

THE CALLIOPE

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024



President's Message

By Duke Tufty

Summer is here and another spring is behind us. While spring migration is a birding highlight for many, summer birding can be fun too, but may require a bit more work or creativity. To beat the heat and to see more birds, set an early alarm. Birds are more active early in the morning and that's particularly true when it's hot out. To improve your home birding, just add water. Birds need water and this becomes even more important during our hot, dry summers. Adding a source of fresh, clean water to your backyard can help the birds stay hydrated and give you a better chance of seeing birds in your backyard. Try different habitats, particularly those higher up or with water, or both. Temperatures can be more manageable at higher elevations and some birds take advantage of that by breeding there. With the many mountains surrounding us, try going up in elevation to stay cool and see some new birds. Or, if you have a kayak, canoe, or stand up paddle board, bring your binoculars with you and add some birding to your favorite water sport. And, importantly, make sure to take care of yourself when venturing out this summer. Bring plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen, sun clothing etc. and make sure to carefully plan your outdoor adventure.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival. We could not have the festival without our many volunteer guides who led trips for the festival. Thank you! The festival offered more than 300 seats on over 30 field trips this year. Nearly 200 birds were seen during this year's festival with the final tally being 192. Deschutes County led the bird count, but just barely. Here's a breakdown of the birds seen by county: Deschutes 134, Lake 133, Crook 62 and Jefferson 52.

Paul Bannick delivered a fantastic presentation to a packed house at the Belfry on Saturday night. His photographs of owls and woodpeckers are just jaw-dropping. However, it was Paul's storytelling that brought the photos to life and tied them all together in a meaningful way.

Wednesday Birders are having another great year with trips criss-crossing Central Oregon. A big thank you to Brian MacDonald for keeping the trips coming and posting summaries on
Continued on next page—

COBOL to entice others to explore new birding areas. To date, Wednesday Birders have seen 187 species this year. Here is the breakdown by county: Deschutes 154, Crook 115, Lake 84, and Jefferson 10. It looks like we owe Jefferson County a visit!

A short update on the name change. We are still working on the logistics behind the name change and hope to have more to share later this summer. Thank you for your patience.

As you may have already heard, we recently donated six birding backpacks to the Deschutes County Library System. (see article below) It can take some time between the donation and when the backpacks are available for checkout. We will let you know when the backpacks are ready for checkout. And, we placed the orders for six more birding backpacks to distribute to the libraries of Crook and Jefferson Counties. We're hoping to make those donations later this summer!

Welcome New ECAS Members! (April - June 2024)

Forrest	Anton-Erik	Bend, OR
James	Arneson	Sunriver, OR
Penny	Barron	Berkeley, CA
Laura	Bowly	Bend, OR
Chuck	Burke	Bend, OR
Susan	Conner	Bend, OR
Jherime	Kellermann	Klamath Falls, OR
Janet	Langland	Redmond, OR
Dana	Margosian	Bend, OR
Margaret	McReynolds	Charlotte, NC
Lisa	Mickelson	Bend, OR
Marie	Moulton	Bend, OR
Charlotte	Mountain	Bend, OR
Julie	Redman	Eugene, OR
Mark & Ginny	Stern	Portland, OR

CELEBRATIONS!

From Marilynne and John Keyser of Crooked River Ranch in Terrebonne:

After 30 years of birding adventures, Marilynne and John Keyser continue their search to see a representative of each of the 248 bird families in the world. Searching for families of birds has led them to over 30 countries where they have seen close to 6,000 species. Their recent trip to Panama yielded a wonderful look at the **monotypic sapayoa**, a small greenish-yellow bird with an unusually broad bill that nests in a hanging ball of leaves over running water. They were eager to see 30 other new species as well during their 7 days in Panama. Seeing a male **Harpy Eagle** and a 7-month-old chick after a grueling hike into the Darien lowlands added to their excitement. There are only five families left to reach their goal. They plan to visit Cuba next spring for its endemics, including the family of Cuban warblers. At 77 and 80 years young, they are unsure about seeing the last four families which require traveling to China to see the Przevalski's pinktail, Bhutan for the spotted elachura, Sulawesi (Indonesia) for the hylocitrea and Oman for the hypocolius. They will be content if they only see these birds in their dreams!



Photos by the Keyzers

From Milt Vine in Sunriver

I'll tell the short Yellow Rail story. I was frustrated by my dip and have been mulling over how to get it. I was wide awake at 3:00 AM today and decided to do something about it instead of just tossing and turning. I tiptoed around and collected my stuff, got on my bike, strapped a helmet light on and took off in the pitch dark. No moon and before first light. Good thing I know the trails. The first set of reflected eyeballs was unsettling. A deer. I was headed back to the same place but when I got just past Cardinal Landing bridge and just before I was going to leave the trail to head in the back way to the Nature Center, boom, there it was. Click, click, click, pause, click, click. Repeat endlessly. I was still actually moving on my bike and jumped off. I got the recording that is now posted on the checklist and stood there just absorbing it. Then the Robins started to flood the airwaves and I went home. The end.



ODFW photo by Dominic Sherony



Chuck Gates has seen all the regularly occurring Crook County birds and he owns the record for the most species (293) seen in Crook County. He also monitors birds in his yard. His yard list stands at 134 species. It's a rare event when he sees a new Yard Bird, and even rarer when he sees a new County Bird. Now imagine his surprise when he saw a new County Bird...in his own yard!

It happened on October 5, 2022. That day, a woodpecker flew into his large elm tree. Thinking it must be the Williamson's Sapsucker that had been visiting daily for the last week, he almost failed to give it another look. His heart jumped when he saw the familiar clown face of an Acorn Woodpecker. This was a species he'd never recorded in the county. A new County Bird and a new Yard Bird. One of the best double dips of his life.

From Duke Tufty

As the Summer 2024 issue of the Calliope is published, I will be fulfilling one of my lifetime dreams. I will be stepping foot on the Galapagos Islands and, in some small way, retracing the steps of Charles Darwin. I remember falling hard for evolutionary theory in college. I read book after book on it. I also read one of Darwin's biographies and found the role that his visit to the Galapagos played in his articulation of the theory fascinating. Since that time, I've wanted to visit those islands. I'm hoping to see the finches, tortoises, and mockingbirds that Darwin did, and, from that, soak in the grandeur of this view of life.



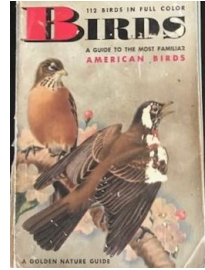
Shutterstock photo

Volunteer Spotlight - Sherrie Pierce

Written by Sherrie Pierce, photo of Sherrie with a butterfly on her cap by Lynda Paznokas



I grew up in a small town in Southwest Idaho near the Snake River. And by small, I mean small: there were 27 in my high school graduating class. My parents were teachers, so I was always learning from them and spending lots of time on the farms and river and camping during the summers. I have always loved the outdoors and I suppose I was always a birder. I received my official first bird guide when I was in the seventh grade. The Yellow-headed Blackbird was the one I remember mostly from that time, but goldfinches also nested in the bushes outside my bedroom window. And I had a fondness for Ring-necked Pheasants, but that was more culinary at the time.



After high school, I came to Oregon for college at Oregon State, met my husband, had a daughter, and then spent the next five years in Florence teaching school and making friends that have lasted for 50+ years. We four women call ourselves the Bird Nerds and are still birding together after all this time. I moved to Redmond in 1972, worked as a counselor at Redmond High for the next 25 years and still live in the same house I moved into at that time. I joined Central Oregon Audubon in the 80's and remember meeting Tom Crabtree at one of those meetings, asking him for a recommendation of a good bird book. He suggested the 1987 *National Geographic Birds of North America*, which is still with me. *Sibley Field Guide to Birds*, a Christmas gift from my son in 2001, is also in my bird book library.

Like many in the area, I started attending the newly formed ECBC, East Cascades Bird Conservancy's, Birders' Nights. I became better acquainted with many of the locals who had started that organization which was a spin-off from COAS (Central Oregon Audubon Society.) I enjoyed the ECBC field trips, learning so much from those wonderful volunteer leaders such as Dean Hale, Peter Low, Steve Dougill, and Steve Shunk. Wednesday Birders was a must to attend, and Howard Horvath and Judy Meredith provided a weekly lesson in all things bird. Dave Tracy's Birding By Ear was also a mainstay of weekly birding outings in the Spring.

When I *truly* retired in 2005, after five years of caregiving for my mother, I was ready to become much more involved in volunteer activities. When Mary Oppenheimer approached me about running for the newly formed East Cascades Audubon Society's Board I said yes. I joined the Board in 2011 as Vice President, served 2 more years as Board President, then 3 years as Secretary, retiring from the Board after fulfilling my allotted 6 terms. During those years it was a privilege and great fun collaborating with all the folks who volunteered, putting in so many hours working on conservation projects, fundraising (the Annual Event), and educating. One of my fondest memories of projects during that time was the Fledgling Fun program which Mary Yanalcanlin and Desiree Morris developed and provided monthly at the Environmental Center during the school year to children. I would show up on Mondays with some technical materials, but they provided the content and energy for this program.

In 2010, after the Woodpecker Wonderland Festival that Steve Shunk held in 2008 and 2009 (which I attended) was discontinued, John Gerke, a Sisters resident and ECAS Board member, suggested ECAS take it on as a Woodpecker Festival centered in Sisters. We held the first one in 2011 and it was an immediate success. There were challenges with registrations and

Continued on next page—

communications before today's helpful technology, but the folks who got involved with the planning and production of the Festival were so enthusiastic and capable that it became one of the most rewarding activities of my time on the Board. After Dean Hale's tragic death in 2012 it became even more meaningful as a tribute to him and his love of birds. After the two-year interruption by Covid, the returning DHWF these last 3 years has been just as personally rewarding. At 79, one of my favorite activities is still getting into the forest and scouting for those birds! I love sharing trip leadership with other great folks and hope I can continue with this as long as my ears and eyes – and legs - hold out.

A successful non-profit needs continued energetic volunteers to make it a viable organization. I think the folks in charge now are doing a great job and are dedicated to the same mission seeking "to foster knowledge and appreciation of birds and their habitats by all people through education, outings, and field studies that will inspire actions to protect wild birds and the places they need to thrive." My hope is that our organization will remain a vital part of our community and region and that folks will continue to give of their time to keep it so.

Further reading that may be of interest to you –



Oregon Birds, Journal of Oregon Birding and Field Ornithology, Volume 49 Number 2, Fall 2023. Article on Lake Abert Bird Survey Results by Ron Larson, John Reuland, and Haley Tobiason, with ECAS mentions, pp 76-83. Also, a full page review on Chuck Gates' latest book *Guide to Common Birds of the Deschutes Canyon Area* OBA's two annual journals are available to members until a year after publication when they are available to all, free, online. Each issue is filled with excellent articles about birding in Oregon. Consider becoming a member if you're not already at oregonbirding.org

<https://www.vauxhappening.org/index.html> Data 2024 North America, Oregon, section includes Bend Boys and Girls Club location. Thanks to local M.A. Kruse, Bob Johnson, and volunteer counters.

**Second Quarter 2024 Central Oregon Bird Photos from the ECAS
Facebook page**



Ash-throated Flycatcher at Mayfield Pond Rec Area, by David Sowards-Emmerd, May 2024



Western Bluebird in Bend by Balz Frei, May 2024



Wilson's Warbler, Shevlin Park, Bend, by Michael Ogle, May 2024

Horned Lark in
Millican by David
Soward-Emmerd
with Wednesday
Birders, June 2024



Young American Robin in
Sawyer Park, Bend, by Claire
Weiser on the Birding By Ear
field trip for the Dean Hale
Woodpecker Festival, June 1,
2024

EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 565, Bend, Oregon 97701

Website www.ecaudubon.org

Email ecaudubon@gmail.com

ECAS Board

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

Board Officers

Duke Tufty	President
Brian MacDonald	Vice President
Gordon Wetzel	Treasurer
Wendy Andrick	Secretary

Committee Chairs

Executive	Duke Tufty
Finance	Gordon Wetzel
Grants	Brian MacDonald
Membership	Vacant
Education	Sherrie Pierce
Conservation Science	Laurel Collins

Program Leaders

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

Summer 2024 Board Meetings

July 2
August 6
September 3

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

