



## The CHATTER May 2024

### **Results on the vote for a name change for ECAS**

Voting on the name of our society has closed. The vote was open for two weeks to ensure that everyone who wanted to vote could do so. One hundred and seventy-eight members (50% of the total membership) registered a vote in that time. Of those voting 145 (81%) were in favor of changing the name to East Cascades Bird Alliance with 33 (19%) voting to maintain the name of East Cascades Audubon Society. With this clear mandate in favor of change the Board will now begin the process of conversion to East Cascades Bird Alliance (ECBA).

Thank you for participating in this decision  
Brian MacDonald on behalf of the Board

### **Birders' Night**

**May Birders' Night Restoring Habitat for Wildlife on Deschutes Land Trust Preserves May 16 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

Join us for Birders' Night with a presentation on the restoration of wildlife habits on Deschutes Land Trust Preserves.

Jen Zalewski is the Stewardship Manager for the Deschutes Land Trust. Jen develops preserve management strategies, implements upland restoration projects, documents ecological conditions on protected properties and enjoys connecting with volunteers and the Central Oregon community to care for habitat that supports wildlife and people.

If you cannot attend in person, [join on zoom](#).

### **Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival**

We are excited about the upcoming Woodpecker Festival. For those of you that have not been thinking about the festival, it's set to occur from Thursday May 30th to Sunday June 2nd. For the most part, the field trips are fully booked (sorry). There is still space for the keynote dinner and photography workshops with Paul Bannick. You

can register for the keynote dinner and workshops on [Eventbrite](#). We are lucky to have a birding festival right in our backyard and the festival dinner is a great way to get together with Central Oregon birders and to meet some visiting birders from further afield. We hope to see you at the dinner or one of the workshops!

Also, Hannah and Erik from the *Hannah and Erik Go Birding* podcast will be helping people with digiscoping from 1:00 to 5:00pm at the Belfry as well as having a display of Kowa binoculars and spotting scopes on-site for people to get their hands on some great Kowa products. If you are in the market for new optics and want to try out some Kowa binos or scopes, this is a great opportunity to do just that. They will have a sales portal on site to drop ship products for anyone interested in buying but note that they will not have a full inventory for purchase at the festival.

### **Pinyon Jays by Wendy Andrick**

April Birders' Night was held Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> this month. A full house enjoyed a presentation on Pinyon Jays by Ned Bohman from the Great Basin Bird Observatory. Kevin Smith gave some introductory remarks detailing his and Ken Hashagen's work on Pinyon Jays. We were educated on the timely importance of this research as the population has decreased by 80% since the 1970's. Efforts are in motion to have the Pinyon Jay added to the endangered list. This will take time and data.

The following morning, the group gathered at the Deschutes library in downtown Bend for a Citizen Science Training Opportunity. Ned provided more information on how to use the application to collect data and off to the field we went. We opted to explore the Sisters Pinyon Jay population and were fortunate to have good sightings and a successful field trip. I believe we observed 46 Pinyon Jays.

Since the field trip I have had 5 successful outings observing the population around Cline Butte. The combination of the Birders' Night Presentation, App tutorial and field trip proved to be an excellent learning experience for myself and the others.



Photo by Wendy Andrick

If you would like to learn more information on how to be a part of this Citizen Science Opportunity, please contact ECAS. We can support you in learning how to use the App and record data for this Greater Northwest Basin Project in supporting the Pinyon Jay populations.

### **Volunteer Opportunity – Summer Lake Shorebird Survey**

Where: Summer Lake Wildlife Area

What: Volunteers conduct counts of all shorebirds and other waterbirds (excluding waterfowl and American coot) across the entire Summer Lake Wildlife Area.

When: ***Saturday & Sunday, May 18 and 19, 2024***

Why: The survey was established in 2009 to monitor breeding shorebird and other waterbird populations and to document bird responses to habitat enhancement and management actions in each of Summer Lake Wildlife Area's habitat management units. The Summer Lake Shorebird Survey has been conducted annually (except in 2020) since 2009.

On average, over 3,200 shorebirds representing the 9 breeding species have been counted. In addition, about 5 non-breeding shorebird species have been found each year.

Since 2009, a total of 22 different shorebird species have been recorded including uncommon or rare species such as red knot, wandering tattler and whimbrel.

Other waterbirds such as waders, gulls & terns, grebes, pelicans & cormorants, sandhill cranes and rails are also counted and average over 1,300 individuals and over 20 species.

How: Volunteers count from vehicles along roads, and/or by foot hiking along dikes and levees, cross country and/or wading through marsh and shallow ponds to survey all types of wetland habitats. In the past, bicycles, canoes and kayaks have been used in some areas. Binoculars are essential and the use of spotting scopes in many areas is encouraged.

Volunteers meet at River Campground on Summer Lake Wildlife Area at 7:30 am and are assigned specific areas to survey. Historically, some volunteers have camped one of the Wildlife Area's four primitive sites. Others have chosen commercial lodging at the Lodge at Summer Lake. In the past, the group has found about 120 species of birds throughout the weekend of birding.

***Please contact Marty St. Louis for additional details and information.***

***PO Box 68, Summer Lake, OR 97640***

***Cell phone: (541)-219-0879 or email: [stlouismartin541@gmail.com](mailto:stlouismartin541@gmail.com)***

### **Bluebird Boxes Volunteer Opportunity**

For more than a decade, ECAS volunteers have been monitoring about 30 nest boxes on a bluebird trail between Tumalo and Sisters. This project provides a great opportunity for conservation and bird education. Bluebirds are not only jewels of the landscape but they play an important role in our ecosystem. In recent times, there are far fewer snags in and adjacent to the forest, the traditional location of bluebird nest cavities. This means that

nest boxes have become important for both the Mountain Bluebird and the Western Bluebird.

Because all data is submitted to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and USGS Bird Banding Laboratory, this project involves simple but regular weekly monitoring throughout the nesting season. And aside from everything else, the area where the nest boxes are located is, to say the very least, scenic and peaceful. The project generally runs between April through the end of July. If you are interested contact ECAS at [Bluebirds](#)



WEBL Photographer Harry Johnson

## **Birding By Ear Continues**

Please visit the ECAS Calendar for details at this [link](#)

## **Crooked River Wetlands Walks**

Wetlands Walks resumed on March 1. Go to this [link](#) where you will find more details for the guided bird walks at the Wetlands.



GOOD BIRDING