

Core Bond Fund Commentary

June 30, 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: \$137 million

Inception Date: July 31, 2020

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

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

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

Review

The Eventide Core Bond Fund (Class I) posted a total return of 0.10% for the second quarter of 2024, compared with the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index of 0.07%. The Fund (Class I) posted a total return of 2.54% for the 12 months ending 06/30/2024 compared to the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index of 2.63%.

Contribution to Return by Security Type¹ (%)

Q2 2024

| | Average Weight | Total Return ² | Contribution to Fund Return |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ABS | 2.71 | 1.26 | 0.04 |
| Cash | 1.98 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Corporate Bonds | 45.19 | 0.19 | 0.09 |
| Pass-Throughs | 26.53 | 0.14 | 0.01 |
| Sovereign Agency Debt | 14.15 | 0.35 | 0.01 |
| U.S. Tax Exempt Municipals | 0.62 | 0.85 | 0.01 |
| U.S. Taxable Municipals | 8.82 | -0.07 | 0.00 |

Return Breakdown

- Heightened volatility resulted in higher interest rates across the yield curve, as the ten-year Treasury yield increased twenty basis points to 4.40%.
- The yield curve bear, or when long-term interest rates increase at a faster rate than short-term rates, steepened during the quarter but remains inverted as expectations for interest rate cuts were pushed back until later this year.
- The credit markets experienced modest spread widening but still managed to generate positive excess returns over Treasuries.
- Within investment grade, lower quality outperformed higher quality, while on the high yield side the reverse was true, with the S&P, Moody's or Fitch equivalent of BBs outperforming CCCs.
- Performance across the maturity spectrum was bifurcated as 15+ year corporates underperformed Treasuries while short-to-intermediate corporates produced positive excess returns.
- The securitized sectors had mixed results, as the asset-backed and CMBS sectors outperformed while the agency MBS sector underperformed given the volatility in rates during the quarter.

Performance is historical and does not guarantee future results.

Portfolio Team Outlook

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) voted to hold its policy rate between 5.25% – 5.50% for a seventh consecutive meeting in June. Additionally, the Summary of Economic Projections (SEP) signaled a reduced appetite for rate cuts by year end, from three to one, and an upward revision to Core PCE Inflation, from 2.6% to 2.8%, which is largely consistent with the widely held ‘higher for longer’ sentiment. In our view, while the FOMC may implement one rate cut in 2024 per their guidance, we are unlikely to see economic fundamentals slow to a level that would justify rate cuts at consecutive meetings. Thus, we are not anticipating a meaningful change in the current trajectory of economic activity or critical market-based signals like the shape of the U.S. Treasury yield curve.

Looking back at the economic growth developments in the second quarter, industrial production rebounded in April, business sentiment improved, and consumer spending remained robust. Personal income has continued to increase year-on-year at a pace slightly above the average of the five-year period leading up to

the pandemic, accelerating to 4.6% in May. At the same time broad labor market trends have not shown signs of a material break down, which is noteworthy for this stage of the cycle.

Turning to inflation, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) came in softer than expected in May, but underlying trends within the stickier parts of inflation remain elevated. CPI for All Items registered a surprising 0% month-over-month growth rate in May, leaving the year-over-year growth rate ten basis points lower at 3.3%. The flat monthly growth rate was driven by a negative contribution from motor fuel, a series that fluctuates often and can have outsized impacts on the headline number in any given month. On a year-over-year basis, the comparison set for oil and gasoline prices will get tougher, meaning the energy-related components of CPI have a higher probability of declining in the third quarter before reversing to inflationary in the fourth quarter.

With a mostly positive economic backdrop and an inflation setup that suggests the last mile of getting to 2.0% will be difficult,



David Dirk, CFA

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

the FOMC remains in a tough spot. Additionally, there may be added scrutiny surrounding monetary policy changes, given the upcoming U.S. Presidential election. Contributing to the complicated policy dynamic for the FOMC, their peers at the European Central Bank, Central Bank of Sweden, and Bank of Canada have already cut their respective policy rates in recent meetings. Meanwhile, the Fed Funds futures market at the end of the second quarter was pricing in the potential for two, 25-basis point rate cuts by the Fed this year with the first occurring as early as September. In our view, the unexpected softness of headline economic data in recent months has once again put the market slightly out in front of the FOMC in terms of future rate cut expectations.

Trailing Returns³ (%)

30 Jun 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 | -0.54 | 0.10 | 2.54 | -3.40 | — | — | -3.18 | 07/31/2020 |
| Class A without load | -0.63 | 0.04 | 2.42 | -3.66 | — | — | -3.39 | 07/31/2020 |
| Class A with 5.75% load ⁵ | -6.38 | -5.72 | -3.48 | -5.54 | — | — | -4.84 | 07/31/2020 |
| Class C ⁶ | -1.05 | -0.21 | 1.53 | -4.36 | — | — | -4.11 | 07/31/2020 |
| Class N | -0.64 | 0.05 | 2.34 | -3.60 | — | — | -3.37 | 07/31/2020 |
| <i>Benchmark</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index ⁷ | -0.71 | 0.07 | 2.63 | -3.02 | — | — | -2.78 | 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 06/30/2024 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. 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.*

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.