

Limited-Term Bond Fund Commentary

September 30, 2024

AT A GLANCE

Managers: Chris Grogan CFA; David Dirk, CFA

Fund Objective: Seeks to provide income.

About the Fund: An income fund investing in short- and medium-duration bonds.

Benchmarks: Bloomberg 1-5 Year Government/Credit Index, Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index

Morningstar Category: US Fund Short-Term Bond

Lipper Category: Flexible Income

Net Assets: \$154 million

Inception Date: July 28, 2010

GLOSSARY

ABS: Asset-Backed Securities, backed by pools of assets including auto and equipment loans and leases, and credit cards

CMBS: Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities, backed by pools of commercial real estate loans

Commodities: Raw materials used to manufacture consumer products

FOMC: Federal Open Market Committee, sets U.S. monetary policy

GDP: Gross Domestic Product, measures a country's economic output

MBS: Mortgage-Backed Securities, backed by pools of residential mortgage loans

PCE: Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index, tracks consumer prices, showing inflation

SEP: Summary of Economic Projections, predicts U.S. economic trends

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Class I: ETIBX | Class A: ETABX | Class C: ETCBX | Class N: ETNBX

Review

The Eventide Limited Term Bond Fund (Class I) posted a total return of 3.27% for the third quarter of 2024, compared with the Bloomberg 1-5 Year Government/Credit Index of 3.50% and the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index total return of 5.20%. The Fund (Class I) posted a total return of 8.54% for the 12 months ending 09/30/2024 compared to the Bloomberg 1-5 Year Government/Credit Index of 8.10% and the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index of 11.57%.

Contribution to Return by Security Type¹ (%)

Q3 2024

	Average Weight	Total Return ²	Contribution to Fund Return
ABS	4.68	1.81	0.09
Cash	1.73	0.00	0.00
Corporate Bonds	64.18	3.74	2.40
Pass-Throughs	6.06	5.14	0.27
Sovereign Agency Debt	16.55	2.53	0.42
U.S. Taxable Municipals	6.80	2.97	0.20

Return Breakdown

- Treasury yields declined sharply as shorter-term maturities, such as two and three-year notes, declined 100bp or more while ten-year and thirty-year bonds declined 62bp and 44bp, respectively.
- The yield curve as measured by the 2yr-10yr relationship regained its positive slope and ended the quarter at +14bp.
- The credit markets remained resilient and experienced modest spread tightening during the quarter, generating positive excess returns versus Treasuries.
- Across the maturity spectrum longer-dated credit outperformed shorter-dated credit.
- From a credit quality standpoint, there was no major performance differential between AA and BBB-rated securities.³
- High yield performance was largely bifurcated and dominated by the lower-rated CCC-rated segment of the market.
- Agency mortgage-backed and commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) posted positive excess returns, while asset-backed excess returns were negative for the first time since 2022.

Performance is historical and does not guarantee future results.

Portfolio Team Outlook

In recent months, as most measures of inflation continued to moderate, concerns about softening labor market trends shifted the focus of both investors and the Federal Open Market Committee (“FOMC” or “Committee”) to the other side of the Committee’s dual mandate, maximum employment. Despite the acknowledgement that both sides of their dual mandate had come into better balance, the FOMC opted to reduce the federal funds rate by 50 basis points at their September policy meeting. The Fed largely characterized this move as a recalibration of policy to maintain the economy’s resilient pace of growth and solid labor market conditions, rather than an indication the Committee anticipated economic trouble on the horizon. It is our view that the pace and magnitude of future rate cuts will likely come in below the market’s expectations, which currently has an additional 200 basis points of rate cuts priced in through 2025, with the bulk of that occurring by the May 2025 FOMC meeting.

Our diverging outlook for rate cuts is based primarily on three components. First, initial jobless claims data remains relatively low and corporate earnings have not moved in a direction that would suggest recessionary levels of layoffs are on the horizon. Second, our interpretation of payroll growth is more in line with a normalizing effect (i.e.,

growing at a monthly pace consistent with pre-pandemic levels) rather than a material downshift in hiring activity. Lastly, we believe there is a rising probability that inflation remains above target with more upside risk toward the end of the fourth quarter.

Outside of those three key indicators, GDP has remained robust, increasing at a 3.0% annualized growth rate in the second quarter, while the Atlanta Fed GDPNow forecast for the third quarter closed September at 3.1%, its highest reading throughout the quarter. As we look for evidence of continued economic expansion, our focus turns to the consumer, which remains in a healthy position. Of course, there are pockets of weakness in a few areas related to lower credit quality borrowers in the auto lending sector, but in our view, this is not unusual given the late stage of the cycle and where that market had been for the last three years.

On the inflation front, the PCE Price Index slowed to 2.2% in August, but the Core PCE Price Index accelerated to 2.7%. Services inflation remains sticky, rising to 3.7% year-over-year in the latest update, while year-over-year goods inflation dropped to -0.9%, its largest decline since July 2020. As we move into the fourth quarter, we



David Dirk, CFA

Portfolio Manager for assets allocated to the Fund's Fixed Income Sub-Adviser, Boyd Watterson Asset Management, LLC

would expect to see services prices remain elevated and goods prices come in less negative, largely driven by easing base effects in energy commodities. Additionally, the lagged impact of home prices should make their way into the index calculations, contributing to sticky inflation.

During the fourth quarter, we will continue to monitor incoming macroeconomic data through our framework coupled with the updated outlook provided in the Summary of Economic Projections (“SEP”) from the Federal Reserve. The SEP will be important due to its projection for the unemployment rate, which reaches 4.4% by the end of the year. In July and August, the unemployment rate stood at 4.3% and 4.2%, respectively, leaving little room to reach that projection and potentially rationalize additional rate cuts in November and/or December. However, beyond that, the FOMC’s outlook on the economy was generally positive, a view we also continue to hold.

Trailing Returns⁴ (%)

30 Sep 2024

Eventide Limited-Term Bond Fund	YTD	3-mos	1-year	3-year ⁵	5-year ⁵	10-year ⁵	Since Inception ⁵	Inception Date
Class I	4.74	3.27	8.54	1.26	1.47	1.62	2.05	07/28/2010
Class A without load	4.44	3.18	8.14	0.96	1.21	1.63	2.29	07/28/2010
Class A with 5.75% load ⁶	-1.60	-2.71	1.92	-1.01	0.03	1.02	1.87	07/28/2010
Class C ⁷	3.91	3.01	7.41	0.22	0.45	—	1.33	12/14/2018
Class N	4.50	3.10	8.23	1.02	1.25	—	2.13	12/14/2018
Benchmarks								
Bloomberg 1-5 Year Government/Credit Index ⁸	4.50	3.50	8.10	0.94	1.54	1.77	1.76	07/28/2010
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index ⁸	4.45	5.20	11.57	-1.39	0.33	1.84	2.31	07/28/2010

Performance is historical and does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate with changing market conditions so that when redeemed, shares may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Investors cannot directly invest in an index, and unmanaged index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges. The volatility of an index may be materially different than that of the Fund, and investors should not expect the Fund to achieve the same results as a listed index. Performance data current to the most recent month-end may be obtained by calling 1-877-771-EVEN (3836).

Eventide Limited-Term Bond Fund expenses: Class I, Gross Expenses 0.71%, Net Expenses 0.55%; Class A, Gross Expenses 0.96%, Net Expenses 0.80%; Class C, Gross Expenses 1.71%, Net Expenses 1.55%; Class N, Gross Expenses 0.91%, Net Expenses 0.75%. The adviser has contractually agreed to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses of the Fund through 10/31/2024. The agreement may be terminated by the Fund's Board of Trustees only on 60 days' written notice.

1. Source: Bloomberg PORT Attribution Report. Allocation percentages are subject to change at any time, and should not be considered investment advice.
2. The total return percentage listed is impacted by the Fund's transactions and transacted price levels of the holding during the quarter.
3. Quality ratings reflect the credit quality of the underlying securities in the Fund's portfolio and not that of the Fund itself. Quality ratings are subject to change. Standard & Poor's and Fitch assigns a rating of AAA as the highest to D as the lowest credit quality rating.
4. The returns shown do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or on the redemption of fund shares. Because of ongoing market volatility, fund performance may be subject to substantial short-term changes. The Fund acquired the assets and liabilities of the Epiphany FFV Strategic Income Fund ("Predecessor Fund") on 12/14/2018. The Predecessor Fund's Class A shares were reclassified from Class N shares on 06/01/2015 and its Class I shares were reclassified from Class C shares on 05/30/2017, and the fee structure was different.
5. Performance figures for periods greater than 1 year are annualized. The Fund's share classes have different inception dates. Annualized since inception figures use the Predecessor Fund's inception date of 07/28/2010 unless otherwise noted.
6. In the case of investments at or above the \$1 million breakpoint (where you do not pay an initial sales charge), a 1.00% contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC") may be assessed on shares redeemed within eighteen months of purchase. The CDSC for these Class A shares is based on the NAV at the time of purchase. The holding period for the CDSC begins on the day you buy your shares. Some intermediaries may waive or discount the CDSC under certain circumstances.
7. A 1.00% contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC") may be assessed on C-shares redeemed within twelve months of purchase.
8. The Bloomberg 1-5 Year Government/Credit Index includes investment-grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate treasuries, government-related and corporate securities that have a remaining maturity of greater than or equal to one year and less than five years. The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is a broad based benchmark that measures the investment-grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. This includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, mortgage backed securities, asset-backed securities and collateralized mortgage-backed securities.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the Fund's portfolio management team as of 09/30/2024 and are subject to change. There is no guarantee that such views are correct or that the outlook opinions will come to pass. Security types mentioned are for performance attribution informational purposes only and should not be construed as buy or sell advice. Reliance upon the views expressed herein is at the sole discretion of the reader. The Adviser's judgment about the quality and intrinsic value of companies may prove to be incorrect. There is no guarantee that any investment will achieve its objectives, generate positive gains, or avoid losses.

Mutual funds involve risk including the possible loss of principal. Past performance does not guarantee future results. The Fund's ethical values screening criteria could cause it to under-perform similar funds that do not have such screening criteria. Investors in the Fund should be aware that interest rates may change at any time based on government policy. In general, the price of a fixed income security falls when interest rates rise. A rise in interest rates may result in volatility and increased redemptions, which in turn could result in the Fund being forced to liquidate portfolio securities at disadvantageous prices. Longer term securities may be more sensitive to changes in interest rates. Interest rates are sensitive to changes in inflation, and investing in bonds exposes investors to inflation risk. Bonds may be subject to default, causing loss of invested capital. Fixed income investments may be of any maturity or credit quality, but the Fund's weighted average effective portfolio duration will not exceed five years. The Fund may invest, directly or indirectly, in "junk bonds." Such securities are speculative investments that carry greater risks than higher quality debt securities. The Fund can invest in smaller-sized companies which may experience higher failure rates than larger companies and normally have a lower trading volume than larger companies. There are unique risks associated with asset-backed securities, convertible securities, credit, foreign securities, income, interest rates, mortgage-backed securities, municipal bonds, preferred stocks, prepayment, securities, sovereign debt, and U.S. Agency securities that are covered in the Fund's prospectus and SAI.

The Predecessor Fund was advised by Trinity Fiduciary Partners, LLC and had an investment objective and strategies that were, in all material respects, the same as those of the Fund, whose investment adviser is Eventide Asset Management, LLC. However, under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (plus borrowings for investment purposes) in bonds.

This information is for use with concurrent or prior delivery of a fund prospectus, which can be obtained at <https://www.eventidefunds.com/prospectus> or by calling 1-877-771-EVEN (3836). Investors should consider a Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing or sending money. Eventide Mutual Funds are distributed by Northern Lights Distributors, LLC, Member FINRA/SIPC, which is not affiliated with Eventide Asset Management, LLC.