  
Reality can overcome the best laid plans to grow  
The flowers, birds and butterflies that we have come to see  
Have hidden untold labor, not for you and me

Rock by rock she makes a path, mind on the endless task.  
She never sees it that way, only how it looks at last.  
Her face is streaked in dirt, her clothes an earthy mess  
What is going through her mind, we can only guess

As the path completes its circuit, pride shows upon her face  
Now comes the time to put the flowers in their place  
You thought the heavy lifting was safely in arrears  
But making holes in rocky soil is fodder for some tears

One who makes a garden knows it's a task that's ever going  
A task that has no ending, just the joy of endless doing  
It's not the end result a gardener likes to say  
The never ending pattering is just a kind of play

A garden is a place to rest, a respite for our fears  
A quiet place of solitude that aids us through the years.  
When I see Susie in her garden, a place she holds so dear  
I know she's never happier than when a flower is near





## Paul Sullivan's Swallow Decision Tree

Here's a decision tree to help you sort out flying swallows:

### Belly/throat color:

- a) Clear White = Tree or Violet Green Swallow
  - i) White around eye and sides of rump, bright green back, violet rump = VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW
  - ii) White below eye and underparts only, metallic blue top side = TREE SWALLOW
- b) Not pure white, with dirty throat or black necklace, plus dusty brown back and wings =  
Rough-wing or Bank Swallow
  - i) Dirty throat, square tail, "trrit, trrit" voice = NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW
  - ii) White throat and belly, full black necklace,\* notched tail, "bzzz, bzzz" voice = BANK SWALLOW
- c) Copper-colored throat = Cliff or Barn Swallow
  - i) Square tail, tan rump, white headlamp on forehead = CLIFF SWALLOW
  - ii) Forked tail, orange belly, metallic blue-black top side = BARN SWALLOW
- d) Blue -black or dirty white = Purple Martin
  - i) Blue-black, large swallow = male PURPLE MARTIN
  - ii) Dirty white, large swallow = female PURPLE MARTIN

*\*Beware! An immature Tree Swallow can look like it has a necklace, making you think "Bank Swallow", but the necklace is incomplete and you only see this age group in summer after breeding.*

OR: You can start with tail shape and then move on to belly color, etc

### Tail shape:

- a) Deeply Forked = adult Barn Swallow
- b) Square = Cliff, Rough-winged Swallows
- c) Notched = Purple martin, Tree, Violet-green, Bank Swallows

## DIY Wednesday Birder(s)

By Judy Meredith [jmeredit@bendnet.com](mailto:jmeredit@bendnet.com)

We are all living in times of distancing, and for some of us, that may mean we have more time to be with the birds, become more tuned in to our yard or patch birds and do more listening to birds and less to humans. While the 6' distance rule remains in effect, the sharing of optics is not recommended, and we are not carpooling, we still might want to go out on our own to seasonally "good" spots for birding.

I have thought about this and other things in the past months. Being a birder has sustained us, having more time with birds, being people who thrive on nature and quiet spaces. Being a birder means being alone with a bird is not an adjustment or a tough thing.

While this is not anything sanctioned by our Audubon, knowing all of us respect science and public health recommendations, I want to remind all of you that ECAS radios can be helpful and are available to use. Perhaps you are in a group driving separately to bird, and radios would help along the way, or you separate on a trail and want to be in touch with each other, etc, let me know and I can get some to you. Just say the word.

I will be around for a while and am eager to see your bird reports! Also, now is a great time to check the birding Oregon site on [ecaudubon.org](http://ecaudubon.org) and check out a birding spot you have never tried. Meet a friend at the trailhead and listen for birds. Wednesday Birding and field trips were a long ride but it may be months before we can be a physical group again. But we can keep birding and reporting.

If you don't know how to get to any of these locations, this is a great time to start using the [ecaudubon.org](http://ecaudubon.org) birding locations. At the top of the ECAS webpage, click on **Birding Oregon** and then from its drop down, **Birding Locations**. Click on the county you want to bird in and then choose from the location. Try going to spots new to you or explore a wider area near a known "hotspot."

Below is the schedule I wrote for the next few months, back when birding in a group was not verboten. Try some of those places during approximately the suggested times, and perhaps have a birding buddy meet you at the trailhead or parking lot. Post on COBOL about the birds you see and what you learn as you have more time to observe and more quiet to listen to the birds. We can all enjoy your reports and also ponder any questions that arise. We are still a close community of people passionate about birds and wildness, even from separate vehicles and more than 6 feet apart. Good birding, Judy

June 24 - Prineville to Paulina Valley, long day  
July 1 - Green Ridge  
July 8 - High Cascades Lakes  
July 15 - Sawyer Park, Tumalo State Park trails, Hatfield,  
July 22 - Fort Rock, Cabin Lake, long day  
July 29 - Three Creeks Lake, Santiam Pass, PCT trails  
August 5 - Gray Butte and Crooked River Wetlands



August 12 - Hatfield, Redmond sewer ponds  
 August 19 - High Lakes, long day  
 August 26 - Calliope Crossing, Indian Ford CG,  
 September 2 - Green Ridge  
 Sept 9 - Hatfield and Crooked River Wetlands  
 Sept 16 - Redmond pond, Smith Rocks, Haystack Res  
 Sept 23 - Sunriver to Wickiup, Crane Prairie  
 Sept 30 - Green Ridge Raptors all day  
 October 7 - Crooked River Wetlands  
 Oct 14 - Camp Sherman  
 Oct 21 - High Lakes (starting at Todd Lake if road is open)  
 Oct 28 - Skyliner, 430 road



## DIY Old Mill Walks

*By Sherrie Pierce*



Although the official Old Mill Walks are held in the spring when migration is in full swing, the area is always a wonderful spot to take a walk and maybe have the added benefit of learning about the birds. Both sides of the river on trails in the Old Mill area are worth exploring and wide enough to maintain a safe social distance.

“Walking tours give people of all ages an opportunity to enjoy the Central Oregon outdoors and wildlife along the banks of the Deschutes River. This area is a migratory corridor and attracts a whole host of birds either passing through or as residents. Spring is an excellent time to see all the action with warming weather, nesting and migration.”(From Old Mill publicity when the first bird walks teamed with ECAS were held in Spring 2013.)

These walks around the river are appropriate for all ages and give folks new to the area a chance to learn about the local birds and explore the trails around the river. Since this is technically private property of the Old Mill, the paved paths and signage are a tribute to their interest in conserving this area.

The Ticket Mill in the core of the Old Mill District has binoculars available for checkout as well as specially designed birding lists to help identify birds and some common animals seen along the walk. Anyone doing the walks along the river is encouraged to pick up one of these brochures. Many of the photographs are by ECAS members.

# DIY Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival

*By Sherrie Pierce*

Although not the same as the scouted, expert-led tours of the traditional Festival during nesting time, woodpeckers are always worth an outing. With the widespread use of eBird and the local listserv, Central Oregon Birders Online (COBOL), sightings in our area of the eleven nesting species of woodpeckers have been reported. Many local birders have continued the scouting activity that is always such an important and pleasurable part of the Festival, and their reports make up the bulk of the sightings.



With talented photographers, many photos accompany the eBird reports and, if you are a Facebook participant, the ECAS Facebook page provides a wonderful video and stills, shared by Don Sutherland, of the American Three-toed Woodpecker, always a target bird for the Festival and an elusive species to see. They have graced our area for the last four years and we hope they will continue to find the habitat conducive for nesting. And habitat is what provides the needed resources for all of the nesting woodpecker species. From the burned forest, to riparian, aspen lined drainages to mature Ponderosa pine forests, there is something for everyone. Even though the nesting season has come to an end, it is still worth visiting some of the likely areas before summer is over, hoping to spot one of the woodpeckers and maybe some of the young.

For links to COBOL and ECAS Facebook, go to [ecasaudubon.org](http://ecasaudubon.org) While you are there, check out the woodpeckers at the top of the page. Which one is missing?

## DIY BIRDING DAY TRIPS

*by Mary Shivell, ECAS Field Trip Coordinator*

Although I always loved watching birds any time I was outdoors, I didn't really develop my **study** of birds until I started participating in field trips. Those experiences accelerated my learning, introduced me to the practical application of birding ethics and etiquette, and exposed me to resources to continue my learning on my own.

My daily routine usually starts with reading trip reports on COBOL, most of which are about the results of solitary day-tripping. The other tool I rely on to study seasonal fluctuations in species movement is using eBird and BirdsEye; the latter draws local and timely observations from eBird checklists.

So, onward to my subject: here are some recommendations for day trips by yourself if you are relatively new to the practice of field-based bird observation. All of these are locations well-known to birders in Central Oregon and several are usually on the ECAS menu for group field trip destinations.

I selected these because they offer just about the best environment possible for the contemplative ambiance of birding by yourself (other than your backyard). The species information is drawn from entries made by local birders from July to November to inform your outings in the near future.

All of these can be located using the indispensable **Birding Locations** found here: [Oregon Birding Locations](#)

### **Santiam Pass Area**

**Suttle Lake-** Start with the entire area of Link Creek, then walking through the campground and continuing in the direction of the Lodge area. The side of the lake farthest from the Hwy 20 hillside has more variety in terms of vegetation, and you can keep going on the Lake Creek Trail (crossing



Hwy 20) if you feel like making it a longer birding-focused hike. A stop at **Scout Lake** nearby is worth your time. Fall, when the campgrounds are all but completely empty, is perfect for a long day here. From the boat launch parking lot next to Link Creek, scoping the lake in the Fall is a must. Late summer finds have included Western Tanager, Williamson's Sapsucker and Bonaparte's Gull; Fall has provided a variety of grebes, Surf Scoter, Common Loon, Pileated Woodpecker, Wilson's Snipe, and Varied Thrush.

**Big Lake-** Further up the Pass you will see the sign for Big Lake, which also has a campground area. Late summer has provided excellent warbler variety, including Red Crossbill, Vesper Sparrow, American Three-toed Woodpecker, and various flycatchers. Fall residents have included Eared Grebe as well as good raptor and waterfowl presence.

**Lost Lake-** Reached by continuing on 20 from the Santiam Pass Summit, this interesting area has a lake that usually disappears in the dry season. Although there are relatively few eBird checklists, they document this place as a worthy day destination, particularly in the late Summer and early Fall. A sample of sightings: Common Nighthawk, Hermit and Swainson's Thrush, Least Sandpiper; Olive-sided, Willow and Pacific-slope Flycatchers; Long-eared Owl, Canada Jay, and Cedar Waxwing.

### **MacKenzie Pass Area**

**Clear Lake-** This is a great spot for birding by kayak, but the trail around the lake makes a very enjoyable day hike, too. Summer to Fall observations include Black-backed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Common Goldeneye and Barrow's Goldeneye, among others. This is a popular place for family outings and camping, so a weekday visit is recommended for maximum enjoyment.





## **Smith Rock State Park**



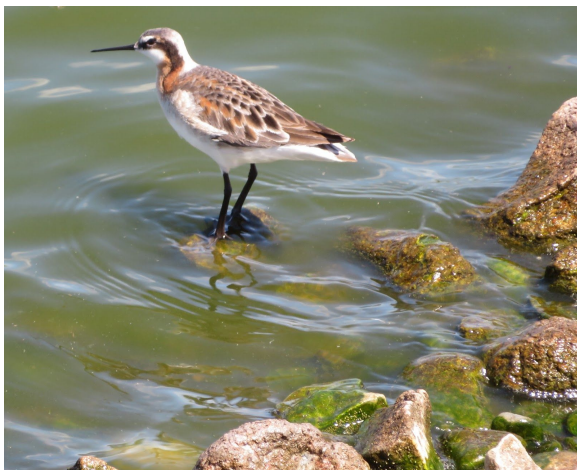
**Virus Alert:** Depending on where you walk here, the trails can get busy with people so time your visit carefully. Trails have been selectively closed, so checking the Oregon State Parks website is recommended. In addition, annual raptor nesting activity can mean that some areas are off limits for exploring, so check for signage. Summer visitors have included Swainson's Hawk, Barn Swallow, American White Pelican, Say's Phoebe and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Townsend's Warbler, Marsh Wren, Great Egret and Hermit Thrush have been observed in the Fall.

## **Fort Rock Natural Area**

**Alert:** Check the Oregon State Parks website for updated information regarding trail and restroom closures; as of this writing Fort Rock is open for day use with the exception of one trail. Observations from late Summer through early Fall include White Throated Swift, Ferruginous Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, Sagebrush Sparrow and Brewer's Sparrow.



## **Crooked River Wetlands**



This water treatment complex and park is the most recent jewel in the crown of Central Oregon's birding destinations, and it is large enough to wander and look at your leisure for hours. Family friendly due to the extensive pathways and places to rest (as well as an excellent restroom), depending on your need for quiet study time, an early morning visit is recommended; the complex is open dawn to dusk. Here is a sample of what you can see from July through October and later: Ruddy Duck (out of many ducks), Eared Grebe, Virginia Rail, Sora, Semipalmated Plover, Red-necked Phalarope, Tri-colored and Yellow-Headed Blackbird, Northern Harrier. Making a day of it in

Prineville by visiting other locations is recommended, and since you are bound to get hungry, Crooked River Brewing is recommended by an expert (birder).

### **Lower Bridge Way**

This area, known as Lower Bridge, is on the scenic route between Sisters and Terrebonne and depending on the season you can be very busy here for several hours. A short stop also is rewarding even if you are just studying the swallow variety here; there is a trail along the river for exploring as well as a second trail reached by walking on the road for a short (but can be hair-raising) distance. Check [Oregon Birding Locations](#) for an excellent description of the two ways to enter this area. Recent observations included Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bullock's Oriole, Yellow Breasted Chat and Cliff Swallow; Chukar, Fox Sparrow and Savannah Sparrow, among many others, are present in the Fall.

### **Hatfield Lake**

Making this area a frequent classroom will provide you with plenty of bird study material, and well as a site for practicing photo shots of birds, because they are **everywhere** no matter what season it is. Like Summer Lake and Crooked River Wetlands, Hatfield Lake is known as a magnet for birds of all types including raptors, geese, shorebirds, gulls, ducks, grebes, phalaropes, shrikes, sparrows and swans, not to mention the rarities seen here.

During the late Summer to early Fall examples of less common birds seen include Evening Grosbeak, Horned Lark, Baird's and Least Sandpipers, Green-tailed Towhee and Greater Yellowlegs, Vesper Sparrow and Magnolia Warbler. Hatfield Lake

Hatfield Lake is a relatively lengthy walk on uneven ground in some places, so that several hours of exploring can involve several miles, and the area is open to dogs and their people. Be sure to take along your spotting scope, if you have one.



### **Summer Lake National Wildlife Refuge**

This wonderland for migratory birds is further afield requiring a very long day trip unless you are a speedy birder. But if you are in the mood for a longer excursion, Summer Lake is worth the extra time due to the bounty this refuge supplies in the variety of shorebirds, grebes, gulls, terns, plovers, sparrows, raptors as well as many others. Check out Charles Gates's photos of Snowy Plovers from his June visit (on eBird) to fuel you for the drive!

**NOTE:** This area requires a Wildlife Area parking pass, and the tour route is closed during hunting season to provide a haven for waterfowl. Maps and additional information is available here: <https://myodfw.com/summer-lake-wildlife-area-visitors-guide>

**GO BIRDING!**

## Other DIY Birding Options

**Birding While Kayaking** is great for **social distancing!** Where you launch from is probably the closest you'll be to anyone. Once in your kayak with a paddle and room to maneuver it, you're guaranteed good distancing. You can bird with another kayaker safely. Driving there separately from anyone you are not quarantining with is an option. For all the above, go early for room to park and more chances of solitude.



**Birding by Ear:** anywhere and everywhere. Some birds are still quite vocal. Listen to the begging babies and the subtle noises of waterfowl and wingbeats. Learn to recognize the various vocalizations of a single species and to distinguish between similar ones. Phone apps or making a recording can help ID the songster when Dave Tracy is not there to help, and of course use playback responsibly.

**Vaux's Swifts in Bend:** Watch the Vaux's Swifts swarm into the Boys and Girls Club chimney in downtown Bend each evening at dusk for several weeks in September. COBOL and the ECAS website will report when the action gets really going.



### Online:

- **ECAS Eagle Cam** <https://www.goldeneaglecam.org/> the youngster has fledged, but it might be worth a look now to see if it's back for a visit or bookmark the site for Spring 2021.
- **Cornell Lab live cams** and recorded highlights of many species <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/>
- **Birds of North America on YouTube** is a recent (free) series with a number of short episodes where you tag along with a birder in various parts of the country. Great footage of birds and stories from birders are included. It's a fun and lighthearted way to "go birding" from home. [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZVnnAt5\\_5lbqaQNNg-LEPwRbj\\_nf5hU](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZVnnAt5_5lbqaQNNg-LEPwRbj_nf5hU)
- **If you have Amazon Prime**, there are many free videos on birds and nature from all over the world. Search "nature birds" or similar under Prime Video.
- **Online birding and nature classes** with Portland Audubon Distance Learning <https://audubonportland.org/> and other groups unable to do activities this summer.



**Audio:** listen to collections of bird vocalizations at home or in your car

**Video:** revisit movies like *The March of the Penguins*, *A Birder's Guide to Everything*, *The Eagle Huntress*, *The Life of Birds* series with David Attenborough, or *The Big Year*.

**Books:**

*Good Birders Don't Wear White, 50 Tips from North America's Top Birders*, by David Sibley

*Great Gray Owl in CA, OR, WA*, by Peter J. Thiemann and Harry Fuller

*Into the Nest*, by Laura Erickson and Marie Read

Kenn Kaufman books: *Kingbird Highway*, *A Season on the Wind*

Noah Strycker's books: *The Thing with Feathers*, *Birding Without Borders*, *Among Penguins*

*One Wild Bird at a Time*, *Portraits of Individual Lives*, by Bernd Heinrich

*Owl, A Year in the Lives of North American Owls*, by Paul Bannick

*The Genius of Birds*, by Jennifer Ackerman

*The Living Bird*, *100 Years of Listening to Nature*, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

*The Mind of a Raven, Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds* by Bernd Heinrich

*The Nature of Bend*, by LeeAnn Kreigh

*What It's Like to Be a Bird*, by David Allen Sibley

*Wildlife of the Oregon Central Cascades*, by Steven Skelton

- **Deschutes Land Trust** <https://www.deschuteslandtrust.org/> check for preserves open for walking and birding.

- **High Desert Museum** <https://highdesertmuseum.org/> offers some online presentations and has opened for limited hours and attendance.

-**Sunriver Nature Center** has limited programs. Check out the bird walks led by Tom Lawler which need advance registration and will follow safety guidelines in July.

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

-**Kids Activities** - Walk around Drake Park in Bend and observe and talk about nature like Mary Yanalcanlin does with the preschool birding group.

**GOOD DIY BIRDING!**

# EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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	Garrett Durham
	Jan Rising
	Carolyn Rochelle
	Bob Sizoo



## Summer 2020 Zoom Board Meetings

July 7

August 4

September 1

## Committee and Event Chairs

Annual Event	ECAS Board
Bluebirds	Ken Hashagen
Birder's Night	Gordon Wetzel
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	Sherrie Pierce
Website	Sherrie Pierce
	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/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)