

THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES BIRD ALLIANCE
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As autumn settles in with crisp mornings and golden light, I want to extend a warm welcome to our new members and heartfelt thanks to those renewing your commitment to our shared mission. Together, we continue to foster appreciation for wild birds and their habitats—through education, conservation, and community connection. This fall has already brought some thrilling sightings: American Redstart, Palm Warbler, and other unexpected visitors have delighted birders across the region. We're also expanding accessible birding opportunities, with dedication from Sevilla Rhodes, including new outings at Sunriver and assisted living communities—ensuring that the joy of birds reaches everyone.

Mark your calendars for our **Annual Gathering, Sunday, November 9**, 4–6 PM, at Aspen Hall which is part of Shevlin Park, Bend. Join us for an afternoon of celebration and connection. We'll vote on Board members, enjoy coffee and snacks, hold a raffle, and hear from our youth scholarship recipient, Mason Jeffries, about his adventures in Arizona. It's also a chance to honor our volunteers and share ideas for the year ahead.

Upcoming Hawk Watch with David Vick

We're thrilled to return to Green Ridge for Hawk Watch with David Vick on Wednesday, October 1 and Saturday, October 4 at 12:00 PM. Bring a lawn chair and your binoculars—more details on the ECBA calendar.

A Note of Gratitude to Claire Weiser

For the past seven years, Claire has put together the *Calliope* quarterly newsletter—thoughtful, informative, and beautifully written, this issue will be her last as editor. Starting in January 2026, replacing the *Calliope*, the ECBA Board will issue biannual reports to members. We are deeply grateful to Claire for her years of dedicated volunteer service.

New Volunteer Opportunities – There are many exciting ways to get involved:

- School STEM nights are starting up
- Retirement home presentations are back
- Our pollinator garden has one more month of care
- New partnerships with Friends of Malheur are underway and much more!

If you'd like to lend your time or talents, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to us at ecbirds.org. Thank you for being part of this vibrant, bird-loving community. Here's to a season of discovery, connection, and conservation.

Warmly,
Wendy Andrick

Birders Restore Schoolhouse Lake Blind—Nature Joins the Applause

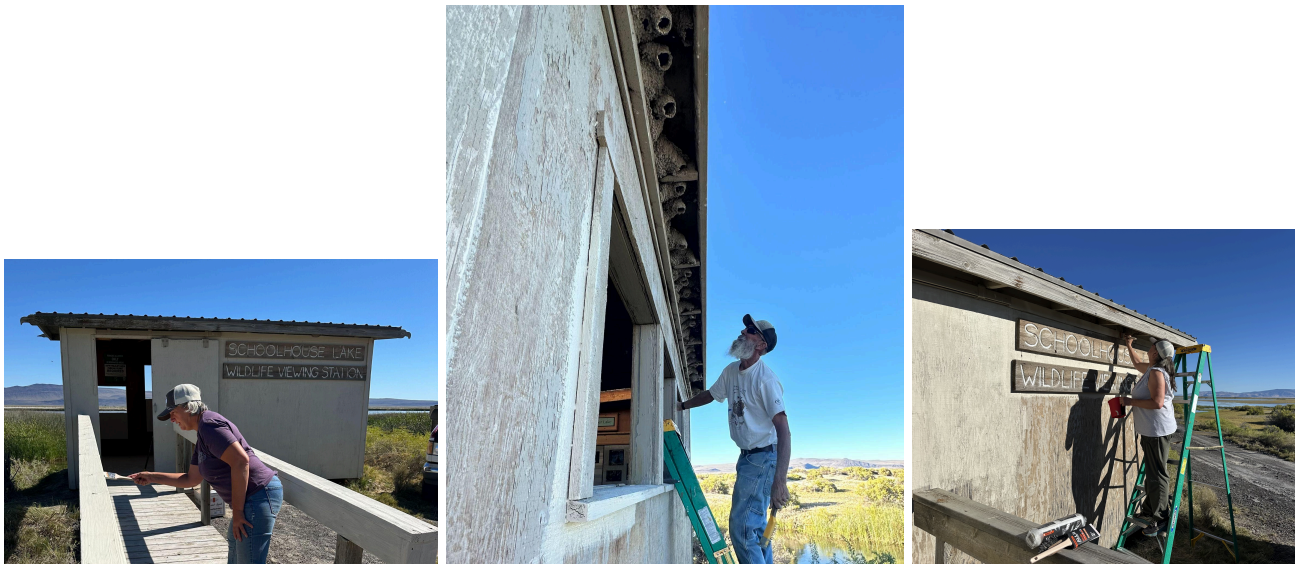
Stephanie Swift, Wendy Andrick, and Marty St. Louis rolled up their sleeves recently to restore the Schoolhouse Lake birding blind, giving it a fresh face and renewed purpose. The trio scraped and repainted the structure, cleared brush, removed wasp nests, and tackled the accessible ramp—scraping away lichen and applying a fresh stain to ensure safe passage for all visitors. And, Dan Ankrom and Bill LeDain were checking on bird boxes

As they worked, nature offered its own kind of encouragement. An American Bittern stalked the reeds just in front of the blind, while White-faced Ibis and American White Pelicans glided across the lake. Black-necked Stilts and Greater Yellowlegs filled the air with lively chatter, joined by Marsh Wrens, Red-winged Blackbirds, and a chorus of other wetland residents. It was a day of hard work—and unexpectedly rich birding.

Special thanks go to those who originally built the blind with accessibility in mind. Their foresight continues to make birding inclusive and rewarding.

With starry nights and cooler days settling in, much of Summer Lake—including the blind—remains open during hunting season and year round.

If you'd like to join the volunteer crew helping maintain this special site, send an email to ecbirds.org.



Wendy, Marty, and Stephanie work at restoring the Schoolhouse Lake blind - while birding!

An Update on Native Bird Care near Sisters

By Elise Wolf

What's the Future of Native Bird Care?

I write to you with a heavy yet hopeful heart. I'm Elise Wolf of Native Bird Care, here to share what the Flat Fire took from us, what it left standing, and what the future may hold for bird rehabilitation, habitat restoration, and our shared devotion to wild birds in Central Oregon.

What Was Lost

Our rescue center sits on a 40-acre Wildlife Conservation Property designated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. It is more than structures—it is a wildlife corridor, a refuge of micro-ecosystems, a place where birds, mammals, and countless small creatures have thrived.

The Flat Fire swept through with terrifying force, consuming ancient juniper, ponderosa pine, grassland meadows, and native shrublands that had provided shelter and food for generations of birds and wildlife.

In terms of facilities, the destruction is stark. Outbuildings, aviaries, outdoor enclosures, waterfowl pools, and shelters are gone. Smoke heavily damaged our indoor care center. Miraculously, the main house and one large aviary survived, though both carry the scars of smoke and ash.

The Conservation Land: Scars and Shifts

The fire burned far more than structures—it transformed the land itself. Trees that stood for 500–1,000 years, rich with nesting cavities for owls, woodpeckers, and chickadees, are now charred. Towering ponderosa pines that once shaded our meadows and protected nests are gone. Native shrubs, flowers, and grasses that supported pollinators and songbirds have been reduced to ash.

Even where trees remain, many are stressed by scorched bark and damaged roots. Research shows that some will die months or years from now, meaning habitat loss will continue long after the flames are gone.

The fire also threatened nearby preserves—Aspen Hollow, Whychus Canyon, Rimrock Ranch—and crossed through Chickadee Ridge, our own conservation property and a vital elk and deer migration corridor. Our experimental fire treatments reduced intensity in some areas, showing promise that habitat conservation and wildfire management can co-exist. Still, the land now bears deep wounds.

It is heartbreaking to witness this destruction. Just days before the fire, our cameras captured a mother bobcat and her kittens playing in our backyard. Yet there are glimmers of resilience. Mountain Bluebirds—likely descended from birds we released—are already back, perching on blackened snags and waiting for beetles to arrive. I recall raising a Black-backed Woodpecker. I spent three weeks with her in a charred landscape, continuing to feed her as she faced the harsh foraging skill of drilling into hardened wood for larvae. I know she would find beauty and sustenance here. Birds are shifting, and new species will come. Still, our high desert ecosystem is fragile. Ponderosa pine and some grasses may rebound, but juniper, sage, and bitterbrush are not fire-adapted. Without intervention, invasive weeds will quickly dominate. Restoration here will require active, hands-on help.

The Road Ahead

Even amidst loss, there is hope. We are charting a phased recovery:

- **Return to care:** Once the indoor center is thoroughly cleaned and the surviving aviary restored, we plan to resume limited bird intake by mid-winter. Rehabilitation doesn't stop—it adapts.
- **Habitat restoration:** At Chickadee Ridge, we will replant trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers; control erosion; combat invasive weeds; and use burned logs and brush to create cover. We will water survivors, tend soils, and guide the return of bird diversity.
- **Rebuilding facilities:** In time, we will replace aviaries, pools, and outbuildings—structures essential for the successful rehabilitation of wild birds.

All of this will depend on community support—volunteers, donations, and partnerships. Our property is enrolled in ODFW's Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program because of its extraordinary biodiversity and importance as a deer and elk migration corridor. Firefighters themselves remarked on its unique beauty, even in blackened form. It remains a sacred place, and will continue to host elk and deer herds, mountain lion and bobcats, a myriad of small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and countless bird species.

A Shared Future

Fourteen years ago, the release of a single Mountain Chickadee led us to this land, which we named Chickadee Ridge. That spirit endures in every bird we have since released here. Rehabilitation for us now means not only caring for injured and orphaned birds but also tending the land that sustains them.

To say we love this place is an understatement. It is part of us, and of Native Bird Care itself. Birds are resilient. They return, they adapt. Our land, though scarred, is still magical. With care and action, this sanctuary will continue.

We are accepting donations through Native Bird Care, a nonprofit 501(c)(3), and will host volunteer work parties once the ash settles. Together, we can heal this land and continue to care for our wild flighted friends. For information about Native Bird Care and Rescue in Central Oregon, visit their website at <https://www.nativebirdcare.org/>

With hope and gratitude,

Elise Wolf

Native Bird Care

Elise and a hundreds-of-years old Juniper
burned in the fire at Native Bird Care.





Remains of an outbuilding at Native Bird Care



Before the fire, a Black-headed Grosbeak receives care in an outbuilding at Native Bird Care

Lewis's Woodpecker and Its Motus Tag

By Gordon Wetzel

One fine day in mid June a young camper at Shevlin Park noticed a distressed bird in a bush by the Aspen Picnic shelter. She told her counselor, and the counselor knew about Think Wild, so she contacted them. Think Wild (TW) recovered the bird, an adult Lewis's Woodpecker, and brought it back for rehab. This bird, let's call her Louis, did well under the expert care of TW. Knowing that Lewis's are a species of interest to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), TW contacted them. On July 7th, Molly Honea of TW told Wendy Andrick (ECBA President) that Louis would be released the next day and anyone interested could watch. I joined in the event and watched Kalysta Adkins of ODFW tag the bird with leg bands and a Motus radio transmitter tag. Louis happily flew off with her new jewelry.

**Molly Honea of Think Wild holding Louis—
Photo by Gordon Wetzel**



That got me wondering, what is that little fanny pack with a wire that was put on Louis? It's a Motus tag, which is part of a worldwide animal tracking system managed by Birds Canada. The miniature radio transmitter tags are affixed to birds and insects, bats, whatever, by researchers who want to track their movements. To find out where the subject is, there must be a receiver station to detect the signal from the tag. It turns out that there is only one station in Central Oregon. It is at OSU Cascades, and it is operated by the Human and Ecosystem Resilience and Sustainability Lab of OSU Cascades. That is simply not good enough for the vast area of Central Oregon. So, I will be heading up an effort by ECBA to install at least one more station in our area. Stay tuned.

You can follow the path of Louis or any animal with a Motus tag by simply going to [Motus.org](https://www.motus.org). The story of Louis continues. On September 4th she checked in at the Williamson River Delta station and then at the Vesper Meadow station near Ashland. Maybe Louis has a gig at the Shakespeare Festival. If there were more Motus Stations we could find out.



SEPTEMBER BIRDERS' NIGHT RECAP

If you are one of the few who didn't attend this event, you missed a good one! Chuck Gates presented on Birding Northern Spain, and it was fascinating learning about species comparisons to North America, politically correct common name changes in Europe, and the state-of-the-art bird blinds in Spain, to name a few. Thank you, Chuck for being such a long-standing, consistent supporter of and contributor to ECBA. You do so much to teach others and nurture their enthusiasm about our wild birds in Central Oregon and beyond. Your passion is contagious and we appreciate you!



Photos by Abbott Schindler at ECBA's Birders' Night at Worthy Brewing in Bend, Sept. 12, 2025.

Upcoming Events

ECBA Birders' Night (open to the public, ECBA membership not required) Monthly at Worthy Brewing, 495 NE Bellevue, Bend, usually the 2nd Thursday, times vary

October 15, 2025 (third Wednesday in Oct.) 7:00-9:00pm
Waddle We Do Without Penguins? Penguin projects in South America
Presented by Patty McGill

November 13, 2025 6:30-8:30pm Sapsuckers! Presented by Steve Shunk

December 9, 2025 7:00-9:00pm Klamath Refuges 2025 productivity and combatting botulism with water, presented by Teresa Wicks, PhD

October 1 and 4, 2025 Green Ridge for Hawk Watch with David Vick on Wednesday, October 1 and Saturday, October 4 at 12:00 PM. Bring a lawn chair and your binoculars—more details on the ECBA calendar.

October 18, 2025 5-8pm Friends of Malheur gathering in Bend at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 61980 Skyline Ranch Rd., Bend
Info and registration at <https://malheurfriends.org/events/malheur-inspired/>

October 22, 2025, 6-7pm What's Next for Oregon's Sagebrush Steppe?
Presented by Stu Garrett for the Worthy Garden Club
Register @ bit.ly/sagesteppe

November 9, 2025, Sunday, 4-6pm
ECBA Annual Event at Aspen Hall in Shevlin Park, Bend



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**EAST CASCADES
BIRD ALLIANCE
ANNUAL EVENT**

**Sunday, Nov. 9
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Aspen Hall**

- Raffle, Coffee, tea and snacks

Presentation by our youth scholarship winner
Mason Jeffries

- Guest Speakers
- Opportunity to connect

Where to get local bird/birding info –

Birders Connect (local and statewide) – COBOL, OBOL, Discord, Facebook...
<https://ecbirds.org/birder-resources-2/birders-connect/>

Birder Blogs <https://ecbirds.org/birder-resources-2/birding-blogs/>

ECBA - East Cascades Bird Alliance

The Chatter newsletter – emailed the first of the month to ECBA members

<https://ecbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Chatter-September-2025-pdf.pdf>

The ECBA website – <https://ecbirds.org/>

Media Resources – eBird, Merlin, iNaturalist, book authors
<https://ecbirds.org/birder-resources-2/media-resources/>

Oregon Birding Clubs and Organizations

<https://ecbirds.org/birder-resources-2/oregon-birding-clubs-organizations/>

Bird Alliance of Oregon <https://birdallianceoregon.org/> (Portland area)

Oregon Birding Alliance <https://oregonbirding.org/> (statewide)

Many others are listed, some may have changed their names, but links work

Welcome! to the flock of new ECBA members

Maureen Barteling, Bend, OR

Mel and Kathleen Crabb, Ft. Rock, OR

Nora Faye, Bend, OR

Vicki Finn, Camp Sherman, OR

Kevin Gudridge, Salem, OR

Janet Harris, Bend, OR

Andi Haynes, Bloomington, IN

Connie Kelley, Houston, TX

Talha Khan, Hillsboro, OR

Michael Kozak, Moro, OR

David Margaret, Hood River, OR

Jeff Marszal, Bend, OR

Catherine Mick, Sisters, OR

Camden Miller, Bend, OR

Walter Nelson, Redmond, OR

Francie Picknell, Bend, OR

G. Sierra Schneider, Terrebonne, OR

Michelle Stantial, Terrebonne, OR

Pam Tucker, Powell Butte, OR

Ashley Turnstall, LaPine, OR

Kay Vincent, Bend, OR

Lane Wintermute, Hayden Lake, ID

Lorin Wilkerson, Milwaukee, OR





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
Stephanie Swift
Gordon Wetzel

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 Jenkins, Duke Tufty
Field Trips - Aaron Jenkins
Volunteers - Mary Shivell

Newsletters

Chatter (monthly) Sherrie Pierce, Editor
Calliope (January & July) by the Board

Autumn 2025 Board Meetings

October 7
November 4
December 2

East Cascades Bird Alliance Board of Directors meets monthly, on the first Tuesday, from 4-5:30pm. Board meetings are held in person (location varies) and via Zoom. If you are interested in attending, please email ecba@ecbirds.org at least two days in advance for 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

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IS AT
<https://ecbirds.org/>