

THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES BIRD ALLIANCE
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025



President's Message

By Wendy Andrick

Dear East Cascades Bird Alliance Community,

I am deeply honored to address you as the new President of the East Cascades Bird Alliance. As I step into this role, I am filled with hope for our cherished avian friends and immense gratitude for the opportunity to be a part of such an incredible and passionate community. Our dedication to the well-being of the birds that grace the East Cascades region has always been the cornerstone of our mission. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones, from successful conservation projects to engaging educational programs that have inspired countless individuals to appreciate and protect our feathered companions. I am excited to build on this legacy and continue our vital work. In the coming months, we have an array of exciting initiatives and events planned that will further our commitment to bird conservation and education. From community-driven habitat restoration projects to interactive workshops and bird watching excursions, there will be numerous opportunities for all of us to get involved and make a difference. Your support, whether through volunteering, participating in events, or simply spreading the word, is invaluable and greatly appreciated. Let us continue to work together, united by our shared love for birds and the natural world. I look forward to embarking on this journey with you, and I am confident that, together, we can achieve even greater heights for the East Cascades Bird Alliance. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and enthusiasm. Here's to a bright future for our birds and our community.

Warm regards,
Wendy Andrick, President
East Cascades Bird Alliance

In Memoriam - Lew Rems

by Tom Crabtree

Many thanks to Judy Meredith, Chuck Gates & Mark Gonzalez for contributing to this article.



Central Oregon birder Lew Rems died on January 1, 2025, at the age of 79 after living with dementia for the last decade of his life. He was born on October 27, 1945, in Abington, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Penn State University, earning a degree in Forestry. His career took him to the New York State Museum, where his job required him to collect birds and prepare the skins for the institution's bird collection. After a few years, he quit because he couldn't bear killing more birds. So, in 1975 Lew moved to Central Oregon, drawn to the area's outdoor opportunities.

He worked at Lake Creek Lodge for many years. He put up bird feeders and bird houses, mostly that he had built himself. If you ever saw birds there, it's likely because of Lew's actions. Ownership has changed and bird feeding is minimal now but for years it was a popular place for birders to stay and find central Oregon specialties right there on the property. A half dozen of my first Jefferson County sightings were at Lake Creek Lodge thanks to Lew.

Lew was an excellent birder and a good friend for many years. Birders universally called him quiet, humble, respectful and a keen observer. While he preferred birding on his own, he always shared his sightings. He would visit Hatfield Lake at sunrise and then call me at my office to report his finds. On several occasions he would find something outstanding and I would dash out there in my coat and tie to join him in sharing a good bird. Because of him I began storing binoculars under the driver's seat of my car so I didn't have to drive home first, retrieve my bins and then reverse direction and head out to Hatfield.

The last time I got to bird with him was at Tumalo Reservoir in April 2023 when we got to enjoy a Long-billed Curlew found earlier that day. That was only the second one I had seen in the county; appropriately the other one was with Lew at Hatfield Lake 40 years earlier.

Lew is survived by his wife of 47 years, Carol Hughes, a son, daughter and grandson.

REMEMBRANCES

Lew was a talented birder and a great person. He was a bit reclusive but, if you ever had a chance to spend some time with him, you would find him to be surprisingly talkative, friendly, and profoundly interesting. Lew's pioneering efforts to catalog Central Oregon's birds place him

in the rarified company of Tom Crabtree, Craig Miller, and Peter Low. He is credited (many times with other birders) with 30 first county records from Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, Sherman and Wheeler counties. Thoughtful, quiet, and committed to the birds. That's what Lew was. He was just a great guy and we old-timers will miss him greatly. – **Chuck Gates**

I was fairly new to central Oregon birding when I first met Lew, at Hatfield, one of his frequent haunts. And it was Peter Low who made that initial introduction. What a dynamic duo. When they got on a rare bird, it was quite an education to witness their thought process, inspection of field marks, and recall of an obscure chip note -- all from memory. No Sibley, no Merlin required. Around Thanksgiving of 2013, my father was visiting me. He wanted to walk off some pecan pie, so we headed to Hatfield. There I ran into Lew and a blizzard of Cedar Waxwings (my eBird list said 250, but that's just my typical undercount, it was a mind-boggling number). And perched in a juniper almost motionless in the waxwing blizzard were 2 Bohemian Waxwing, the first I'd seen in my short time in Oregon. That was a sighting and chance encounter with Lew I'll always remember. Again, I checked and my eBird list recorded 3 observers -- my dad, Lew, and me. Others have already commented on his decency and pleasant disposition. It came quite naturally to him. There are many nice people, but very few in Lew's league.

– **Mark Gonzalez**

As a relatively new birder I often felt guided and led under "the wing" of Lew, so to speak, during our birding times together. I felt honored when he would call and invite me to bird with him. He always showed respect for the birds and patience with me while learning. I remember being with him when he found the Stilt Sandpiper in Crook County, and when he called me to join him in seeing the Godwit on irrigation district land. He very much respected the space birds need as he would ever so quietly creep up to take a photo. Lew was a very quiet and humble individual who respected all of our natural world. I shall miss his enjoyable talks we shared.

– **Diane Kook**

Lew was a quiet and respectful person with a friendly disposition and a passion for birds. His long list of great finds for Central Oregon demonstrates his exceptional ability, observational skills and meticulous note-taking. Most weekends would find us at the Hatfield Ponds or that magical place, Wickiup Reservoir. One such time we found the first Little Stint for Central Oregon; it was a beautiful Fall day with lots of shorebirds, we were in our element. Another occasion, on a very windy day at the Dam we had a juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger on the shore, not 25 ft. away, feeding on a Catfish. I know Lew got some great pictures. He loved those times, and I'm just glad I got to share the joy with my friend Lew. I was very fortunate to have Lew as a friend, we birded together on many occasions during his later years and I visited him and his wife Carol regularly thereafter.

– **Peter Low**

Lew usually birded alone but he shared his finds, always letting others know asap when he found a bird which he suspected others would like to see. An exceptionally kind, respectful and thoughtful man, Lew was quiet but friendly to each of us.

– **Judy Meredith**

Days Lew and I spent together birding were always productive and full of good conversation. He had keen vision, birding in those days without a scope—just binoculars. Oregon's third accepted record of a Black-headed Gull was one of his most impressive finds. He was a collector of drawings by artists who drew the plates for a popular field guide, one of which he gave as a wedding present to Marilyn and me which still hangs on our bedroom wall. The Central Oregon birding community is richly blessed for having had him in our midst.

– **Craig Miller**

Involved ECBA Volunteers

On February 27, 2025, a group of ECBA volunteers supported Sisters High School with a biology class about birds at Pine Meadow Ranch.



Left to right back row: Ken H., Alec M., Sevilla R., Ander R., Aaron J.
Left to right front row: Wendy A., Lexi, Patty M. Photo submitted by Wendy Andrick.



Stephanie Swift, measuring raptor (and student!) wing spans, volunteering with Wendy Andrick at LaPine STEM night March 6th 2025.

There are a variety of ways and time-commitments for getting involved and volunteering with ECBA. We need you!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ECBA

We are looking for someone with some **treasury skills** and an interest in joining the Board. Please let us know if you or someone you know has the interest and skills we need to fill this spot this year. Also needed is a **Membership Chairperson**.

<https://ecbirds.org/category/volunteer-opportunities/>

Get Involved

Are you passionate about birds? About birding? About conservation? About *anything* the East Cascade Bird Alliance does? We want to hear from you. East Cascades Bird Alliance is all volunteer run and led. We want to know what you want to hear about, know about, and do in these areas. We need volunteers to help keep this organization running. If you have a little bit of time, whether it's consistent and predictable or sporadic, consider sharing your gifts with your fellow ECBA members in some way. [Contact us](#) and let's talk about your ideas.

Tweet and Greet: Behold the Birds of Black Butte Ranch The Black Butte Conservancy, ECBA, and the Natural Resource Committee will be celebrating Earth Day **Tuesday, April 22 from 1:30-3:30** at Black Butte Ranch (near Sisters.) Presenters include Wendy Andrick, President of the ECBA and Sevilla Rhoads who tweets about birds through the Sunriver Nature Center and Observatory and leads bird events around Central Oregon. Kirsten Sansome of BBR will also discuss an exciting opportunity to be part of a longstanding bird project here on the Ranch. **We are looking for more local birders to lead small groups for this event** so please contact sternbergjim@gmail.com if you are interested or have any questions.

Summer Lake Shorebird Survey, Saturday & Sunday, May 31 and June 1, 2025, **Volunteers conduct counts of all shorebirds and other waterbirds** (excluding waterfowl and American Coots) across the entire Summer Lake Wildlife Area. 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 3,100 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. In the past, the group found about 120 species of birds throughout the weekend of counting and birding. Volunteers count from vehicles along roads, and/or by foot hiking along dikes and levees, crosscountry and/or wading through marsh and shallow ponds to survey all types of wetland habitat. 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 at one of the Wildlife Area's four primitive sites. Others have chosen commercial lodging at the Lodge at Summer Lake. 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

Cabin Lake Bird Blinds

Formerly a Forest Service Guard Station that housed permanent staff prior to the expansion of Forest Service road networks, Cabin Lake is now a tranquil place that is home to the birds and mammals of Central Oregon. Cabin Lake sits on the boundary between eastern Cascade pine forests and high desert and attracts birds from both habitats. These residents (and migrants) come for the water provided by an old but still effective guzzler system. The components to a guzzler include a corrugated roofing platform that collects and delivers precipitation to a storage tank, plus a delivery basin for the wildlife. These artificial water sources are a relic of the fifties, meant to provide water for wildlife that relied on sources that no longer exist. There are thousands of them scattered throughout central and eastern Oregon.

The addition of bird blinds and the efforts of many volunteers over the years have made Cabin Lake an important outpost for the birding community of Central Oregon and beyond. A quick review of eBird informs us that 561 birders have submitted 1,313 checklists and have identified 148 different species. ECBA continues to support and fund the work that is required to keep the blinds and the guzzler system in good working order. Currently that work is done by Clayton Crofton who has managed to restore the guzzler to good working order – no small thing, for which he deserves the Board's appreciation and all of our thanks for his efforts in preserving a small but important birding outpost for Central Oregon.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cabin_Lake_Guard_Station is a nice resource for location and more information about Cabin Lake for bird watchers and photographers.

Welcome Newest ECBA Members!

Lisa Alger	Bend, OR
Deborah Bourke	Bend, OR
Carolyn/Matt Carr/Roe	Bend, OR
Kathy Gallo	Bend, OR
Lori Hill	Bend, OR
Donald Ives	Bend, OR
Erin Keillor	Bend, OR
Allen Lucas	Redmond, OR
David Luth	Bend, OR
Alexander McDonell	Bend, OR
Ruth Morton	Gladstone, OR
Cris Ricker	Bend, OR
Lisa Scarola	Eugene, OR
Laurie Stanley	Bend, OR

USEFUL LINKS ON A VARIETY OF INTERESTING BIRD TOPICS



2024 Oregon Listing Results on OBA website
compiled by Paul Sullivan

The **2024 Oregon Listing Results** are up on the OBA website!
<https://oregonbirding.org/listing/>

Paul compiled the input of 145 current birders, 211 others who previously posted significant numbers, and 45 deceased friends into 133 categories. Categories range from state, to county, to local lists – some life, some just the year 2024. More people are participating in categories like birds photographed or audio recorded. New record numbers have been reached in many categories. Two birders jumped into the top ten year list group. Two other birders jumped into the 100- and 125-birds-in-every-county categories. As usual, the webpage begins with a summary of the highlights, followed by the raw data. Take a look. Thank you to everyone who contributed. And, thank you Paul - this is a huge undertaking which we all appreciate. Thanks for compiling and sharing!



**THINK
WILD**

Think Wild offers guidance as **Avian Influenza (bird flu)** affects Oregon birds, people, and pets.

https://www.thinkwildco.org/january_2025_avian_influenza_update/



A recent NPR story about “**More Kids Are Taking Up Bird Watching**”
<https://one.npr.org/i/nx-s1-5292406:nx-s1-5358051-1>



Local Birds Responding to Climate Change

If you are curious about the ways in which our local birds are or will be responding to climate change, here is a link to my article on the subject in the March 19, 2025, *Source Weekly*.

<https://www.bendsource.com/outside/climates-toll-birds-on-the-brink-22860524>

–Elise Wolf, Native Bird Care, Sisters, OR, 541-728-8208, <https://www.nativebirdcare.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTE: A waiver must be signed once a calendar year before participating in ECBA events. This can be done easily online at <https://ecbirds.org/waivers/> **THANK YOU!**

East Cascade Birding Alliance Activities

Birding by Ear at Sawyer Park, Bend, with Dave Tracy 8-9:30am Tuesdays through early June

Wednesday Birders 8am, various local places for part or all day. Check COBOL the day before

Birders' Nights Second Thursday of the month, 7 - 9pm at Worthy Brewing, 495 NE Bellevue Drive, Bend

April 10 - Spring ID Challenges - Join a roundtable of Tom Crabtree, Mark Gonzalez, and Craig Miller to brush up on challenging Spring bird ID.

May 8 - Oregon Desert Land Trust's Kharli Rose speaks about bird restoration efforts from artificial owl burrows to wetland bird surveys, from Brothers to Owyhee Canyonlands, May-July

June 12 - TBA

NEW ECBA Weekend Field Trips *By Aaron Jenkins*

Come out and meet new birds and birders! Starting this April, ECBA will hold one to two new weekend field trips per month. They will be on the second and/or fourth weekend of each month, so as not to conflict with the Crooked River Wetlands walks taking place on the first and third Saturdays. The new weekend field trips will complement Birding by Ear on Tuesdays and Wednesday Birders by providing another weekend option for those who may not be able to get out during the week. To encourage novice and out-of-practice birders, many of the weekend trips will be apt for beginners. The first trip will explore the Riverbend Park/Old Mill area on **Saturday April 12.**

Dean Hale Field Trip Weekend (June 6-8)

Save the weekend! Dean Hale Field Trip weekend will take place on the first full weekend in June (6/6-6/8). The trip schedule is still in development, but many of your favorite trips will be back, e.g. Summer Lake, Calliope Crossing, Trout Creek Swamp. All trips will be gratis and will be focused on ECBA members. Stay tuned...more details to come.

SAVE THE DATE! ECBA Annual Event - November 9, Sunday

For the most up-to-date ECBA information, check our **website**
<https://ecbirds.org/calendar/month/2025-04/>

***HOT TIP!* For Your Calendar of Events**

You can add the ECBA calendar to your personal calendar to see the most up to date events right next to your own events. To do this, [visit the ECBA calendar](#), then scroll to the bottom of the page. Click Subscribe to calendar at the bottom right, and choose your calendar type (Google, iCalendar, Outlook 365, Outlook Live). Depending on your calendar default settings, you should get a pop-up message confirming this request. Click Add or Yes or Accept or whatever the affirmative answer is for your system and that's it! All done. You can now see ECBA events on your calendar.

Calling All Artists! The East Cascades Bird Alliance is excited to announce our latest art contest, open to artists of all ages and skill levels! We are seeking your creative vision to design captivating merchandise that celebrates the vibrant and diverse avian life of the East Cascades. Whether you're inspired by the majestic flight of a Golden Eagle or the delicate beauty of a Mountain Bluebird, we invite you to share your artistic interpretation with us. Your design could be featured on T-shirts, mugs, and more, helping to support our mission of conservation and education. So grab your brushes, pencils, or digital tools, and let your imagination take flight! **Kindly no photography.** Submit your designs by **May 1st 2025** to **ecba@ecbirds.org**, submission size 12x16, and be part of this incredible journey to protect and celebrate our winged wonders. Good luck, and we can't wait to see your amazing artwork!

Crooked River Wetlands Saturday Bird Walks - April 5,19; May 3, 17; June 7, 21, and the following first and third Saturdays of each month running through September. 7:45am-10am. Meet at the CRWC Pavilion parking lot - 4035 NW Rimrock Acres Loop, Prineville at 7:45AM. Walks will begin at 8:00AM and conclude at 10:00AM, about 2 miles. Bring your own water. A 4-person golf cart is available to carry those who can't walk the distance. Email Chuck Gates (cgates326@gmail.com) if you would like a seat(s) on the cart. Sponsored by Prineville Bird Club and Crooked River Volunteers. For more information, email Chuck Gates or visit the Crooked River Wetlands website: <https://www.cityofprineville.com/wetlands>

EARTH DAY Tweet and Greet: Behold the Birds of Black Butte Ranch The Black Butte Conservancy and the Natural Resource Committee invite you to celebrate Earth Day 2025 with bird enthusiasts from the East Cascades Bird Alliance (ECBA) on **Tuesday, April 22 from 1:30-3:30** at the BBR Community Room in the administration building. The event will include a presentation about some of the birds found here on the Ranch and birdwatching in small groups with experienced birders afterwards. Presenters include Wendy Andrick, President of the ECBA and Sevilla Rhoads who tweets about birds through the Sunriver Nature Center and Observatory and leads bird events around Central Oregon. Kirsten Sansome of BBR will also discuss an exciting opportunity to be part of a longstanding bird project here on the Ranch. Come celebrate the 54th anniversary of Earth Day with your human and avian friends and neighbors. We are also looking for more local birders to lead small groups for this event so please contact sternbergjim@gmail.com if you are interested or have any questions.



EAST CASCADES BIRD ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 565, Bend, Oregon 97709

Website <https://ecbirds.org/>

Email ecba@ecbirds.org

Phone: 541-241-2190 (leave message)

ECBA Board

Wendy Andrick
Laurel Collins
Margi Finch
Aaron Jenkins
Miriam Lipsitz
Brian MacDonald
Gordon Wetzel

Spring 2025 Board Meetings

April 1
May 6
June 3

East Cascades Bird Alliance Board of Directors meets monthly, on the first Tuesday, from 4pm to 6pm. Board meetings are held in person or with an option of attending virtually, via Zoom. If you are interested in attending, please email ecba@ecbirds.org at least two days in advance for a meeting location or a Zoom invitation.

Board meeting minutes are posted at [Board Meeting Minutes - East Cascades Bird Alliance](#)

The East Cascades Bird Alliance (ECBA) is a 501(c)(3) organization which furthers knowledge and appreciation of birds and their habitats through field trips, education, and field studies.

Join ECBA and help preserve the birds of central Oregon at <https://ecbirds.org/become-a-member/>

To contact the membership committee with any questions related to membership issues, email membership@ecbirds.org

Board Officers

President	Wendy Andrick
Vice-President	Brian MacDonald
Treasurer	Gordon Wetzel
Secretary	Aaron Jenkins

Committee Chairs

Executive	Wendy Andrick
Finance	Gordon Wetzel
Grants	Brian MacDonald
Membership	vacant
Education	Wendy Andrick
Conservation Science	Laurel Collins

Program Leaders

Birders' Night	Aaron, Duke Tufty
Field Trips	Aaron Jenkins
Volunteers	Mary Shivel

Newsletters

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