

# THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021- 22



## President's Report

*By Tom Lawler*

As I write this message my service with the Board is quickly coming to a close. The last three years I served as Board President and I have served on the ECAS Board for 6 years. In that time I have had the privilege of serving with quite a few fellow Board members. It was an honor to work with all these dedicated volunteers and with this organization. The Board as it stands is very smart and capable. I know they will continue to make ECAS better for everyone.

I want to give a shout-out to everyone who has helped with the Woodpecker Festival, field trips, Eagle Watch, and Earth Day, to name a few. Volunteers also organize the Greenridge Hawk Watch, Vaux's Swifts count, Lake Abert Survey, Summer Lake Breeding Bird survey, Sage Grouse conservation, nest box monitoring and banding, the Whychus Canyon Eagle Cam, Birders' Night and Wednesday Birders. Also a big thanks to the Membership and Grant Committees and to those individuals that put together this publication and the *Chatter*. It may seem like a lot of people but many of these people wear many hats.

My final thoughts are that this organization will not thrive or survive without volunteers. The Board is still short two members. Many of our pre-pandemic events will not be able to take place without volunteers. New faces need to step-up and help out if the membership expects these events to take place. Please help out.

## Vice-President's Message

*By Mary Shivell*

It is the time of transition for the ECAS Board with some terms expiring and with some retirements after multiple terms. Thank you, Tom Lawler, for serving as Board President for the last 3 years and for all you have done for ECAS. Current Board Members including our newest additions, Laurel Collins and Duke Tufty, have skills and knowledge which strengthen the leadership of ECAS. We have the contributions of project leaders and advisory/planning committees which animate the ECAS mission and engage the skills of many volunteers. The ECAS Board is proceeding with planning for the 2022 Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival and Spring 2022 field trips since our members have told us that they hope for the return of a full slate of field trips as well as more volunteer opportunities. Also, the ECAS website is being

redesigned by a dedicated committee. Although the pandemic has curtailed some activities, much work and fulfillment continued for ECAS members throughout the past year.

If you have participated in any Christmas Bird Counts, done surveys such as Winter Raptors or Summer Lake, taken an injured bird to Native Bird Care, or attended Green Ridge Hawk Watch, a Vaux Swift Watch, or Birder's Night Reimagined, you have observed the talent and dedication of our local volunteers. If you enjoy learning from the ECAS website, *The Chatter* and *The Calliope*, if you watched the Golden Eagle Cam, or birded by yourself or in a group using COBOL, OBOL or eBird, you have benefitted from the time and work that volunteers have dedicated. If you have helped band birds, build nest boxes, add screens to outhouse vents, or repair habitat, if you have educated the public or youngsters about birds, if you have welcomed new members, and if you led or participated in field trips, your contributions are appreciated and much needed. Thank you! ECAS can't do it without you.

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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**BIRDERS NIGHT** - an assistant to help with planning and hosting this monthly Zoom meeting

**BOARD MEMBERS** - 2 openings for helping with ECAS future direction and administration

**BOOKKEEPER** - enter financial data into QuickBooks

**DEAN HALE WOODPECKER FESTIVAL** - help organize and lead tours

After two consecutive years of cancellations due to the pandemic, we are cautiously optimistic that the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival will return in 2022! The festival, which typically takes place in early June, is a great opportunity to explore new areas and meet other local birders, with a good chance of seeing 11 species of woodpeckers. If you are looking for a way to give back and get more involved with ECAS, consider helping out with the festival. Planning will begin in January, and volunteers are needed to help with everything from leading tours and field trips, scouting locations, managing event registration and logistics, and getting the word out about the festival.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE LEADER** - help an established committee manage memberships

**SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE** - help monitor our social media (Facebook and website)

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR** - connect volunteers with projects or programs

Participants for discussion on the following committees; meetings occur 2-4 times a year

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**SCIENCE COMMITTEE**

Interested in helping in any of these areas? Please email us at [ecaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ecaudubon@gmail.com) and we'll get back to you with more detailed information.

# The Story of Whiskey Springs

*by Mike Golden*

In August of 2020, one of the most devastating years for wildfires in Oregon history, the Green Ridge Fire exploded east of the Metolius River. Its path included public forest, private timberlands and Whiskey Springs. Whiskey Springs, on the east slope of Green Ridge, is a place revered by Central Oregon birders for its variety of birds and special habitat.

The landowner, Timber Services of Lebanon, Oregon, had installed a one hundred gallon rubber tub and ran a pipeline from the spring to the tub on private land nestled into a pristine hillside. The owners intended the tub for big game and other animal species but it became a mecca for birds as there is no water for several miles in any direction. Although the spring ran a low volume of water, it was steady and filled the tank. The overflow created a miniature riparian area that allowed birds of all species to drink and bathe. Additional water from the spring seeped into an adjoining miniature sedge meadow which was also used for drinking and bathing. At times it also served as an elk wallow.

Over the years, what was somewhat of a secret to local birders became a known hotspot. There are few places where a birder can see eight species of warbler, two vireos, woodpeckers, patrolling raptors, several sparrow species and many others, all while sitting in your lawn chair with bins and camera at hand.

The landowner was aware that the place was becoming increasingly popular but continued to allow access to the property for birding. Around 2017, some birders began encroaching closer and closer to the spring, moving vegetation and, in some cases, removing it to increase visibility, mainly for photography purposes. The owner established some natural barriers and posted signs reminding birders and others to stay back or they could lose the privilege of access.

There was no denying that birders had damaged the area around the springs by their actions. Judy Meredith, our only liaison to the owner, approached him with a plan for us to rehabilitate the area and he agreed.

The Board of Directors of East Cascade Audubon agreed to fund the project. Judy arranged for the purchase of native plants and trees. Under the direction of Judy and Carolyn Rochelle and with help from Jake Schas, we planted several species and took turns watering them with water from the tub. There was always enough flow to replenish water in the tub. As large herbivores are wont to do, they soon discovered that the new plantings were both tasty and nutritious. The only out was to protect the plants which was done with tough wire cages. Over the late summer of 2019 and during early summer 2020, the plantings thrived. It was a time-consuming but gratifying experience for all involved.

To their credit, birders responded by staying back from the spring. The riparian zone and area around the spring was recovering nicely. Then came the fire!

To visit any forest that is recently burned is eye-opening and gut-wrenching. To visit a place that many people have put time and energy into and see the damage is heartbreaking. The fire that roared over Green Ridge was burning in a fuel-induced rage. The blaze destroyed nearly everything in its path. Tall standing blackened trees are stark reminders of the powerful and relentless fire. Whiskey Springs was no exception.

Judy and Jake were the first to visit the site and warn of the devastation. None of the work that had been done survived. All vegetation was wiped out – gone, destroyed. Because it was water filled, the tub survived but not unscathed. One side was melted down so it was only half full. Miraculously, the spring was still flowing but at a much reduced rate. The surrounding area had burned so hot that tree boles (trunks) were burned down into the ground. It appeared to be a wasteland.

Access was limited and there was nothing that could be done that fall. There were some important things to be learned over the winter, answering such questions as would the spring continue to flow? would there be any plant life at all? would the birds come back? and would there be any opportunity for reclaiming the spring and surrounding area? The landowner would also need to be involved and he was busy trying to harvest and reclaim all of his land that was burned.

As soon as access was available in spring 2021, Judy and Jake were able to visit the site. The first thing that was evident was that the spring was still flowing at near the same level as last fall. Judy contacted the landowner who gave us permission to do some work at the site although, for some reason, he did not want the tub replaced.

Judy, Jake, Diane Kook and I met at the site to discuss possibilities. Even though this was early spring, nature was showing its resiliency. Bracken ferns covered almost every bare piece of ground and made a carpet of green. Historically the area close to the spring contained Ceanothus, Bitter Cherry, Golden Currant, Douglas Maple, Ocean Spray and Thimbleberry. Amazingly, many of these plants, all of which were burned, had green shoots beginning to form at their base. The assessment was that we should try to speed up the process.

We felt compelled to delineate the rehabilitation area. To this end a “natural fence” was erected around the perimeter. This created a recognizable workspace and hopefully an awareness of the project; it was not to keep animals out. There was unlimited availability of dead and burned material to work with and Jake soon became the workhorse dragging and hauling material from great distances to build up the structure. With more volunteer help, our field of dreams had a start.

The next hurdle was more formidable. Any hope of promoting plant growth involved water, LOTS of water. It was decided, at least at the onset, that we would not do any new plantings but instead would try to promote growth and root development on what was already emerging on site. However, Jake could not resist digging up a few small conifers to add to the site.

The reduced spring flow could not sustain the water supply needed to adequately irrigate the thirsty vegetation. Jake, using resources honed from past experience through Craigslist and other sources, built up a supply of five gallon containers. He ultimately found 90 gallons worth and others contributed home containers. To augment this supply, gallon milk jugs were added to the water arsenal as well as three cooler chests that would hold water, kinda, but were heavy and were cussed at regularly, at least by me. All however, got water up the ridge: primitive but effective. Jake agreed to house the containers and use his home in Sisters as a base of operations. Whoever was volunteering that day would meet at his house in the early morning, fill all the containers and caravan to Whiskey Springs. ECAS gave us a budget for general use and equipment.

Once at the site, the watering system commenced. It was time-consuming and laborious. All the containers had to be removed from the vehicles and then manually moved around the site

for individual watering of each plant that showed promise. All the sites were uphill from the road. Most of the big containers held five gallons, and at eight plus pounds a gallon—well, you do the math. The system would have made an Anasazi gardener proud. Sometimes a person would make a second trip to Jake's for water which was a round trip of nearly 40 miles.

Jake soon tired of this method. Since he invariably did most of the heavy lifting, he went looking for a better way. He found an old logging road about 200 yards above the site and working with his brother, Jim, was able to get a 250 gallon water tank donated. He moved it to the site and installed it. It was originally thought that we could procure enough hose to use for gravity flow to the site by donations but we opted to buy new hoses and fixtures to assure they would be usable long term. He installed a four-way splitter at the top of the site with an on/off valve for each splitter. Four hoses were then attached, one to the spring source itself, one to sedge meadow and two with nozzles so that the whole area could be watered by gravity flow. Essentially the system worked great although the tank and nozzles had to be cleaned occasionally to keep water flowing.

Although still laborious and time-consuming, water could now be hauled directly to the upper tank, poured into it and flushed down to the waiting gardeners.

During this time Jake was the guiding force in procuring and setting up the watering system. This was the end of Jake's active participation for the summer as he had a job waiting for him at Great Basin National Park. He continued to offer advice from afar throughout the summer. Thanks, Jake, a lot of old backs are appreciative of your contribution.

At the onset watering trips were made when volunteers were available. As Judy recruited more help it was determined that two days a week, Tuesday and Friday, would be enough and that schedule was adhered to, almost. As the record breaking heat wave engulfed Central Oregon, several folks made special trips to ensure the plants stayed moist. Stifling smoke was also a hindrance at times.

Enter Jack Williamson. Jack, a part-time resident of Black Butte Ranch, had been a regular visitor to Whiskey Springs as a birder and soon joined the water brigade. He was not satisfied that the watering system could not be improved. He arranged to have two 50 gallon bladders donated to the project. He also worked with the appropriate staff at Black Butte Ranch to get them to donate water from their maintenance site at the Ranch. The bladders involved no lifting on anyone's part. Loaded into a pickup or SUV, they could be filled in five minutes with a hose, hauled to the holding tank and siphoned in. A technological and back-saving advancement!



All the plants were showing good signs of recovery and responding to all the TLC. Judy, being Judy, also kept recruiting volunteers. There was now a good cadre of dedicated people who not only shouldered a physical load but contributed many usable ideas. It was a great group: great to work with, fun to be around, and dedicated to bringing Whiskey Springs back.

Even prior to the fire, Jake Schas and his brother Jim had trail cams at Whiskey Springs. Although the use was down, a wide variety of animals including Cougar, Bear, Sooty Grouse and Elk were using the tank. Jack Williamson also added some trail cams and provided one of the more comical aspects of our endeavor. An adult black bear evidently thought that the upper storage tank was a better water source than the lower tub. Jack's photos show him using all of his ingenuity to try to get into the top of the tank and around the exit hose bib. He left numerous claw marks and was so persistent that a heavy wooden pallet had to be fastened to the tank top so he would not destroy the lid.

Elk in small numbers were expected. Herds of 50 plus were not. One day Judy, Diane and I arrived at the site to find the tub completely empty, the fill pipe from the spring knocked off so it was draining on the ground, and the tub more crushed on one side than before. The area around the entire enclosure was torn up with elk tracks. It appeared a whole herd had rendezvoused and danced all night. Subsequent viewing of the trail cams revealed that we had indeed had an elk rodeo. In the ensuing days we were to have several elk adventures. Herds included big bulls only, cows and calves and mixed groups, and all in large numbers. Not only did they damage the water system several times, but they did serious vegetation damage, both by trampling and browsing. The elk lived here and we had to adapt which meant more physical labor. We shored up the tank and mitigated the damage done to the vegetation by covering individual plants with large woody debris, making it harder for the ungulates to reach it. This damage occurred in August and tapered off in early September to only a few elk using the area. The damage to the tub was substantial enough that Judy talked with the owner and he agreed to let us replace it. Judy and Diane purchased a new 85 gallon tank with donated funds and six volunteers installed it on September 29. We also winterized the water system and took all the hoses and nozzles home for the winter.

This project would not have happened without the dedication of a cadre of volunteers. No computers here, just, for the most part, a lot of heavy lifting.

Left to right: Diane Kook, Carolyn Rochelle, Judy Meredith, Mike Golden, Nancy Bruener (wildlife biologist, consulting that one day about elk), Gail Snyder, Laurel Collins, Mary Shivell. Other active volunteers, but not present in photo: Jack Williamson, Jake Schas, Jim Greer and Mary Poss.



These folks put in an estimated 553 hours of volunteer labor, drove an estimated 7,512 miles and hauled and distributed over 7,000 gallons of water. They also carried rocks, shoveled dirt, and dragged huge burned limbs. They arrived in clean clothes and a smile and left with dirty clothes and a smile.

So what did we accomplish?

Though there is still a lot of recovery time ahead, Whiskey Springs, as long as it flows, will have the care it needs. Though the jury is still out, watering of the existing vegetation may not be as necessary as it was this year. Much of the vegetation hopefully now has a root system that will sustain it.

If the flow persists through the winter, there is probably the need to augment many of the native species that are already recovering. Larger size trees are one example. Of course, any new vegetation needs water. We know how to do that.

A more professional history including photo points and monitoring of recovery should be started and maintained. Much of this for the first year is probably in photos and emails and should be filed and improved upon. All this takes time and someone with the expertise to put it all together.

Birds are using the site and did all the time during the past summer. Using eBird data for the past four years I did some comparisons of pre- and post-fire. Basically the same birds are using Whiskey Springs, but there is some interesting information and it is included below as an addendum to this history.

A community of birders came together to make all this happen. This project not only required ingenuity but also relied on hard, physical work. People rolled and carried what probably amounted to a ton of rocks and limbs to build barriers, support plants and protect water equipment. Loads of mulch, pine needles and local woody debris were hauled in to enhance and protect the damaged soil. Through it all, the camaraderie of the participants was remarkable.

Many thanks to:

**Judy Meredith** - who would not let Whiskey Springs die.

**Jake Schas** - who provided ingenuity, leadership and what a lot of us appreciated, muscle.

**Jim Schas** for donations and trail cam footage.

**Laurel Collins, Mike Golden, Jim Greer, Diane Kook, Mary Poss, Mary Shivell,**

**Gail Snyder, and Jack Williamson** - who showed up, worked and shared ideas.

## ADDENDUM

Although not a digital person, and with some guidance from Tom Crabtree, I was able to go back four years and look at eBird postings. Ebird lists a possibility of 110 species for Whiskey Springs. I assume this is based on historic postings. Over the four years, 2018, to 2021, one hundred species were recorded.

It is interesting that there were not more postings for 2018, and 2019, prior to the fire. I also thought that possibly 2020 might have had more posts as it offered a chance to bird away from the pandemic-enforced isolation. Keep in mind that there were probably postings to COBOL that I could not access.

2018	10 postings	May 24-Sept. 19	56 species
2019	15 postings	June 30-Dec. 28	60 species
2020 (pandemic year)	5 postings	May15-July29 (Fire after this date)	47 species
2021	37 postings	May 25-Oct. 30	75 species

The large number of postings in 2021 came as a result of all the rehab work at the springs. There was usually somebody at the springs at least three times a week and many volunteers posted each time they visited. The postings for the four years that I looked at are a who's who of Central Oregon birders and some from beyond. I saw very few names that I did not recognize.

So what was present pre- and post- fire?

Species seen only in 2021 are probably not a true picture of all use because of the small number of previous postings. I am relatively confident that many of you may have seen and posted them in earlier years or saw them and did not post. Then again, as you review the list there are several species that would benefit from fire and the open spaces it created.

Below are the species seen (or heard) only in 2021 and the number of times:

Mountain Quail 4	Downy Woodpecker 1
Wild Turkey 1	Kestrel 1
Ruffed Grouse 1	Merlin 1
Mourning Dove 4	Western Bluebird 100
Osprey 1	Mountain Bluebird 23
Red-breasted Sapsucker 2	Vesper Sparrow 1
Lewis's Woodpecker 3	Lazuli Bunting 26
Black-backed Woodpecker 19	Brown-headed Cowbird 23

As warblers are one of the main attractions at Whiskey Springs, I wondered how this group may have responded to the burn. Below is the **number of postings** and **number of birds** posted for each year.

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Orange-crowned Warbler	2 - 4	5 - 15	3 - 10	5 - 9
Nashville Warbler	2 - 2	4 - 8	4 - 11	4 - 6
MacGillivray's Warbler	6 - 9	3 - 3	4 - 12	1 - 1
Common Yellowthroat	Seen only once in 2018			
Yellow Warbler	2 - 2	3 - 4	2 - 2	3 - 4
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9 - 107	12 - 120	4 - 20	30 - 268
Black-throated Gray Warbler	8 - 21	11 - 39	5 - 20	4 - 5
Townsend's Warbler	4 - 4	6 - 10	none	2 - 2
Hermit Warbler	6 - 8	4 - 5	2 - 2	1 - 1
Wilson's Warbler	1 - 4	3 - 4	2 - 2	2 - 2
Lazuli Bunting	Not recorded in 2018, 2019 and 2020			9 - 26
Mountain Chickadees are a regular at Whiskey Springs and were an anomaly:	8 - 36	12 - 26	4 - 21	11 - 19

The bottom line from all this is how important the water is to all these birds. Habitat destruction may have caused some to move to other areas, but water continues to draw them in. Species such as Purple Finch, Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin, and Chipping Sparrow were always present in huge numbers even while we worked, and any brief stoppage brought in less frequently seen birds.

Any exercise such as this creates more questions than answers. I have all this information in antiquated, handwritten form and would share it with anyone who is interested as long as I don't have to send it by computer.

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For info on OBA's Christmas Bird Count which is in process into January 2022:

<https://oregonbirding.org/cbc/>



# Greater Sage-grouse Study and Habitat Restoration

*By Dr. Stu Garrett, ECAS Sage-grouse Coordinator*

*Photos by Sage-grouse Project Team*

For several years, ECAS has been active in Greater Sage-grouse (GSG) issues. Initially we began by assisting local agencies in marking fences with flight-diverters, trapping mosquitoes for West Nile Virus studies, removing small conifers, participating in local and state-wide GSG conferences, and assisting ODFW with hard-to-reach lek counts. We put together a small group of ECAS members who were ecologists with strong academic backgrounds and who were also interested in the restoration of our local Greater Sage-grouse (GSG.) The ECAS Sage-grouse Science Team worked on comparing the biology of the GSG to the ecology of the sagebrush steppe. It soon became apparent to our ECAS scientists that one of the biggest unaddressed threats to GSG in Oregon is the depletion of native forbs (wildflowers), grasses, and insects in GSG habitat. You can learn more about this by watching this video [Botany Meets Biology: The Plight of the Sage-grouse](#)

It turns out that there is a period of time in the first 3 weeks in the lives of GSG chicks when they are dependent on large amounts of insects in their diet or they will die. After this insect-consuming period they remain dependent on native forbs and insects to provide the protein and nutrients for optimum growth. The more forbs and insects the better for the young chicks. In order to succeed in nesting and brood-rearing, pre-laying hens also depend on the high levels of protein, calcium, and phosphorus that are found in native forbs. ECAS began placing vegetation transects in the Brothers Priority Area for Conservation east of Bend in the Millican and Brothers areas in order to document native vegetation. These measurements showed decreased levels of native forbs and grasses. We also located agency studies that confirmed this widespread depletion of native forbs and grasses in the sagebrush understory.



ECAS then approached local federal and state agencies about pilot projects to study this understory depletion but for various reasons the agencies did not partner with ECAS. Subsequently, ECAS hired the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) in Corvallis to develop and perform (along with assistance from ECAS volunteers) a project for understory restoration for Sage-grouse in the Brothers PAC. IAE is a non-profit NGO in Corvallis Oregon that does conservation work region-wide and is loosely affiliated with Oregon State University. Funding has come from ECAS, the ECAS Lauridge Fund, private donations, and the Deschutes County Taylor Rangeland Fund.

The ECAS/IAE Understory Restoration Project for Sage-grouse was developed and this project is being performed on a large, cooperating, private ranch north of Brothers. We have put together a comprehensive study that will allow us to test different combinations of experimental treatments in order to identify the best methods for restoring forb understories to benefit Sage-grouse.

Our experimental treatments will be micro-mowing seeding native forbs and grasses via 2 different techniques: micro-irrigation and grazing or grazing exclusion. The study design is called a “Fully Crossed Split-Block Randomized Eight-Block Design.” In November 2021 ECAS and IAE began setting up the eight study blocks. In those blocks we seeded over 4 million native forb and grass seeds. This was accomplished with a mechanical hand-pushed seeder. The seeder made a small furrow, dropped in a calculated amount of seeds, covered the furrow, and compressed the planted seeds with a roller.



ECAS member Greg Johannsen operates the seeder-roller

In some areas, a dense overstory of sagebrush contributes to the depletion of the understory forbs and grasses so we used a bush-hog behind a tractor to mow very small areas of sagebrush to see if forbs and grasses will grow better in those spots. We are planning for at least a 3 to 5 year study, depending on results and more funding. Monitoring has begun and will continue in the spring and for at least two more years. If our study is successful, these types of treatments could be scaled up and applied to other areas of declining GSG habitat.

As the project develops we will be asking for ECAS volunteers to assist in tasks like marking fences, collecting native seeds and other associated activities. If you are interested and are not already enrolled in his Sage-grouse volunteer group, please contact Dr. Stu Garrett, ECAS Sage-grouse Coordinator, via email at [garrett@bendcable.com](mailto:garrett@bendcable.com)



IAE employee Audrey Rader happily hard at work

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## Winter Raptor Surveys

The Winter Raptor Survey [WRS] project, established in the winter of 2004-05, is designed to determine wintering populations of the various species of birds of prey throughout the state of Oregon and parts of California, Idaho and Washington. Through a collection of pre-approved survey routes, volunteers completing the once-a-month surveys from December through February will count the various species that they find and report their findings to the project coordinator. See results after February at <https://www.ecaudubon.org/winter-raptor-survey>

## 2021 LAUGHRIGE GRANT UPDATE

*By Mary Oppenheimer, Chair ECAS Grant Committee*

The ECAS Laughrige grant program exists because of an unanticipated unrestricted bequest of approximately \$100,000 from the estate of Katherine Kay Laughrige in the early 2000s. These funds are invested in socially responsible mutual funds, and grants are made to support our mission of education, science, and conservation. Over the years, stock market appreciation has increased our Laughrige funds and the ECAS board has therefore amended the Laughrige policy (available on the ECAS website at the documents tab) several times, increasing both the size of Laughrige grants and the expenses for which the grants may be used. After payment of the grants described below and depending on market fluctuation, approximately \$170,000 will remain in our Laughrige fund.

In 2021, the ECAS Board approved record Laughrige grant expenditures totaling \$53,353. The dollar amount may raise eyebrows but we are grateful that we have the funds to support these worthwhile projects. Our 2021 Laughrige grants were heavily weighted toward habitat restoration projects in Central Oregon, mainly in sites familiar to many ECAS members:

**City of Prineville -- \$2000 to purchase trees for the Crooked River Wetlands.** The trees will provide food for birds and shade for visitors to the Wetlands. Due to the pandemic landscaping/construction boom, the city was unable to purchase trees of the size desired in 2021, so this project will be implemented in 2022.

**Deschutes Land Trust (DLT)—Three grants, totaling \$10,000 for habitat restoration at three separate sites.**

- **\$5,000 for plants and contract labor at Ochoco Preserve.** The Ochoco Preserve, recently acquired by DLT, is adjacent to the Crooked River Wetlands. DLT has completed planning and permitting for a major project of stream, wetland and floodplain habitat restoration at the site, including bridges and trails that will connect the preserve to the Crooked River Wetlands. Implementation of these plans will begin in 2022, and our \$5000 grant provides significant support to projected costs for planting materials.
- **\$3000 for plants and contract labor at Hindman Springs (Camp Polk Meadow.)** In past years, ECAS grants supported weed removal and planting in the area around the old barn at Hindman Springs and those of us who visit the area have been amazed by the transformation. In 2021 a portion of the area beyond this area was prepared for planting and the requested grant will supplement private donations for plants and possibly some contract labor in 2022.
- **\$3000 for plants and contract labor at Indian Ford Meadow.** This DLT habitat restoration project is following a path similar to that at Hindman Springs. Ground has now been prepared for planting by weed removal, and this grant will supplement private donations to purchase tough native plants (ones that can survive in the recently prepared area) and possibly some contract labor in 2022. DLT plans to supplement this with additional native plants in 2023 but did not request funding for that stage in 2021.

**Institute of Applied Ecology (IAE) -- \$33,542 to support IAE's three-year research on forb restoration methods in Sage Grouse habitat.** This is by far the largest grant of Laughrige funds that ECAS has ever made and it is supplemented by the transfer to IAE of \$13,000 that Deschutes County previously granted to ECAS for Sage Grouse study. It supports our science and conservation missions.

- Unlike typical grants ECAS has made to other organizations, this grant grows out of ECAS member Stu Garret's long-standing efforts to preserve and improve Sage Grouse habitat. Stu developed the vision for a study of this type, realized that it could not be implemented on a purely volunteer basis, sought and obtained funding, located project partners, and identified an appropriate institution to conduct the research.
- The research will investigate the usefulness in forb restoration of combinations of four variables (fenced/open, irrigated/dry, lightly mowed/not mowed, seed scatter/seed pellets) to be tested in 16 study plots on heavily grazed habitat east of Brothers. IAE is a well-established 501©(3) research organization based in Corvallis with an impressive professional staff and ECAS believes that its study could be persuasive to policy-makers and to other Sage Grouse stake-holders as they consider how best to protect the Sage Grouse population.

Two other projects round out our list of 2021 Laughrige grants:

**OSU-Cascades – \$5110 to continue the multiyear project relating to the effect of climate change on cavity nesters.** This project, involving OSU professor Matt Orr, woodpecker expert Steve Shunk, and British-Columbia based scientist Kurt Trzcinski, began in 2020 with point count surveys designed to create baseline data of woodpeckers and cavity nester bird populations in varying habitats and at varying elevations in the Sisters Ranger District. The 2021 grant supported research equipment and survey expenses to improve and refine the database with the ultimate goal of creating a “nest web” depicting the interrelationship of woodpecker species, tree species, and cavity nesters. An article in the Summer 2021 CALLIOPE describes this ongoing project more fully; learn more on page 15 at [https://www.ecaudubon.org/\\_files/ugd/2c5973\\_b04c5205a9924a34aa320a431b39bf1f.pdf](https://www.ecaudubon.org/_files/ugd/2c5973_b04c5205a9924a34aa320a431b39bf1f.pdf)

**Sunriver Nature Center and Observatory (SRNO) – \$3000** for the acquisition of a female Trumpeter Swan to maintain the Center's ongoing Trumpeter Swan breeding program. The female swan arrived on February 10 and was named Valentina. Any cygnets that “Val” produces will be transferred to Summer Lake Wildlife Area as part of the Trumpeter Swan Society's program to recreate a sustainable Trumpeter Swan population.

Laughrige Grants are made to public schools, 501©(3) organizations, and governments for projects in Oregon that further education, conservation, or scientific research. The ECAS Grant Committee reviews grant requests and makes recommendations to the ECAS Board, which makes grant decisions. More information on these grants is available on the ECAS web site at the Documents button or directly at <https://www.ecaudubon.org/policies>. It's advisable that an organization interested in a grant contact the chair of the Grant Committee via the ECAS email address ([ecaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ecaudubon@gmail.com)) before starting the formal application process.

## Winter Wings 2022



A 3-day Festival in the Klamath Basin **February 18-20, 2022**  
 Host site: Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech)  
 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, Oregon, 97601  
 Registration information at [www.WinterWingsFest.org](http://www.WinterWingsFest.org)

## January Birders' Night - Thursday January 20 7pm on Zoom Back to the Night: Why Preserving the Stars is Not Just for the Birds

*By Gordon Wetzel*

For eons, the night was lit only by the moon and stars, and life on this planet evolved under regular cycles of bright days and dark nights. All that has changed in the last 130 years, and the night we know now is liberally colonized with artificial light. Most of us live in cities that are ablaze—from billboards to parking lots to street lights—even while we sleep. Not only does this obscure the Milky Way from 80% of North Americans where they live, but the overabundance of light at night also has dire ecological consequences—not just for the millions of migrating birds that use the stars to navigate, but also for mammals, amphibians, fish and plants, as well as for human health.

Join us via Zoom on January 20th at 7:00pm for an exploration of the night's wondrous mysteries and the impacts of light pollution, and learn about how we can preserve our starry skies while simultaneously creating vibrant, beautiful, and safe nighttime cityscapes.

Mary Coolidge has been on Portland Audubon's Conservation team since 2008. Today she serves as Audubon's BirdSafe Campaign Coordinator, working to reduce hazards for birds in the built environment. Mary is dedicated to improving efforts to make urban environments more hospitable to wildlife and helping connect people to nature and place right here in the city. Mary splits her time between Portland Audubon and the Oregon Zoo's California Condor breeding program.

The link for the Zoom meeting is: [Back to the Night Jan. 20, 7 PM](#)



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### Welcome New Members!

Dondi Black	Boise, ID
Judy Crosson	Bend, OR
Rhonda Curtis	Sisters, OR
Colin Downey	Bend, OR
Joey Drucker	Bend, OR
Kathy Godwin	White Salmon, OR
Patty Hoke	Bend, OR
Mike King	Portland, OR
Lee Millis	Redmond, OR
Holly Remer	Bend, OR
Rebecca & Jason Rogers	Carnation, WA
Louis Roth	Terrebonne, OR
Mandy Walker	Bend, OR
Kevin/Deborah Walsh/Gauck	Hood River, OR

## 2021 Fall Field Notes

By Chuck Gates

Wow!!! What an exciting Fall season we just had. I've been writing this seasonal summary for close to twenty years and I can't think of a season that packed so many rarities into one 4-month period. Not only that, but many birds who usually show up in small numbers came in quantities that are rarely seen. Let's take a closer look at the monumental Fall season of 2021.

The Fall highlights are usually led by the water birds as migrants pour out of the arctic. SNOW GEESE numbers were about average but an exceptionally large flock of 1300 visited Houston Lake in Powell Butte for over a week (Gates). ROSS'S GEESE turned up at Hatfield Lake (Low, Bond, Kesecker) and at Wickiup Reservoir (Crabtree). CACKLING GEESE were recorded over twenty times this season with a high count of 58 birds coming in from Wickiup Res. (Cahill). Wild TRUMPETER SWANS were spotted at Suttle Lk. (Kirkbride), Hatfield Lk. (MacDonald), Aspen Lakes Golf Course (Ray), and Blue Lk. (Ball). As many as 10 EURASIAN WIGEONS were counted in the region with 4 males at Davis Lk. coming in as the high count (Low). Hatfield Lk. produced a hybrid between AMERICAN X EURASIAN WIGEON for a very odd-looking bird (Low, Gonzalez). BLACK SCOTER reports rolled in from Suttle Lk. on 28 Oct (Crabtree, Thomas) and Wickiup Res. on 1 Nov (Cahill). Around the same time, LONG-TAILED DUCKS were located at Suttle Lk. (Crabtree) and Wickiup Res. (Low).



Long-tailed Duck Photo by Jim Moodie

RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS turned up at Suttle Lk. (McDonell, C. Miller) and Wickiup Res. (Cahill). A rare RED-THROATED LOON was photographed at Wickiup Res. on 30 Oct (Low). CLARK'S GREBES were reported from Suttle Lk. (Weiser), Houston Lk. (Gates), and Prineville Res. (Zalunardo, Pidgeon). AMERICAN BITTERNs were found in their expected Powell Butte breeding site (Gates, Meredith) but were also tallied in Sunriver (Lawler, Burgess). A young GREEN HERON put on quite a show for several days at the Black Butte Ranch Pond in early September (Williamson).

Green Heron Photo by Tom Crabtree



Sea Ducks are a bit of a rarity every year around Thanksgiving but have a look at these reported numbers from Fall 21: GREATER SCAUP 14 birds, SURF SCOTER 83 birds, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER 10 birds, PACIFIC LOON 8 birds, RED-NECKED GREBE 9 birds, and HORNED GREBE 25 blrds. Looking at those numbers, you might not guess that those are rare birds.

When it comes to Fall rarities, shorebirds and Larids often provide the most thrilling sightings. That was certainly the case this past season. Only one report mentioned AMERICAN AVOCET and it included 3 birds at Hatfield Lake (Newbold). BLACK-NECKED STILTS were located at the Redmond Sewer Ponds on 5 Aug (Vick) and 12 Sep (Gates), at Hatfield Lk. (Cowan), and Sunriver (Clarke). A single, BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER turned up at Ochoco County Park near Prineville (Meredith) and another was found at Wickiup Res. a week later (Low). A SNOWY PLOVER was located at the Crooked R. Wetlands for the 4<sup>th</sup> County Record (Gates). RUDDY TURNSTONES are very rare locally so having one bird at the Redmond Sewer Ponds (Vick)



and a second bird at Hatfield Lk. (Cahill) was exciting. A WHIMBREL was heard calling on Davis Lk. (Low) and SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were seen no fewer than 13 times at 7 locations. Sanderlings were abundant with as many as 26 birds reported highlighted by 9 birds on Wickiup Res. on 11 Sep (Cahill). Crook County's very first **RUFF** was tallied at Prineville Res. (Gates)

Ruff Photo by Chuck Gates

while SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS were observed at the same time. Another Short-billed was found at Hatfield Lk. on 17 Aug (Angiola). It was pretty exciting to count 21 BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS on Prineville Reservoir (Gates) but the real excitement came when Peter Low found Central Oregon's second ever **SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** at Wickiup Reservoir.



Franklin's Gull Photo by Chuck Gates



FRANKLIN'S GULLS were abundant through the summer but trickled down to a single bird found on Prineville Res. in the Fall (Gates). Two different (one adult, one juvenile) SABINE'S GULLS turned up on Prineville Res. (Gates) while another two seen at Wickiup were presumed different birds since they were observed a month apart (Crabtree, Tice). Central Oregon's 5<sup>th</sup>

Heerman's Gull Photo  
by Don Sutherland



record of HEERMAN'S GULL was seen at the Old Mill in Bend (Sutherland) and GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULLS were tallied at Crane Prairie (Low), Davis Lk. (Gonzalez), and Wickiup Res. (Crabtree, Mayer, Centanni, Jett). Even though SHORT-BILLED GULLS (formerly Mew Gull) had only been seen 4 times before in Central Oregon, 5 birds were spotted at 4 different locations (Bend Old Mill; Jakse, Suttle Lk.; C. Miller M. Miller, Wickiup Res.; Low, Riverbend Park; Meredith) making for an extraordinary sighting. Nine HERRING GULLS were recorded from various locations and ICELAND GULLS were noted for the first and second time

ever in Jefferson County (Crabtree, C. Miller, M. Miller). COMMON TERNS were found at 3 locations including a big flock of 25 at Wickiup Res. (Low). PARASITIC JAEGERs showed up at Wickiup (Low) and Crane Prairie (Cahill) while a LONG-TAILED JAEGER was spotted at Crane Prairie (Low).

Game Bird reports continue to be anemic as human activities make life hard for these beauties. For the whole season, we only received one MOUNTAIN QUAIL report (On Prineville Res. by Meredith and Zalunardo), one RUFFED GROUSE report (near Ochoco RS CG by Mickel), one GREATER SAGE-GROUSE report (on Camp Cr. Rd. by Zalunardo) and one RING-NECKED PHEASANT report (at the Crooked R. Wetlands by Gates). There were no reports of Dusky Grouse or Gray Partridge from our region this Fall. In contrast, BAND-TAILED PIGEON numbers were well above previous record levels with 10 reports of a total of 18 birds.

For some good news, this season the raptors were seen in healthy numbers for the most part. Probably due to mild temperatures, winter OSPREY were found at Shevlin Park (Wilcox, Schromen-Wawrin), in Terrebonne near the Deschutes R. (Spotter), and Crooked R. Ranch (Smith). NORTHERN GOSHAWKS were located at Trout Cr. Swamp (Cahill), in Redmond (Steele), in the Powell Butte area (Tinsley), and near La Pine S. P. (Arneson). My tally sheet shows 28 reports of RED-SHOULDERED HAWK in Central Oregon this Fall: incredible! The Green Ridge Hawk Watch has been in operation more than 15 years and this year their efforts, among other things, produced a BROAD-WINGED HAWK (Kendall). The last Fall migrant SWAINSON'S HAWK was noted on 2 Oct (Shelmerdine) and the first Winter migrant ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS showed up on 13 Oct (Cantor). PEREGRINE FALCONS were found on 15 occasions at diverse locations like Lake Billy Chinook (Bergman), Ashwood Rd. (Bennett), and in Redmond (Helton). MERLINS don't usually show up until October, but one was seen at Lower Bridge on 30 Sep (Lowe) and at the Bend Swift Roost on 27 Aug (Kruse). A rare Deschutes County BARN OWL was found in Bend on 8 Oct (Fagan). A GREAT GRAY OWL near Sunriver answered the prayers of many photographers who enjoyed the owl's propensity to pose (Rhoads). WESTERN SCREECH-OWLS were discovered at Lk. Billy Chinook (Van Norman) and another was calling north of Sisters (Tank). Five different BARRED OWLS were discovered in the area and NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS were located at Suttle Lk. (Williamson) and in the Bend City Limits (Fagan). LONG-EARED OWLS were counted at Tam McArthur Rim Tr. (Scheuering) and along Hwy 27 in Crook County (K. Frueh, B. Frueh) while SHORT-EARED OWLS were located at the Sunriver Nature Center (Brown) and at the Powell Butte Community Center (Tinsley).

The Near-Passerines include the nightjars, woodpeckers, swifts, and hummingbirds. Near-Passerine highlights included a COMMON POORWILL day roosting at Hatfield Lk. (Vine). ECAS sponsors the VAUX'S SWIFT Roost project, and they tallied their largest number ever with over 3200 birds (Kruse) coming to roost at the Bend Boys & Girls Club. Two LEWIS'S WOODPECKERS were spotted near Kapka Butte on the late date of 26 Nov (Stacey). As many as 7 AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS were found at locations like Trout Cr. Swamp (Otley), Matthieu Lk. (Jakse, Mayer), and 3 Creeks Lk. (Helton). BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS were seen in Sisters (White), in Deschutes R. Woods (Moodie), and at Awbrey Meadows (McDonell). A rare COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD was photographed in Terrebonne on 21 Sep (Carpenter).

Finally, we get to the passerines. BLACK PHOEBE reports were received from La Pine (Hibbs), the Crooked R. Wetlands (Gates), and Sunriver (Lawler). An EASTERN KINGBIRD was spotted along the Paulina Hwy on 8 Aug. BARN SWALLOWS were still being seen as late as 29 Nov near Sisters (Stewart). BLUE JAYS were recorded from Crooked R. Ranch (Holt), from



Blue Jay Photo by Chuck Gates

La Pine (Hibbs), and from Bend (Rybarczyk). BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were tallied at their normal location near Trout Cr. C.G. in Jefferson County (Flick). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS appeared as expected near Prineville Res. with a high count of 16 on 29 Aug (Gates). A NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD spent quite a while at the Deschutes Co. Fairgrounds in Oct/Nov (Cowan) and a NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH turned up at Zalunardo Pond in Powell Butte (Zalunardo).

Northern Mockingbird Photo  
by Glenn Cantor



American Redstart Photo by Tom Crabtree



Sawyer Park produced the only AMERICAN REDSTART of the season (Burgess) and a SUMMER TANAGER turned up for a short time in Deschutes R. Woods (Moodie). A RED FOX SPARROW was photographed in Deschutes R. Woods (Moodie) and a SWAMP SPARROW

Swamp Sparrow  
Photo by Jim  
Moodie



was located at Suttle Lk. (Moodie). AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were discovered at



American Tree Sparrow Photo by Tom Crabtree

Wickiup Res. (Crabtree) and Tumalo S. P. (Rhoads). Around 10 WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were found in the area and HARRIS'S SPARROWS were located at Farewell Bend Park (Burgess, Jakse) and Wickiup Res. (Jett, Centanni). Up to 4 LAPLAND LONGSPURS were located at Wickiup Res. and a RUSTY BLACKBIRD was found in Culver for a Jefferson County first (Meredith). GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES were spotted on the Middle Sister

Tr. (Dwyer) and WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were noted at Suttle Lk. for only the 5<sup>th</sup> time in Jefferson County (Kornfeld). Finally, it was a good Fall for COMMON REDPOLLS with no fewer than 14 individuals seen at various locations.



Harris's Sparrow Photo by Tom Crabtree

## OBSERVERS

Chuck Gates, Scott Bond, Max Kesecker, Peter Low, Tom Crabtree, Matt Cahill, Susan Kirkbride, Brian MacDonald, Ricky Ray, Nathan Ball, Mark Gonzalez, Claire Weiser, Cindy Zalunardo, Colleen Pidgeon, Judy Meredith, Tom Lawler, Jack Williamson, Tom Mickel, Carolyn Wilcox, Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin, K Spotter, Kevin Smith, Dede Steele, Joel Tinsley, James Arneson, John Kendall, Tim Shelmerdine, Glenn Cantor, Erik Bergman, Craig Bennett, Lauren Helton, Cash Lowe, Mary Anne Kruse, Sevilla Rhoads, Kelli Van Norman, Sue Tank, Damian Fagan, Miles Scheuering, Kai Frueh, Ben Frueh, Kayla Brown, Jaqueline Newbold, David Vick, Lisa Cowan, Karen Clarke, Dean Angiola, Bill Tice, Caleb Centanni, Courtney Jett, Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Milton Vine, Gavin Stacey, Pam Otley, Brian White, Jim Moodie, Alec McDonell, CJ Carpenter, Ondi Hibbs, Edith Stewart, Sue Holt, Kareese Rybarczyk, CJ Flick, Bill Dwyer, Steve Kornfeld

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## Birding Basics Zoom Course Offered in April 2022

*By Lynda Paznokas*

Birding isn't for the birds...it's all ABOUT the birds. Join Lynda Paznokas on Zoom for Birding Basics to explore the fascinating world of birding. Birding Basics is designed for beginning birders and other birders who want to review the basics.

Four class sessions, lasting about an hour each, will be held **Wednesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 from 7:00-8:00 pm**. Although the sessions will be arranged sequentially, participants are welcome to attend all or some sessions as their schedules allow. This is a free course; registration will be required and a Zoom link will be sent to all who register. Registration information will be included in the March *Chatter* and on the ECAS website.

**Session 1: Bird Identification:** Color, shape, size, and behavior

**Session 2: Resources:** Books, apps, websites, games, equipment, ethics

**Session 3: Backyard Birding:** Houses, baths, feeders, gardening for the birds

**Session 4: Birding as a Social Activity:** Organizations, events, citizen science, bird cams

ECAS is sponsoring Birding Basics but please know that if you have friends who are interested in birding, they are welcome to attend. One of the good things about Zoom is that we can have an audience of any size. And who knows...if your friends become interested in birds, perhaps they will become active in ECAS!



Lynda has enjoyed learning about birds since she was a child in Eugene, where she had responsibility for the family bird feeders. She is a life member of Girl Scouts, and all those years as a camper and a camp counselor helped her develop an appreciation for natural history, not just birds in isolation. Currently, Lynda volunteers at the High Desert Museum in the Birds of Prey area, helping visitors learn about the birds in the Museum's care and helping visitors understand their role in the natural world. Lynda was an elementary and middle school teacher in Oregon and Washington, including in the Bend-LaPine District where she was also Elementary Curriculum Specialist for the District. She taught teacher preparation at the university level (OSU, WSU, NAU), mostly K-8 science education and outdoor education.

Questions? Please contact Lynda Paznokas at [Lpaz@bendnet.com](mailto:Lpaz@bendnet.com)

# Resolutions are for the Birds

by Amanda Accamando

The new year has arrived, and good intentions abound. Instead of setting improbable goals for yourself that fade after a month or two, consider making a resolution for the birds. One simple commitment can help support our winter songbirds and improve your record of fulfilling new year's resolutions. Throughout the year, but especially during the winter months, you will want to spend some quality time cleaning your bird feeders and bird baths on a regular basis.



Last winter, those of us in the wildlife community received many reports of sick and dead birds, specifically wild Pine Siskins. The tiny, heavily striped, yellow-accented finches are a common visitor to bird feeders. A shortage of food in their northern home range last year meant that many more Pine Siskins moved south, crowding bird feeders. Although reports of salmonellosis occur yearly during the winter, last year's ecological conditions in Pine Siskin habitat may have contributed to the substantial outbreak.

At the same time, from January through April 2021, the CDC and public health officials documented a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella Typhimurium* infections in people. The affected area included Oregon, Washington, and California, and nine other states, and 29 people were reported sick, some requiring hospitalization. The common denominator in almost all these cases – wild birds. People reported owning a bird feeder, having contact with a sick or dead bird, or having a pet that had access to or contact with wild birds. Birds can transmit salmonellosis, the disease caused by bacteria belonging to the genus *Salmonella*, to humans and to other birds by fecal contamination of food and water and even by bird-to-bird contact. Bird feeders and bird baths, and the areas surrounding them, can become a vector of the disease. This is more of concern in the winter as resources are scarce and birds rely on feeders more. Many of us place bird feeders outside our homes with a goal of supporting wildlife and bird feeder hygiene is an important responsibility we assume. Removing bird feeders completely from the landscape may sometimes be warranted in cases of outbreaks and the best way to support birds.

If you host birds at feeders and bird baths, there are plenty of things you can do to ensure healthful conditions for the birds and yourself. Bird feeders should be cleaned on a regular basis throughout the year. Monthly cleanings are generally sufficient but, during the winter, the recommendation is to clean your bird feeder or bath on a weekly basis. Disinfect feeders by soaking or dousing them with a bleach solution (one part bleach to nine parts water) for about ten minutes. Then scrub feeders, inside and out, with warm soapy water. Make sure to thoroughly rinse the feeders and then allow them to dry completely before refilling and setting them back out. Make sure you sanitize the area where you cleaned your feeder. Try to avoid

contamination in your kitchen by cleaning your feeder outside or in a bathtub. Bird baths, especially heated ones, should also be cleaned regularly in similar fashion. Salmonellosis can also be transmitted to ground dwelling birds who gather under your feeder. On a weekly basis you will also want to rake up and discard seed and debris under your feeders. To protect yourself, make sure to wash your hands thoroughly after touching or cleaning your feeders and keep your pets away from feeder areas.

During the next few months keep an eye out for birds, especially Pine Siskins, that may appear lethargic, puffed up, or with swollen, irritated, or partially closed eyes. If you see these signs or suspect that a bird may be sick contact a wildlife rehabilitation center or Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. If you find a dead bird in your area, wear gloves to collect the bird and double bag it before bringing it to a wildlife rehabilitator.

*Amanda is the Nature Center Manager at the Sunriver Nature Center and she is an ECAS Board member. Photo by Tom Lawler, outgoing ECAS president, who also leads bird walks at SNC.*

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## Articles worth checking out

A Riot of Robins

<https://www.bendsource.com/bend/a-riot-of-robins/Content?oid=15954211>

Erik Bergman's Oregon Bird Quest - 100 birds in each of Oregon's 36 counties

<https://centraloregondaily.com/portland-man-continues-ambitious-bird-watching-mission-in-central-oregon/>

Release of Golden Eagle by ThinkWild

<https://ktvz.com/news/wildlife/2021/12/14/bend-wildlife-rehab-center-set-to-release-golden-eagle-into-wild-after-nearly-fatal-lead-poisoning/> Photos at:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c5y0mazxm8635n2/AACf5-qggrRihi-Fx2RL5xnTa?dl=0&utm\\_campaign=lead+poisoned+eagle](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c5y0mazxm8635n2/AACf5-qggrRihi-Fx2RL5xnTa?dl=0&utm_campaign=lead+poisoned+eagle)

Becoming Birds: Decolonizing Ecoliteracy by Teresa Wicks

<https://audubonportland.org/blog/becoming-birds-decolonizing-ecoliteracy/?fbclid=IwAR0c5GpDxGaeRMohpS9Hus6dAkmNuC34nyrxLKZ9whrG6nI3yaRwSI3gxl0>

Amazon birds are shrinking as the climate warms, prompting warning from scientists

<https://www.npr.org/2021/11/15/1055928174/birds-in-brazilian-amazon-shrinking-climate-change-study-shows?sc=18&f=1001>

Cornell Labs citizen science <https://feederwatch.org/>

The Birds That Spend All Winter Practicing Love Songs - Some species work on their beach body. Others work on their pipes. By Joshua Sokol

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2016/02/warblers-sing-in-winter/459669/>



# EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 565, Bend, Oregon 97701

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

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

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Birding by Ear	Dave Tracy
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Website Development	Sheila Timony
Wednesday Birders	Judy Meredith Howard Horvath

## Winter Zoom Board Meetings

January 4

February 1

March 1

Board meetings are held at 1pm on the first Tuesday of the month online via Zoom. All members are welcome to attend virtually with a link from Tom. Minutes and meeting dates are posted at [www.ecaudubon.org/board-meeting-minutes](http://www.ecaudubon.org/board-meeting-minutes)



The East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) is a 501(c)(3) organization that furthers knowledge and appreciation of birds and their habitats through field trips, education, and field studies.

Join ECAS and help preserve the birds of central Oregon at [www.ecaudubon.org/join](http://www.ecaudubon.org/join)