

## **East Cascades Audubon Society History by Mike Golden, February 15, 2022**

In response to a request from Jan Rising I have compiled what I remember of a list of activities that East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) has been involved with since my joining about 2001. There is no particular date order, that is for someone with records to find. My brief description of the activity will hopefully inspire others to add to the commentary or think of others that I have not.

All of these activities have been conducted by volunteers. To try and name them all would be a fool's errand.

Christmas Bird Counts. Many have been in place for many years and others are more recent. Nearly every area of Central and Eastern Oregon is now represented.

Hawk Watch. Conducted every fall on Green Ridge.

Winter Raptor Surveys. Throughout the area in the winter.

Cabin Lake Rebuild and upkeep. The blinds and water fonts are maintained annually and used extensively by birders and photographers

Calliope Crossing. Working with the Forest Service, Indian Ford Creek was made passable for anadromous fish and the area burned to promote Aspen growth, particularly for cavity nesters. It is a work in progress with full results still unknown.

Whiskey Springs. After a fire in 2021 in the area, on private land, is in the process of being restored.

Abert Lake. The lake, a mecca for migrating shorebirds is in danger of drying up. Activities, both for inventory purposes and to assure a long-term water supply are ongoing.

Sand Springs Fencing. This desert spring was being ruined by cattle and ECAS worked with the Forest Service to have a large area fenced.

Bluebird Nest Boxes. Several boxes have been placed and routes run annually to band the birds and monitor nesting success.

Lower Bridge Noxious Weed Control. The path along the Deschutes River has been overrun with Spotted Knapweed and a large party participated in a weed pull, but the weeds are now winning the battle.

An Osprey nest platform was installed at Borden Beck Park with cooperation of

Redmond Parks and Recreation District and Pacific Power and Light. So far Osprey have chosen to ignore it.

Wednesday Birders. This weekly birding activity has introduced many to the joys of birding as well as identifying new birding areas for all levels of birders.

Lewis's Woodpecker Nest Boxes. Nest boxes were provided for Lewis's Woodpeckers and the boxes are monitored annually to keep them serviceable and to determine nesting success.

Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival. One of the most popular activities of the club, this event returns after a two-year hiatus due to COVID. It is by reservation only and fills up almost as soon as registration opens.

Hatfield Lake Access. Working with the city of Bend a kiosk was installed and maps being provided for all users of this popular area. Work was also done with the Oregon Hunters Association to eliminate the illegal waterfowl hunting that was going on.

Redmond Sewer Ponds. Work was done to assure access for birding and now the city of Redmond has asked us to be part of the upgrade to the area to be similar to what Prineville has done with the Crooked River Wetlands.

Crooked River Wetlands. This method for treating wastewater has been a huge benefit both to wildlife, but also to the city of Prineville. Thanks Chuck (Gates).

Annual Meeting and Auction. Although this activity has been cancelled, for many years it was a fundraiser for the club and also a way to reward the members and volunteers for all their contributions. Beer and pizza for all as well as a recap of the year's activities.

County Birding Locations. This tool has been used by birders throughout the state to find birding areas as they travel and look for new spots.

Kestrel Nest Boxes. Many nest boxes for this popular little raptor have been established and they are monitored annually; birds are banded and the boxes cleaned.

Summer Lake Breeding Bird Survey. Conducted annually at Summer Lake Wildlife Area near Paisley.

Greater Sage-grouse Habitat Project. Working with the Bureau of Land Management to establish plantings and other measures that benefit Sage-grouse populations

I am sure there are some I missed, but it doesn't take a math major to see the contribution that ECAS volunteers have had and are having. Almost all these activities have more than one participant and most have many. It would be fitting to put names to the organizers and participants in these projects. They all deserve recognition but doubt it can be done without forgetting or omitting deserving birders.