

THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024



President's Message

By Duke Tufty

We are starting to see signs of spring and spring migration! - a very welcome transition from winter. In addition to getting outside to witness migration first hand, it can be fun to tune into [BirdCast](#). BirdCast shows a graphic forecast of bird migration across the entire United States and provides a number of ways to learn more about bird migration. It also allows you to focus on a particular state or county. Try searching your home county to see what happened last night and so far this season. It's very cool!

As you all know, the 2024 Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival will run from May 30 to June 2. We hope that you will consider attending or volunteering at the festival. If you are interested in volunteering for this year's festival, please email us at ecaudubon@gmail.com. We'd love to have your help!

We are lucky to have [Paul Bannick](#) as the festival's keynote presenter this year. Paul is an award-winning author and wildlife photographer specializing in the natural history of North America with a focus on birds and habitat. He will be sharing his talk entitled "The Owl and the Woodpecker Revisited" at the festival's keynote dinner on Saturday, June 1 at the Belfry in Sisters, Oregon. Paul will also be offering two photography workshops on Saturday.

In more big news, we will be offering all Woodpecker Festival field trips free of charge this year. There will be a fee for our festival dinner and Paul's photography workshops.

The field trip schedule is posted on the ECAS website. Registration opens on April 2nd at 8:00am PDT, which is coming up very soon. With field trips being free this year, we are anticipating that many trips will fill quickly.

As you know, ECAS continues to support the vibrant birding community in Central Oregon and is rolling out some new programs this year. ECAS will be donating birding backpacks to all Deschutes County libraries in the coming months to help make optics and birding available to more people. In the near future, ECAS plans to extend the birding backpack program to libraries in Crook and Jefferson Counties. In addition, ECAS will be introducing a youth scholarship program this fall in which the recipient will be able to attend an American Birding Association birding camp in 2025. More details to come this fall.

If all of this sounds good to you, we would greatly appreciate your support. If you are not already a member, please consider becoming a member at the following link: <https://www.ecaudubon.org/become-a-member/> For members, thank you for your continued support. Please consider making a donation to ECAS. <https://www.ecaudubon.org/donate/> We hope that you are ready for a fantastic spring full of birding and adventures and hope to see you soon!

Upcoming Springtime Events (April through June)

Birding By Ear - Tuesdays in April and May, 8am - 10am, Sawyer Park, 62999 O.B. Riley Rd, Bend (meet near the parking lot), led by Dave Tracy Info weekly on [/groups.io/g/COBOL](https://groups.io/g/COBOL)

Wednesday Birders, various locations and morning times (8am-ish start) led by Brian MacDonald and others, info weekly on [Central Oregon Birders Online COBOL@groups.io](mailto:CentralOregonBirdersOnlineCOBOL@groups.io) (NOTE: April 10 will be a full day trip to Summer Lake, 2 hour car ride each way.)

Crooked River Wetlands Bird Walks, first (and third) Saturday of the month, led by Chuck Gates <https://www.ecaudubon.org/event/crooked-river-wetlands-saturday-bird-walks-2/>
April 6th 9:45am - noon
May 4th and 18th 7:45-10am
June 1st and 15th 7:45-10am

Birders' Nights, usually the third Thursday most months, in person at the Bend Environmental Center and virtual Zoom

April 19, 7-9pm, Pinyon Jay Conservation presented by Ned Bohman
More info: [April Birder's Night \(rescheduled from January\) - East Cascades Audubon Society](#)

May 16 7-9pm, Restoring Habitat, by Jen Zalewski, Deschutes Land Trust
More info: [May Birders' Night-Restoring Habitat for Wildlife on Deschutes Land Trust Preserves - East Cascades Audubon Society](#)

June 20 - <https://www.ecaudubon.org/calendar/category/birders-night/2024-06/>



Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival 2024 will be held **May 30 to June 2** and will offer field trips all over Central Oregon.

Registration opens on **April 2 at 8:00am PDT** through EventBrite

Paul Bannick, [Paul Bannick Photography](#), an award-winning author and wildlife photographer, will be the Festival's keynote presenter. His talk, "The Owl and the Woodpecker Revisited" will be given at the Festival's keynote dinner on Saturday, June 1 at the Belfry in Sisters, Oregon. Paul will also be offering two photography workshops on Saturday. Woodpecker Festival field trips are free of charge this year, however there will be a fee for the festival dinner and for Paul's photography workshops. The field trip schedule for the 2024 Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival is now posted along with more information at:

<https://www.ecaudubon.org/dean-hale-woodpecker-festival/field-trip-schedule-and-registration-2024/>

Think Wild Friday April 19, 4pm. At Lake Creek Lodge in Camp Sherman along the Metolius River, a walk to share information about an upcoming beaver habitat restoration project followed by a film screening of Beaver Believers to inspire folks to volunteer with the tree planting restoration project on May 8-9. Beaver Walk & The Beaver Believers Film Screening, a 17-minute film available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4HavO-zVh0>
 Think Wild website info: <https://www.thinkwildco.org/>

Save the Date for our ECAS Annual Event at Aspen Hall - **Sunday Nov. 3, 2024, 4-9pm**
 18920 NW Shevlin Park Road, Bend, OR includes a catered buffet dinner and a talk given by Josh Collins on the Greater Sage-grouse conservation project.

New ECAS members in 2024 - WELCOME!

Compiled by Miriam Lipsitz

Becky	Denham	Portland, OR
Chris	Handy	Corvallis, OR
Wade	Harris	Bend, OR
Kat	Hirsch	Santa Barbara, CA
Peter	Hurley	Bend, OR
Heidi	Island	McMinnville, OR
Leslie	Lawrence	Sisters, OR
Robin	Lea	Bend, OR
Patty	Mizutani	Portland, OR
Janet	Navarra	Bend, OR
Shannon and Mark	Nordquist	Dexter, OR
Diana	Popp	Bend, OR
Kharli	Rose	Bend, OR
Mary	Sarris	Bend, OR
Anne	Shoemaker	Bend, OR
Anne	Smith	Corvallis, OR
Jeanie	Taylor	Sheridan, WY
Beth	Ward	Bend, OR

Do you want to join ECAS? <https://www.ecaudubon.org/become-a-member/>

Interested in helping out? **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

ECAS:

- **Membership Committee Chair and Field Trip Project Leader.**
Email to ask questions at ecaudubon@gmail.com
- **Earth Day Greeters/helpers** April 20, 12-3pm at the Environmental Center, Bend
- **Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival 2024:** Volunteers for Social Night June 1 at the Belfry in Sisters . Contact Mary at mvshivell@gmail.com

Think Wild

Plantings May 8-9, Camp Sherman <https://tockify.com/thinkwild/detail/85/1715184000000>

Here's a volunteer opportunity through ODFW:

ODFW and its partners are investigating a variety of questions about Lewis's woodpeckers in the East Cascades to improve understanding of habitat requirements of Lewis's woodpecker and how changes in the environment have affected migratory patterns across Oregon. Survey routes exist in Central Oregon and White River Wildlife Area. Volunteers are needed for surveys which will be conducted in the morning from April-July and are anticipated to take 2-4 hours. They consist of driving routes with specific points delineated for auditory and visual surveys for Lewis's Woodpeckers. Please contact Kaly Adkins, Kalysta.i.adkins@odfw.oregon.gov with questions. Kaly Adkins (she/her/hers), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, East Region Conservation Wildlife Biologist, 61374 Parrell Road, Bend, Oregon 97702, Office: 541-633-1116
Cell: 541-993-4628

Volunteers Sought for Birding Warner Wetlands, SE Oregon

Hello Central Oregon Birders! The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP), a non-profit conservation science organization, is seeking volunteers to bird Warner Wetlands, SE Oregon (SW of Malheur). IBP is under contract to the BLM to conduct a number of bird studies at this spectacular site, including a general inventory of birds present through the spring, summer, and fall (if there's water). We would like to supplement our small staff with volunteers.

In addition to moderate to expert birding ability, volunteers must be reliable, physically fit, independent individuals who are capable of navigating and driving to the sites on their own (once trained, oriented, and shown the sites). The site is remote, without reliable cell coverage, so working in teams of at least 2 is strongly encouraged. Volunteers must have their own vehicles. Four-wheel drive is not required, but good clearance vehicles are recommended, as the driving will be mostly on graded gravel and dirt roads. (If you don't have that type of vehicle, we'll work with you to assign points that don't need it.) Volunteers will visit a series of predetermined points to document all the birds seen and heard. Further orientation in the methods will be given on-site

prior to the start of work. Volunteers will record their observations as eBird checklists. (if you do not have an eBird account, you can record observations on paper forms). Volunteers will be trained and oriented to the site by IBP staff, but will not be considered IBP employees or contractors, and will be solely responsible for their own safety and all their own costs, including gas, meals, birding equipment, etc. There is a small campground at the site, with running water and a restroom.

There is no minimum or maximum time commitment required, but the site is fairly remote, and we hope that volunteers would want to spend at least a few days at a time. The time commitment can be spread throughout the spring and summer, and possibly into early fall. Even 1-2 visits will greatly help us out!

To volunteer, or if you have any questions, please contact Steven Albert, www.birdpop.org, salbert@..., 505-870-3735.

ECAS Vote on Approval for Change Threshold

By Brian MacDonald on behalf of the ECAS Board



In March we completed the first ever electronic vote for ECAS members. As you will recall the question that was voted on was whether or not the threshold for approval of a change to the ECAS Constitution should be reduced from two thirds to 50% +1 votes in favor of change. The voting process itself appears to have worked flawlessly and we were pleased to see that 34% of the membership registered a vote, many more than would have been likely to vote in an in-person meeting. Of those who voted, a large majority (88% for versus 12% against) were in favor of changing the approval threshold to 50% +1 votes. This vote was conducted under the existing two thirds threshold which was comfortably exceeded, so the ECAS Constitution is now amended to require a 50% +1 threshold for approval of changes that might be proposed in the future.

The Board would now like the membership to consider another, possibly more contentious issue – changing the name from East Cascades Audubon Society to East Cascades Bird Alliance. We will shortly use the same electronic voting process to convene another Special Business Meeting to allow a vote on this question. We hope and expect that many if not all of you will want to have a say on this question.

Springtime 2024 Celebrations!

Celebrations! Is a new Calliope series that features member submissions of birding milestones which were accomplished, often with the help of other birders and shared by the birding community. **If you have a celebration to share with the ECAS birding community in the July 1st Summer Calliope, please send it and a related photo by June 15 to ecaudubon@gmail.com.**



In 2023, **Jeff Nordstrom** embarked on a challenging journey that demanded perseverance and dedication. Alongside his wife and friends, he crisscrossed the state, covering extensive miles and sacrificing countless hours of sleep in pursuit of elusive birds. His primary objective was twofold: first, surpass the #2 Oregon record of 365 species set by Josh Little in 2021, and second, strive to break the all-time high for Oregon of 381 species, established in 2012 by Russ Namitz and held for the past 12 years.

From the outset, Jeff established meticulous "Big Year" rules, emphasizing the need for a supportive companion and an unwavering commitment to immediate action upon the report of a rare bird – a principle encapsulated in the directive to "GO" without delay.

As the year unfolded, Jeff encountered his final bird on December 26th, concluding the year with an impressive tally of **379 species**. While he fell short of setting a new record, Jeff's mantra remains unwavering: "I CAN'T STOP THINKING BIG."

Margi Finch, an enthusiastic newer birder, started birding in January 2023 with a brand new Celestron spotting scope at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge and fell head over heels for this hobby (obsession?) In her first 14 months birding, Margi has spotted 300 species across 6 states, including some rarities Central Oregon. Her love for birding has taken her on numerous field trips where she has joined fellow bird enthusiasts from East Cascades Audubon Society, Prineville Bird Club, and Oregon Birding Association. Her 300th lifer was a stunning **Bohemian Waxwing** at Tumalo State Park campground in March 2024.



in

Photo by Duke Tufty, Tumalo SP, March 13, 2024

Milt Vine discovered in 2023 that his photo of a **Cassin's Finch** taken a few years earlier at the Cabin Lake blind had been selected as the splash page photo for the explore species function on eBird. Links below are to the eBird Cassin's Finch page and to Milt's checklist which included that photo.

<https://ebird.org/pnw/species/casfin>

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S36879597>



Northern Pygmy Owl Nemesis. The Northern Pygmy Owl has always been a nemesis bird for **Roger Kohn**, eluding him in many attempts to find one. On Wednesday Birder outings, he has been known to jokingly implore his fellow birders to "find me a Northern Pygmy Owl!" No one had succeeded, despite many good faith attempts...until November 20. As Chuck Gates was leading a group on the Paulina Winter Raptor Survey, he spotted what he thought was a **Northern Pygmy Owl** in brush about 100 feet from the road. Chuck quickly turned the car around, parked, and found the NOPO for us. The group got great looks and then followed Chuck's advice to move closer by approaching indirectly on a diagonal line and not make eye contact with the owl as we slowly made our way to a fence for the closest possible approach. This worked, as the owl remained on its perch. The group was rewarded with even better views of the owl and there were wonderful photo opportunities in great light.



A Lesson in BHCO Parasitism. Last July **Roger Kohn** was birding the northeast end of Shevlin Park in Bend and saw a couple of Chipping Sparrows - an adult feeding a youngster. Or so he thought. The immature bird didn't look anything like a Chipping Sparrow-to-be. In fact, it was larger than the adult. Roger just chalked it up to it being a pudgy youngster. It wasn't until he got a correction from eBird reviewer Tom Crabtree that he realized that the youngster was a **Brown-headed Cowbird!** Roger still can't decide whether to despise lazy BHCO parents, or tip his cap to them for their brilliant evolutionary strategy.





A few weeks ago, while visiting Fuerteventura (part of the Spanish Canary Islands), **Steve Kornfeld** saw his 9,500th IOC checklist world bird, the **Fuerteventura Stonechat**. In the field, he entered the sighting using eBird. But eBird and IOC have different taxonomies and therefore produce different list totals. Hence, he did not realize he hit this IOC milestone until days later when he was updating his computer program. He has reflected on the benefits of not realizing a milestone in real time. He wants birding to **be** more than the numbers. While future trips will pursue areas with new species, he remains just as interested in quality over quantity, seeking rare and unique species combined with challenging adventures. While he will continue to keep the experience above the numbers, he knows the next milestone will surely follow.

After losing another bird due to the lumping of the Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers **Tom Crabtree** headed to Texas in January in hopes of getting his 800th ABA Area species. An excellent collection of tropical vagrants awaited him including Golden-crowned Warbler (#797), Mottled Owl (#798) and Roadside Hawk (#799) which brought him to the precipice of his goal. Great views of the third ABA record of **Gray-collared Becard** at Resaca de la Palma State Park gave Tom his milestone 800th bird. Later that day he added an Aplomado Falcon followed by extremely close views of the Fan-tailed Warbler on the 20th. Corpus Christi's Cattle Tyrant (a first ABA record) rounded out a great trip, regardless of whether the Texas Bird Records Committee accepts its provenance. "I couldn't have done it without the help of the many incredibly friendly birders I met on this trip," Tom commented during his celebration.



Tom can also add that now he's only 130 birds behind Steve Kornfeld in the ABA area and somewhere around 8900 in the world.

Local Author Marina Richie Receives the John Burroughs Medal for Distinguished Natural History Writing

More than one hundred species of kingfishers brighten every continent but Antarctica. Not all are fishing birds. They range in size from the African dwarf kingfisher to the laughing kookaburra of Australia. This first book to feature North America's belted kingfisher is a lyrical story of observation, revelation, and curiosity in the presence of flowing waters. The kingfisher — also known as the halcyon bird — is linked to the mythic origin of halcyon days, a state of happiness that Marina Richie hopes to find outside her back door in Missoula, Montana. Epiphanies and a citizen science discovery punctuate days tracking a bird that outwits at every turn. The female is

more colorful than the male (unusual and puzzling) and the birds' earthen nest holes are difficult to locate. While the heart of the drama takes place on Rattlesnake Creek in Missoula, the author's adventures in search of kingfisher kin on the lower Rio Grande, in South Africa, and in London illuminate her relationships with the birds of Montana. In the quiet of winter, she explores tribal stories of the kingfisher as messenger and helper, pivotal qualities for her quest. For all who love birds or simply seek solace in nature, *Halcyon Journey* is an inviting introduction to the mythic and mysterious belted kingfisher. ~ **summary by OSU Press**



An Oregon State University Press book on kingfishers has received the 2024 [Burroughs Medal for Distinguished Natural History Writing](#). It's the third time an OSU Press title has won the Burroughs Medal, which OSU Press Director Tom Booth says is unprecedented for a university press. The John Burroughs Medal was created in 1926 and is awarded annually to the year's most distinguished book of nature writing. The winning title, "[Halcyon Journey: In Search of the Belted Kingfisher](#)" by [Marina Richie](#), combines science, field observation, and storytelling to uncover the secret lives of belted kingfishers.

"When I wrote 'Halcyon Journey,' my hope was to shine a light on this jay-sized bird of the hover and headfirst dive," said Richie, who lives in Bend, Oregon. "To receive the Burroughs Medal is the greatest of honors. I'd love to tell every kingfisher—you won."



Growing up in a National Park Service family with a bird-loving father influenced Richie's passion for protecting wildlife and wild places. Her articles, essays and poetry appear in literary and popular magazines, blogs, newspapers and in three book collections. "Halcyon Journey" also won a 2022 National Outdoor Book Award and Foreword Indies Award.

The Burroughs Medal award ceremony takes place April 1 in New York City. Past medalists include Rachel Carson, Aldo Leopold, Roger Tory Peterson, Peter Matthiessen, John McPhee, Barry Lopez and Robin Wall Kimmerer (for "Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses," OSU Press, 2004). ~ **Tom Booth, today.oregonstate.edu**

ECAS members/locals react: We were thrilled to find out that Marina Richie won the prestigious Burroughs Medal Award for her book on the Belted Kingfisher – *Halcyon Journey, in Search of the Belted Kingfisher*. We were lucky to have her speak about her book for the January 2023 Birders' Night. Congratulations, Marina! As many of you know, Marina Richie is a nature writer, environmentalist and birder living in Bend. She has worked as a journalist and managed communications for a number of wildlife-oriented public and private organizations. She is the author of the children's books *Bird Feats of Montana* and *Bug Feats of Montana*. Her articles and essays have appeared in *Birdwatching Magazine*, *A.T. Journeys*, *Post Road Magazine*, and many other publications. She writes a bi-monthly blog of prose and poetry, gives talks, and teaches nature writing workshops. She also serves on the board of the Greater Hells Canyon Council. She wears many hats and wears them well! She will be speaking at the Harney County Migratory Bird Festival on Thursday, April 11th at 6pm at the Harney County Library. If you will be at the festival or need an excuse to visit Burns, Oregon (the birding is fantastic), don't miss this event. The program is free, but registration is required. If you are looking to lose yourself in an inspiring story about the mythical Belted Kingfisher, pick up a copy of Marina's book and dive in!

~ **Duke Tufty, ECAS President**

“Wow Marina, this is about as major as any recognition a writer can receive! To join such a list of luminaries is a life accomplishment. A Halcyon Journey has now moved up to first place on my reading list. I just finished ordering it from Herringbone Books in Redmond. Congratulations”
~ **David Vick**, COBOL March 22, 2024, #745

“Exciting news! Marina Richie, one of our fellow Central Oregon birding enthusiasts, has won the prestigious Burroughs Medal Award for her book on the Belted Kingfisher. All who know her are thrilled that her writing talent and years of observation, research and dedication are being recognized. Congratulations Marina!” ~ **Gail Sabbadini** on COBOL 3/20/24,#744

Volunteer Spotlight: Judy Meredith

I started life in Minnesota with a birdwatcher and a wildflower fiend as parents and got the outdoor bug early. My 2nd grade teacher even encouraged me to share what birds were coming to our home feeders. My work life was rehabilitation of people, Occupational Therapy, but my broader interests include the wonderful world of birding, mushrooming, plants and rehab of anything, conservation, etc. In retirement, I really enjoy promoting going out birding and getting dirty weeding and restoring habitats, which all feel purposeful and satisfying.

I am 78 years young and 50+ years have been in Bend, ever since the town had only one stoplight and a population of 6,000, the hospital was downtown and the mills were the main employers. A birding trip to Summer Lake with the Clausens (up close Avocet!) and to Malheur with the Eshelmans (Golden Eagle and a scope!) got me linked with people of similar interests and also a Varied Thrush and especially, a Green-tailed Towhee (!!) made darn sure that birds would be a big focus of my joy and efforts. It seemed important to be more involved and so began my years volunteering on the COAS Audubon and ECBC boards and planning birders nights. About 2007 I started up the Wednesday Birding, wanting to know more people could wrap birds and the outdoors into their passions. Knowing some birders were afraid to be out there alone or were unsure where to go or how to bird a place was the real impetus for Wednesdays. So that began as my son was off at grad school and I was eager to drop one day a week from my job. Being an introvert and no expert, I have never felt able or comfortable with "leading" but I could plan, promote and instigate and it led to meeting some really wonderful people and some amazing birding talent. Others are planning now as I have passed the baton. They may have many ideas to make it different and better and better.



There is so much change in our world with more research, better and better bird references, technology, climate change, new people interested, and if you believe that lifelong learning keeps your brain healthy, then birding may be the ticket. Every time you go out or bird with another person, you learn about their tips, cement your own knowledge by repeating some ID or habitat

info to someone else, and can have warm fuzzy feelings from being in the midst of birds and happy people. We all have benefitted from the vast knowledge and patience shown by Steve Kornfeld with an unfamiliar bird or new birder, or the many factoids, crazy clever bird related humor and detailed knowledge from David Vick, or the generous volunteerism by Diane Kook caring for 20+ years for families of American Kestrels and Lewis's Woodpeckers in nest boxes she maintains and monitors, or Tom Crabtree who volunteers to write field notes and asks for an explanation when we report some outlandish bird on our ebird lists, or Chuck Gates whose unflagging focus and production of materials, his Oregon Birding web content, books, videos and events. These people welcome all comers to our world of birds. Oh, my yes, you meet the most interesting and wonderful people when you volunteer and when you go birding!

Conservation is such a general concept, but if it has a bird focus, then habitat, space, wildness, access, can all be so important if we are to have plentiful birds for future generations to enjoy. We can all do our part around our homes and open spaces, encouraging good plants, pollinators, insects of many kinds. I am inspired by Doug Tallamy who writes about this and has lately been on webinars and is often quoted on reducing lawns and encouraging planting diverse native plants instead. His book *Nature's Best Hope* has many facts and practical tips and our Deschutes County library has the book. If you came to see the Costa's at my house, you were in the midst of my work in progress, killing grass and aspens to eventually re-plant with xeriscape natives. I hope to plant this year if I can ever say no to birding. You may know the answer to that.....



Photos by Steve Dougill of Judy (and Cindy Z.) going coastal





Photos by Jack Williamson of Whiskey Springs volunteer group (Judy third from left in both pix)

A Blast From The Past

40 Years Ago – Audubon in Central Oregon

By Judy Meredith

I have a pile of old "Eagle Eye" newsletters from the old days; 2 are from 1984 and I used the Field Notes info from those, but the bits about the enviro center, etc are from my old memories. I have been in Bend for over 50 years so I knew a lot of the old timers, and now I am an old timer!
– Judy Meredith (more like a valuable treasure than an old timer – editor)

Birders' Night was held at either COCC (Central Oregon Community College) or Far West Federal Bank on 3rd Street. It was a mostly learning, sharing and educational meeting about local birds. Monthly programs were held at the Bend Senior Center which was just off 5th and Greenwood. And monthly chapter business meetings were called Potluck Night and met at the home of board members such as Jim and Sue Anderson, living on Jones Rd. at the time. Now that location is a city park, Hollinshead.

The Environmental Center in Bend was just a gleam in the eye of Alice Elshoff and Bill Marlett and others at the time. Audubon fundraisers to purchase a meeting place in the future included a Christmas Bazaar selling bird-related items and the year-round selling of birdseed and feeders. An "Audubon House" never materialized, but the chapter contributed later to help purchase the property on Kansas Avenue that is still in use today as The Environmental Center by many conservation organizations. Now you know why the large meeting room there has been called the "Audubon Room."

Other activities 40 years ago by Audubon included an ODFW-sponsored beach cleanup to pick up plastic because of its detrimental effect on wildlife - gee, do ya think?! Another group, led by Jim Anderson, cleaned bluebird boxes at Rimrock Springs. A researcher at OSU was conducting a survey on nest box parasites, so box contents were bagged and labeled to be sent to Corvallis. Harold Winegar, biologist and riparian champion, asked Audubon members to help him at a meeting with livestock people, the USFS, and Grassland reps over the situation with the (degraded, my words) Willow Creek area upstream from Rimrock Springs.

Field Notes included a column by Madras birder Ivy Hilty with a paragraph detailing the 3rd sighting of a Northern Mockingbird in Jefferson County, with one report per decade, 1966, '78, and '84. And Tom Crabtree wrote the Deschutes Field Notes column with most of the sightings from Hatfield Lake, Tumalo Reservoir, Brooks Scanlon Mill Pond, and Bend Airport Pond. Today, 40 years later, the often birded Hatfield Lake is open to the walking public, Tumalo Reservoir is usually dry, not filled, the mill pond area has better access but changed habitat into tidy trails along the river around the Old Mill and the Bend airport pond, formerly lined with dense willows, is dry and bulldozed. Yet we applaud the gradual acquisition of parks and public trail access along many miles of the Deschutes River which give birds space and birders a chance for exercise in a bird-rich area near in town. And the cities of Prineville and Redmond, with forward thinking planners and birders advising them, make sewer ponds into better bird habitat with public access.

In my opinion, each of us can encourage our representatives in government, cities, counties, parks, agencies and organizations to strongly consider conservation needs and habitat for wildlife, birds, pollinators and to make room to welcome people in the wild outdoors.

Recent Articles of Local and State Interest

Think Wild Hosts Training With Renowned Raptor Orthopedic Surgeon Local wildlife hospital hopes to expand its treatment and post-op care for wildlife Reprinted from *The Source Weekly*, January 17, 2024 By *Damian Fagan*

Renowned raptor orthopedic surgeon, Dr. David Scott, former staff veterinarian at the Carolina Raptor Center and author of "Raptor Medicine, Surgery, and Rehabilitation" and other books used in veterinary medicine, recently led a Think Wild staff training in Bend.

"Dr. Scott was teaching the team, including myself, how to manage avian orthopedic cases that require surgical care — think about putting metal hardware in an animal (humans included) to fix a bone," said Dr. Laura Acevedo, DVM, WEMT-B, and Think Wild's veterinarian. The goal of the workshop was to provide Dr. Acevedo with the tools and necessary information to do orthopedic surgeries on patients, as well as to help the rehab staff with post-operative care training.



Scott is also a software engineer who received a bachelor's in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois in 1988 before getting his DMV at the University in 1997. He developed a medical record software called RaptorMed specifically for tracking the medical and husbandry records of a wide variety of wildlife species and is used in aquariums and wildlife rehab centers throughout the world.

"Dr. Acevedo had met Dr. Scott at the Carolina Raptor Center while doing a rotation there while she was in veterinary school," said Pauline Hice, director of wildlife rehabilitation at Think Wild. "About two years ago, while she and I were getting the hospital protocols all ready, we were discussing what our goal was in the next coming years with potential procedures that we could do in the future but didn't have the ability to do right now. Luckily, Laura had this connection with this world-renowned avian surgeon and so we decided to go forward with having Dr. Scott come to Think Wild."

For those unfamiliar with [Think Wild](#), the organization is a wildlife hospital and conservation center located in Bend. Its mission is "to inspire the High Desert community to care for and protect native wildlife through education, conservation, rescue, and rehabilitation."

"We encounter a multitude of cases that affect raptors that may or may not require surgery. In the past, we have performed skin grafts, ocular eviscerations on owls (only), digit amputations and wound repairs caused by shootings, vehicle collisions, as well as barbed wire injuries, window strikes, interspecies disputes, incomplete predation attempts and more," said Acevedo.

To date, Think Wild staff has been able to do non-surgical interventions such as wing wraps to stabilize fractures. However, performing orthopedic surgery will increase the staff's ability to care for patients. "This will expand the number of patients that we can rehabilitate with more complex long bone fractures that would not otherwise do well with external coaptation alone," said Acevedo.

Think Wild developed a set of protocols, taking information from professional rehabilitators, veterinarians, textbooks and other resources, to determine a course of action. "Every time an animal comes in, we have the same process of evaluating them," said Hice. "We then figure out what their injuries are and then based on all the knowledge we've collected, that helps us make a clearer decision on how to move forward with treatment." That may even entail doing a blood transfusion from a donor bird to the patient (preferably from the same species but with limitations if the donor species is different than the recipient).

In 2023, Think Wild saw 621 patients including avian, mammalian and amphibian patients. Due to [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations and permitting, the hospital cannot accept certain animals such as waterfowl, or rabbits and hares due to rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus. Its Wildlife Hotline (541-241-8680) got over 2,500 calls last year and is monitored for text or calls seven days a week. "We did some analysis of our hotline statistics and about 50% of the calls we were either able to solve over the phone or educate the caller on how to prevent things for the future," said Hice.

Utilizing the training with Scott, the Think Wild staff looks forward to being able to help more injured wildlife, especially those that may qualify for orthopedic surgery. Volunteers can help with the many arms of the organization, from educational programs to working in the rehab hospital or by contributing to the lengthy wish list of supplies needed for the treatment and care of injured wildlife.



Photos of Dr. Laura Acevedo and Dr. David Scott by Sue Dougherty, Offleash Photography

Oregon parks, Siuslaw Forest ask coast visitors to respect nesting areas to protect threatened Western Snowy Plovers*

By KTVZ news sources

MANZANITA, Ore. (KTVZ) -- The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and Siuslaw National Forest remind visitors that it is plover nesting season on the Oregon coast from March 15 to Sept. 15 — visitors can help recovery efforts for the threatened Western Snowy Plover by observing recreation restrictions in designated plover areas.

Sensitive plover nesting areas will be roped off or identified by signs with rules and limits, such as staying on the wet sand, to help protect the small shorebirds and their exposed nests during this crucial period. Recreation restrictions occur in designated plover management areas: stretches of beach along the coastline where plovers nest or might nest. These areas combined make up about 40 miles of Oregon's 362 miles of shoreline.

Seasonal recreation restrictions have helped protect these small birds that nest on open sand. Nests, and especially chicks, are well-camouflaged. During the nesting season, human disturbances can flush adult plovers away from their nests as they attempt to defend their young. Left alone too long, or too often, eggs or chicks can die from exposure, predators or people.



Reminders for recreation on designated plover beaches March 15-Sept. 15:

The following are not permitted: dogs (even on a leash), driving a vehicle, riding a bicycle, camping, burning wood, flying kites or operating drones. Foot and equestrian traffic is permitted below the high-tide line on wet, packed sand. Respect signs and barriers to protect nesting habitat.

“We’re making great strides in reversing the decline of this species,” said Cindy Burns, Siuslaw National Forest wildlife biologist. “But it takes all of us, so we urge people to do their part to understand nesting season rules and to share the beach this spring and summer.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed Western Snowy Plovers as a threatened species in 1993, when officials counted only 45 breeding adults. The numbers of breeding adults have steadily increased since then due to ongoing efforts. Officials counted 433 during the breeding season survey in 2023.

The increase in plover numbers may result in nesting occurring in new or historical nesting sites. For example, visitors to Sand Lake Recreation Area may see small roped off areas near the lake’s inlet to protect active nests, and may encounter plovers on the beach. Beachgoers are encouraged to protect these birds by restricting recreation activities to wet sand areas, avoiding roped off nesting areas, packing all trash out and keeping dogs on leash.

“We appreciate visitors’ support in keeping these shorebirds safe in the combined 40 miles of protected area along the coast. We invite visitors to enjoy permitted recreation in those areas or to recreate without seasonal restrictions on the hundreds of miles of beaches not designated as plover nesting areas,” said Laurel Hillmann, ocean shore specialist for Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Several land managers oversee beach activity for plover protection, primarily the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

Habitat loss from invasive plants — as well as human disturbances, including litter and discarded food scraps that attract predators — have contributed to the birds’ decline. The Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative, saveoregondunes.org, is working with land managers on a restoration strategy and to raise public awareness about the need to restore the dunes ecosystem for western snowy plovers, rare plants and animals and the unique recreation opportunities offered here.

More information on the Western Snowy Plover, including detailed maps of nesting sites, can be found on the Oregon State Parks website (oregon.gov/plovers) and on the Siuslaw National Forest website (<https://t.ly/AKPAN>). Visitors to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area can review Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) maps at its website to identify unrestricted recreation areas and information on riding motor vehicles on the sand.

***Editor’s Note:** The Western Snowy Plover is one of two Snowy Plover subspecies recognized in North America. The Pacific coast population, *C. alexandrinus nivosus*, is defined as the population that exists from the coast to 80 km (50 mi) inland. These birds nest on the mainland coast, peninsulas, offshore islands, and in bays, estuaries, or river outlets in Washington, Oregon, California, and Baja California, Mexico. The population is distinct from the one that breeds in the US western interior and it is listed as threatened under the US Endangered Species Act. The west coast population uses 20 Pacific coast breeding sites with the largest in south San Francisco Bay where there are about 500 breeding pairs. Source: Aquarium of the Pacific. [https://www.aquariumofpacific.org/onlinelearningcenter/species/western_snowy_plover#:~:text=Charadrius%20alexandrinus%20nivosus,km%20\(50%20mi\)%20inland.](https://www.aquariumofpacific.org/onlinelearningcenter/species/western_snowy_plover#:~:text=Charadrius%20alexandrinus%20nivosus,km%20(50%20mi)%20inland.)

Honk! Everything you could ever want to know about Bend's resident geese

By MORGAN OWEN *The Bend Bulletin*, Feb 7, 2024

On a recent Wednesday, a flock of Canada geese temporarily blocked traffic on SW Bond Street. Several cars stopped going in either direction as the geese lazily meandered across the street, seemingly oblivious to the fowl disturbance.

It was just another reminder of the occasionally tense coexistence between Bend and its large feathered residents. From hissing to building nests on roofs and littering parks with quantities of poop beyond imagination, humans and geese in Central Oregon haven't been the most cordial neighbors.

"This isn't new," said Zara Hickman, natural resources and trails manager for Bend Park & Recreation District. "It's just an ongoing part of living in Bend."

Hickman would know better than anyone the extent to which these feathered creatures permeate the city because the parks district's crusade against geese has gone back decades. Over the years, population control strategies have ranged from hand-feeding geese birth control to driving them away with lasers.

In the late 2000s, the park district decided to address the growing issue of goose overpopulation by creating the Canada Goose Management Plan, last updated in 2009.

An important component of coexisting peacefully with geese is public education, which is why *The Bulletin* sought out Hickman and other experts to answer a few pressing questions about these large waterfowl.

It's winter. Why are geese still here?

Contrary to what we learn as children, not all geese fly south for the winter. A goose can fall into two migratory patterns. The first pattern is what people typically think of — geese from farther north migrate south to warmer climates.

But goslings born in more temperate climates, such as Deschutes County, often become what experts call resident geese.

"Bend has a semi-mild climate — if you will — compared to the Yukon or other places in Canada. We have running water in the river throughout the year, so if it doesn't freeze over, certain populations just become resident, and they don't migrate like the other ones," said Hickman.

Brandon Reishus, migratory game bird coordinator with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, emphasized this is a typical component of goose behavior.

"As we've developed our cities, parks and golf courses, we've provided a veritable goose buffet, as geese prefer short green grass for forage," Reishus said. "These non-migratory flocks have simply expanded in number as we've expanded suitable habitats for them."

Migratory geese can be seen in Deschutes County from very late August through late April and early May. Canada geese fly through the county from late October through March, said Reishus.

Whose job is it to manage the geese?

In Bend, goose management falls upon the Bend Park & Recreation District. But in practice, goose management is a collaborative effort between the park district, ODFW and the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Canada geese, the most common type of goose in Bend, are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The park district must contact the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife for permission to perform mitigation techniques such as gosling relocation.

If geese become a nuisance on private property, landowners must register for federal authorization to remove nests from their properties or remove nuisance geese.

Why are geese such a problem?

Geese have a reputation for being aggressive — and for good reason. These birds are highly territorial and can become defensive towards humans when provoked or defending their young.

“If you’ve run or spent any time in Bend parks, you may have been hissed at once or twice,” Hickman said.

Hickman said resident geese also cause serious degradation to parks. While the park district does not specifically clean up after the geese, goose poop pollutes the water, and the birds trample the ground, making it impossible for the park district to maintain grass or other vegetation.

“It’s just not good for our health, and it’s also not good for the environment. So when you have a concentration of geese, that impact compounds itself. Not only are we interacting with them all the time, but we’re also seeing that impact on our environment and the lands we care for,” Hickman said.

How is the population kept under control?

The park district’s approach to goose mitigation hasn’t always been popular, but it is creative.

In 2010, the district infamously rounded up 109 Canada geese from Drake Park into trash cans and gassed them with carbon dioxide. The district then donated the bodies to local food banks. The decision sparked outrage and a candlelight vigil to honor the fallen.

“That happened,” Hickman acknowledged. “But it’s not been part of our tools (since).”

One effective way the district found to harass the geese is employing a volunteer force of certified dogs to annoy the geese into moving on.

Another goose mitigation tactic employed by the park district is oiling goose eggs, which prevents the embryos from developing and the goose parents from laying any more eggs. Typically, geese mate for life, but instances “of what we might call ‘divorce’ have been documented,” Reishus said. If their original mates die, geese are also inclined to get “remarried.” The same applies for eggs. If one egg dies, a goose is more than happy to lay another.

For the goslings that do hatch, the district strives to relocate them out of the park district. Unfortunately, avian flu in goose populations has prevented gosling relocation for several years.

Defending yourself: the basics

Both Hickman and Reishus said the best defense is to avoid confrontation with geese in the first place.

“The most common situation where people may be attacked by a goose is when they are defending their nests and goslings ... Although generally not as serious as an attack by a large mammal, geese are large, powerful birds that can cause injury to humans,” Reishus said.

If a goose does attack, the best course of action is to retreat in the direction you came or away from any nests or goslings. Since geese are territorial, moving away from the area will typically end the attack.

Reishus said that if you are attacked by a goose, be sure to report it to ODFW. But when you do, make sure you’ve got the terminology right.

“The pet peeve of many a biologist or ornithologist is when Canada geese are referred to as Canadian geese. While I’m sure most people don’t see the issue, for us, it’s worse than fingernails scraping a chalkboard,” Reishus said lightheartedly.

Reporter: mowen@bendbulletin.com



Geese block traffic and graze in parks in Bend. Photos by Joe Kline for The Bend Bulletin

A goose responds—

An open letter to Dropping In from a local goose

By DAVID JASPER djasper@bendbulletin.com *The Bend Bulletin* Feb 1, 2024

Bend Bulletin Editor’s note: This week, Dropping In received a strange letter from a (purported) goose seemingly upset by recent Bulletin coverage about public safety and geese and humans not always getting along. It described Bend’s long “crusade against geese,” which includes harassment with lasers and, in 2010, the gassing of 109 of the large birds. As someone prone to gibberish himself, columnist David Jasper has attempted to transcribe the letter. Take a gander at goose logic, such as it were:

Honk honk, Dropping In: You people again.

I can't count, but it seems like every few seasons, human beaks start flapping in your neck of the backwoods when we show up on your frigging lawns and do what geese do: loiter around, eat our fill, poop it out, rinse, repeat.

What a buncha honking goslings! I thought you rugged individual Western types were all about bootstrap this and live and let live that. When did "Don't tread on me" turn into "Don't trample on my lawn"?

Permit me to come to your emotional fescue, I mean, rescue.

You need to wake up and smell the junipers. Need I remind you all that you live in the High Desert?

Y'all have greened things up so much, it's hard to be sure about the desert part, but you MUST be high: You plant all that delicious Kentucky bluegrass, which is like ringing a dinner bell to us, then piss and moan when we show up and demand seconds, thirds, fourths and fifths. It's what we do! You could have gone native, Xeroxscaped or whatever you call it, but no. You want it to look like March at Augusta National (the 13th hole is on my bucket list), but then you dare to complain because the grass we eat moves through our bowels like, well, s---t through a goose. Complaining about our presence is just plain rich, unlike your soil when left to its own devices.

And don't get me started on Mirror Pond — you're the ones who created a damned pond and a park out of a stretch of what used to be a wild river. Sure, yeah, the stakeholders, whatever the heck those are, don't want it, but trust me. When viewed from above — ha ha, we can fly and you can't, nanny nanny boo boo! — one can see that human hubris is no match for time and hydraulic forces, but what would I know? I'm just a bird!

Yet I do know a thing or two about grass. When it comes to the green stuff, we geese take what we see as ours. Just like humans do with, well, just about everything else on God's GREEN earth. Yeesh.

So you try to scare us off, as if dudes with dogs can hold their own against a mighty gaggle like mine. You've pointed lasers at us like we're George Costanza, and even fed us "birth control," aka chemical castration. Listen: I want my boys to swim, yet you try to control us like so many dumb-esticated dogs and cats. (Shout out to ferals. Respect, y'all.)

If you humans knew what was good for you — and based on your continued use of Roundup, I doubt it — you would back the flock off. Did you know our bites can bruise, and getting repeatedly hit by our flapping wings can even break limbs? (Yours.) I recently searched "Can geese ..." on your Gaggle — I mean, Google — and the first suggestion after "Can geese" was "kill you?"

I mean, granted, we can be scary, but we're just trying to keep our young safe and get some more delicious grass in our tummies. Other than my being grace on two webbed feet and your inability to fly, are we really so different, you and I?

It's tough to broker peace once human feathers get ruffled, but believe me and Alfred Hitchcock: You don't want to go to war with birds. Imagine my kind united with crows — talk about smart cookies! Blue Jays are obnoxious as all get out, which is saying something coming from a goose,

but you don't want to scrap with one or two of them. Now imagine those cranky cusses in a swarm.

One thing is for sure. We ain't gonna change. That's why "A wild goose never laid a tame egg" is a saying.

We implore you to stop your wild goose chases and chill out. I get that our poop is gross, but we don't have flush toilets, yet. Just consider it free fertilizer.

At the very least, the more moronic members of your species should heed Article 4.1 of Bend Park & Recreation District's rules and stop feeding bread to waterfowl when they're visiting Drake Park!

Peace,
Quentin Gandertino

P.S. Have fun with global warming, desert dwellers! When the feces hit the fan, me and the boys will just fly north, where the grass is greener. We are *Canada* Geese after all. Talk about a moveable feast! Honk honk!

ONLINE RESOURCES

COBOL: Central Oregon Birders Online <https://groups.io/g/COBOL>

Central Oregon Birders Online is a site to report interesting birds that you are observing in the Central Oregon region (typically Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties, but surrounding counties are welcome as well). Resident Central Oregon birders are also welcome to post their interesting birding adventures in other Oregon Counties when it relates to a sponsored event. This could be a Birding Blitz, raptor survey, ECAS trip and so on.

Two recent messages of interest on COBOL:

NWR [Birding Community E-Bulletin](#) info by Judy Meredith on COBOL Jan 7, 2024 #7232
'Forwarding this bulletin of interest to birders. See toward end for subscribing to it yourself. Thanks to Mass Audubon and Paul Baicich and Wayne Petersen for regularly sending this out to us. If you wish to subscribe: <https://bit.ly/35Xd3hO> And here is a link to read past bulletins. <https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin> "

Also reprinted from COBOL on Mar 4, 2024, message #7409, by Paul Adamus, Corvallis:
"As many have noticed, for the past year I've been posting a link each month to maps I've created that show, for that month, all locations (blue dots) in selected counties where birders have ever submitted a complete Stationary count to eBird. I intend to continue doing that as time allows, updating these monthly coverage maps each year. This year I'm adding a new feature. The maps now also contain red dots that, when you click on them, indicate the number of species reported from stationary counts at that location during that month last year, all reports combined. It shows that for all 36 Oregon counties. I enjoy creating these maps and I do it to

encourage more reports from "underbirded" but accessible areas each month, which ultimately improves the science of bird distributions.

Western Oregon, in part:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=13Q78kLK29-PL1HZmHslv66YdR18CeXw&usp=s_haring

Central and parts of Eastern Oregon:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1uCG9c_YSX590rauKGCT1_s4vyvmysuk&usp=s_haring “

Central Oregon Daily News

<https://centraloregondaily.com/winter-raptor-survey-central-oregon/> article and video featuring Chuck Gates, Jeff Fleischer, Cindy Zalunardo, and Allen Schauffler.

The group hopes to release new mapping with greater detail later this year. If you'd like to check out those maps and find out how you can volunteer with the survey, visit this link on the ECAS website: <https://www.ecaudubon.org/projects/winter-raptor-survey/>

Reno News and Review

The Mystery of the Pinyon Jay (mentions our April Birders' Night speaker Ned Bohman)

[The mystery of the pinyon jay: A bird species native to the West has declined dramatically—and we're still trying to figure out why](#)

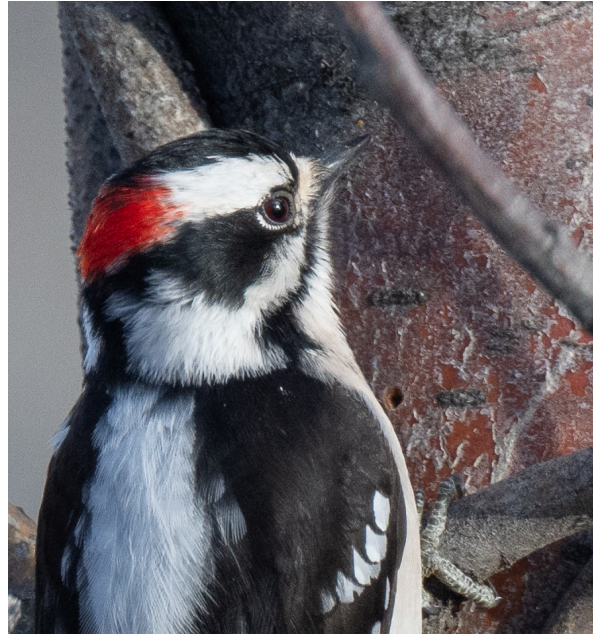
[BirdCast](#). BirdCast shows a graphic forecast of bird migration across the entire United States and provides a number of ways to learn more about bird migration. BirdCast is a consortium of interdisciplinary researchers, primarily from three organizations at present (Cornell Lab, Colorado State U. and UMass Amherst), with a growing list of collaborators, supporters, and partners. It is funded by NSF, USGS, NFWF, NASA, and others, and teams with organizations like Lights Out, museums, and zoos.

First Quarter 2024 Central Oregon Bird Photos

From the ECAS Facebook page by local photographers



Cooper's Hawk, Redmond, Ron Klein



Downy WP, Bend, David Sowards-Emmerd



Cedar Waxwing, Tumalo, Geri Wildenberg



Northern Shrike, Bend, David Williamson



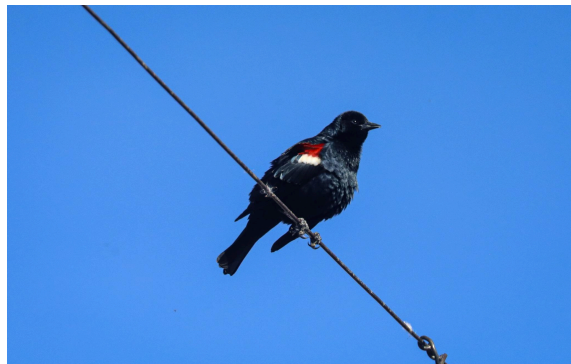
Spotted Towhee, Powell Butte, Lena Land



Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon), Sunriver, Jean Tuomi



Canada and Cackling Goose, Bend, David Willingham



Red-winged, Tri-colored, and Tri-colored Blackbirds, left to right, Prineville, Chuck Gates

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Birders' Night	Gordon, Duke, Wendy, Aaron
Field Trips	vacant
Volunteers	Mary Shivell

Spring 2024 Board Meetings

April 2
May 7
June 11 (second Tuesday)

Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month 6 - 8pm. Members are welcome to attend. For the Zoom code, email ecaudubon@gmail.com at least 2 days in advance.

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/>

Newsletters

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

