



# The Quail

October 2008

NEWS FROM LANE COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### As autumn approaches, reflections on chickadee life cycle

Maeve Sowles

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Black-capped Chickadees (BCC) are year-round yard birds at our home. They use our nest boxes, this year fledging 21 chicks from three boxes! Six Chestnut-backed Chickadees fledged from another box, so this was a good chickadee year for us! These small birds are secretive and systematic during nesting. Often, it is not until we open a box on our weekly inspection that we know chickadees are using it. They stay out of sight, waiting until no one is nearby, and then zip from the trees into the box, quickly leaving the same way. Usually the pair work together, and I've heard the chickadee in the tree give a warning call to the one in the box if we are nearby. The bird waits until we move away to make their quick exit. Their nest is a 4-inch deep, tightly packed moss bed with a ¼-inch layer of fur or hair on the top. They gather the hair from fences where deer or horses have rubbed, or from a rabbit or squirrel bed or a carcass in the woods. One year I observed a BCC picking up individual white dog hairs (from my old dog) on the door mat. The bird picked up each hair, holding it exactly in the middle, so that by the time the beak was full of hair, it looked like a little white mustache on the bird! The chickadee made several visits to the doormat to line its nest. Now, I put clumps of our dog's or cat's fur on a hook on the deck to provide nesting material for the chickadees.



As the BCC raise their brood, they relentlessly deliver insects to their young. They often leave the nest carrying a fecal sac. Amazingly, after raising six, eight or even nine chicks in a box, the nest is obviously tamped down, but there are no feces inside. What tidy little birds! Although the eggs might be laid over the course of a week, the parents adjust incubation and feeding so that all the chicks are ready to leave the nest together. They all fledge on the same day. Quite an accomplishment! Even into the fall, we have young chickadees on our property, and occasionally the "dee

dee" begging voices can be heard. The chicks are insistent and follow the adults everywhere. Before the rains come, one feature that attracts the chickadee flock is water. In the afternoon, as I water my garden, the BCC come into a multi-flora rosebush just outside my garden fence to watch me water. They make a gurgling call and wait for me to finish watering the cabbage patch. When I move to the other side of the garden they fly down to drink at the cabbage leaves. At times there will be eight BCC in, around and under the cabbage getting water. I leave my

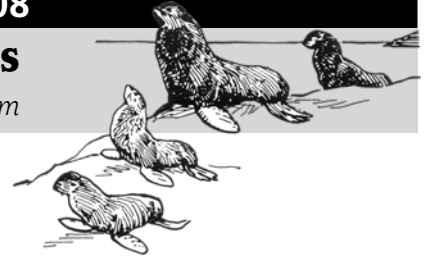
*continues on page 9*

# The offshore drilling debate: muddy waters

Debbie Schlenoff

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It is difficult to muddle through the rhetoric about offshore drilling, particularly because most of the numbers cited are estimates only. Americans currently use about 20 million barrels of oil a day, which is about 25% of total world consumption. According to our government's report from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) on drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), *"The projections in the OCS access case indicate that access to the Pacific, Atlantic, and eastern Gulf regions would not have a significant impact on domestic crude oil and natural gas production or prices before 2030."* Drilling offshore would then provide an estimated one to three percent of the world's oil supply and most experts agree that this is not enough to affect the price of oil which is set on an international market. In addition, OPEC members re-assess production levels frequently, and a surplus (such as that which would come from offshore drilling) results in adjusting the supply from the oil producing nations to keep prices stable. Again, from the EIA government report, *"Because oil prices are determined on the international market, however, any impact on average wellhead prices is expected to be insignificant."*

## ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

It is difficult to assess the real economic consequences of offshore drilling. When weighing the economic benefits of drilling or not, environmental impacts should be taken into account. There is monetary value in the coastal tourist industry, the coastal housing market, clean water and ocean fisheries, all of which would be negatively affected by drilling. Drilling fluids contain toxic chemicals

and the drilling itself releases briny water containing oil, mercury and other heavy metals. Exploration and set-up involve sounding which may be detrimental to whales and other marine mammals. Recently, ExxonMobil put a halt to exploration near Madagascar after over 100 whales beached themselves nearby. In addition, the risks of oil spills which are devastating to sea birds and other marine organisms must be considered. Clean-up is expensive. Since the nightmare that ensued from the oil drill rupture off the coast near Santa Barbara in 1969, there has been much improvement in safety technology. However, there is no such thing as completely eliminating the risk of oil spills. Fortunately, we do not often hear of very large spills such as that at Santa Barbara or the Exxon Valdez, but, in reality there are thousands of reports of smaller oil spills each year.

## U.S. DRILLING ACTIVITY AND PUMP PRICES

The way the system currently works, oil extracted from the U.S. is not provided exclusively to its citizens. This casts doubts on the claim that offshore drilling will increase national security and energy independence. The oil is sold on the world market and oil companies do business for profit. Exacerbating the confusion are recent reports that the division of the Department of the Interior that is responsible for granting leasing permits to oil companies is rife with corruption. If further research demonstrates that offshore drilling would provide a significant benefit, then the entire system must be restructured before that oil could achieve the goals of security and independence. However, even if the

oil extracted from our waters stayed in the United States, it is projected that it amounts to about a two year supply. Certainly better than the current model, but, still a short term solution. We need to plan for a more long-term resolution to our energy needs.

## ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Offshore drilling is a tremendously expensive enterprise. If the money were invested instead in the imminent technological energy revolution, we would gain far more in energy independence and economic benefits. So what can be done instead of drilling? Let's promote fuel conservation. If the government raises fuel efficiency standards by less than half a percent each year, we would soon save far more oil than could be found offshore. Let's invest in more fuel-efficient transportation, factories, and buildings. Let's invest in alternative energy that would reduce energy costs, create independence, and have a more benign environmental impact.



## VOTE!

Election Day is almost here. Please take the time to examine the issues that are important to you. If environmental concerns are among them, consult the scorecards produced by such organizations as the League of Conservation Voters ([www.lcv.org](http://www.lcv.org)). *And, most importantly, don't forget to cast your vote!*

## FIELD NOTES: AUGUST 2008

- **Field Notes editor struck by owl**
- **Swift roost discovered in Mapleton**
- **Raptor drama at Bob Creek**

Tom & Allison Mickel

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August this year was kind of a mixed bag weather-wise, with the normal dry and hot mixed in with cool and wet. As is typical for August, most of the reports we received document migrating birds heading south for the winter. Migration should continue for at least a couple more months, so be sure to let us know what species you're finding and where.

### WATERBIRDS

White-winged Scoter	Aug. 22	Brays Point	WH	Large flock gathering for the winter season
Clark's Grebe	Aug. 22	Brays Point	WH	Not often found off the coast
Snowy Egret	Aug. 21	Fern Ridge Reservoir	JS	Annual sightings on FRR since 2006; no previous records

### RAPTORS

White-tailed Kite	Aug. 18	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DAr,KL	The first post-breeding report for the area
Bald Eagle	Aug. 4	Bob Creek	DAI	Harassed by a Peregrine Falcon
Red-shouldered Hawk (imm)	Aug. 7	Hills Creek Reservoir	DF	Dispersing from valley breeding areas?
Peregrine Falcon	Aug. 3	Fern Ridge Reservoir	SHi	First post-breeding report for the area
Peregrine Falcon	Aug. 4	Bob Creek	DAI	Harassing a Bald Eagle

### SHOREBIRDS, TERNS & ALCIDS

Plover (14)	Aug. 1	Siltcoos River mouth	DBy	A known breeding location
Snowy Plover (17)	Aug. 31	Siltcoos River mouth	A&TM, B&ZS	
Semipalmated Plover (10)	Aug. 1	Slitcoos River mouth	DBy	Good numbers for the peak of their migration
Black-necked Stilt (5)	Aug. 24	Fern Ridge Reservoir	A&TM	Last report during the breeding season
American Avocet (2)	Aug. 24	Fern Ridge Reservoir	A&TM	The only August report from FRR—is this the pair that lingered through the summer or a different pair migrating through?
Solitary Sandpiper	Aug. 21	Fern Ridge Reservoir	JS	Not as common in the fall as in the spring
Whimbrel (25)	Aug. 1	Siltcoos River mouth	DBy	Migrating south along the beach
Whimbrel (14)	Aug. 20	FRR: W. Coyote Unit	LM et al.	Higher than usual numbers for FRR
Long-billed Curlew	Aug. 3	W. Eugene	RH	Spotted on the Babe Ruth baseball fields for over a week! Typically found in very small numbers in Lane County during migration
Marbled Godwit (3)	Aug. 6	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DAr et al.	Always a good find at FRR
Marbled Godwit	Aug. 21	Fern Ridge Reservoir	JS	Second report for the fall at FRR
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Aug. 13	Fern Ridge Reservoir	LM et al.	A few are usually found each year in early fall.
Baird's Sandpiper (3)	Aug. 1	Siltcoos River mouth	DBy	Found in small numbers every fall
Short-billed Dowitcher (3)	Aug. 13	Fern Ridge Reservoir	LM et al.	A few are normally reported inland

## FIELD NOTES: AUGUST 2008, *continued*

### SHOREBIRDS, TERNS & ALCIDS *continued*

Red-necked Phalarope (3)	Aug. 18	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DAR,KL	First report for fall migration
Red-necked Phalarope	Aug. 24	Florence area	SC	Good numbers found along the coast
Caspian Tern (2)	Aug. 1	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DBa	The first terns seen on the new "tern" island
Caspian Tern (2)	Aug. 15	Delta ponds	TM	Seen flying down the Willamette River
Forster's Tern (5)	Aug. 2	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DI,SHe	They're normally seen in late summer.
Black Tern	Aug. 27	Fern Ridge Reservoir	LM et al.	Last report for the breeding season
Common Murre	Aug. 12	Siuslaw River	B&ZS	Lots of adults and chicks found at the mouth of the river, for a change
Rhinoceros Auklet	Aug. 12	Siuslaw River	B&ZS	Many found at river mouth as well

### OWLS & SWIFTS

Barred Owl	Aug. 1	Ridgeline Trail	TM	Struck on the back of the head by this owl while walking along trail early in the morning
Barred Owl	Aug. 26	Canary Road	VD	An area with few reports due to few observers
Vaux's Swift (30)	Aug. 16	Mapleton	VD	Flying over town in the evening
Vaux's Swift (100)	Aug. 31	Mapleton	VD	Roosting in chimney of the Lions Club building

### PASSERINES

Williamson's Sapsucker	Aug. 7	Waldo Lake area	PS	Rare in Lane County and only found in the High Cascades
Black-backed Woodpecker	Aug. 7	Waldo Lake area	PS	A normal location for this species
Black Phoebe (3 imm.)	Aug. 18	Booth-Kelly Pond	TE	A new breeding location for this species
Bank Swallow	Aug. 6	Fern Ridge Reservoir	Dar et al.	Typical time of year to find in small numbers
Mountain Bluebird	Aug. 7	Waldo Lake area	PS	They've been breeding in the North Waldo burn for a number of years.
Northern Mockingbird	Aug. 28	Rock Ck. Campground	MP	A bird moving north from breeding areas?
Black-and-White Warbler	Aug. 14	Delta Ponds	SHi	The eighth report for Lane County
Western Tanager	Aug. 7	W. Eugene	DI	Migrating through the neighborhood



### ABBREVIATIONS & LOCATIONS

FRR Fern Ridge Reservoir; Booth-Kelly Pond (Springfield);  
Rock Creek Campground (northern Lane County coast)

### THANK YOU, CONTRIBUTORS!

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L

# A MESSAGE FROM LANE AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maeve Sowles, President

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president@laneaudubon.org



We ask you to become a local member of **Lane County Audubon Society** and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. All of your local dues stay here to help us work on local education projects and conservation issues related to birds and their habitats. With your support, we will continue to do the things you expect from us. We welcome your suggestions ... this is your Audubon!

## LANE AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



*The Quail* • **The Quail**  
9 issues/yr.



• **Field Trips & Bird Walks**



• **Program Meetings**



• **Educational Publications**



• **Conservation Issue Representation**



• **Answers to Questions: 485-BIRD**

Visit our web site:  
[www.laneaudubon.org](http://www.laneaudubon.org)

## JOIN OR RENEW TODAY:

### Lane Audubon Society welcomes you!

Lane County Audubon Society needs your local membership dues to keep our various programs alive! This means that your membership dues for National Audubon Society no longer support a membership in your local chapter. Become a member of Lane Audubon today to help us continue our educational programs and our work in protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats in Lane County. We appreciate your support.

## LANE AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Individual \$20.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Student and Seniors (65 and over) \$15 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Family \$25 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Lifetime Membership \$400.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to do more. Here's my tax deductible contribution for .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society) .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you are a current national Audubon member     Don't know

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organizations. We will use it only for Lane Audubon communications.*

## PLEASE CONTACT ME REGARDING:

- Gift memberships
- Volunteering for Lane Audubon activities
- Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program
- I'd like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

## Mail this form and your payment to:

Lane Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 5086  
Eugene, OR 97405

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Quail Layout



*The Quail*

We are looking for a volunteer to do the Quail layout. We provide the template (formatted with InDesign) and the text. Then, you add graphics and do the layout. For more information, contact Cynthia Stockwell, at 345-9358 or [quail@clearwire.net](mailto:quail@clearwire.net).

#### THE QUAIL

Deadlines:  
November issue: October 11  
December issue: November 8

Submit material to:  
Cynthia Stockwell, editor,  
<[quail@clearwire.net](mailto:quail@clearwire.net)>

#### THE QUAIL

*The Quail* is the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society, which is a chartered chapter of national Audubon. Nine issues are published per year (*May-June, July-Aug. and Dec.-Jan. are double issues*).


Local members of national Audubon receive a free subscription to *The Quail*, but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane Audubon (see pg. 5).

**Subscriptions:** Contact Jim Blick at 683-4635 or [blick@toast.net](mailto:blick@toast.net).

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### Wings & Wine Festival Coordinator



We are seeking a volunteer to coordinate Lane Audubon's involvement with the annual Fern Ridge Wings and Wine Festival. You would attend the monthly planning meetings, take meeting notes and distribute these to the steering committee. We need someone to track timelines and action items, coordinating our efforts. The next event is in May 2009. Help us make it a reality! For more information, contact Maeve Sowles at 343-8664 or [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org). 

### LANE COUNTY AUDUBON OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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### LANE COUNTY AUDUBON COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

*A service to Lane County Audubon members*

## A JOURNEY TO THE WILDLIFE REFUGES OF THE KLAMATH BASIN

### OREGON WILD

Come see the spectacular images of professional photographer Brett Cole as we tour the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge celebrating its 100th anniversary this year as the oldest migratory waterfowl refuge in the nation. Oregon Wild Klamath Campaign Coordinator Ani Kame'enui will be your guide.

**Wednesday Oct. 1, 6:30 p.m.**

Eugene Public Library (10th & Olive), Tykeson Room; FMI: Chandra 344-0675, [cl@oregonwild.org](mailto:cl@oregonwild.org)

## FIRE ECOLOGY WALK

### MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

Fire ecologist and firefighter Steve Clark leads a walk to discuss the Arboretum's fire plan, what we will do if a fire starts in the park, and the pros and cons of controlled burns.

**Saturday Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to noon**

\$5/MPA members free; FMI: Clare at 747-1504 or [mtpisgjp@efn.org](mailto:mtpisgjp@efn.org)

## KIDS' PAINTING WITH NATURE WORKSHOP

### MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

Join nature guide Clare Bennett and hunt for berries, lichens, grass, soil, mushrooms, and more! These colorful treasures will be turned into 'paints' to create an artistic masterpiece!



**Sunday Oct. 5, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

All ages are welcome. \$5 per child/grownups free with child; FMI: Clare at 747-1504 or [mtpisgjp@efn.org](mailto:mtpisgjp@efn.org)

## TAYLOR'S CHECKERSPOT

### THE NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY



### ASSOCIATION

OSU Ph.D. student Paul Severns presents the life cycle, habitat, and conservation issues of Taylor's Checkerspot, a rare butterfly of the Corvallis area which depends on exotic species for survival.

**Monday Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.**

EWEB Training Center, 500 W. 4th Ave., Eugene

## RIDGEFIELD BIRDFEST

Celebrate the return of the birds and the beauty of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge! Enjoy bird walks, plankhouse tours, special activities for the whole family, Birders' Marketplace and great food! Saturday is Bluegrass day!

**Saturday & Sunday Oct. 11-12**

FMI: [www.ridgefieldfriends.org](http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org) or [rfriends@pacifier.com](mailto:rfriends@pacifier.com)

## FINDING AND HARVESTING EDIBLE MUSHROOMS

### MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

Join eagle-eyed mushroom enthusiast Josiah Legler and learn where and when to look for edible mushrooms.

**Sunday Oct. 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

We'll meet at the Arboretum, then carpool to a mushrooming location about 45 minutes away. Dress for a walk in the woods and bring a mushroom guidebook (we'll have some available for sale) and a lunch. This class will prepare you to find and harvest mushrooms on your own, but we will respect the forest on the day of the workshop by not collecting mushrooms with a large group. \$20/\$18 MPA members. To sign up: Clare at 747-1504 or [mtpisgjp@efn.org](mailto:mtpisgjp@efn.org)

## EUGENE BIRDER'S NIGHT

An informal gathering of birders sharing Lane County sightings. All levels welcome.

**Monday Oct. 13, 7:00 p.m.**

EWEB Training Center; 500 E. 4th Ave.; FMI: Tom Mickel at 485-7112

## FALL FRUITS AND SEEDS WALK

### MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

Enjoy fall colors and the great variety of fruits and seeds; learn how seeds disperse and plants adapt to winter. Led by LCC botany professor Gail Baker.



**Saturday Oct. 18, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

\$5/MPA members free. FMI: Clare at 747-1504 or [mtpisgjp@efn.org](mailto:mtpisgjp@efn.org)

## FIFTH ANNUAL GREEN ISLAND TREE PLANTING

### MCKENZIE RIVER TRUST

It is time to gear up and plant some trees! 10,000 Trees, 300 Volunteers, 1 Day! This project is part of a larger effort to restore Green Island from historic agricultural usage to dynamic natural floodplain habitat.

**Saturday Oct. 25, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

FMI: McKenzie River Trust, 345-2799, [www.mckenzieriver.org](http://www.mckenzieriver.org)

## MUSHROOM FESTIVAL AND PLANT SALE

### MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM, CASCADE MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY, & LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

This event is one of the largest mushroom displays on the West Coast. Huge plant sale; scarecrow contest, children's activities, hayrides, craft vendors, incredible mushroom-inspired food, fresh cider, music, wine, and more!

**Sunday Oct. 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Suggested donation: \$5/person or \$10/family. MPA members free! FMI: 747-3817 or [mtpisgah@efn.org](mailto:mtpisgah@efn.org)



## AUDUBON IN THE SCHOOLS

### ***Audubon in the Schools* Instructors Needed!**

Kris Kirkeby

349-2439

*Audubon in the Schools* Coordinator

I'd like to update you on the progress of *Audubon in the Schools*. We started in the spring of 2005, and to date we've reached about 4500 students. We primarily teach grades 2-5 in the 4j, Bethel, Springfield and Junction City school regions. We visit an average of seven schools per term teaching the lessons to about 20 classes. This is a busy program and one that seems to grow, so it's exciting for us to begin another new school year!

*We have seven instructors visiting schools and we very much appreciate their efforts! But at times, we get stretched pretty thin and have had to turn down requests. Now we need more instructors. Please think about joining us so we can continue to make this educational contribution to area classrooms.*

#### **FREE INSTRUCTOR TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS**

Free training is available and involves two activity-packed Saturdays before you are ready to go into the classrooms. You don't need to be an artist to learn the drawing techniques well enough to teach the children. And you don't need to be a biologist or expert birder to learn the science well enough to teach the children. We have folks with a variety of backgrounds in our present group, and everyone is doing really well and enjoying the classroom visits!



**Join the Audubon in the Schools Crew!  
(No singing required.)**

You'll learn a well-tested curriculum, primarily using four easy-to-teach lessons. Each lesson combines bird biology and art methods in a one-hour session and includes an ecosystem component, aligning the information with the state standards. You'll be using a nice teaching collection of taxidermy birds, nests, feathers, bones, etc. You'll learn simple techniques to teach kids to draw accurately in pencil and render colors in colored pencil.


If you are interested or have questions, please contact me at 349-2439 (346-2511 in the mornings) or [k2kirk@comcast.net](mailto:k2kirk@comcast.net).

#### **AUDUBON IN THE SCHOOLS WELCOMES BONNIE LINDBERG**

*Audubon in the Schools* is very happy to announce and welcome a scheduling assistant to help us coordinate our

school visits! Bonnie Lindberg grew up in Wisconsin and went to college in Texas. A Eugene resident since 1971, Bonnie worked for Lane County and then the City of Eugene for about 25 years, retiring on April Fool's Day, 2005! Her interests include reading, knitting, traveling, a bit of window box gardening, yoga and learning more about the world.

#### **AUDUBON IN THE SCHOOLS NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS**

The Program now has a new e-mail address. If you know of a school or teacher that would like us to visit their classroom please have them contact Bonnie Lindberg at [aitslc@gmail.com](mailto:aitslc@gmail.com). 



## PROGRAM MEETING: OCTOBER 28

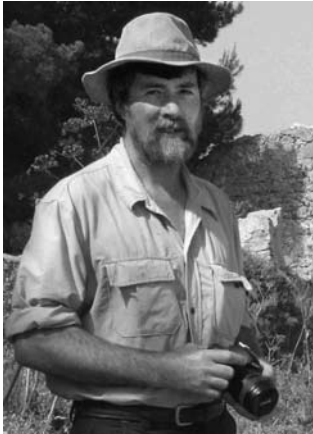
### New Hikes in Eastern Oregon

by William L. Sullivan

Herb Wisner

344-3634

hrwisner@comcast.net



Oregon's hiking guru will take us on a slide show tour of a dozen new trails he discovered while researching the just-released second edition of his book, "100 Hikes/Travel Guide: Eastern Oregon." Discover raptor habitat in Zumwalt Prairie at the Wallows, a historic ranch at Steens Mountain, a little-known waterfall near Bend, and a wildflower ridge north of Fort Rock. We'll even explore a microbrewery near Joseph and a retro hot springs resort at Summer Lake. As always, Sullivan spices his talk with notes on the geology, wildlife, and history of the land.

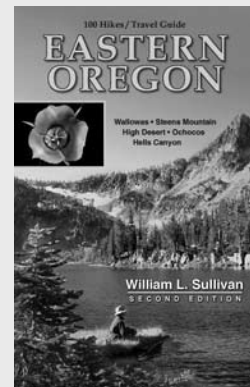
Sullivan is the author of a dozen books about Oregon, including "Oregon Trips & Trails," "Oregon's Greatest Natural Disasters," Hiking Oregon's History, and the popular "100 Hikes" series. His journal of a 1000-mile hike he took across Oregon in 1985, "Listening for Coyote," was chosen by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission as one of Oregon's "100 Books," the 100 most significant books in the state's history. He has also written a memoir and two novels. L



*A Special Thanks to...*  
**Sara Brownmiller**  
*For donating two pair of binoculars!*

## PROGRAM MEETING

**New Hikes in Eastern Oregon**  
by William L. Sullivan



**Tuesday, October 28**  
**7:30 P.M.**  
**Eugene Garden Club**  
**1645 High Street, Eugene**

*From Our President, continued from page 1*

cabbage in the ground just to serve as a drinking pool for the chickadees. One September afternoon as we kept to our watering ritual, the BCC began to alarm and left the garden. I heard them at the tops of some nearby fir trees calling alarm notes and moving from branch to branch. I moved closer to see the interloper, and saw movement up high, all the while the chickadees sounding an alarm. Several BCC flew away from the fir and above me a larger brown bird with a short

striped tail came into view, moving at the tops of the trees. A small ball of feathers fell to the ground about 6 feet in front of me, and then the bigger bird dropped to the ground on top of it: a dead chickadee, captured by a Pygmy Owl. The owl sat on its prey, blinked at me a few times and then took off clutching the dead chickadee. It was startling, and sad, but the owl needs to eat too. I rarely see Pygmy Owls and only occasionally hear them. It was my closest encounter

with a Pygmy Owl, one of the few predators quick and agile enough to catch a chickadee.

I am thankful to know we have sufficient habitat to maintain this predator population, as they are an important part of the life cycle. Creation and destruction, yang and yin, summer's vigor in the garden proceeds to fall's mortality. The season of harvest is here. L



## BIRD WALKS AND EVENTS

**Monthly Bird Walk:** Our monthly bird walks are usually held on the third Saturday of the month, but we often have additional walks or special trips. With knowledgeable leaders and many pairs of eyes to help spot birds, our trips are a great way to increase your birding skills while learning about Lane County birds and their habitats. All birders are welcome, from novice to expert. A \$3 donation is suggested.

*Dael Parsons*

338-0313

*daelparsons@comcast.net*

**SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 18**

### THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK

#### MT. PISGAH AND THE ARBORETUM

Let's explore Mt. Pisgah and the Arboretum. With over thirteen miles of trails and a range of habitats from the riparian zone of the river to the peak of the mountain, through meadows, upland oak woods and mixed fir forests, there is plenty to see and enjoy in this very special and much loved site. Please dress in layers and wear comfortable shoes for walking on uneven terrain.

*We will meet at our usual time and place for carpooling: 8:00 a.m. in the South Eugene High School parking lot at 19th and Patterson.*

**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 1**

#### LANE AUDUBON ANNUAL FALL BIKE PATH CLEAN UP

It's time for our Fall Bike Path Cleanup. Meet at the end of Terry Street just north of W. 11th Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to help us keep our portion of the West Eugene Bike Path free of litter. Bring walking shoes, a water bottle, and binoculars. The City of Eugene provides litter pickers, trash bags, gloves, and a sharps box. Please join us for a rewarding morning as we help clean the bike and pedestrian paths.

*For more information, e-mail Hugh Larkin, [hdlarkin2@clearwire.net](mailto:hdlarkin2@clearwire.net).*

**SUNDAY  
JANUARY 4,  
2009**

#### CALLING ALL BIRDERS: EUGENE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

**Save The Date!** Watch for details in the November Quail.

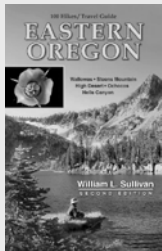
### Volunteer Opportunity

#### Bird Walks Coordinator

The Bird Walks Coordinator is responsible for setting up our Third Saturday Bird Walks: contacting field trip leaders, e-mailing the publicity, and meeting the group on the day of the Walk to get things rolling. It is, perhaps, the most fun job available, if you want to be out birding, meeting new people and learning from our bird walk leaders. For more information, contact Maeve Sowles at 343-8664 or [president@lane-audubon.org](mailto:president@lane-audubon.org).

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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER

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