

THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2021



President's Report

By Tom Lawler

Hello ECAS members,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. As we move into fall and the last few months of 2021 there are a couple of ways that ECAS could use your participation.



The Board is very interested in holding the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival in 2022. In the event that this can be a reality your help is needed to put this festival together. We need people who are willing to serve on the DHWF Committee. There are some of the “old” Committee members that will still help with getting a 2022 festival going but we are in desperate need of new blood to help out with the planning and implementation of this event. Please consider helping out. Without additional help this event might not be able to take place in the future. This is an event that is attended by birders nationwide and worldwide. It would be a shame to have it fade away. If you wish to help out please send an email to ecaudubon@gmail.com.

The Board will have two vacancies come January 1st. Elections are typically held in October and once again this year will be done via MemberPlanet since we were unable to have the Annual Event in person. Board meetings are still being held via Zoom but we sure hope to meet in person again. Not local to the Bend area? That's Okay! When the Board does meet again in person it is planned that Board members will be able to attend via Zoom. No predictions on when we will meet in person but hopefully sometime in 2022 - sooner than later. You could really help out ECAS by becoming a Board member. The positions have a three year term. Past Board members may apply. If you have interest in serving on the Board please contact the Board at ecaudubon@gmail.com.

Lastly since we are not having a public Annual Event to honor volunteers I wish to thank some of the volunteers that led events and projects during this spring, summer and into fall:

- Judy Meredith for her leadership with the Whiskey Springs restoration project
- David Vick for once again taking on the Green Ridge raptor survey
- Jeff Fleischer for coordinating the last raptor survey season and getting the upcoming season going too

- Mary Ann Kruse for counting and reporting on Vaux's Swifts
- Stu Garrett for his tireless work for the Sage Grouse
- Gordon Wetzel for arranging the Zoom Birders' Nights
- Claire Weiser for putting together the Calliope issues
- Sherrie Pierce for putting together the Chatter

There are a number of committees that work behind the scenes to keep ECAS running: The Membership Committee along with the Grant Committee are just two to mention that keep ECAS running smoothly.

And I thank each and every Board member whom I have served alongside. I don't really want to exclude anyone who has helped out in any manner during these challenging times. Thank you ALL for making ECAS what it is. Stay healthy and enjoy the fall birds.

Why do people join ECAS?

by Miriam Lipsitz, Membership

Recently, I called a brand new ECAS member to welcome him to our chapter. Jack Maynard is his name and he lives in Portland. He was so pleased I called and when I asked him what made him join, he was bursting to tell me. He and his wife, Kelli VanNorman visit Central Oregon often, and they came over recently to attend the hawk watch at Green Ridge with David Vick. They had a wonderful time being with Judy Meredith and David and the rest of the group. And when they finally left the hawk watch, Judy took Jack and Kelli over to Whiskey Springs. They were thrilled with that project too, in awe of the job that the volunteers were doing, restoring the area from the fire last year. He said he just LOVES the things that ECAS does, all the projects that benefit wild birds. He loves the enthusiastic volunteers and just wanted to join ECAS to show his appreciation for what we do.

Welcome New Members!

By Miriam Lipsitz, Membership

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Kathy Bowman | Joseph, OR |
| Nancy Carlson | McMinnville, OR |
| Juliana Cartwright | Bend, OR |
| Elizabeth Casey | Bend, OR |
| Laurel Collins | Bend, OR |
| Josh Collins | Bend, OR |
| Sari Fredrickson | Bend, OR |
| Carolyn Horton | Bend, OR |
| Chris Johnson | Bend, OR |
| Bill Lazar | Sisters, OR |
| Jane Leeson | Bend, OR |
| Jack Maynard | Portland, OR |
| Pam Monheimer | Bend, OR |
| Jack Williamson | Sisters, OR |

Vaux's Swifts Trends and Changes

By M.A. Kruse, ECAS Committee co-chair

Spring 2012 we first began counting Vaux's Swifts roosting in the Bend Boys & Girls Club. At that time, the three known roosting-site chimneys being used simultaneously in Bend were Christmas Presence (a craft shop on NW Harriman), Library Administration (the old library), and the Boys & Girls Club. In that migration, the total Boys & Girls Club Swifts counts in 7 surveys submitted through an online survey tool were not enough to rank it in the top 10 roosting sites along the Pacific Flyway.

Spring 2020 the Bend Boys & Girls Club chimney roost ranked 9th (out of 14 sites) with 9,474 total swifts counted with 54 surveys submitted. The high night count was 1300. (Please note, all counts are estimates—some of these birds may have been counted more than once at a chimney, or not at all. Estimates are the only numbers we have. Although there are a few chimneys and/or professional sites with cameras yielding real numbers, the majority of chimneys are counted by volunteers.)

Fall 2020 the Boys & Girls Club chimney ranked 11th (out of 14) for 17,680 total swifts counted and 67 surveys submitted. The high night count was 1600.

Fall 2021 To our knowledge, the Boys & Girls Club chimney is the Bend roosting site of choice for this migration. Our highest counts have surpassed all other fall migrations since beginning in 2012 with mega counts ranging from nightly highs of 1150-3200 in September! Counts have finished up but collective totals are not yet available.



Photo by Damian Fagan at the Bend Boys & Girls Club chimney, August 2021

Why these high numbers for Bend? Who knows? Volunteers count every evening throughout migration yielding more surveys submitted, contributing the most count data possible. The mid-migration data, as of 9 September 2021 was collated by Larry Schwitters, National Audubon Society's (NAS) Vaux's Swift coordinator. He stated that a bit more than a half

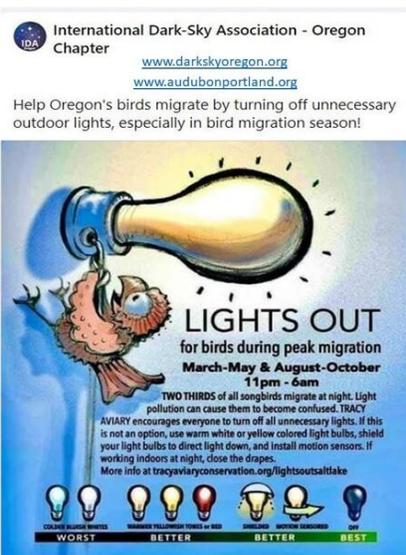
million of these birds going to roost has been documented so far in this migration at vauxhappening.org. A million-plus have been counted every southbound migration for the last seven years with possibly more this year.

Perhaps the Swifts had a successful nesting season? Maybe more birds are opting for a migration route through Central Oregon instead of coastal or further inland? (John Day often has higher counts than Bend, but that has not been true for late August 2021 into early September. John Day's highest count then was 1431.) Cumulative data for past and current Vaux's Swift migration numbers will be available in late October at <https://www.vauxhappening.org/data/> Check here for southbound 2021 migration cumulative data: <https://www.vauxhappening.org/data/2021.html> Maybe that will answer some of these questions and maybe it will raise more.

And for more information on Vaux's Swifts --

Perhaps you've gone to watch and marvel at the Vaux's Swifts swooping into the chimney in Bend during May and September migrations, but what do you really know about this bird with a long wingspan, a special tail and weak legs and feet, that eats and drinks on the wing, and enters the chimney feet first? Find out more about these and other interesting facts about this Western North American bird and see some great photos on an excellent free YouTube recorded presentation sponsored by the Deschutes Public Library in September 2021 as one of their many speaker presentations and given by Lee Ann Kriegh, author of *The Nature of Bend* and *The Nature of Portland*, at <https://youtu.be/Lmj3apHaFvM>

Check out this article on local Swifts by Damian Fagan in *The Source Weekly*. https://www.bendsource.com/bend/return-of-the-vauxs-swifts/Content?oid=14516733&fbclid=IwAR1_WKZbHDzFYXbAtvGcTTNTbg1PA5qqEBtue-rodKLrysOcp1LI32SIWg



Winter Raptor Survey Project

By Jeff Fleischer, Project Coordinator

For the last 16 winters, the East Cascades Audubon Society has sponsored a multistate project designed to get citizen science oriented folks involved in counting birds of prey that winter in the northwest. The project originally started out as an effort solely in Oregon and the first winter of survey work back in 2004-05 had surveys being done on 79 routes spread out throughout the state. Fast forward to this past winter and we now enjoy survey work on 392 active routes covering nearly 25,000 miles of transects in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and a small piece of California located in Oregon's Klamath Basin. Over 300 volunteers do once a month surveys during December through February and those inclined to doing more can do so during the optional months of November and March. The project is designed to enumerate wintering raptor populations and to date, 31 species of birds of prey have been added to an enormous database that is provided to The Peregrine Fund for their use in research of all species of birds of prey throughout the world.

After the close of last winter's survey effort, I was asked to present a program about the project to the annual membership meeting held in October. I was looking forward to doing that and then the Covid virus hit and the meeting was cancelled. I decided at that point to go ahead and prepare a powerpoint presentation about the project in lieu of the live presentation. The presentation was recently installed on the ECAS website for all to enjoy so I would encourage you to take a few hours (the presentation involves 227 slides and nearly 400 photos of the species found on our surveys) and see what has been found on the 12,009 surveys that have been completed to date by hundreds of volunteers that have expended 52,573 hours of survey effort! This is a premiere citizen science project that will continue to grow in the future as more routes are added. The presentation is available at ecaudubon.org/wrs-ppt on the ECAS website. Also check out the Winter Raptor Survey page ecaudubon.org/winter-raptor-survey on the website where you will find numerous charts and maps displaying the results gathered thus far in the project. For any folks that enjoy birds of prey, the program and charts and maps will more than whet your appetite for these incredibly regal birds!

ECAS Birders' Night in October

By Gordon Wetzel

This month's Birders' Night will be Thursday, October 21, 7:00 PM via Zoom. Jeff Fleischer will tell us about the Winter Raptor Survey that many ECAS members participate in. Jeff developed the survey which started in 2001 in Linn County and was expanded to Central Oregon in 2004. Join us by clicking here:

[Winter Raptor Survey, Oct 21, 7 PM](#)

Northern Harrier, Photo by Chuck Gates



GREEN RIDGE FALL RAPTOR SURVEY

By David Vick, Project Coordinator

Prompted by HawkWatch International's 1994 trial count on Green Ridge, members of what was then the East Cascades Bird Conservancy scoured the 15 mile long ridge in 2004 in search of a raptor survey site. Eventually Kim Boddie discovered a site that had excellent views to the north, east and west and the first official Green Ridge Fall Raptor Survey was conducted in 2005. This volunteer citizen science project is now under way on its 15th year of data collection having only missed two years due to the 2014 Bridge 99 Fire and last year's Covid outbreak.



Red-tailed Hawk photo by Chuck Gates

The site is perched 1500 feet above the Metolius River with outstanding views of Mount Jefferson and Mount Hood. Up to 18 species of birds of prey have been recorded on their southbound migration and days of over 200 birds are not uncommon. Our highest count day saw 420 raptors passing through which easily surpassed the highest day for HawkWatch's Bonney Butte migration site to the north. Even though we only conduct our survey on weekends, our counts on those days are usually significantly higher than Bonney Butte's.

Our first weekend of this year on Sept. 11th and 12th saw a total of 199 birds migrating south. Each weekend's count is posted on both COBOL and OBOL and is entered on HawkCount.org's database along with scores of other hawk watch sites across North America which are then used in calculating Raptor Population Indexes. We will continue the survey through the third weekend of October with the fourth weekend being optional depending on the weather and the count.

The roads to our site are suitable for any passenger car but the dirt portions haven't been graded in years and have sections of washboards and potholes. In addition to migration, fall also brings hunting seasons and there are always a few road warriors out and about. What attention hunters may have will be directed elsewhere so slow is the way to go. Just follow USFS 11 Road until the pavement ends after 10 miles and follow the signs to the Green Ridge Fire Lookout. There will be additional ECAS signs up on weekends that will lead participants and visitors to the small parking area adjacent to the porta potty then follow the well marked trail for about a quarter mile. Please see the detailed directions to the site and additional information on ECAS's excellent website. Use the drop down menu under the PROJECTS tab and select Green Ridge or just click here: <https://www.ecaudubon.org/green-ridge---raptor-migration>

Although hawk watching can be two hours of nothing but scenery followed by 20 seconds of adrenalin, we are always hopeful of being present on a big day and that keeps us coming back again and again. We welcome all vaccinated birders and follow state masking guidelines for outdoor activities when social distancing can't be maintained. (Along those lines, please note that Portland Audubon and Oregon Birding Association will have field trips to the site on Oct. 2nd and 3rd respectively.) Numbers usually pick up in the afternoon when winds and/or thermals develop. We hope to see you there, so bring a lawn chair and enjoy the show!

Raising a Gyrfalcon

by Amanda Accamando, Sunriver Nature Center Manager

In late May of this year, Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory welcomed its newest avian ambassador – a female Gyrfalcon [pronounced “**jur**-fal-kn.”] When the two-week-old falcon arrived at the nature center, she was a gangly chick, her head and stomach mostly covered in white down, and barely recognizable as the sleek and magnificent master of the sky she would soon become. Kelli Neumann, Animal Program Coordinator at the nature center and the falcon’s primary caretaker, had served as a surrogate bird mother many times in her career. Kelli knew this falcon would need nearly round-the-clock care at this young age and that she would also need to become accustomed from an early age to much activity, people, and dogs so that she could successfully live at a busy nature center.



For the first few weeks upon her arrival, the falcon’s day was fairly routine – beg, eat, sleep, awake, beg, eat, sleep and so on. At this point in her development the focus was on growing her body and the muscles she would need to stand and flap. She ate every two hours, putting away up to six quail a day, approximately four times her body weight. Kelli and her team prepared defrosted quail for the falcon, removing all the feathers and bones and cutting it into bite-sized morsels. She would consume nearly an entire quail at each feeding, her crop enlarging to match the size of her own head. After the hearty meal she would then ease into a rest period, positioning herself in front of the fan or air conditioner and sometimes lying face down on an ice pack. As a species who breeds, raises their young, and spends a lot of their time in the high arctic, temperature regulation for the falcon was important at this stage in her development, especially given our hot summer.



Over the course of the next two months, we had the unique opportunity to watch as the falcon developed from a helpless white ball into a young fledgling with emerging flight feathers who was capable of walking and gripping and eventually taking short flights. At this age, she was also beginning to self-feed and would enact killing prey on her own. Although the falcon was still being fed dead prey, she would ceremoniously pounce on the quail and use the tomial [**tow**-mee-əl] tooth, a small notch on her beak, to break the quail’s neck and sever its vertebrae. After fledging, Gyrfalcons will spend time in close proximity to their parents who will drop food for them to practice their skills on. We emulated this behavior as this falcon got older by phasing out hand feeding, giving her whole prey items, and playing “chase” with her favorite toy, a leather lure.



Currently, at about six months old, the falcon is spending a lot of time training with her caretakers, especially in flight. Gyrfalcon flight is remarkable as they can dive from great heights at speeds of 170 miles per hour and often fly low and horizontally to chase down their prey such as ptarmigan and grouse. At the nature center, we hope to be able to demonstrate this capability of the Gyrfalcon in future free flight demonstrations. Currently the falcon trains on a creance [krē-ən(t)s], a very long leash, that allows her to fly back and forth between her trainers. As her training progresses and she gains more confidence and trust, she'll be fitted with a radio transmitter and fly untethered.

You can visit the Gyrfalcon, who's been given the name "Freya" after the Norse goddess of love and battle, at the nature center. Watch for news of upcoming flight programs featuring Freya this winter.



You'll also want to return in a year or two as Freya molts her gray juvenile plumage and grows new feathers with her adult coloration. Gyrfalcons have three color types - white, black and silver. Both of Freya's parents were white morph falcons so chances are good she will also be a white Gyrfalcon.

Learn more at <https://snco.org/learn-explore/at-the-nature-center/gyrfalcon>



Tom Lawler, ECAS Board President, leads weekly bird walks in the Sunriver area the first three Saturdays in October. Check out the schedule and reserve a spot for a small fee at

[page.https://snco.org/events/month/2021-10/?hide_subsequent_recurrences=1](https://snco.org/events/month/2021-10/?hide_subsequent_recurrences=1)

Smoke Impacts on Birds

By Elise Wolf, Native Bird Care, Sisters, OR

I've been asked a lot this summer if smoke harms our wild birds. And the answer has been yes, sadly. Contemplating the impact that this last summer's fires have had on our wildlife, including birds, can put even the most crusty into a depression.

A few years back, someone told me they were standing near a tree with a Steller's Jay sitting on a branch and that the jay simply fell off onto the ground, dead. The bird seemed in good condition, externally anyway. This person was near the fire zone, assessing the damage. Most likely the bird had experienced respiratory distress and the impacts were significant enough to lead to death.

It seems like a bird should be able to just fly off from a fire. And many likely do just that. However, a bird can also wind up disoriented, surrounded by smoke, and simply have no idea which way to go. Some species are also committed to territories enough to not want to leave. If they have nests, birds may choose to stay and try to protect their young. (Notably, some birds are so protective they will sit on their eggs or babies and get killed by a predator.)



Photo by Deschutes Land Trust

Birds are highly susceptible to respiratory impacts from smoke because of their unique anatomy. In fact, the incredible physical accomplishments of birds - flight, long distance trips, and endurance - are in large part due to birds' breathing anatomy. Birds do not have just two lungs like us mere land-walkers. They have up to 9 "air sacs" which are balloon-like structures that allow light weight and enormous breathing capacity. Each breath of a bird passes through all of these sacs and the lungs before being exhaled.

This anatomy translates into a rather complex breathing operation. Air comes in through the glottis, passes through one side of the trachea and moves into the posterior air sacs. It then moves into the lungs, and goes out through the anterior air sacs, and then the other side of the trachea. Sorry for the simplified version. What this anatomy results in for birds' airways is that what goes in, stays in. So micro to larger particulates wind up going into birds' air sacs and lungs and not leaving. Just like us, these particulates can cause inflammation and impair intake of oxygen. The health effects of smoke are the same as for humans, except they are magnified by the fact that birds are more efficient breathers and retain more particulates. (Notably, sprayed chemicals can have deadly effects as well).

In sum, smoke is not just harmful to us but outright deadly to birds. Here are some tips for the next smoky day.

Provide water: Not only do birds get parched in smoky air, but mists of water will clean that area of particulates. Soaker hoses turned up just a bit are great; they save water and provide a long line of mild mist that birds can find respite in. A sprinkler can work, just be water conscious and leave it on low, not full blast. Put out shallow pans of water; plant trays (new, clean) work great. If tilted, there will be various depths of water for different-sized birds/animals to bathe in and drink. Always leave an exit for animals by stacking rocks (flat ideally) both inside up to the rim and then at the outer edge tray rim (think like a lizard!). A smaller plant tray, also full of rocks, will help our tiny animals like lizards, frogs, and insects. Deer need water too, small stock tanks and larger pans will work.

Fill all of your feeders, and if you feed mealworms, now's the time to hang that mealworm feeder (NOT dried, please, more dehydration is not what our birds need right now). Use this time to water distressed trees. The Native Bird Care blog has a full post on smoke and birds (www.nativebirdcare.org/blog).

Finally, it's migration, so if you have not put up window solutions, the risk of our migrants hitting windows as they search out water is very high. Netting is a cheap, last-minute and easy solution, but there are many others. (A couple of window stickers is not enough, sorry). For how to do easy netting and other solutions, see <http://www.nativebirdcare.org/windows> or <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/homes-existing-buildings/> Stay safe, and yeah, wear a mask that's meant for smoke -- our Covid masks are not enough.



2021 Summer Field Notes

By Chuck Gates

When we look back on the summer of 2021, it will be hard to think about anything but the fact that it was so smoky and so hot. But we shouldn't overlook the fact that the birding was pretty good. In fact, you might say it was "smoking hot!" Below, you will see a summary of the best birds seen in the summer of 2021.

Most water birds head north to nest in summer. Despite that, we get a few birds in CO that break that mold. TUNDRA SWANS are quite rare in summer, so birds at the Crooked R. Wetlands (Erland) and Houston Lk. (Myers, Basden) were unexpected. GREATER SCAUP were recorded at Culver Sewer Ponds (White) and Hatfield Lk. (Low) for a couple of rare lowland summer records. CLARK'S GREBES turned up at Prineville Res. (Namitz) and Lava Lake (Horvath, Oppenheimer) but there was no sign of breeding at those locations. GREAT EGRETS were found at Sunriver (Roosa) and Hatfield Lk. (Low). AMERICAN BITTERN reports came in from Crane Prairie (Weiser, Burgess), Crooked R. Wetlands (Erland), and Houston Lk. (C. Gates). A rare GREEN HERON was discovered at Ryan Meadow (Vine) and an equally rare, BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was observed near Big River Dr. in Bend (Newbold). WHITE-FACED IBIS were recorded no fewer than 5 times from locations like the Redmond Sewer Ponds (Kathol), Hatfield Lk. (Cowan), and the Crooked R. Wetlands (Myers, Basden).

Shorebirds and Larids (gulls & terns) are exciting additions to any seasonal summary. BLACK-NECKED STILTS were reported 9 times in the season and AMERICAN AVOCETS made the list 7 times. Nesting LONG-BILLED CURLEWS were tallied at Big Summit Prairie (Crabtree) and Puett Rd. (Namitz), both in eastern Crook County at historic nesting sites.



A SNOWY PLOVER was located at the Crooked R. Wetlands for Crook County's 4th record (Bowers, Authier, Crabtree) and a BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER was seen briefly at Houston Lk. (Gonzalez). A MARBLED GODWIT turned up at Hatfield Lk. for a short visit (Low) and SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were found at the Crooked R. Wetlands (Gonzalez) and Hatfield Lk. (Crabtree, Burgess, Zalunardo). No fewer than 9 times were SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS located and reported from local

Semipalmated Sandpiper, Crooked R. Wetlands, 7/29/21, photo by Don Sutherland

scattered water areas. FRANKLIN'S GULLS were seen a couple of times at Hatfield but what caused real excitement was an appearance at the Culver Sewer Ponds for Jefferson County's 3rd record (White). BLACK TERNS were in abundance this summer with 11 reports coming in from 6 locations.

Game Bird populations are experiencing sometimes severe population decreases but a few reports did make it to my desk. CHUKAR were spotted at Barr Rd. in Redmond (Gonzalez), east of Post on Hwy 380 (Kornfeld), and Perry South CG (Givot). A family of RUFFED GROUSE were seen at Dry Cr., west of Sisters (Low) and two families were observed on the Wildcat Wilderness Tr. north of Ochoco Res. (Bruns). Twelve GREATER SAGE-GROUSE were seen loafing on the Millican Lek on June 27 for an odd late date (Aboulenein, Elmeligui). Six MOUNTAIN QUAIL reports came in from locations like Whiskey Springs (Meredith, C. Gates), Twin Pillars Tr. (Brofsky), Summit Rd. in the Ochocos (Zalunardo, Panches), and Perry South CG (Hunter). Ring-necked Pheasants continue to be more and more scarce with only a few spots still producing birds. A single BAND-TAILED PIGEON report was received from the Maury Mnts. in southern Crook County (Tice).

Birds of Prey are always exciting, especially the species that are a bit hard to find. It was a big year for nesting NORTHERN GOSHAWKS as birds were reported from 10 separate locations. A late ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was found on June 6 in the Paulina area (Namitz). RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS were tallied at 8 different locations, most south of Sunriver. PEREGRINE FALCON reports numbered 1 and 15 more marking a continued comeback for this species. FLAMMULATED OWLS were heard calling near the Stein's Pillar TH in Crook County (C. Gates, Nordstrom, Zalunardo) and at Virginia Meissner Sno-park near Mt. Bachelor (Fagan, Jakse). Great Gray Owls were seen multiple times near Sunriver (Lawler, Gonzalez, Clarke) and several times in the Ochocos on a USFS Great Gray Owl Survey (C. Gates, Authier, Dresher). The only WESTERN SCREECH-OWL report for this season came from a sighting at the Sunriver Resort (Friese). BARRED OWLS were discovered at a couple of places in Bend (McDonald, Bennett) and in the Ochoco Mtns. (C. Gates, Authier, Dresher). Surprisingly, a SHORT-EARED OWL was seen briefly at Sunriver (Jakse, Burgess) and a NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL was heard calling near the Woodlands Golf Course in Bend (Whitney).

Before we tackle the Passerines, let's have a look at the highlights from the Near-passerines. COMMON POORWILLS were found in 6 locations throughout the region and COMMON NIGHTHAWKS were especially sparse this summer probably due to the low water levels found everywhere. BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS were reported from Bend (Moodie, Snead) and Prineville (Authier, MacDonald). AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS were relatively easy to find this summer. The bulk of the sightings were due to a cooperative pair in the Trout Cr. Swamp area (Mult. Obs.) but birds were also found in Black Butte Ranch (Wearn), SW of Crane Prairie (Lundblad), and Waldo Lake Rd. (Lundblad).

American Three-toed Woodpecker,
Trout Cr. Swamp, 7/3/21,
Photo by Nick Flanik



The highly migratory Passerines (perching birds) often provide us with the most surprising rarities. EASTERN KINGBIRDS appeared 8 times in 8 different locations throughout the season. CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES were found in their high Cascades haunts as expected (McDonald, Jett, Centanni). BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were spotted at Whychus Cr. (Oertley), Lithgow Sp. (Meyers, Basden, C. Gates), North Shore Rd. (C. Gates, Johnson, Nordstrom, Sutherland), and Gray Butte (C. Gates). VEERYS returned to Black Butte Swamp for the second year in a row and appeared to nest (Nordstrom, Lundblad). NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS were discovered in Powell Butte (D. Gates), on Laurel Ln. east of Haystack (C. Gates), and in Redmond (Meredith et. al).



Veery, Black Butte
Swamp, 6/9/21,
Photo by John
Gardiner

Several GRAY CATBIRDS were found along the Deschutes between Bend and Benham Falls (B-R, Murali, Bennett, Low, Thomas) and a pair was seen briefly in Warm Springs (Jett). An AMERICAN REDSTART turned up at Glaze Meadow (Low). A very rare **BAY-BREASTED WARBLER** was photographed between Sunriver and La Pine for a 1st Deschutes record (Rhoads). Almost as rare was a **MAGNOLIA WARBLER** which showed up at Paulina Peak for a 6th Deschutes record (McDonald). HERMIT WARBLERS are easy to find in the Cascades but not the Ochocos, so a bird discovered along the Wildcat Trail was a great find (Oneil, Pelletier). Out-of-season GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS were spotted at Lava Island (Skiba) and Smith Rock (Jakse). BLACK-THROATED SPARROWS returned to nest at Smith Rock S.P. (Pidgeon) and a single bird was found in Powell Butte for a 2nd Crook County record (Gonzalez). BOBOLINKS historically nest along Puett Road east of Paulina but the drought pushed them out this year. A flock of nearly 100 TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS nested in Metolius (C. Gates) and GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES were located on Tam McArthur Rim (Heisey) and along the South Sister Climbing Trail (Ralph).



Bay-breasted Warbler, Sunriver Area,
6/15/21, Photo by Sevilla Rhoads



Bobolink, Puett Road, 6/23/21,
Photo by Steve Kornfeld

Observers (In order of appearance) – Brian White, Peter Low, Howard Horvath, Mary Oppenheimer, Russ Namitz, Slater Roosa, Claire Weiser, Diane Burgess, Heidi Erland, Chuck Gates, Milt Vine, Jacqueline Newbold, Kim Kathol, Lisa Cowan, Joshua Myers, Linnaea Basden, Tom Crabtree, Bob Authier, Wayne Bowers, Mark Gonzalez, Cindy Zalunardo, Brian White, Steve Kornfeld, Rima Givot, Jared Bruns, Nagi Aboulenein, Taghrid Elmeligui, Judy Meredith, Isabel Brofsky, Jill Punches, Matt Hunter, Bill Tice, Damian Fagan, Kara Jakse, Tom Lawler, Karen Clarke, Larry Dresher, Rachael Friese, Brian McDonald, Craig Bennet, Kate Whitney, Jim Moodie, Josh Snead, Nancy MacDonald, Frederick Wearn, Carl Lundblad, Courtney Jett, Caleb Centanni, Jill Oertley, Harry Johnson, Jeff Nordstrom, Don Sutherland, Ross Barnes-Rickett, Karthik Murali, Sevilla Rhoads, Kitty O'Neil, Bill Pelletier, Randy Skiba, Eric Heisey, Peter Ralph.

Crooked River Wetlands Guided Bird Walks

By Chuck Gates



Guided bird walks began in September at the Crooked River Wetlands Complex in Prineville. These bird walks provide an opportunity to see up to thirty species of birds who are year-round Wetlands residents as well as birds who stop off at the Wetlands during migration. As the seasons change, each walk will highlight the Wetlands' changing bird population. October through April, bird walks will be once per month, on the first Saturday only. May through September, bird walks will occur twice a month, on the first and third Saturdays. Participants should meet at the Wetlands pavilion parking lot at 7:45 am in May through October. November to April bird walks are at 9:45 am.

Chuck Gates, the founder of the Prineville Bird Club and a retired CCHS biology teacher, guides the bird walks. According to Chuck: “Everyone is welcome and we are very glad to be able to make a golf cart available for those with limited mobility.” Chuck can provide additional information at (541) 280-4957.

The Crooked River Wetlands are located at 4035 NW Rimrock Acres Loop in Prineville. The Prineville Bird Club, together with the Crooked River Complex Volunteers, sponsors the walks. The city of Prineville completed construction of the Crooked River Wetlands Complex wastewater treatment project in 2017. The Complex moves water in settling ponds from the city’s sewage treatment plant to the Crooked River through the construction of 120 acres of wetlands. The city also improved over two miles of riparian areas along the Crooked River, creating a rich habitat for birds and people. The Wetlands Complex includes thirteen ponds, five miles of trails, numerous information kiosks, pollinator gardens, benches, and picnic tables.

For up-to-date information about the bird walks, check:

- The Crooked River Wetlands Complex on the city of Prineville’s website at <https://www.cityofprineville.com/wetlands>
- Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=crooked%20river%20wetlands>

Face masks are required per Oregon Health Authority (OHA) guidelines.

Prineville Bird Club

By Chuck Gates

The Prineville Bird Club (PBC) meets every second Thursday of the month at the Crook County Library. Doors open at 6:30PM and the meeting starts at 7:00PM. We typically introduce any new people (have them introduce themselves) and take care of any business we have. We talk about what people are seeing and we view member bird photos. We then discuss the monthly field trip that we offer in the second half of each month. Finally, we have an evening program about birds. Most of the time, these programs are informational. We learn how to identify birds, learn about the lives of birds and, sometimes we talk about birds from other parts of the world. (Note: September’s meeting was a presentation on a Zoom call about shorebirds.)



There are no dues, no bylaws, no officers or budget. We simply get together to enjoy birds. Most of our members are beginners so newbies won’t feel like this will be over their head. If you find it to your liking, after your first meeting, drop Chuck an email (cgates326@gmail.com) to let him know that you would like to join. Joining just means that you get on our email list and you will get notifications of future meetings and local bird news. If you are a Facebook person, you can join us there too using the link below.

Chuck Gates is the group leader and program manager. If you do come to a meeting, please feel free to come up and introduce yourself to Chuck. He's the white-headed guy up front. Hope to see you at a future meeting. We have a very special group of people.

RESOURCES

Crook County Bird Checklists - <https://www.ecaudubon.org/county-checklists>
Birding Locations in Crook County – Just click on Crook in the center of the state - <https://www.ecaudubon.org/birding-locations>
Local Bird Nests and Young Photos - <https://www.ecaudubon.org/nestseggsandyoung>
East Cascades Audubon - <https://www.ecaudubon.org/>
Prineville Bird Club Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/611251592690199>
Local Bird Photos - <https://flic.kr/s/aHskGKX6uz>
Oregon Birding Site Guide <http://www.ecaudubon.org/birding-locations>
Oregon County Checklists <http://www.ecaudubon.org/county-checklists>
Chuck Gates, Powell Butte, 541-280-4957, cgates326@gmail.com

Two October Malheur Volunteer Opportunities

By Teresa Wicks, Portland Audubon Eastern Oregon Coordinator

Sagebrush steppe planting with Burns Paiute Tribe and Portland Audubon

October 19-20, east of Juntura (arrive Oct. 18)

Come get your hands dirty while helping the Burns Paiute Tribe's Natural Resources Department with a post fire sagebrush steppe planting project. We'll start our work days, the 19th and 20th, at 8:00 and work until 17:00. Camping is available on the Tribe's property east of Juntura. Directions will be provided to participants after they sign-up.



Participants must be able to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Masks will be required when participants can't be more than 6' apart. Portland Audubon will provide coffee and tea, snacks, and lunch on the 20th. Sign-up [here](#), or on the Restore Malheur Facebook page.

Oregon Semaphore Grass planting with Burns Paiute Tribe and Portland Audubon

October 21st-22nd, east of Seneca

Come help with research and restoration of Oregon's rarest grass, Oregon semaphore grass. This will be Portland Audubon's third year of helping with this project. October 21st, we'll help the BPT Natural Resources staff with prepping plants for transplanting. October 22nd, we'll spend the day under the gaze of the Strawberry Mountains, planting semaphore tillers in the

meadows of the Logan Valley. Camping may be available in the Logan Valley, or closer to town (TBD). Directions will be provided to participants once they sign-up.

Participants must be able to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Masks will be required when participants can't be more than 6' apart. Portland Audubon will provide coffee and tea, snacks, and lunch on the 22nd. Sign-up [here](#) or on the Restore Malheur Facebook page.

Note: Participants that choose to come for all four days will have the opportunity to go birding in the morning of October 21st, plus some birding in the evenings throughout the week. If you begin to experience COVID symptoms or are exposed less than 10 days before the work party, please stay home and plan on coming to one of our 2022 Stewardship Weekends. Questions? Call Teresa Wicks at 541-450-7560. Thank you!

Articles from elsewhere of interest ---

New rules in works to stop drones from harassing birds (Oregon coast)

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/oregon/articles/2021-07-02/new-rules-in-works-to-stop-drones-from-harassing-birds>

Don't worry, birds won't become dependent on you feeding them, OSU study suggests

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/06/210628114119.htm>

17-year study finds removal of barred owls slows decline of spotted owls in Northwest

<https://ktvz.com/news/environment/2021/07/20/17-year-study-finds-removal-of-barred-owls-slow-s-decline-of-spotted-owls-in-northwest/>

The future of parasitic birds, which lay their eggs in other nests, is totally dependent on their hosts' ability to adjust to climate change.

<https://www.audubon.org/news/avian-brood-parasites-are-about-have-their-adaptability-tested>

The many kinds of Juncos

<https://www.audubon.org/news/dark-eyed-juncos-backyard-gems-come-dazzling-array-colors>

Red-backed Junco in CA

[https://archive.westernfieldornithologists.org/archive/V52/52\(3\)-p271-p275.pdf](https://archive.westernfieldornithologists.org/archive/V52/52(3)-p271-p275.pdf)

Hundreds Of Dead Migratory Birds In New York City Prompt Calls For Dimming Lights

<https://www.npr.org/2021/09/16/1038097872/new-york-dead-birds?sc=18&f=1001>

Insects are vanishing from our planet at an alarming rate. But there are ways to help them

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/sep/21/insects-vanishing-alarming-help?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 565, Bend, Oregon 97701

Website www.ecaudubon.org

Email ecaudubon@gmail.com

ECAS Board

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| Mary Shivell | Vice-President |
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| Amanda Accamando | Recording Secretary |
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| Miriam Lipsitz | |
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Committee and Event Chairs

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| Annual Event | ECAS Board |
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| Birder's Night | Gordon Wetzel |
| Birding by Ear | Dave Tracy |
| Communications/PR | Diana Roberts |
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| Green Ridge Raptors | David Vick |
| Lake Abert Study | John Reuland |
| Lewis's Woodpeckers | Diane Kook |
| Membership | Jenny Mueller |
| Newsletter | Claire Weiser |
| Sage-grouse group | Stu Garrett |
| Science | Ken Hashagen |
| Summer Survey | Mike Bogar |
| Vaux's Swifts | Mary Ann Kruse Bob Johnson |
| Volunteers | Jenny Mueller |
| Website | Sherrie Pierce Ted Groszkiewicz |
| Wednesday Birders | Judy Meredith Howard Horvath |

2021 Autumn Zoom Board Meetings

October 5

November 2

December 7

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



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