

THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022



President's Report

By Mary Shivell

The Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival 2022 took place June 2-5 after two years of pandemic-related cancellation. 115 attendees visited Forest Service areas in the Sisters district in search of woodpeckers, empids and other summer visitors. Additional trips met at Shevlin Park, Sunriver, the Oregon Outback, Crooked River Wetlands and other places to explore all that Central Oregon has to offer.

The event ran on the energy of ECAS Volunteers; my estimate of the number of people who contributed their time is **at least** 50 energetic planners, leaders and co-leaders, and behind-the-scenes advisors and staff. Thank you for the time you all spent on this event which is our largest ECAS fundraiser.

Meanwhile, volunteer opportunities continue to develop with regional collaborative initiatives such as the Intermountain Shorebird Survey project and the Lake Abert Coalition. This newsletter and The Chatter will report on how these projects relate to our strategic plan objective of protection of bird habitat in an era of climate change.

Enjoy summer birding!

UPCOMING EVENTS –

Central Oregon Sparrows Zoom Talk July 12, 6:30pm

You are invited to join Chuck Gates as he takes you on a Zoom journey through the wonderful world of Central Oregon Sparrows. This two-hour program looks at sparrow ID (males, females, and juveniles), plumages, distinct behaviors, preferred habitats, reproduction strategies, and fun facts. You'll learn where to find each species and some techniques to make your sparrow hunting a little easier. While concentrating on the more common species, Chuck will also briefly discuss some of the rarer sparrows and how to tick them off your life list. The program will conclude with a chance to quiz yourself (don't worry - you get to keep your own score) with a bundle of sparrow photos and a Q & A session. All of this airs on Tuesday night, **July 12**, 6:30PM - 8:30PM. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88666314926>

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Chuck Gates is a Founding Board Member and holds an honorary lifetime membership in the East Cascades Audubon Society. He helped develop ECAS projects like the Winter Raptor Surveys, Green Ridge Hawkwatch, and the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival. He is the author of the *Birding Oregon Site Guide – Over 1100 places to go birding in Oregon* and co-creator of the “Eggs, Nest, and Young” webpage, both of which can be found through the ECAS Website. He is the leader of the Prineville Bird Club, volunteers at the Crooked River Wetlands in Prineville, and regularly shares photos and information to their Facebook page. Chuck is a retired Biology teacher who lives with his wife Dorothy in Powell Butte. His fascination with birds began with his first view of a Lark Sparrow and sparrow watching remains a favorite pastime.

July Birders’ Night

By Gordon Wetzel

Thursday, **July 21**, 7 PM. Marty St. Louis will talk about the Summer Lake State Wildlife Area. Find out what makes Summer Lake so special, when to visit for which birds, how to tour, what is the history and what are the management challenges of the future? Marty was the Manager of Summer Lake WLA until retiring in 2020. Jim Greer, former Director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, will talk about the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, which is a new mechanism for funding projects focused on wildlife conservation and recreation. The meeting will be in person at The Environmental Center of Bend and on Zoom. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88544733294>



Marty St. Louis releases a male Trumpeter Swan for ODFW.in 2019
Photo by Gary Ivey



Jim Greer, Retired/ODFW/USFWS
Photo by Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Community Series on the Crooked River Watershed

“Your Watershed: Community Conversations” will explore critical topics around the watershed, from water and fire to recreation and land management

A new series of free, public events about the Crooked River watershed is coming to Prineville starting this July. [Your Watershed: Community Conversations](#) is a participatory forum where local experts and neighbors will explore the environmental and ecological conditions, trends, and solutions around the Crooked River watershed and its inhabitants. The six-part series will cover water, recreation, fire, flora and fauna, community resources and land management.

Each event will include brief presentations by featured guests, followed by an open forum for conversation among Crooked River residents and local organizations and businesses connected to the evening's theme. Prior to each event, participants can submit questions to be addressed through the series' website, www.yourwatershed.net.

“Watersheds are defined by natural, landscape boundaries and a community of living things. What our common watershed neighbors do affects everyone in the community. Watersheds are a whole connected unit, with the upland conditions affecting the quality of water, air, habitat and more. What happens upstream will influence everyone who lives downstream,” said Chris Gannon, director of the Crooked River Watershed Council.

“The *Your Watershed: Community Conversations* series will not only show how vital the Crooked River watershed is to our lives, but will also provide a space to have productive conversations about how we can best improve habitat and quality of life for those who depend on the watershed,” noted Sally Compton, director of Think Wild.

The first conversation, [Water](#), is scheduled for **Thursday, July 21, 5:30-7:30 pm**, at the Crooked River Elementary School. The featured guests include Bruce Scanlon of Ochoco Irrigation District (OID), Kyle Gorman of Oregon Water Resource Dept. (OWRD) and Natasha Bellis, Board Member of Deschutes River Conservancy who will overview their areas of work.



Additional guest organizations will be on hand for the community conversation around water, including the City of Prineville; Crooked River Watershed Council; United States Geological Survey (USGS) on springs monitoring; Oregon DEQ on water quality; Beaver Works Oregon; Dr. Skuyler Herzog, hydrologist with OSU Natural Resources; and more.

Your Watershed: Community Conversations is being presented by the [Crooked River Watershed Council](#), an organization that promotes stream health, education outreach, and upland awareness, and [Think Wild](#), a wildlife hospital and conservation center that provides education, habitat enhancement, coexistence solutions and wildlife patient care and release. The series was made possible by Meta through a 2022 Community Action Grant, with additional sponsorship by Grocery Outlet - Prineville. To learn more, visit www.yourwatershed.net.

Think Wild Walks

By Sadie Pollock, Education and Volunteer Coordinator



THINK WILD

Think Wild is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Bend, Oregon. Our mission is to inspire the High Desert community to care for and protect native wildlife through rescue & rehabilitation, outreach/education and conservation.

River Neighbors River Walks are family-friendly opportunities to learn more about the diverse wildlife in the area and about the history of the Deschutes River. Join us for a ~1 mile guided walk in the Old Mill! Below are the dates and times currently open for sign-ups. Limit: 10 people (with some wiggle room for small kiddos) Meet at the bridge with the flags outside of Anthony's at the Old Mill District

Dates & Times: **Friday, July 29th at 10AM** and **Sunday, September 25th at 8AM and 10AM**

Community Bird Walks in collaboration with the East Cascades Audubon Society are family-friendly opportunities to learn more about the native bird species in the area and about fascinating natural spaces in and around Bend. Birding locations are TBD and change with each date. Currently open for sign-ups: **Friday, August 26 at 10 AM**

For a full list of upcoming Think Wild events, and to sign up for the above outings, go to <https://www.thinkwildco.org/events/>

DIY Birding Excerpts from the Local Experts

Summarized from the Summer 2020 Calliope

Still keeping your distance from groups? Not enough outings being offered for you? Still not traveling as much as you used to? Try Do-It-Yourself Birding:

Yardbird - by Jim Moodie

Birding in your yard, "yardbirding," is straightforward: any bird observed through sight or sound while on your property (owned or rented) can be counted. What birds can you count? Yellow Warbler spotted out the front window in your crabapple tree, count it. Bald Eagle soaring over your yard while gardening, count it. Trumpeter Swans flying above the tree line over the Deschutes River seen from your deck, count it. Pileated Woodpecker seen in a distant neighbor's yard while returning from a neighborhood walk, cannot count it. Put out feeders, water stations, and perch branches by both. Add plants which are attractive to birds for eating, perching, nesting, etc. Keep lists, records, photographs, recordings and notice trends. You can eBird your yard occasionally and let it keep your records for you.. If you want to bird beyond your property, you can set up a Patch (<https://ebird.org/site/patch>) to count all the species in your neighborhood, your regular walking route, etc. A popular type of patch birding is creating a five-mile radius (5MR) circle around some center point, like your property, and counting all the birds within the circle.

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Day trips à la Wednesday Birders - by Judy Meredith

Check the birding Oregon site on eaudubon.org and check out a birding spot you have never tried. Meet a friend at the trailhead and listen for birds. If you don't know how to get to any of these locations, this is a great time to start using the eaudubon.org birding locations. At the top of the ECAS webpage, click on **Birding Oregon** and then from its drop down, **Birding Locations**. Click on the county you want to bird in and then choose from the location. Try going to spots new to you or explore a wider area near a known "hotspot."

Some summertime day-trip birding location suggestions from Mary Shively

- Sawyer Park, Tumalo State Park trails
- Redmond sewer ponds
- Hatfield
- Crooked River Wetlands
- Smith Rock, Haystack Res
- Sunriver to Wickiup, Crane Prairie Reservoirs
- High Cascades Lakes
- Fort Rock, Cabin Lake
- Three Creeks Lake, Santiam Pass, PCT trails
- Calliope Crossing, Indian Ford CG
- Santiam Pass area
- Green Ridge
- Gray Butte

Deschutes River Walks à la Old Mill Walks - by Sherrie Pierce

- Both sides of the river on trails in the Old Mill area and south of the Bill Healey Bridge
- First St. Rapids
- From Tumalo St. Park, Riley Ranch, Pioneer Park, Dillon Falls, Benham Falls

Bird By Ear while walking, biking or kayaking....anywhere and everywhere you go.!

RECENT SPRINGTIME HAPPENINGS –

Vaux's Swifts Survey

Excerpted and reprinted from COBOL

Spring migration of Vaux's Swifts through Bend at the Boys and Girls Club chimney began April 1st and ended in early June. Mary Ann Kruse, Bob Johnson, and other volunteer counters attended the nightly vigil as did many onlookers. They will intermittently check the Bend Boys & Girls Club chimney at 500 NW Wall Street throughout the summer to count summer roosting birds. Thanks to all who counted, subbed in for Bob and Mary Ann, observed and enjoyed the chimney spectacle. Until fall migration in August...

When compiled, final data for spring 2022 migration may be found here under the "Data" drop down option: <https://www.vauxhappening.org/index.html>

Birding By Ear

Excerpted and reprinted from COBOL

BBE was back after a couple years off and ran weekly from the first Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in June. Many thanks to Dave Tracy for leading the group, finding birds, and helping participants identify them. Between 35 and 50 species of birds were seen/heard each week in the hour walking along the river at Sawyer Park. BBE will resume the first Tuesday in March in 2023.



Lincoln's Sparrow singing May 3, 2022 at Birding By Ear
Photo by Claire Weiser

Golden Eagle Cam

Petra laid an egg at the Golden Eagle nest on Whychus Canyon on Friday, February 25, 2022. On April 11, the egg hatched. Follow this [link](#) to see the ECAS's camera's view of live video.

According to Frank Isaacs of the Oregon Eagle Foundation, the golden eagles using this nest have raised young each year since 2010. They are the only nesting pair in Oregon that nested successfully each year of the Golden Eagle Nest Survey Project (2011–2021).

If you want to help support this effort, you can donate to ECAS using the Donate button on the ECAS webpage at <https://www.ecaudubon.org/>. This will help pay for the broadband usage needed for this effort. You can also view a slideshow about the project's history by clicking on the eagle picture on this ECAS home webpage.



Photo capture from video of a family photo with a previous eaglet at the same nest from the history slideshow on the ECAS website.

Petra and Rocky—also notice eaglet on the left of Petra

Birds Without Borders

by Annette Lange Hildebrand

The Birds Without Borders event, a Spanish-language and family-friendly event, was held on May 14th in Sahalee Park in Madras, Oregon, from 10am-2pm. The event was presented by the Children's Forest of Central Oregon with many community partners.

The ECAS booth was well attended by individuals and families and was a success thanks to a team of ECAS volunteers: Jan Flattum-Riemers, Annette Lange Hildebrand, and Katherine “Kat” Smith.



Jan, left, brought her scope and focused in on a distant crow's nest and it was a big crowd pleaser as even the wee ones could see it. She also brought many photo books and a special sheet of birds that helped kids figure out what the birds most likely ate by looking at their beaks.

Kat explained the focusing tricks in using binoculars. One lens for tiny children, and for the older ones, the preset left eye focus then the right, which makes it all easily happen in the field. Adults were amazed by this and couldn't get over how clear things could really be!

Annette taught a Mourning Dove cooing song, let children squeeze and hear the magical Western Meadowlark stuffie, and shared how they could easily help the birds and bees this summer—a pan of water set out, poured on a plant in a day or two, and fresh water poured back into the pan.

Volunteers Annette Lange Hildebrand and Katherine “Kat” Smith, both of Madras. Photo by Ray Pokorny



Event participants included Native American flute music with James Edmund Greeley, storytelling with Wilson Wewa, and Danza Libelula performing with the Latino Community Association. The pupusas and other food from La Salvadorena Restaurant kept everyone well fed.

“I can't begin to tell you how beautiful some of the moments were today, representing East Cascade Audubon Society. I truly feel we touched some lives and encouraged caring about nature and our migratory birds. Hope we are able to do this again in Jefferson County,” observed Annette Lange Hildebrand.

Everyone was thrilled by the many beautiful moments and interactions at the festival and it highlights the importance of community events and connectedness.

For more information on Children's Forest of Central Oregon and the many events that they offer, check out their website and calendar at childrensforestco.org

MEMBER VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

by Jan Rising, Board VP and Membership Chair

A few months ago Judy Meredith suggested that ECAS consider reviving a regular feature which appeared in early ECAS newsletters. This item spotlighted an ECAS member volunteer who has generously contributed their time and talent helping ECAS with important tasks.



John and Lynn

This month's spotlight features **John Brune** who has been ECAS's volunteer bookkeeper and assistant Treasurer for more than 7 years. He has kept our financial records in excellent condition using the QuickBooks program. John has also served as a Board member and as a member of the Finance Committee assisting with preparation of ECAS's taxes and the annual ECAS Budget. He will be retiring from this volunteer position and another ECAS member volunteer, Torrie Gordon (see the next article), has offered to assume the duties of ECAS bookkeeper.

An "interview" with John on June 19, 2022 provided the following information:

Jan: How did you first learn about ECAS?

John: I saw announcements for both Birders' Night and the Birding By Ear outings with Dave Tracy. My wife, Lynn, and I enjoyed both of those activities and got to know some of the folks on the Board.

Jan: What was your first impression of ECAS?

John: My first impression of ECAS was that it was an interesting and friendly group of folks who supported birds and conservation. I was also amazed at the number of really really good local birders that we have in Central Oregon. I knew this was a group of folks who could help me improve my birding skills.

Jan: When did you first volunteer with ECAS?

John: After about a year of attending Birders' Night and Birding by Ear, I saw an announcement in *The Calliope* newsletter asking for a volunteer to manage the Quickbooks program. I contacted Jan and then met with Jan and Sherrie to learn more about the financial side of the organization.

Jan: What was your volunteer task and what is your professional background?

John: My first volunteer task was helping with the annual budget and taking on Quickbooks responsibility, which enables us to keep track of ECAS's financial activity. I received a Bachelor's Degree at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado then went on to get my MBA in Finance at Arizona State University. My professional background includes over 20 years in finance and controllership roles with various high-tech companies. It's been nice to be able to use those skills in helping the organization.

Jan: What is your favorite activity or event with ECAS?

John: I really enjoy the Spring Birding by Ear outings with Dave Tracy. Learning how to listen and identify bird vocalizations has done more to improve my birding than anything else.

Jan: What do you think ECAS should be doing in the next 5 years?

John: I'd like to see ECAS continue to drive and be involved in local birding and conservation projects. I would also like to see a robust schedule of birding outings as I think this is the best way to recruit new members and to share the joy of birding. New members result in new volunteers which are critical in keeping ECAS healthy and active.

Jan: What do you wish other people knew about ECAS?

John: We have a significant number of experienced birders who have amazing skills in bird identification - both visual and vocal.

Jan: What might someone be surprised to know about you?

John: Lynn and I are avid geocachers. It's been a great way to explore new areas and get our exercise.

Jan: What do you do when you aren't volunteering for ECAS? What are your future plans?

John: I enjoy hiking, mountain-biking and traveling. Lynn and I are slowly working our way through all 63 US National Parks...only 7 to go! Later this summer I have plans to backpack the 210 mile John Muir Trail in California.

Jan: How did you feel about volunteering with ECAS?

John: I've greatly enjoyed my time volunteering with ECAS, including 7.5 years managing Quickbooks, a 3-year stint on the Board and several bird conservation related outings. ECAS has an amazing group of volunteers who play a critical role in keeping the organization active and contributing to local birding and conservation projects.

Jan: What would you tell someone who is thinking about volunteering?

John: Go ahead and dip your toes in the volunteering pool. ECAS volunteers are a great group of folks and you will feel good about helping the organization and the local birding and conservation community.

TO ALL READERS: ECAS functions due to the generosity of member volunteers. If you've enjoyed ECAS's programs or projects and want ECAS to continue being a vibrant birding organization, please consider volunteering. A lot of activity goes on behind the scenes and we are always looking for folks who have time and interest to help by volunteering for one of our committees, as a Board member, or other administrative tasks. Please see the list of volunteer opportunities on the following page.

Let's Meet a New ECAS Volunteer

By Gordon Wetzel



Torrie Gordon is our new bookkeeper. Torrie recently joined ECAS after moving from Salem 10 years ago. She liked the things that ECAS was doing, like the Sage-Grouse restoration project, and wanted to contribute in a practical way. A recent issue of *The Calliope* newsletter mentioned that John Brune needed a break from his 7+ years of service as our bookkeeper so she answered the call. Torrie has many years of experience in state government as a bookkeeper, so it was a natural fit. Torrie said that she is a casual birder; she enjoys observing birds as a way to appreciate the natural environment. She recently completed the OSU Master Naturalist program and looks forward to

sharing her knowledge with others. Welcome, Torrie, and thank you for stepping up to help with this important task for ECAS.

ECAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BIRDERS' NIGHT MANAGER: finding speakers and organizing the monthly programs which are attended and appreciated by many members. It is a stimulating job that involves an opportunity to connect with the greater conservation community and share the knowledge with ECAS members and friends.

FIELD NOTES EDITOR - keep track of rare/unusual birds seen in central Oregon each quarter (season) and submit a summary with photos for the Calliope ECAS newsletter and OBA state publication.

BOARD MEMBERS - 2 openings for helping with ECAS future direction and administration. Attend monthly board meetings, currently by Zoom.

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 and we'll get back to you with more detailed information.

Intermountain West Shorebird Survey

By Max Malmquist, Outreach Associate, National Audubon Society

Dear Eastern Cascades Audubon Society,

I am reaching out to you to introduce a new shorebird conservation initiative that is underway across the Intermountain West, spearheaded by National Audubon Society and Point Blue Conservation Science. Please consider joining us to help ensure that shorebirds count when local land and water managers make key decisions.

What is the Intermountain West Shorebird Survey?

Shorebirds represent a unique aspect of biodiversity that links isolated sites, often hundreds or thousands of miles apart, and thus, shorebirds are excellent indicators of environmental health across large and small landscapes.

continued –

Inland sites in the Intermountain West are oases for our migratory shorebirds. Our collective efforts will document changes to freshwater wetlands and saline lakes over the past 30 years by recreating the last comprehensive shorebird survey of the region in 1989-1995. **By combining the efforts of professional and volunteer scientists, we will collect critical information to help sustain shorebird populations into the future** which is the purpose of the Intermountain West Shorebird Survey.

The project objectives are:

- Describe the distribution and abundance of shorebirds during migration by counting all shorebirds at 189 sites during the spring and fall migrations for 3-5 years.
- Compare the current distribution and abundance of shorebirds with distributions from 1989-1995.
- Inform future management decisions by identifying local and regional factors that influenced the abundance and distribution of shorebirds.

Ideal shorebird volunteers:

- Have a passion for birds and time outdoors,
- Can commit to one survey day in the spring and one survey day in the fall, and allow some flexibility for scheduling around bad weather,
- Are safety conscious and cooperate with field partners,
- Collect high quality data in the field,
- Can count shorebirds and identify to species in breeding and non-breeding plumage, OR can assist an observer by recording data and/or providing transportation.

How can you help?

We need help collecting baseline site information (access points, observation locations, and potential hazards), designing routes and surveying sites. We will be providing more details on what information we need and how to collect it during our upcoming webinar sessions. Please fill out the online form below if you are interested in visiting a familiar or new shorebird site to help design surveys and count shorebirds during our migration windows (August 9th – 22nd and April 24th – 30th), any effort helps shorebirds count! Mileage reimbursement is available on a case-by-case basis.



July 20, 2022 – Shorebird Site Reconnaissance Webinar

August 2, 2022 – Survey Protocol and Training Webinar

August 9th-22nd, 2022 – Fall 2022 Peak Shorebird Survey Window

Ready to get involved? [Sign up HERE](#)

Questions? Reach out to: **Max Malmquist**, Outreach Associate, Saline Lakes Program
(801)-554-8574
National Audubon Society
231 West 800 South, Ste. E
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
audubon.org/westernwater

NEW ECAS MEMBERS

Welcome to the Flock!

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Kenneth Balk | Sunriver, OR |
| Elayne Barclay | Prineville, OR |
| Francia Bathaw | Terrebonne, OR |
| Mary Becker | Bend, OR |
| Bree Buckner | Bend, OR |
| Donna Carrillo | Bend, OR |
| Deb Chryssanthis | Bend, OR |
| Doug & Connie Greig | Bend, OR |
| Bob Gressens | Bend, OR |
| Joyce Hanson | Lancaster, PA |
| Randi & Cody Hennigan | Bend, OR |
| Greg Johannsen | Bend, OR |
| Emily Mills | Bend, OR |
| Megan & Kyle Roberts | Redmond, OR |
| Luis Roca | Bend, OR |
| Randi Schuyler | Bend, OR |
| Susan Straub | Bend, OR |
| Patricia Sullivan | Bend, OR |
| Mark Szymczak | Sunriver, OR |
| Cat Taylor | Sisters, OR |
| Glory Wipfli | Bend, OR |



To join or renew your ECAS membership, go to <https://www.ecaudubon.org/join> THANK YOU!

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 565, Bend, Oregon 97701

Website www.ecaudubon.org

Email ecaudubon@gmail.com

ECAS Board

Mary Shivell, President
Jan Rising, Vice President
Amanda Accamando, Secretary
Treasurer, Gordon Wetzel
Miriam Lipsitz
Laurel Collins
Duke Tufty

Committee Chairs

Executive Committee - Mary Shivell
Finance - Gordon Wetzel
Grants - Mary Oppenheimer
Membership - Jan Rising, temporary
Conservation - Gordon Wetzel
Science - Ken Hashagen
Education - Sherrie Pierce

Program Leaders

Birders' Night - Gordon Wetzel
Field Trips - Mary Shivell
Volunteering - Miriam Lipsitz, temporary

Newsletters

Sherrie Pierce, *Chatter* (monthly) Editor
Claire Weiser, *Calliope* (quarterly) Editor

Summer Board Meetings

July 5
August 2
September 6

Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month 3pm - 5pm. All members are welcome to attend. Contact ecaudubon@gmail.com at least 2 days in advance for the Zoom code.

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

