

THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023



President's Report

By Mary Shivell

The ECAS Board has been busy! The Board's annual planning retreat (where our Strategic Plan is transformed into member activities) took place on February 4. Planning for the Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival began during the last week of February so that our Operating Plan was received by the Sisters Forest Service by March 1. Field guide recruitment for the DHWF also began in February and is still in full swing.

The design and launch of our new website totally exceeded my expectations! Check it out at <https://www.ecaudubon.org/>. I want to extend congratulations and thanks to Sheila Timony, Miriam Lipsitz and the crew of volunteers (I know there were many) and Sherrie Pierce, our long-term website manager. Emily Mills, our new and talented website manager, has already impressed me with her rapid-response style dealing with editing requests.....welcome to ECAS, Emily!

Finally, our most significant news: on March 19, the ECAS Board of Directors voted unanimously to remove the name of John James Audubon from the ECAS organizational name. What will the new name be? Your input (anytime) and vote (at a Special Meeting of members, to be scheduled) will decide that. To Jim Greer, Toni Morozumi and Brian Macdonald: my thanks for your advice and assistance. Here is the resolution:

The Board of Directors of the East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) resolved to remove "Audubon" from the ECAS name, with adoption of other name changes as necessary to be consistent with the mission of the organization.

Enjoy Spring birding!



Photo by Claire Weiser

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Birders Are Back!

Below is a schedule of outings as Covid restrictions are eased this Spring.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the usual carpool location near the birding spot. This time can still work with the change to PDT. All the locations mentioned are listed on the ECAS website. Select tab for Birding Locations, choose the county and you get a list of favorite birding places. It includes directions to the spots and what birds you might hope to find.



- **April 5** - Ryan Meadow trails. Carpool at 8:00 from the big parking lot off Simpson near the Pavilion.
- **April 12** - High Lakes, Wickiup etc. Carpool from Bend at 8:00 from south side of Deschutes River Woods Store or 8:45 from Park and Ride at Wickiup Junction. If roads there are not accessible, try at LaPine State Park. Rosland Park off Huntington is a good spot also. Park in the day use area at Rosland and walk trails.
- **April 19** - Calliope Crossing, Indian Ford CG, Indian Ford creek across the highway. Meet to carpool at 8 am. at Village Greens.
- **April 26** - Whiskey Springs. Meet 8 a.m. at Village Greens in Sisters. Go west on highway 20, then north on 11 Rd at Indian Ford, about 8.6 miles on 11 Road aka Green Ridge Rd, to the 1140 Rd. Left there for about 1.8 miles. Bring a chair and bird from the road. Listen for Mountain Quail! Get some looks at woodpeckers, Crossbills, warblers, etc. Scope is good for there, viewing uphill from the road.
- **May 3** - Agency Plains north of Madras to find LB Curlews etc, then Warm Springs boat ramp and on to the trail by the museum. Visit the museum! I will be here then and send out details.
- **3 Wednesdays** for finding woodpeckers around Sisters and areas, then Bobolinks east of Prineville, sage species east of Bend, and then lakes in the Cascades. Likely there will be changes galore to the schedule by then. Check the ECAS website, the June Chatter, and the July 1 Summer Calliope.

Under usual circumstances, transportation is via carpool depending on who can drive and individual schedules. Dress for the weather; be prepared with food, sunscreen, etc; and bring a pair of binoculars; spotting scopes are helpful on many trips.

Contact Judy Meredith for more information at jmeredit@bendnet.com

Birders' Night 7:00pm at the Environmental Center and on Zoom

Guest speakers have been arranged for the following months, so mark your calendars:

April 20: Status of the Greater Sage-Grouse in Eastern Oregon: Emily Weidner of US Fish and Wildlife Service will talk about recent developments in the science and status of GRSG. Zoom link for April is [BN April 20](#)

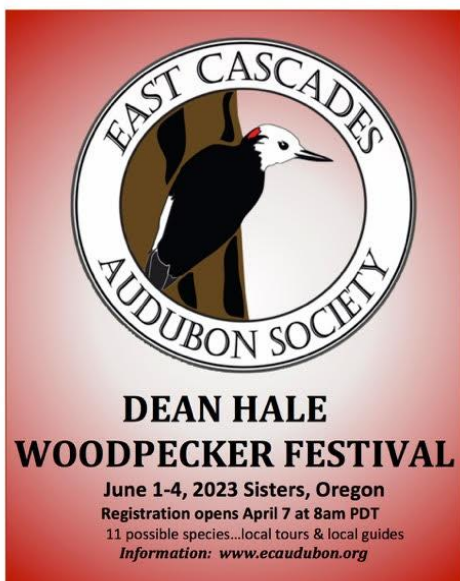
May 18: Of Ravens, Wolves and People by John Marzluff, PhD. (Zoom only).

September 21: A History of Oregon Ornithology: From Territorial Days to the Rise of Birding by Alan L. Contreras.

(June, July, August: Birders' Night is on summer vacation; go birding!)

Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival June 1-4, 2023 in Sisters, Oregon

By Mary Shivell



Registration opens April 7. ECAS sponsors this Festival. Festival participants have their choice of guided tours in search of 11 different species of woodpeckers and 200 other birds that make the forests, burn areas, wildlife refuges and sagebrush desert of Central Oregon, a birding hotspot. Festival tours are limited to 10-12 participants and typically fill within a few days of the date registration opens. Two volunteers guide each trip.

Few places in the U.S. are as rich in the variety of woodpeckers as this part of Central Oregon. Sisters and the Santiam Pass regions have witnessed many forest fires, and because burned areas attract bugs which attract woodpeckers, participants have a chance to see familiar woodpeckers as well as uncommon species such as White-headed, American Three-toed, and Black-backed Woodpeckers.

Full day trips are \$40 while half-day trips are \$35 with the exception of a long (12 hr with travel) Thursday trip to Summer Lake Wildlife Area (\$50) with a shorter-day option. Birding trips are all day on Friday and Saturday, and half-days on Sunday.

Interested in more detail? Field trip guides are still being organized, but information about the potential scope of destinations and trip details can be found on the ECAS website at <https://www.ecaudubon.org/dean-hale-woodpecker-festival/>



TWO Earth Day Celebrations April 22 – Annual Celebration of Earth And Community – ECAS will have a booth at both events

Earth Day Fair and Parade 2023 will take place on Saturday, April 22nd from 11am-3pm in downtown Bend. An **Environmental Center** event, this family-friendly event typically features a lively and inclusive parade through downtown Bend where folks are encouraged to wear costumes to showcase their favorite thing about planet earth. During the fair, food vendors, booths, and performers offer something for everyone.

2023 schedule of events:

11:00-11:30 a.m. — Gather for the parade at the corner of Louisiana and Bond St.

11:30-12:00 — Short parade through downtown Bend, led by the Earth Guardians and other special guests (TBA!) Costumes encouraged! No signs and no motorized vehicles.

12:00 -3:00 p.m. — Fair featuring an activity zone, electric vehicle showcase, garden activities, live music and performances, and local food and vendors. And an ECAS booth!

Worthy Brewing is organizing an Earth Day celebration for the afternoon and evening of April 22, following the festivities at the Environmental Center. There will be music, food, beer, talks, tours, and a range of organizations like the Food & Farm Alliance, Pollinator Pathways, and WinterCreek Nursery...and ECAS!

Attention Novice Birders and Birders New to Central Oregon! April Birding Basics: Field Experience

A series of free field experiences is being offered by ECAS, especially for new birders, birders who are new to Central Oregon, and those who want a refresher course. For six months, January - June, ECAS is sponsoring two-hour opportunities to learn about a variety of Central Oregon birding locations, topics, skills, and resources. Sign-ups via Member Planet will be available at the beginning of each month for the first 20 people who sign up.

Details for the April 21st Birding Basics: Field Experience:

Topic: Identifying spring song birds and waterfowl and using technology to record the birds seen

Location: Crooked River Wetlands Complex, Prineville

Meeting spot: Crooked River Wetlands parking lot at 4035 NW Rimrock Acres Loop, Prineville (44.316021, -120.898322)

April Group Leader: Chuck Gates

Date/Time: April 21. 8:00-10:00 a.m. Meet at 7:45 a.m.

Focus: We will begin by discussing the importance of sewage treatment systems as stopovers for migrating waterfowl. Then we will introduce you to a citizen science project called eBird which will allow you to build your own day list of birds you see. Finally, we will identify approximately 50 species of birds and point out the field marks necessary to identify them.

Skill emphasis: We will be working on estimating numbers and entering data into eBird (an online birding database). If you have a smartphone, please download the free eBird app from your platform app store. Before you come, take a few minutes to register the app and set up an account with a password. The instructor will show you how to use it. If you don't have a smartphone or don't want to learn eBird, there will be plenty of instruction on using field marks to identify birds. Throughout the class, we will work on spotting field marks, using optics, and identifying sounds.

What to Expect: We will go on a 2 mile hike that will take approximately 2 hours. The trail is nearly flat. The weather can be erratic that time of year so dress in layers. We will have a chase vehicle to carry extra gear.

Bring: Smartphone with eBird registered and installed. Optics (we have loaner binoculars), camera if you have one, layers of clothing, and water (and perhaps paper/pen for notes).

Who should sign up? All ages are welcome. There is a limit of 20 participants. ECAS members and non-members are welcome. Please leave your dog at home. **Starting April 1st**, sign up here which will take you to Member Planet:

www.memberplanet.com/events/eastcascadesaudubonsociety/birdingbasicsfieldexperiencescrookedriverwetlands_1 Please cancel your reservation if you find you are unable to attend.

If you have questions, email Gordon Wetzel at gordonwetznel@gmail.com or Lynda Paznokas at Lpaz@bendnet.com.

Upcoming Birding Basics: Field Experience

May 21: Sawyer Park, Identifying Songbirds and Waterfowl by Sight and Sound, led by Aaron Jenkins

June 8: Shevlin Park, Woodpeckers and Other Birds of the Varied Shevlin Park Habitats (and bird books), led by Lynda and Skip Paznokas



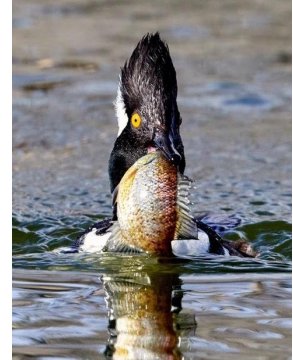
2023 Whychus Golden Eagle Cam

View the nest goings-on at [Whychus Golden Eagle Cam](#). Rocky and Petra continue to be the nesting pair.

Coming in MAY - BEGINNING BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS

As a result of the positive response to our recent questionnaire, a Beginning Bird Photography class will be offered to ECAS members and limited to 10 participants. Class leader is Abbott Schindler. Look for a Member Planet email which will include details describing the class with dates, times, and instructions about how to register.

Hooded Merganser male with a big fish, photo by Abbott Schindler



Malheur Field Station in Harney County, Oregon is offering three birding programs this year that still have spaces available. <https://malheurfieldstation.org/educational>

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

By Miriam Lipsitz

These folks joined ECAS between 12/21/22 and 3/25/23 and we're glad they did!

Matt Cahill	Bend, OR	Brian Wilk	Redmond, OR
Lacey Papadakis	Redmond, OR	Susan Conrad	Bend, OR
Trudy Sargent	Sisters, OR	Sue Dougherty	Sisters, OR
Wayne Schwartz	Bend, OR	Sarah Fitzgerald	Redmond, OR
Frank Siemsen	Bend, OR	Claudia Funari	Bend, OR
Michele Sims	Sisters, OR	Kimberly Goslin	Redmond, OR
Linda St-Cyr	Sparks, NV	Gareth Jenkins	Sisters, OR
Stephanie Swift	Bend, OR	Frank Kahr	Bend, OR
Sarah Tucker	Kennewick, WA	Ilene Kulk	Bend, OR
Shelby Turek	Terrebonne, OR	Tom McNamara	Portland, OR
Kathleen Wadden	Bend, OR	Robyn Migliorini	Bend, OR
Nanda Webb	Bend, OR	Joshua Mooney	Bend, OR

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There is SUCH a need for volunteers of all kinds in a variety of roles and time commitments, and there is something for everyone to be involved in. Please take a look at all these possibilities and find the one that's right for you. Thank you!

ECAS Volunteers

Volunteers are what make ECAS such a vibrant organization! We have three volunteer positions available:

- Birders' Night Coordinator
- Board Member
- Publicity Director for the 2023 Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival

Need to know more about the tasks and time involved for these positions? Email Mary Shivell at mvshivell@gmail.com. Interested? Contact ECAS at ecaudubon@gmail.com.

Earth Day ECAS Booths April 22

ECAS needs a few folks interested in joining other members at one or both of our booths at Earth Day (Environmental Center Festival noon-3pm and the Worthy Brewing Celebration afterwards.) Talk with folks who walk by about wild birds and what ECAS is and does. Enjoy the festivities! Please email ecaudubon@gmail.com and put EARTH DAY EC and/or WORTHY on the subject line.

Nest-web Volunteers

We're asking your help in a multi-year project studying woodpecker nesting in the Sisters Ranger District. ECAS is a major supporter of this project through the Laughrige Grant program; other supporters include Oregon Birding Association, OSU-Cascades, and the US Forest Service. You can help us by letting us know the location of woodpecker nests you spot while you are birding in the Sisters Ranger District. This includes nests currently used by woodpeckers. **The location of nests you tell us about will remain private and will be used only for our research project.**

The most important information you can provide is the location of nests, **particularly downy woodpeckers (DOWO), black-backed woodpeckers (BBWO), and American three-toed woodpecker (ATTW) nests**—although we are interested in other species in Table 1. We will revisit any locations you report to make detailed observations of breeding behavior. Thus, if you spot a nest, or possible nest, **TAKE A PICTURE WITH YOUR PHONE!** Email us the picture, along with information about how to contact you and how to find the tree, including nearest road or trail and of course GPS coordinates. The GPS coordinates will be saved with your photo if you have location turned on, or just follow your phone's instructions to save them.

The goal of our study is to better quantify the interdependencies between primary excavators (woodpeckers that create nest cavities) and their subsequent use by secondary cavity nesters such as Lewis's woodpeckers, northern flickers, and mammals. By better understanding these relationships we can strengthen the rationale for woodpecker conservation. Thank you for any assistance you might be able to provide.

Nests discovered and tracked by our project to date are in the table below. Purple columns show desired numbers of additional nests. RESA – red-naped or red-breasted sapsucker; NOFL – northern flicker; WHWO – white headed woodpecker; LEWO – Lewis's woodpecker; PIWO – pileated woodpecker.

Species	Nests			Target	Species	Nests			Target
	2021	2022	Total nests	total		2021	2022	Total nests	total
HAWO	9	7	16	done	LEWO	5	4	9	+6
RESA	7	7	14	+1	DOWO	2	0	2	+5
NOFL	9	5	14	+1	BBWO	1	1	2	+5
WISA	10	5	15	done	ATTW	0	0	0	+5
WHWO	9	2	11	+4	PIWO	0	0	0	+2

To volunteer or ask questions, contact Kurt Trzcinski at trzcinskikurt@gmail.com or Stephen Shunk at steve@paradisebirding.com or 541-408-1753

Summer Lake Wildlife Area Breeding Shorebird Survey

The fourteenth Annual Summer Lake Survey will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4, 2023. If you would like to help with this ECAS sponsored effort, contact Martin St. Louis at stlouismartin541@gmail.com.

Count Birds for Community Science at Malheur

April 26-29: Spring Shorebird Survey
 May 25-28: Marshbird Madness (Marshbird bioblitz)
 June 21-24: Interior Snowy Plover Survey
 August 16-19: Fall Shorebird Survey
 August 30-September 3: Blitzen River Mussel Survey
 Camping provided/group-based for the above
 July 15-September 15 (weekly): Greater Sandhill Crane Recruitment (volunteers can stay for 1-week or more, depending on their availability)
 Camping provided/individual-based for the above
 On-your-own project:
 March-August: Project IBiS
 Sign-ups for these "Community Science Trips" are available at: <https://audubonportland.org/get-involved/community-science/>
 More information: Teresa 'Bird' Wicks, Ph.D. (they/she)
 Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator, Portland Audubon, 541-450-7560

Intermountain West Shorebird Surveys

The goals of the Intermountain West Shorebird Survey aim to sustain shorebird populations by empowering and inspiring stakeholders to take actions that conserve wetlands and water.

April 10th, 2023 – Shorebird Site Reconnaissance Webinar

April 17th, 2023 – Survey Protocol and Training Webinar

April 24th-April 30th, 2023: Spring 2023 Peak Shorebird Survey Window – get out and count shorebirds!

Mileage reimbursements are available. Ready to get involved? [Sign up HERE](#)

Returning Volunteers: [Fill out this Form](#)

New and Interested Volunteers: [Fill out this Form](#)

FEATURE ARTICLES

Tom Crabtree and his 700th photo for ABA

“In March 2022, Tom Crabtree of Bend, Oregon, took his first trip since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to Southern California. His goal was to photograph enough species to bring his ABA Area total to 700. He got his first bird within an hour of landing in Los Angeles—a Red-whiskered Bulbul. Later that night he added Red-crowned Parrot and Mitred Parakeet. A trip to Antelope Valley brought two more birds, Bell's Sparrow and a late-breeding pair of LeConte's Thrashers. Upper Newport Bay was the next target area, and it didn't disappoint. A half dozen California Gnatcatchers gave close views for #698. Luck had a major role in #699, when a shadow in the margins at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve turned out to be an elusive Ridgway's Rail. A local birder mentioned that he had never been to Malibu's Zuma Canyon without having Nanday Parakeets. Thanks to that tip, on Friday, March 11, 2022, Tom visited the canyon and saw the parakeets for ABA Area photographed bird species #700.”

— from American Birding Association *Birding Magazine*, January 2023, p.8.
(thanks to Duke Tufty for spotting this and bringing it to ECAS's attention)

Interview with Tom answering questions on behalf of ECAS by Claire Weiser:

Q. Tom, when and where did you begin birding?

A. I got an early start, I was six. My grandmother gave me a copy of Pough's *Eastern Land Bird Guide*. I was enchanted by the pictures. When I saw the Painted Bunting I was hooked. During the next few years while other kids my age were building car and plane models I was building bird models.

Q. How long have you been seriously photographing birds?

A. I got a decent camera my last year of law school and started taking pictures then which is when I began to get into serious birding. That was 1974-75. In those years it was film cameras and manual focus lenses.

Q. What is the ABA area and has photographing 700 birds in the ABA area been a long time goal of yours?

A. The ABA (American Birding Association) area consists of the United States and Canada including Alaska and Hawaii. The goal to reach 700 is a very recent one. I had reached seeing 700 birds in 1999, which was a big goal for me. But at the time I had no idea how many birds I had photographed. I started using eBird in 2011 and after a while began adding photos to my checklists. At some point eBird began having a counter for the number of species with photos. I kept adding the photos I had taken and had stored in my computer to older checklists. However, I had only switched from film to digital in 2009, so what I had to add wasn't extensive. During the pandemic with lots of time on my hands I digitized the slides I had taken of all the bird species I had photographed between 1975 and 2009 and suddenly I could see that 700 was possible. Also during the pandemic I was able to add a dozen more species in day trips from home setting the stage for my Southern California trip last March.

Q. What photographing equipment do you use?

A. Currently I am using a Nikon D500 camera and my main lens is a Nikkor 500mm f/5.6 lens. Unlike the early days this is an auto focus system. For most of the time since the late 1970s I used a 300mm f/4 lens with a 1.4x teleconverter.

Q. Do you ever use a blind to photograph from?

A. Rarely. I do go to Cabin Lake and if I am in someplace like the Rio Grande Valley that has a blind I will use it, but mostly I like to be moving around.

Q. Any favorite birds or favorite places to photograph them?

A. If I said "the ones with feathers" I wouldn't be being facetious. If I was forced to choose I would say hummingbirds and owls, and warblers, and As far as favorite places there are a whole bunch. Every time I go to a new location it is exciting because you never know what is around the next corner. So going to the Everglades, the Rio Grande Valley, High Island on the Texas Coast, Southeast Arizona is a big rush because the birds are so different from what we have here. Probably my favorite place of all is the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge on the big island of Hawaii. It is the last of the pristine high elevation forests that contains the native Hawaiian Honeycreepers. Those birds have been extirpated from the lowlands on all the islands.

Q. Do you travel extensively to get bird photos?

A. Yes. To reach 700 photographed birds you need to travel. I have birded from Maine to Southern California, Florida to Alaska and Hawaii.

Q. Do you take many in your backyard or locally?

A. Definitely. I enjoy photography and bring my camera virtually everywhere I go birding. And since I spend far more time at home than traveling the vast majority of my bird photos are at nearby locations. This also lets me work on more artistic photos since a good portion of my shots are to document the species, not create a stunning photo.

Q. What ethics and etiquette do you follow when photographing birds?

A. I follow the ABA code of birding ethics. <https://www.aba.org/aba-code-of-birding-ethics/>

Q. What challenges have you encountered when photographing birds?

A. The usual, getting someplace and the weather goes south on you. I can recall going to photograph birds in Waimea Canyon in Hawaii, driving around the island and starting up the hill and by the time I was in the forest everything was fogged in. One time I was out in the field and realized I didn't have a memory card in my camera so I had to drive 35 miles to the nearest store and fortunately they had a few in stock. In the old film days it was running out of film during a good shoot. These days it's having the battery run out and either not having a spare or finding out the spare was also out of juice.

Q. Do you take photos of other kinds of wildlife?

A. Definitely. When I am out photographing birds if something else interesting shows up I will get some shots. If the birding is slow and I'm around water I will start searching for some dragonflies to photograph.

Q. Any tips for beginner birders or photographers?

A. Photographers, always take your camera with you. Check your battery, memory card and settings before you get down the trail. When that first county record bird flies by you want to be ready. There are literally dozens of books and probably hundreds of websites with information on photographing birds. Try a few and some will resonate with you more.

For beginning birders, go on field trips that Audubon sponsors. Tag along with Wednesday birders. Get a good field guide and study it. Go birding with people who have better skills than you do and you'll learn a lot more than if you just go out by yourself. Ask questions because

there are no dumb ones. All of us were beginning birders at one time and most, if not all, of us are happy to pass on what we have learned over the years.

Q. You have been an active volunteer for ECAS and other birding groups. What are some of the ways you have contributed besides photography?

A. I have served on the Board of Directors for four Audubon Societies. I have been on the Oregon Bird Records Committee for 40 years. I was the editor of Central Oregon Audubon's newsletter for five years. I have been the compiler of the Bend Christmas Bird Count since 1986 with the exception of a five year break when my kids were in college. I have been the regional reviewer for eBird since 2011. I have taught birding classes at Portland and Central Oregon Community Colleges. Along with Craig Miller I founded Birder's Night and put on educational programs for many years. I have led birding tours around the country for Portland Audubon and field guides, inc. And of course I have led scores of field trips locally.

Thanks, Tom, for sharing your story and your beautiful photographs, below, and for the many ways you serve on behalf of birds and birders.

A Sampling of Tom's Bird Photography with his comments

Prologue – The first bird I ever photographed was a White-tailed Ptarmigan on Mt. St. Helen's in August 1974. It isn't a very good photo, but it is identifiable. Unfortunately these birds, the southernmost population in the Cascades, were exterminated when Mt. St. Helens erupted in 1980. The [lack of] quality of that photo inspired me to get a good camera and telephoto lens so I could capture decent pictures of my favorite form of wildlife.

To me each photo is a time machine that transports me back to past trips to magical birds in magical places. I hope you enjoy the journey as much as I enjoyed putting it together.

Here's where it all started, the spark that ignited my interest in birding. I am still astounded by the beauty of these birds. This **Painted Bunting** was photographed on Feb. 27, 2013 at Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

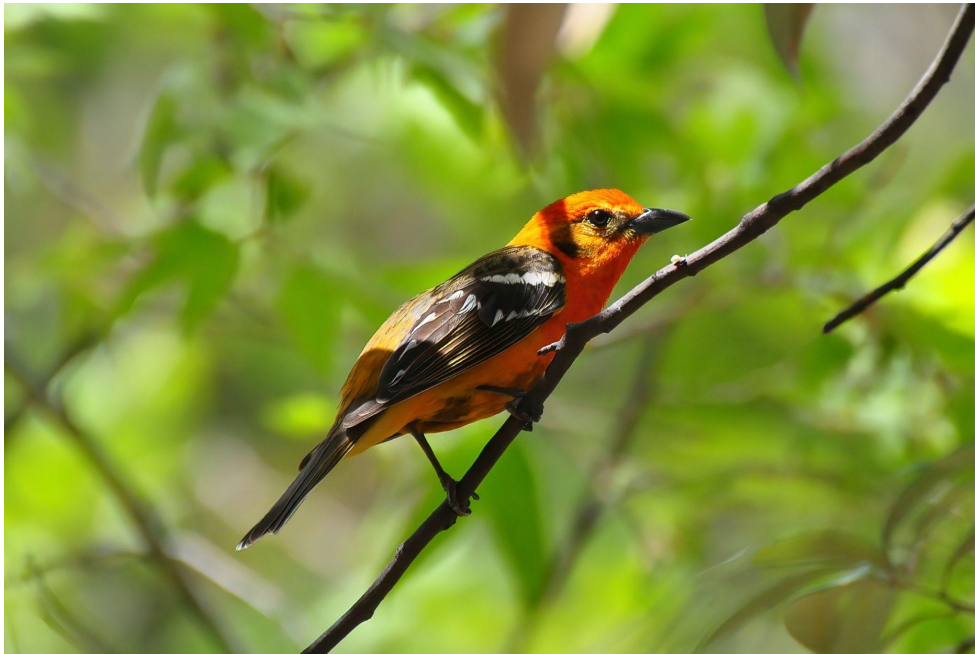


I grew up in St. Louis, MO. Twenty **Eurasian Tree Sparrows** were introduced in St. Louis in 1870. They were able to gain a foothold before House Sparrows took control as they had elsewhere. For many years if you wanted to get one of these on your ABA list you had to go to St. Louis. This male was photographed in my mother's backyard in Glendale, MO, a St. Louis suburb on Apr. 29, 2012.



This is the first bird I photographed with my first Digital Single Lens Reflex camera (a Nikon D7000 with a 300mm lens and a 1.4 tele-converter, giving an effective range of approximately 600mm) which I purchased *after* a trip to Hawaii. On the trip I was frustrated by my point-and-shoot camera that zoomed to a lofty 114mm and was not able to focus on anything that moved. This **Belted Kingfisher** was taken on the Bend Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 19, 2009.

This **Greater Sage-Grouse** was taken on Mar. 29, 1990 just east of Horse Ridge at a lek that doesn't exist anymore having been overrun by ATV's. This was a family outing and my daughters still talk about that morning. Watching these birds perform their courtship rituals should be on every birder's bucket list.



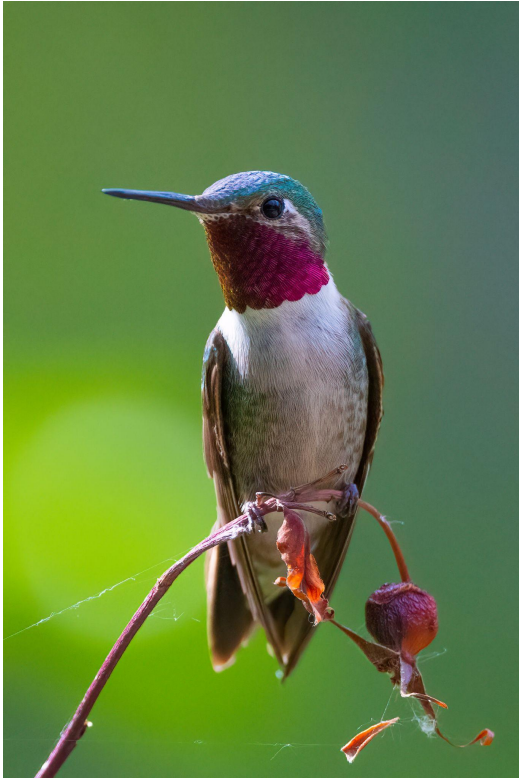
Birders' life lists can take a huge jump on trips to exotic locales. Southeast Arizona is one such place. In my first trip there, leading a trip for Portland Audubon, I added 72 lifers. Every trip is a joy because they have birds there that we can only dream of in Oregon. I took this picture of a **Flame-colored Tanager** in Madera Canyon on May 8, 2010.

The Rio Grande Valley is another magical place with absurdly colorful birds such as Great Kiskadee, Altamira Oriole, Golden-fronted Woodpecker and this **Green Jay**. This photo was taken in Estero Llano Grande State Park, Weslaco, TX on Mar 5, 2011.



Hawaii was added to the ABA area in November 2016. While the quantity of birds there isn't great, the quality is unmatched. While the lowlands have many introduced species, the real reward is in the higher elevations where the last remaining Hawaiian Honeycreepers reside. This amazing bird is the **liwi** which has

a song as wonderful as its plumage. This was photographed in the Hakalau National Forest Wildlife Refuge, the most amazing place I have ever birded, on Nov 15, 2013.



I was asked what my favorite bird family was. Unfortunately I can't limit it to one, so here are my Fab Four. First is Hummingbirds. I absolutely love watching them. It is unfathomable how these aerial acrobats that weigh about the same as a penny can migrate from here to the tropics and back every year. This **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** is special to me because it was taken at the Stokes Nature Center in Logan, Utah, about a mile away from my daughter's residence. During the pandemic we would bring beverages and camp stools here and have a happy hour while we were being entertained by 25 to 50 Broad-tailed, Black-chinned and Calliope Hummingbirds. The photo was taken on June 13, 2021.

It's hard not to love owls. What was hard was deciding which species to pick to illustrate it – Snowy? Great Gray? Pygmy? Ultimately I chose **Spotted**, the most controversial of the lot. Blamed for every woe this side of the pandemic by some, this ghost of the northwest forests is rarely encountered and always a treat when seen. This bird was photographed in the Metolius basin on April 13, 1989. I was with wildlife artist extraordinaire Rod Frederick, who painted a wonderful picture of this bird, "Autumn Leaves." Note the artistic license changing this spring sighting into a gorgeous fall scene.



Shorebirds are another family of birds I can't get enough of. Maybe it's because so many of them only occur at the beach requiring more trips to the coast – bummer! Each species has an interesting story to tell. This bird, a **Bristle-thighed Curlew**, is one of the most interesting. It was one of the last North American birds to have its nest discovered, not until 1948 was one found. They fly between 2500 and 4000 miles nonstop spring and fall to get from their breeding grounds in Alaska to their wintering grounds in Hawaii and other islands of



Oceania. This bird is showing off the curved bill, warmly colored plumage and the bristle-like feathers near its left leg. It was photographed on Nov. 10, 2017 on the big island of Hawaii.



Who doesn't love warblers? With their bright plumages, remarkable migrations, amazing variety of songs and how they can transform a dull day into a spectacular one, they are one of my favorite bird families. I have seen 48 species in the continental United States and 39 in Oregon. This **Golden-winged Warbler** is the only species of warbler that has occurred in Oregon that I haven't seen in the state. The only one documented in Oregon was at Malheur in June, 1983.

Where was I, you ask? Off at the coast looking at shorebirds. This one was photographed in Scotia Barrrens, PA on June 5, 2017.

Number 700. A number that still surprises me. While hanging out at a site where Zone-tailed Hawks had been seen in Glendora, CA. I ran into a birder who gave me a tip on where to find **Nanday Parakeets** which have a limited range in Southern California. He said, "I don't think I've ever been in Zuma Canyon and not seen them." So after chasing all over SoCal and getting another half-dozen new birds, on my last day I headed to Malibu. I almost missed the birds. Not knowing where they were in the canyon, I headed up a trail into the mountains. I had gone almost half a mile when I got concerned I had forgotten to lock the car. So I headed back to the parking lot. When I got there a few pairs were flying around, squawking. These two birds landed in a tree close by and posed for species #700. Zuma Canyon, CA, March 11, 2022.



continued—

Bird Spring Arrival Dates in Central Oregon

By Tom Crabtree

Back in the 80s after moving to Bend from Salem I became interested in the difference in spring arrival dates between the two places. Some species seemed to return around within a few days of when they showed up in Salem, whereas others seemed to be delayed by weeks. I began a project using DataEase, a DOS based relational database (yes, it was that long ago! Windows 3.0 wasn't released until 1990.)

After a few years I had a working chart of Spring Migrant Arrival Dates for Central Oregon. Back then there weren't a lot of active birders in Central Oregon. Craig Miller and I both arrived in 1981. There were casual birders around and a group of senior citizens, mainly feeder watchers, in the Madras area. Through a COCC birding class we were able to bring a bunch of new recruits to the hobby that became leaders of the birding community including Judy Meredith, Dean Hale and Chuck Gates, to name a few). Steve Kornfeld and Jim Moodie moved here a few years later and the reports began coming in greater numbers. The first Phenology Chart for Central Oregon was completed by the end of the decade.

Phenology: a branch of science dealing with the relations between climate and periodic biological phenomena (such as bird migration or plant flowering)

Fast forward to 2019 and the Covid 19 pandemic. As a Covid quarantine project I decided to update the chart with 40 years of information instead of the 10 years or less contained in the original. With a greatly expanded pool of birders providing sighting information, the creation and increased use of eBird and Chuck Gates's Central Oregon Historical Records database, there is now an abundance of information making the chart a much more accurate tool.

The Phenology Chart tracks the earliest arrival date for a species in a given year. Sometimes this is obvious like when the first Turkey Vulture is seen floating across the late winter sky. Others can be a bit more difficult, like separating a species that winters in small numbers (e.g. Anna's Hummingbird) from a return to the area by others of that species. In the charts I have tried to exclude wintering birds as much as possible and to include only migrants. This is an inexact process but with 40 years of data, the effect of either including a stray wintering bird or missing an early migrant is minimized.

The two links below are to two charts showing the early, late and average arrival dates of regular migratory species in Central Oregon. The data comprises records from Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties. In a few instances there will be separate species accounts for each county, but generally they are combined. The first arranges species in Taxonomic order, the other is in Chronological order. Use these charts to track this year's migration. According to the list, in two hours it will be time for a Yellow-headed Blackbird and a Brown-headed Cowbird to appear. Good birding!

[Central Oregon Migration Timetable - short.pdf](#)

[Central Oregon Migration Timetable - chronological.pdf](#)



Photo by Claire Weiser

Understanding Habitat Needs For Greater Sage-Grouse

Local Audubon chapter volunteers engaged in sagebrush-steppe habitat study

By Damian Fagan

Originally printed in the Source Weekly March 15, 2023

Greater Sage-Grouse are iconic birds of the sagebrush landscape. Their entire life history centers around this habitat type, from nesting sites to food sources, making them a key species across 11 western states and two Canadian provinces. But as icons, this doesn't make them immune from impacts. Threats to the sage-grouse such as habitat loss, invasive plants, mining, nest predation, wildfires and other aspects have significantly reduced the bird's population across the Intermountain West since the 1960s.



A male sage-grouse puts on his display at a lek out in the Oregon badlands. Photo by Damian Fagan

"In the last 50 years, sage-grouse have declined by 80%," said Dr. Stu Garrett, East Cascades Audubon Society member. Sage-grouse may be best known for the male's elaborate springtime breeding displays at leks (derived from the Swedish word, lekställe, meaning "mating ground"). A lek is generally an open spot in the sagebrush where the males perform a highly choreographed mating display to attract a female. But post-breeding, the survival of the species is quite literally in the clutches of the females, making protection and restoration of breeding and brood-rearing habitats very important to the species' conservation. "Jim Anderson came to me eight years ago and said, 'Hey, Stu, Audubon needs to get more involved in the sage-grouse issue and would you do that?'" said Garrett. "That's how it all started." Garrett and other ECAS

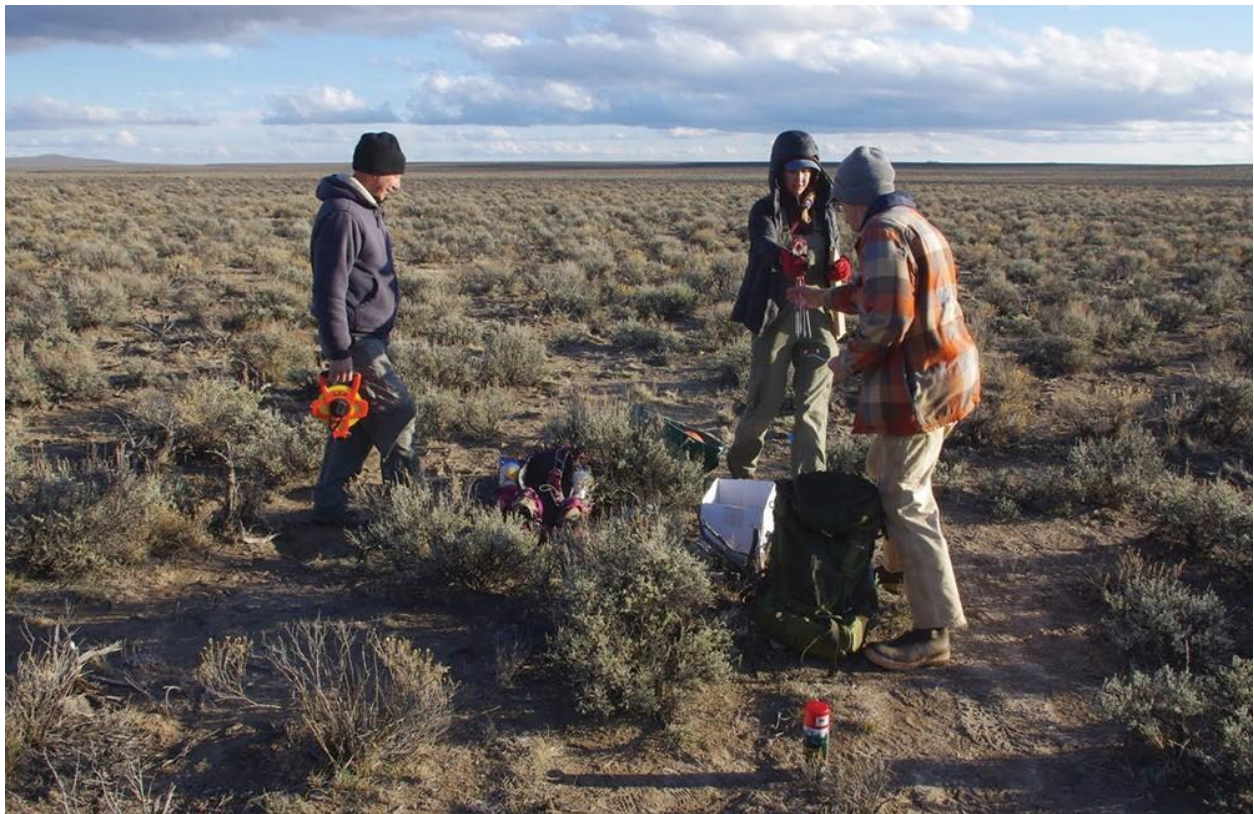
members formed a group to look at the declining numbers of sage-grouse across their range. "It turns out that there is a period of time in the life cycle of the chicks, the first three to four weeks of their life, where they need very high levels of insects and wildflowers in order to be healthy," added Garrett. Garrett reflected on leks east of Bend out in the sage-steppe habitat that he first visited in the 1970s, which have now gone extinct

The group and other researchers came up with a reason associated with this decline — the dearth of native bunchgrasses and wildflowers (forbs) growing in the area. After consultations with agency personnel and ecologists at Oregon State University, the group decided to study how to restore the understory of native grasses and forbs. A rancher near Brothers permitted the group to conduct the study on their ranch property. One thing the group discovered from their untreated study plots was a lack of seeds in the soil — essentially the seed bank is empty because of the lack of grasses and wildflowers, which become established in the early successional stages of the sagebrush-steppe habitat.



An ECAS volunteer uses a seed drill to plant seeds. Photo by Stu Garrett

The habitat improvement study includes planting seedlings, spreading seeds and testing sowing seeds with a hand-pushed drill. The volunteers also mowed some mature sagebrush patches that lacked any understory plants to test whether the reduced shading impacted seedling survival or seed sprouting. Garrett listed several takeaways from the project so far: Native forb cover in irrigated areas was 150% higher than in unirrigated areas. Forb cover in mowed areas was 150% higher than in unmowed areas. Forb cover in seeded and mowed areas was 200% higher than in a control area. Whereas adult sage-grouse survive in the winter feeding solely on sagebrush leaves, the young chicks can't survive on sagebrush until they are several months old. "During those first couple of weeks, the chicks eat insects and dandelion-like flowers such as Oregon sunshine and hawkweed and phlox flowers," said Garrett.



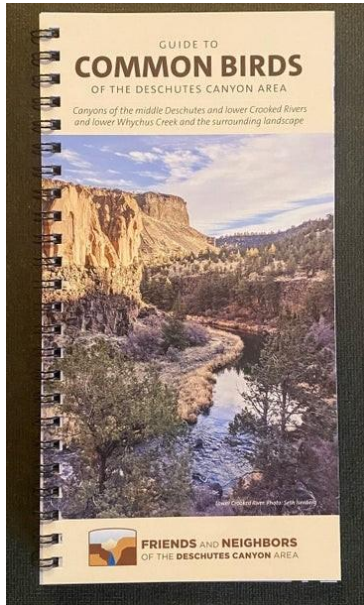
ECAS volunteers spread seed by hand in a test plot. Photo by Stu Garrett

Josh Collins, a retired ecologist with over 50 years in long-range ecological planning, is one of the science team members helping Garrett. "If you look at the population trends from ODFW's [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife] database, which has been carefully curated since the 1960s, and extrapolate out, the suggestion is that the grouse only have several decades left." Though large-scale restoration projects for sagebrush are underway, say, after a grassland wildfire, to rebuild breeding habitat, it can take 25-75 years for the sagebrush to mature. "One of the other things to do in the meantime is to improve existing breeding habitat that is missing some of the key elements such as wildflowers that the chicks eat," said Collins. Natural regeneration works where the seeds are present, but in many areas, Nature needs a helping hand to bring back grasses and wildflowers. Restoring tens of thousands of acres of habitat may seem like a daunting task, but this group of ECAS volunteers is confident that it's a positive step in the protection of this iconic species.

Support local, independent journalism in Central Oregon by becoming a *Source Weekly* insider at <https://www.bendsource.com/bend/BecomeaSourceInsider/Page>

More information on the Greater Sage-Grouse project at the ECAS website: <https://www.ecaudubon.org/projects/greater-sage-grouse-project/>

NEW! - Guide to Common Birds of the Deschutes Canyon Area *By Chuck Gates, member of ECAS and FANS*



Just published in January 2023, this guide includes more than 100 common birds found on the sagebrush plateau and in the river canyons of Central Oregon where the counties of Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook meet. Use it to identify birds that you see on the many trails in the canyons of the middle Deschutes and the lower Crooked River and lower Whychus Creek as well as the surrounding sagebrush plateau. This is not just a beginner's field guide; experienced birders will learn from and enjoy it too. Included in an easy-to-read format are two photos per bird, where to locate the birds and a surprising amount of information about them. Chuck Gates created the text and provided nearly all of the photographs for this publication. Readers will discover his personal voice and sense of humor. Designed to fit in your pocket or small pack, it measures 4-1/4" x 8-1/2" and features heavyweight water-resistant paper.

From the author: My new 70-page book is part field guide and part recreational reading. If you want to learn some info on our local birds and enjoy a little humor with your bird book, this is the guide for you. Almost all the photos are taken by me. The author, photographer, editor, and layout designer all donated their time to produce this book. The price is \$20 and 100% of the proceeds go to FANS (Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes River Canyon Area).

About the author: Chuck's interest in birds began with a Natural History course in college but really took off after that. He was teaching at Culver High School (his alma mater) when a freak storm blew hundreds of gulls into the local football field. Community members came to him for an explanation of why this happened. Of course, he did not know. His pride bruised, he set out to find out all he could about birds. Almost a lifetime later, that journey continues. Chuck is the author and curator of the "Oregon Birding Site Guide" website (<https://www.ecaudubon.org/birding-locations/>) and co-creator with Ken Hashagen of the website, "Central Oregon Eggs, Nests and Young" (<https://www.ecaudubon.org/standyoungphotos/>). He is a former Board Member of the Oregon Field Ornithologists and the East Cascade Audubon Society. Chuck developed the Central Oregon Bird Database and currently monitors the official county checklists for Oregon's 36 counties. He is a top bird lister in both Crook and Jefferson counties.



TOTALLY UNBIASED AND UNSOLICITED BOOK REVIEW: *"I really enjoyed the informal format and the wonderful combination of comedy, tragedy, and interesting information in the book. The photos are beautiful and the size fits perfectly in a pocket. I started reading and couldn't put it down."* – Dorothy Gates

Order it online at

https://www.fansofdeschutes.org/store/p5/GUIDE_TO_COMMON_BIRDS_OF_THE_DESCHUTES_CANYON_AREA.html. Note: If you would prefer to coordinate local delivery or pickup, please email Sue Combs at suekeeper@gmail.com. This will allow you to pay with cash or check, and also avoid the shipping fee.

2022 ECAS GRANT REPORT

By Brian MacDonald and Mary Oppenheimer

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. In 2022, the ECAS Board approved new grants totaling \$26,300. We are grateful that we have the funds to support these worthwhile projects.

Grants Approved in 2022

Native Bird Care of Sisters

\$2000 to fund avian food and supplies to a highly regarded local nonprofit providing rehabilitation services to passerines and other non-raptor avian species.

Oregon Natural Desert Association

\$5,000 for its ongoing habitat restoration project along the South Fork of the Crooked River, east of Hampton Buttes. The grant will be used for equipment needed to prepare two sites for planting and for posts and fencing to create an enclosure in preparation for future planting.

OSU-Cascades

\$11,800 for the third year of a study of bird distributions and species interactions in the Sisters Ranger District by Matt Orr and Kurt Trzcinski. This study will be a contribution to the emerging field of field investigations of the impact of climate change on wildlife, in this case woodpeckers and their importance in providing nesting cavities.

In addition, the project received permission to use the unspent amount (\$985.49) of its 2021 grant to purchase additional equipment and hire students to do data entry.

OSU Forest Animal Ecology Lab

\$2,500 to fund field vehicle rental and fuel to support a study of potential food availability and foraging behavior of adult Black-backed Woodpeckers in green forest and in recently burned forest. Results of this study may improve the survival of Black-backed Woodpeckers and other species in the forests just south of Central Oregon.

Think Wild

\$5,000 to support the construction of a raptor ambassador enclosure and interpretive signage to complement Think Wild's rapidly expanding education program. Unlike raptor enclosures at Sunriver Nature Center and the High Desert Museum, this will not be an exhibit for visitors to pay and see. It will be used to train the bird for participation in educational programs both onsite and offsite, including in Think Wild's programs in Jefferson County and Warm Springs.

Multi-year Grants Supported in 2022

Deschutes Land Trust

In 2021, ECAS approved an \$11,000 grant divided among three projects to be implemented in 2022: \$3,000 for plants and contract labor at Camp Polk Meadow; \$3,000 for plants and contract labor at Indian Ford Meadow, and \$5,000 for plants and contract labor at the DLT's

new Ochoco Preserve abutting the Crooked River Wetlands. Work on these projects is ongoing.

Crooked River Wetlands

In 2021, the City of Prineville Wetlands received a grant of \$2,000 to purchase trees to provide food for birds and shade to visitors at the Crooked River 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.

Laughrige grants are made to public schools, 501(c)(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 <https://www.ecaudubon.org/about-us/grants/>. It's advisable that an organization interested in a grant contact a member of the Grant Committee via the ECAS email (ecaudubon@gmail.com) before starting the formal application process.

Now that you've read the newsletter and can see all the wonderful and varied activities that are part of ECAS, please look back at Volunteer Opportunities on page 6 and consider a way that you could be involved in, contribute to and enjoy this vibrant organization. Good people, good times, good birding!



One more page —

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Spring Board Meetings

April 4
May 2
June 6

Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month 6 - 8pm. Members are welcome to attend. Email 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 <https://www.ecaudubon.org/become-a-member/>

