

Core Bond Fund Commentary

March 31, 2024

AT A GLANCE

Managers: Chris Grogan, CFA; David Dirk, CFA

Fund Objective: Seeks total return consistent with income generation.

About the Fund: The fund seeks to invest at least 80% net assets in bonds.

Benchmark: Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index

Morningstar Category: US Fund Intermediate Core Bond

Lipper Category: Core Bond

Net Assets: \$130 million

Inception Date: July 31, 2020

GLOSSARY

FOMC: Federal Open Market Committee, sets US monetary policy

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

ISM Manufacturing PMI: US manufacturing health, above 50 is good

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

S&P Global Manufacturing PMI: Gauges manufacturing health, with 50 as a threshold

SEP: Summary of Economic Projections, predicts US economic trends

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Class I: ETIRX | Class A: ETARX | Class C: ETCRX | Class N: ETNRX

Review

The Eventide Core Bond Fund (Class I) posted a total return of -0.64% for the first quarter of 2024, compared with the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index of -0.78%. The Fund (Class I) posted a total return of 1.99% for the 12 months ending 03/31/2024 compared to the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index of 1.70%.

Contribution to Return by Security Type¹ (%)

Q1 2024

	Average Weight	Total Return ²	Contribution to Fund Return
ABS	2.47	1.48	0.04
Cash	2.20	0.00	0.00
Corporate Bonds	45.52	-0.56	-0.28
Pass-Throughs	27.91	-1.17	-0.34
Sovereign Agency Debt	16.70	-0.62	-0.08
U.S. Tax Exempt Municipals	0.93	0.10	0.00
U.S. Taxable Municipals	4.27	-0.02	0.03

Return Breakdown

- During the quarter, interest rates moved higher while the yield curve flattened marginally.
- The credit markets continued to tighten and produce positive excess returns relative to Treasuries.
- For credit investors, the economic resiliency outweighed the timing and magnitude of potential rate cuts as investors focused on all-in yields rather than the historically tight credit spreads.
- From a quality standpoint, lower quality outperformed higher quality on both a total and excess return basis.
- The securitized sectors had mixed results, with the lower quality segments of the CMBS market producing some of the highest returns within the fixed income market for the quarter.
- Asset-backed securities continued to exhibit steady outperformance while agency MBS was the only spread sector to underperform Treasuries, as the volatility and rise in yields weighed on that sector.
- Sentiment changed in early November as the Treasury indicated that supply increases were likely nearing an end, and the Fed convinced investors they were likely done raising interest rates by signaling we could potentially see more cuts in 2024 than previously expected.

Performance is historical and does not guarantee future results.

Portfolio Team Outlook

The first quarter began with the expectation that the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) would cut its policy rate at least six times in 2024. This was double the number of rate cuts the FOMC guided toward in their 'dot plot' from December. Over the course of the quarter, the market's rate cut expectations were halved and, in March, the policy rate was left unchanged at 5.25% - 5.50% for a fifth consecutive meeting. The FOMC's latest Summary of Economic Projections (SEP) featured upward revisions to real GDP and Core PCE inflation, and a downward revision to the unemployment rate, tilting the range of probabilities for interest rate policy firmly toward the 'higher for longer' camp.

On the growth front, leading indicators for industrial production have been ticking up. The S&P Global Manufacturing PMI has been in expansionary territory over the last three months and the ISM Manufacturing PMI increased to 50.3 in March, marking its first expansionary reading in seventeen months. This shifting sentiment, and an easing base effect setup, point toward the prospect of positive year-over-year growth for industrial production in the second quarter.

Over the next few months, we will be looking for further confirmation of improving

economic activity from the labor market. As expected, the pace of hiring has slowed on a rate of change basis, but month-to-month payroll growth has continued at a solid pace, which has resulted in the unemployment rate remaining below 4.0%. Wages and salaries have continued to grow in nominal terms at a healthy clip of 5.8% year-over-year. If economic activity continues on its current trajectory, the consumer should likely be in an increasingly stronger position to spend and/or pay down existing debt with each incremental real dollar earned.

Turning to inflation, the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index has improved to levels last seen in the first quarter of 2021, increasing at a 2.5% rate year-over-year. The Core PCE Price Index has followed a similar path lower in the last twelve months, slowing to 2.8% year-over-year growth in February. The important takeaway from this inflation setup is that both measures of inflation are still above the Fed's 2.0% target, while the pace of disinflation has slowed recently. Additionally, as the year-over-year comparison set eases, it will become tougher from a mathematical standpoint for inflation readings to continue decelerating at a pace that would justify the magnitude of rate cuts in the timeframe the market had expected at the beginning of the year.



David Dirk, CFA

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

Considering the FOMC's updated economic projections for 2024, combined with a rising probability that economic growth reaccelerates, and inflation stays above the Fed's target, we have adjusted our view away from a bumpy landing and more toward a soft-landing scenario. As noted in our previous Outlook, we observed that the market may be underestimating the patience of the FOMC, and we are reiterating that view as the Committee navigates better-than-expected growth and stickier-than-expected inflation. Since the March 20th meeting, there have been a handful of Fed officials emphasizing the potential need to remain restrictive for longer than previously thought. By the end of the quarter, the market appeared to be coming to grips with the increasing probability of a later start to the easing cycle, coupled with the possibility of fewer rate cuts this year, a view we currently share.

Trailing Returns³ (%)

31 Mar 2024

	YTD	3-mos	1-year	3-year ⁴	5-year	10-year	Since Inception ⁴	Inception Date
<i>Eventide Core Bond Fund</i>								
Class I	-0.64	-0.64	1.99	-2.86	—	—	-3.42	07/31/2020
Class A without load	-0.67	-0.67	1.74	-3.10	—	—	-3.63	07/31/2020
Class A with 5.75% load ⁵	-6.41	-6.41	-4.16	-4.98	—	—	-5.17	07/31/2020
Class C ⁶	-0.85	-0.85	1.02	-3.78	—	—	-4.33	07/31/2020
Class N	-0.68	-0.68	1.79	-3.06	—	—	-3.61	07/31/2020
<i>Benchmark</i>								
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index ⁷	-0.78	-0.78	1.70	-2.46	—	—	-2.98	07/31/2020

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 Core Bond Fund expenses: Class I, Gross Expenses 0.81%, Net Expenses 0.58%; Class A, Gross Expenses 1.06%, Net Expenses 0.83%; Class C, Gross Expenses 1.81%, Net Expenses 1.58%; Class N, Gross Expenses 1.01%, Net Expenses 0.78%. 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. 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.
4. Performance figures for periods greater than 1 year are annualized. Annualized since inception figures use an inception date of 07/31/2020.
5. 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.
6. A 1.00% contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC") may be assessed on C-shares redeemed within twelve months of purchase.
7. 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. Source: Bloomberg Index Services Limited. Bloomberg® and the indices referenced herein (the "Indices", and each such index, an "Index") are service marks of Bloomberg Finance L.P. and its affiliates (collectively "Bloomberg") and/or one or more third-party providers (each such provider, a "Third-Party Provider,") and have been licensed for use for certain purposes to Eventide Asset Management LLC (the "Licensee"). To the extent a Third-Party Provider contributes intellectual property in connection with the Index, such third-party products, company names and logos are trademarks or service marks, and remain the property, of such Third-Party Provider. Bloomberg or Bloomberg's licensors own all proprietary rights in the Bloomberg Indices. Neither Bloomberg nor Bloomberg's licensors, including a Third-Party Provider, approves or endorses this material, or guarantees the accuracy or completeness of any information herein, or makes any warranty, express or implied, as to the results to be obtained therefrom and, to the maximum extent allowed by law, neither Bloomberg nor Bloomberg's licensors, including a Third-Party Provider, shall have any liability or responsibility for injury or damages arising in connection therewith.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the Fund's portfolio management team as of 03/31/2024 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 objec-

tives, 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. Longer term securities may be more sensitive to changes in interest rates. 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. 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 be between three years and nine 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, duration, extension, foreign securities, income, mortgage back securities, municipal bonds, preferred stocks, pre-payment securities, sovereign debt, and U.S. Agency securities that are covered in the Fund's prospectus and SAI. The Fund has no history of operations prior to its inception date.

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