



Calliope Summer 26 Board Message

We, the Board, want to express our deep gratitude to all the volunteers who continue to share the joy of birding with both new and longtime members.

Coming off the heels of our first collaborative outing with Queer as Flock—a diverse, multigenerational, and truly beautiful day at Ryan Meadow—we look with excitement to what comes next.

We're looking forward to Raptor ID training as David Vick will lead us through another season with Hawk Watch International at Green Ridge. Keep an eye on the website calendar for dates and more information.



Save the date for our Birds of a Feather annual event on Sunday, November 8, 4:00 pm at Aspen Hall. It will be a good time to connect.

We are equally grateful for all our presenters who bring valuable information to Birders Night every second Thursday of the month at Worthy Brewing, and to Duke and Aaron for organizing these gatherings with such care and Laura McCaskill for helping us with getting the word out.

As we continue to grow, we want to extend an open invitation to anyone interested in becoming more involved with East Cascades Bird Alliance. Whether you'd like to join the Board, help lead walks, contribute to our newsletter, or collaborate on a project, your participation strengthens our community and enriches the experiences we share. Please let us know if you'd like to take part in any capacity—we welcome your energy, ideas, and enthusiasm as we move forward together.



~Wendy Andrick, ECBA Board President

ECBA Joins the Motus Movement

What is Motus anyway? Motus is Latin for movement. What do birds do? They move around a lot to feed, breed and migrate. How do scientists figure out where birds move around? Well, there are many methods, like banding, GPS tracking and basic observations, like eBird.

According to the Motus website - Motus is an international collaborative research network that uses automated radio telemetry to track the movement and behavior of small animals, like birds, bats, and insects. Motus is a program of Birds Canada in partnership with collaborating researchers and organizations. There are three basic parts of the system, 1) the central data collection and management system operated by Birds Canada; 2) the researchers tagging animals with radio transmitters; 3) the receiver stations, which detect the animals within range. The data collected by the system is open to everyone, making the whole system collaborative. See for yourself – go to Motus.org.

Why would a researcher use Motus? There are 2 basic reasons, first is the size of transmitter – they are small enough for songbirds (0.2 - 3 grams). Second is the cost, about \$200 per tag. Compare that to a GPS tag at \$3,000-7,000, and a weight of 100+ grams. A song sparrow weighs 22 grams. The disadvantage of Motus is that it requires a network of receiver stations to detect the tagged animals. The system was started in 2013 with the first station on an island off Nova Scotia. Since then, it has expanded to 2,413 stations around the world. That's amazing since there is no master plan run by a single organization, nor is there a single funding source. Stations are built by many organizations, like researchers trying to implement a study, USFWS, USGS, state fish and game departments, universities, conservation nonprofits and even individuals. Build-out of the network happened earlier in eastern Canada and the US than it has in the west. In Oregon there are 32 stations, quite sparse for such a large area. The map shows the locations. The sponsors are:

Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife – 9 stations

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Shorebird Project and Willamette Valley Wildlife Refuges
– 7 Stations

Klamath Basin Wetlands, Collaborative project with Bird Conservation Oregon, ODFW,
ABC, USFWS, TNC and Lakeside Farms – 4 Stations

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) - 3 Stations

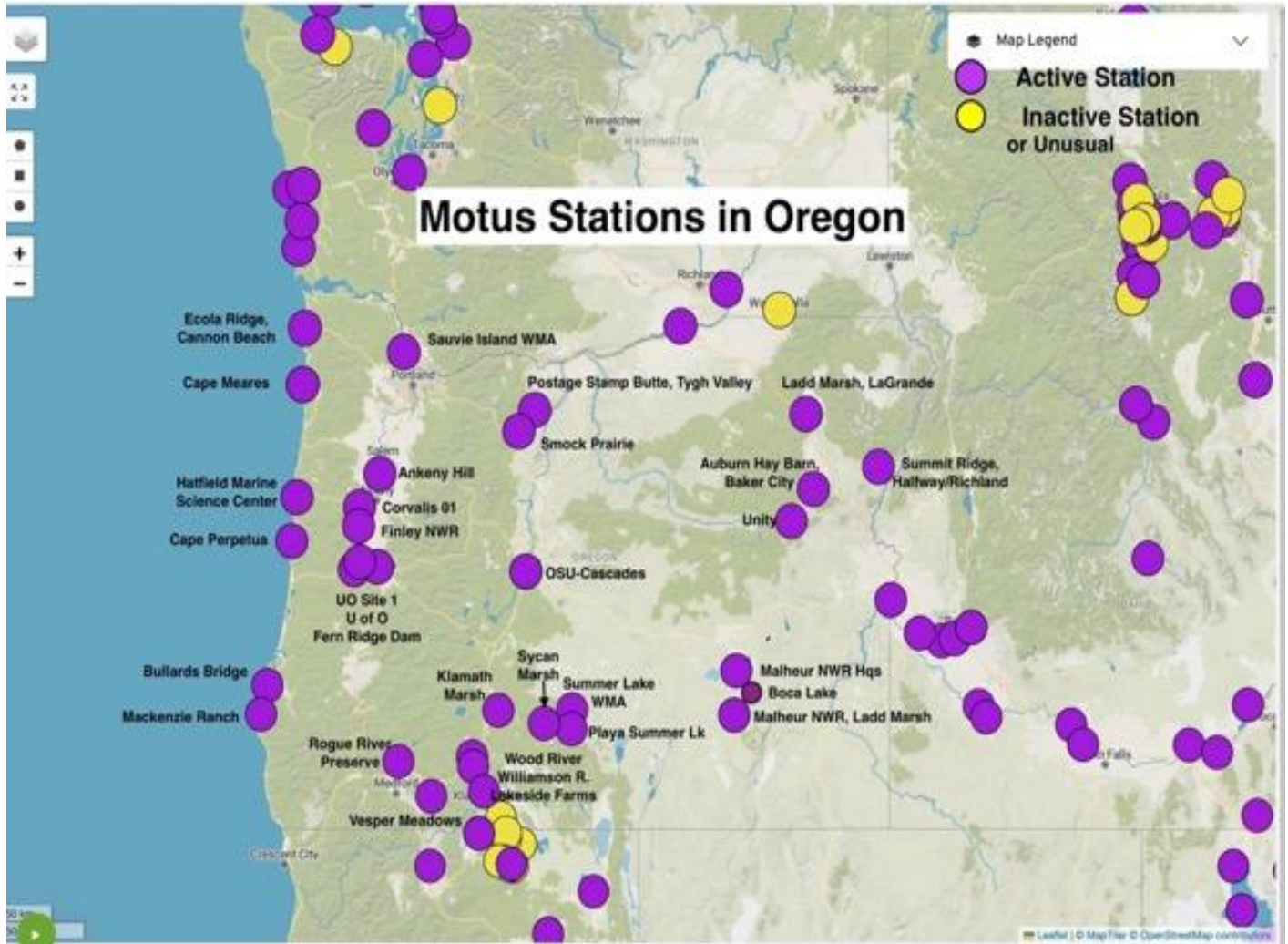
Pacific Northwest National Wildlife Refuge Complex - 3 Stations

University of Oregon (Project 530). - 2 Stations

Klamath Bird Observatory (Project 426) - 2 Stations

OSU Cascades HERS Lab. - 1 Station (in Bend)

Siuslaw National Forest – USFS R6 - 1 Station

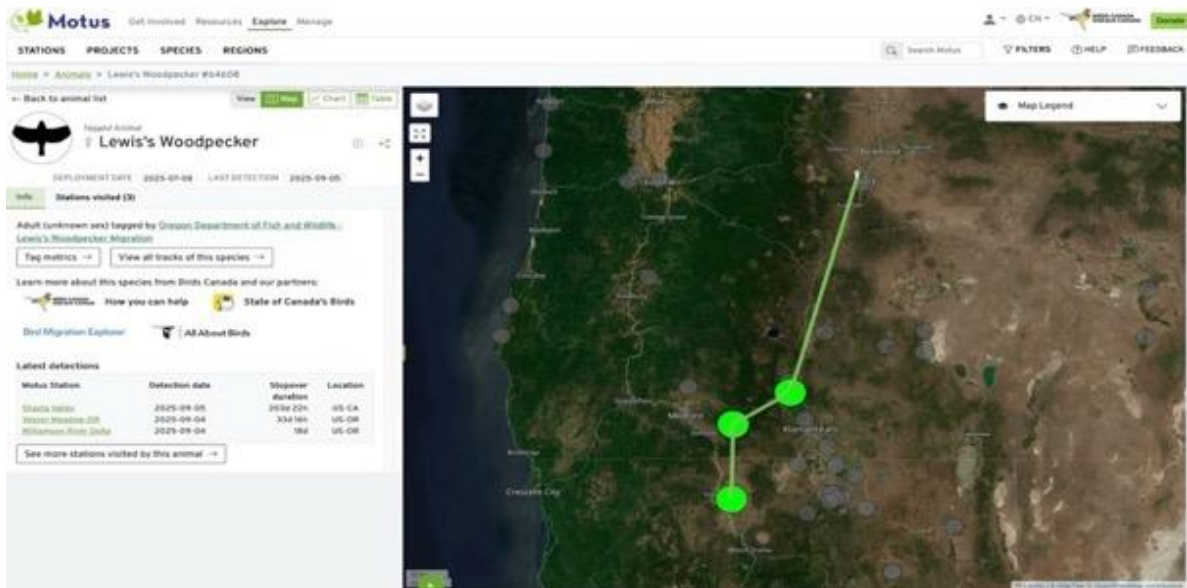


And this year I am proud to announce that East Cascades Bird Alliance will be added to the list. We are installing a station at the Crooked River Wetlands Complex in Prineville.

You might be wondering how ECBA joined this movement. Last year at this time, I observed the release of a Lewis's Woodpecker at Shevlin Park. Think Wild rehabbed an injured bird found by a young girl in a day camp in the park. She told her councilor, who then contacted Think Wild (TW). When the bird was ready for release, Molly Honea of TW told Kaly Adkins of ODFW about the bird. Lewis's Woodpeckers are a species of concern for ODFW. So, Kaly took the opportunity to tag this bird with a Motus transmitter and other bands. The bird was released on July 7, 2025 at Shevlin Park. The picture shows Molly ready to release the bird; notice the thin wire protruding from it's back – that's the transmitter's antenna.



The Lewis's woodpecker evidently had a nice summer in Bend and then migrated south. The Motus network detected it in northern California on September 5th. You can see her path on the Motus website. Here is what anyone with internet access can see:



What happened after September 5, 2025 is uncertain. If there were more stations, we might know. If there was a station near Shevlin Park, we may find that bird today, happily tending a brood. Ever since the release on July 8, 2025, I have been on a Motus journey. Central Oregon is a blind spot in the network, as is much of Oregon. I figured that we could change that. Since then, I have been on a mission to add at least one station in Central Oregon. The cost of the equipment is around \$5,000 and ECBA is covering that. Labor is donated.

The next question is where to put the station. The primary purpose of Motus is to provide information about migration. A station can detect tags within a radius of 5-9

miles (depending on antennas and conditions). Consequently, the first criterion for a station is to have a good viewshed. Terrain and vegetation block the radio signal. The second criterion is the likelihood of having tagged animals in the vicinity. After all, we want to detect tagged birds/bats/bees. It would be rather uninspiring to have no detections (even if that is meaningful data). To get started, I looked at the birding hotspots in Central Oregon, places like, Hatfield Ponds, Redmond Ponds, Crooked River Wetlands Complex, Tumalo Reservoir, Wickiup Reservoir, Shevlin Park, Sawyer Park, and on, and on. It turns out that birds like water and water flows downhill. Low spots generally do not have good viewsheds. Nonetheless, I started with the premier birding location – Hatfield Ponds. It's not the best viewshed but it has plenty of birds and many species. Well, it turns out that Hatfield Ponds has radio noise that interferes with the receiver. OSU Cascades HERS Lab learned that the hard way at their station and they helped me with testing at Hatfield. Then I checked out a few more locations with mixed success. Fortunately, Prineville's Crooked River Wetlands Complex (CRWC) tested well. It even has a nice viewshed, looking downriver and upriver. Thanks to Chuck Gates and the Friends of CRWC, the management of the treatment plant welcomed us. They are letting us use one of the five osprey nest platform poles to mount our antennas. The antennas will be mounted below the platform so ospreys can still use it. As of now, I am waiting on equipment to be delivered before starting the installation at CRWC. If all goes well, it will be completed in July.

More stations are needed. I have plans for at least two more, one in Redmond, near the Redmond Wastewater Treatment Plant ponds and one in Sisters, near the Golden Eagle nest camera on Wychus Creek. To move ahead on these, ECBA needs funding. You are welcome to donate, just go to the [website](#), click on Donate and then select Motus. I will keep you updated in future newsletters.

Learn more at **Birders' Night, July 9, 2026, 6 PM at Worthy Brewing**. Kaly Adkins of ODFW will present – Tracking Lewis's Woodpeckers Using Motus Technology. Happy hour is now 2 -5 pm.

~Gordon Wetzel

Queer as Flock

Queer as Flock started after Kay went to a Pride walk with the Deschutes Land Trust where now friend, Bo, created a welcoming and inclusive space for all experiences of birders. Kay knew they wanted to have something like that here in Central Oregon and with the support of Bo Queer as Flock was born. The goal was to provide a non-intimidating place where individuals can learn about birds and the beautiful natural area that we all call home. We meet once a week generally on the weekends for slow-paced walks to see birds and build lasting community with one another. In the past year the group has grown, and we have all gotten to see incredible birds through the different seasons. We have successfully converted more young folks into birders! We

are celebrating our one year at Juniper Park July 11th 10-2pm all are welcome to join us. You can find us and our events on [instagram @queerasflockbend](https://www.instagram.com/queerasflockbend)
~Kay Vincent

Dean Hale Woodpecker Weekend 2026 Recap

The first weekend in June again featured ECBA's signature event, the Dean Hale Woodpecker Weekend. The event originated in 2011. This year, twenty field trips visited birding hotspots throughout Deschutes County, as well as further afield to Ochoco Country and Summer Lake. All field trips were free to ECBA members and were led by a team of 24 different local volunteer guides. While most trips were piloted by veteran guides, we were pleased to have our first teen-guided trip this year (Ander Rhoads and Mason Jeffries). Overall, over 150 birders registered for field trips; the majority were from Oregon, but a few came from as far away as North Carolina.

In addition to the field trips, author and wildlife photographer Paul Bannick came down to town to give two evening presentations and offer a photography workshop. Bannick based the compelling talks on his recently published book "Woodpecker: A Year in the Life of North American Woodpeckers". Everything took place at the historic Skyliner Lodge, where Bird Alliance of Oregon staff also joined the fun by setting up an optics table. Roughly 100 people attended one of the Bannick events.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in a trip or event and to the myriad volunteers that made everything possible.
~Aaron Jenkins



Photos by Wendy Andrick



Janet Moler and Arienne Jaques with Bird Alliance of Oregon table



Ander Rhoades and Mason Jeffries guiding at Suttle Lake; photo by Alisa Jeffries



A new bird-related business . . . is taking me back to what I love about birding.

I like positive unintended consequences. Leading family-friendly and more accessible outings has gifted me a series of such happy byproducts because our groups are moving more slowly and intentionally. Many of the outings are in places I thought I knew well until I truly slowed down to enjoy each bird at a time, surrounded with questions from the fresh eyes and ears of kids and non-birders. I am connecting and learning so much more deeply than ever before, thanks to the attendees' questions and unhurried focus on birds and behavior that I had taken for granted or skipped over. I thought I practiced the art of slow birding until humbled by the delight of true beginner minds.

Last autumn, when my son started high school after years of homeschool, I decided to take a risk to turn my passion for bird programs into a business. Some people questioned this decision, in part because they worried I would tire of my favorite pastime if I made it a job. So far, I have found the opposite to be true. Being around people who often are intentionally paying attention to birds for the first time, is a constant reminder of why I fell in love with birding as a child when my grandfather first took me out bird watching. It is exhilarating to step back and listen to a group exclaiming about the light refracting off the back of a Barn Swallow perched on a railing or the stunning bright red flash as a Red-winged Blackbird swoops by us.

I have also been struck by how much birds can raise our spirits regardless of whether we know anything about the species, even its name. Particularly when providing programs for assisted living residents, I repeatedly see people lighting up, calming down, and becoming joyful just from seeing and hearing a bird, even when it is only a photograph on a slideshow. Also, even when someone no longer has access to remembering their own name, seeing and hearing birds can stir some deeper memories of nature. On several occasions after a bird presentation in a memory care setting, I have had a resident with dementia talk clearly to me about happy childhood bird memories that they tell me the program woke in them.

Seeing how meaningful childhood bird experiences are to raising the spirits of the older generation, I am inspired to offer more family-friendly outings with kids of all ages. I want the next generation to have access to the deep and long-lasting foundation of experiencing the joy of birds.

While he likely will quickly forget me, I hope I never forget a man with dementia who recently came up to me, with tears in his eyes, after a program and talked to me with such profound excitement about how clearly he now remembered the snow geese flying over the family farm of his childhood and the flocks of robins that gathered there every autumn.

~Sevilla Rhodes

<http://www.deifer.net/>

ECBA Webcam Youngsters Fledge

One of the fun activities available on the ECBA website is watching the Golden Eagle and American Kestrel cameras focused on the nesting, hatching, and fledging of these birds. This year the Golden Eagles, Rocky and Petra, successfully raised a chick, named Paaku, who fledged and flew from the nest on June 19. It is possible to see footage from this year's nesting on this [You Tube clip](#) created by Jim Hammond. A big thank-you to him for keeping these cameras live.

The American Kestrel nest box has a camera focused inside the box and five chicks were hatched and fledged. Ken Hashagen banded them before they left the nest and the data is sent to [The Peregrine Fund](#). The video is now turned off but wait for next year!

Rodenticides

We would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming support in addressing the use of rodenticides in our community. In total 5 raptors were found dead along the Deschutes River in Bend between Sawyer Park and First Street Rapids during the months of Dec 2025 through May 2026. Some of the local residents observed over 20 nearby bait boxes within this area and were concerned that secondary poisoning of raptors might be occurring from the birds eating poisoned rats. Rodenticides used in bait boxes do not kill immediately - the rodents leave weakened and toxic. The poisons used are anticoagulants that prevent blood from clotting. In animals that ingest the toxic rats, such as birds of prey, scavenging birds, mountain lions, wolves, foxes and other non-targeted species, the poisons can build up, causing wide-spread bleeding and eventual death. As noted in Wildlife (National Wildlife Federation, summer 2026) "Rat poisons even affect water-dependent wildlife such as frogs, cormorants and river otters. When placed in or near sewers [and drains] the compounds can wash into rivers and streams during rains, ending up in animals that eat fish and crustaceans." They indicate that it can also turn up in slugs and insects.

In late June we sent one of the diseased birds to the ODFW Wildlife lab in Corvallis. It was the was the only bird saved and refrigerated after found. Blood work on the liver was not done by the lab since the cause of death appeared to be from trauma, either from another raptor or small carnivore. The lab analyst reported that "there still could be some amount of rodenticides present in the liver as many raptors are exposed to some level on the landscape." The liver has been saved should further testing be considered for a larger surveillance effort.

Moving forward ECBA created a rodenticide committee to help promote a change in Oregon laws because the existing ones do not sufficiently protect public health, birds of prey, non-targeted wildlife, or our water supplies from rat poisons. Even if the 5 birds found along the Deschutes River were not specifically killed by rodenticide our focus should be on State laws because the use of these poisons is not just a local Bend issue - it is state-wide. For example, between 2013 and 2019 the US Geological Survey detected anticoagulant residues in 51% of 68 common ravens and 85% of 73 turkey vultures sampled across our state. Lab analysis on these scavenging birds indicated they had increased stress and reduced body weight due to bioaccumulation of rodenticides. Statewide statistics on the number of birds that die from rodenticide poisoning is not reported by Oregon. Furthermore, local municipalities cannot ban usage of these rodenticides because Oregon created a State Preemption Law that prevents local municipalities and jurisdictions from banning rodenticides or other pesticides. Meanwhile, numerous states are pushing for measures to prevent secondary poisoning from rodenticides and California and Rhode Island have already passed state laws that target the use of diphacinone and warfarin that are among the first-generation anticoagulants that can be readily bought over the counter by consumers in Oregon.

ECBA is also now working with ODFW and Think Wild. We plan to increase public education through various media to encourage people to lobby state legislators, to create a system to report and/or collect diseased birds (or other wildlife) for testing, and to make wise personal choices about using rat poisons or learning about alternatives. ECBA supports the control of rodents through the variety of methods available that do not move poisons up the food chain or harm the ecosystem. Conversely, the pesticide industry is actively lobbying this year on two big goals: limiting liability for manufacturers, and preserving broad agricultural pesticide use in food production. Alternatives to rat poison are also known to be very effective and can include combinations involving fixing and managing the issues that attract rats to properties, that provide pathways into buildings, that sterilize and prevent rats from breeding, that effectively trap them (rat specific live traps or snap traps) them rather than letting them run free as toxic bait to predators, and that increase the presence of their natural predators. We think that pest management companies that use lethal methods or traps to manage rats should be responsible for proper handling and disposal.

If you would like to join our efforts, please email us at ecbirds.org

We will keep members updated as we have more to share. This road will be long but we hope worthy.

Wendy Andrick and Laurel Collins

ECBA Supports Hummingbird Garden in Bend

The Hummingbird garden in Orchard Park (Bend) is in full bloom, thanks to the collaboration between ECBA, Pollinator Pathway Bend, WildBirds LLC and BPRD. Come see the specific plants that bring in our favorite pollinating hummers! Penstemon, columbine, fireweed are but a few of these great plants.



If you would love to help maintain this garden and have some fun with your other birder friends, we work for one hour only the 3rd Friday of each month at 8am in the summer. Come meet with us July 17th at 8. Orchard Park is at NE 6th St and Seward- by the gazebo.

~Barb Rumer

The Calliope is the semi-annual newsletter of the East Cascade Bird Alliance. It is composed of articles from a variety of contributors, primarily those on the Board of Directors. For more information, resources, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events go to the [ECBA website](#).

Current Board members are:

Wendy Andrick, President

Lexie Houchins-Park, Vice-president

Gordon Wetzel, Treasurer

Aaron Jenkins, Secretary

Brian MacDopnald

Miriam Lipsitz

Laurel Collins

Stephanie Swift

Sierra Schneider