



The Quails

October 2009

NEWS FROM LANE COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Autumn dog walk

Maeve Sowles

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- Local birding hot spot with Dennis Arendt
- Save the Date: 2009 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

On a recent Saturday morning walk down to our lower field, the dogs come along, one beside me and one out in front. The mist has settled in low spots along the streambeds due to the overnight drop in temperature, but the sky above is clear. A small flock of birds is moving through the thickets and trees along the stream. I can either see or hear nuthatches, chickadees, goldfinches, towhees and Song Sparrows. As I stand still to watch, two Black-throated Gray Warblers chase each other from one bush to another. I also hear the Wrentits that live nearby; Steller's Jays and a flicker are in the taller trees.



One dog has gone on down the trail, checking the perimeter of the field to see what scents are left from nighttime, and the other waits at my feet. He gets restless after a few minutes but does not leave my side. He knows we might stand here for awhile! The dog and I breathe in the morning air, listening and watching together.

The slanted rays of the sun have made it over the hills to the east. A Red-tailed Hawk lifts off from a cottonwood where he was basking in the morning sun. On the hill to the west, the warming sunlight has been waking insects, and a flock of 20 Cedar Waxwings sally over a tree catching the insects. This ballet unfolds piece by piece while I stand with the dog.

Before I continue around the trail, I turn to look across the golden grassy field behind me. Hundreds of spider webs come into view, backlit by the morning sun. The delicate disk-shaped structures, spun between stems of tall grass, are built by the spiders to catch a meal, maybe for the last time of the season. The webs decorate the hillside, glittering with dew drops in the autumn sunlight.

A routine, Saturday morning dog walk has become a magical moment to cherish, renewing my sense of beauty and wonder in the outdoors. I am thankful for this beautiful state of Oregon, where we can still enjoy the fleeting spectacles of nature. **L**



Bird collisions with buildings: Lane Audubon urges members to act

Debbie Schlenoff

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Although loss and degradation of habitat is likely the leading cause of avian decline, an alarming number of birds meet their end as a result of collisions with man-made structures. Scientists have conducted long term studies leading to estimates of over 900 million birds killed every year in the United States as a result of colliding with buildings. The birds that are killed in this manner include the healthy and sick, large and small, common, threatened, and endangered. Studies have documented that 50–90% of birds involved in collisions die, usually from internal hemorrhaging. We often do not witness the results of deadly bird strikes due to the action of scavengers, especially overnight or early in the morning.

“Lights Out” campaigns

Migratory songbirds are attracted by lights and are killed by colliding with lighted buildings at night. Deaths are most common during the migration seasons in the fall (August 15–October 31) and spring (March 15–May 31). Although security lights are an important feature around buildings, unnecessary indoor and outside lights that are directed upward and outward can become deadly attractants to migrating birds. There are many supplementary advantages to reducing light at night: conserving energy, saving money, preserving people’s natural circadian rhythms, and being able to view the stars. Many cities such as Toronto, Chicago, Indianapolis and New York have developed successful “Lights Out” campaigns and saved many thousands of birds as a result.


What you can do

- Turn off the lights and pull down the blinds or close the curtains in homes, apartments and office buildings.
- Examine the placement of lights around your homes and work places. Retain lights for safety purposes but remove others. Eliminate decorative illumination, flood lights, and other lights that are not directed downwards.
- Spread this information by telling your neighbors, co-workers and building managers.
- For more information, visit www.flap.org/

Reducing bird strikes on windows

Birds are not able to perceive clear or reflective glass as a barrier to be avoided. They proceed as if they can fly through and then suffer injury, usually fatal, when they strike the hard glass.

What you can do

- Assess your home from a bird’s perspective. Examine which windows reflect trees and sky.
- Close blinds and curtains when feasible. Awnings and overhangs also help reduce reflections.
- Move indoor plants away from windows so birds do not mistake them for habitat. Outside, landscape around windows so they are less visible to birds.
- Mylar tape, colorful streamers, wind socks and other items that hang in front of the window may deter birds. Hanging objects work best if they move around.
- Densely placed stickers or decals may be successful deterrents. Decals that reflect UV light are particularly effective. Most sources recommend spacing decals not more than four inches apart.
- For information on applying tape stripping to windows, visit www.windowcollisions.info.
- For information on bird screens, visit www.birdscreen.com.
- Place bird feeders either within three feet of a window or farther than 30 feet away from the window. At close distances, birds usually cannot gather enough speed for a fatal strike. However, if you notice male birds attacking their reflections in the windows, please move your feeder farther away from the window.
- For new construction or when replacing windows, use ribbed, etched, colored, frosted, stippled or fritted glass, windows with patterns, or lattice windows. Tilt glass panels down at an angle of 20 degrees or more to reflect ground instead of sky.
- For more information, visit www.abcbirds.org/conservationissues/threats/buildings.html. 



A MESSAGE FROM LANE AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maeve Sowles, President

343.8664

president@laneaudubon.org

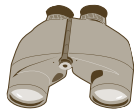


We ask you to become a local member of **Lane County Audubon Society** and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. All of your local dues stay here to help us work on local education projects and conservation issues related to birds and their habitats. With your support, we will continue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



• **Field Trips and Bird Walks**



• **Program Meetings**



• **Educational Publications**



• **Conservation Issue Representation**



• **Answers to Questions: 485.BIRD**

Visit our web site:
www.laneaudubon.org

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY

Lane Audubon 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 \$ ____
- Students 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

BOARD ELECTIONS

The following members were elected to the Lane County Audubon Society ("Lane Audubon") Board of Directors at the September 24, 2009 Program Meeting:

- Kris Kirkeby
- Jim Maloney
- Ron Renschler
- Debbie Schlenoff
- Maeve Sowles
- Herb Wisner

WINGS AND WINE STAYING ALIVE

We are very happy to announce that the annual Fern Ridge Wings and Wine Festival will continue to be headquartered and hosted in the same location as in previous years. Domaine Meriwether, the new owners of the site, was formerly Secret House Vineyards, have graciously agreed to help us continue this tradition. Mark your calendar on Saturday, May 8, 2010.

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

Lane Audubon thanks our summer intern, Eric Swenson, from the UO Environmental Studies Program. Eric's contributions to research and outreach efforts on ways to reduce avian mortality are much appreciated.



The Quail

Deadlines

November issue: October 10

**December-January issue:
November 7**

Submit material to
Cynthia Stockwell, editor
quail@clearwire.net

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. 3).

Subscriptions: Contact Jim Blick at 683.4635 or blick@toast.net.

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LANE AUDUBON OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR, EVENTS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

A service to Lane Audubon members

MEXICAN BUTTERFLIES

EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

Professor Fred Ramsey will present wonderful photos, from exotic Swallowtails to Metalmarks and tropical Longwings, illustrating the great diversity of butterflies and habitats in Mexico.

Monday, Oct. 5, 7:00 p.m.

*EWEB Training Center,
500 East 4th Ave., Eugene*

ANIMALS AND PLANTS PREPARING FOR WINTER

MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

Come join nature guide Tom Bettman for this family friendly walk in the Arboretum. See how the animals and plants that live here are bustling with activity to prepare for the upcoming cold winter months.

Sunday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m. to noon

*Rain or shine.
Meet at the Mt. Pisgah Visitors Center.
Fee: \$5. FMI: 747.1504*

EUGENE BIRDER'S NIGHT

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

Monday, Oct. 12, 7:00 p.m.

*Conference Room A
(across hall from Auditorium), Sacred
Heart Hospital, 1255 Hilyard St., Eugene*

WILDFLOWERS OF UTAH'S WASATCH MOUNTAINS

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Tanya Harvey will show slides of beautiful alpine and subalpine wildflowers located just outside Salt Lake City.

Monday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.

*EWEB Training Room,
500 East 4th Ave., Eugene.
FMI: 746.9478*



ICELAND ROCKS

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Presentation by David Noakes, Professor and Senior Scientist at the Oregon Hatchery Research Center, who has a special interest in ichthyology and animal behavior.

Friday, Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.

*Room 100, Willamette Hall,
UO Campus, Eugene*

FINDING AND HARVESTING EDIBLE MUSHROOMS WORKSHOP

MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

Join eagle-eyed mushroom enthusiast Josiah Legler and learn where and when to look for edible mushrooms; how to get a collecting permit and where you need it; how to use a field guide to identify edibles; and how to harvest mushrooms using low-impact, sustainable methods. 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.

Saturday, Oct. 17, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The class will meet at the Arboretum and then carpool to a mushrooming location about 45 minutes away. Dress for a walk in the woods. Bring a mushroom guidebook (we'll have some available for sale.) and a lunch.

*Fee: \$25 (MPA members \$20)
Reservation required;
FMI or to sign up: 747.1504.*

HAUNTED HIKE

NEARBY NATURE

Celebrate night creatures! Enjoy a pumpkin-lit hike in Alton Baker Park and meet an entertaining costumed owl, bat, frog, spider, and more. Check out live owls and vultures from the Cascades Raptor Center. Crafts, snacks, raffle.

Saturday, Oct. 24, 5:30-9 p.m.

*Alton Baker Park, rain or moonshine;
Fee: \$5/person (members free)
Pre-registration required: call 687.9699.*



MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

Don't miss our annual fall celebration of mushrooms and the harvest season, co-presented by Mount Pisgah Arboretum, the Cascade Mycological Society and Lane Community College. This event is one of the largest mushroom displays on the West Coast. There will also be a huge plant sale, live music, a scarecrow contest, children's activities, hayrides, craft vendors, incredible mushroom-inspired food, fresh cider, wine and much more.

Sunday, Oct. 25, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Suggested donation: \$5/person
(kids under 12 free).
FMI or to volunteer: 747.3817*

MUSHROOMING ON THE MOUNTAIN

MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

This two-day class for beginning 'shroomers offers instruction on identification, ecology, picking and cooking with mushrooms, fungal folklore and more! This class is geared toward people who want to learn about the wonderful, bizarre and interesting kingdom of Fungi, rather than those who only want to find edibles. Marcia Peeters, LCC instructor and co-founder of the Cascade Mycological Society will lead this two-day workshop with interactive demonstrations, discussions and field identification.

**Saturday, Oct. 31 and Sunday, Nov. 1,
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day**

*Rain or shine.
Fee: \$60.00 (MPA members \$50);
Reservations required.
FMI or to sign up: 747.1504*



FIELD NOTES: AUGUST 2009

Fashionable tern visits Coast • Phalaropes grace Fern Ridge • Backyard birders spot unusual warblers • More

Tom and Allison Mickel

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Shorebird migration was in full swing this month, and fall passerine migration was getting underway, with some unusual migrants spotted in backyards. A highlight of the migration was the high number of Semipalmated Sandpipers, with six present in one coastal flock of Western and Least Sandpipers. Also notable was an adult Elegant Tern accompanied by a young bird still in juvenal plumage.



RAPTORS

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| White-tailed Kite | Aug. 20 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | JS | First fall report |
| Peregrine Falcon | August | Fern Ridge Reservoir and South Jetty | m. ob. | Found frequently near shorebirds |

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, & TERNS

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Pacific Golden-Plover (3) | Aug. 30 | Deflation plain | HH | |
| Snowy Plovers (32) | Aug. 6 | Siltcoos River mouth | HH | Good-sized group |
| Semipalmated Plover (4) | Aug. 5 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | LM et al. | Inland migrants continue to trickle through |
| Semipalmated Plover (1) | Aug. 23 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | JS | |
| Greater Yellowlegs (30) | Aug. 5 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | LM et al. | Largest group reported during August |
| Solitary Sandpiper | Aug. 1 | FRR Headquarters | KC | Uncommon during the fall migration |
| Solitary Sandpiper | Aug. 23 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | JS | |
| Willet (2) | Aug. 6 | South Jetty Crab Dock | HH | Uncommon, but more likely on the coast |
| Willet (3) | Aug. 8 | South Jetty Crab Dock | DF | Two juveniles, one adult |
| Wandering Tattler (4) | Aug. 26 | South Jetty | RM | |
| Long-billed Curlew | Aug. 22 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | DH | Uncommon during fall migration |
| Red Knot | Aug. 30 | Deflation plain | HH | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper (6) | Aug. 5 | North Jetty | DF | An unusually large number |
| Baird's Sandpiper (7) | Aug. 21 | Heceta Beach | DI | Largest group reported during August |
| Pectoral Sandpiper (3) | Aug. 26 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | LM et al. | First report of southbound migrants |
| Pectoral Sandpiper (2) | Aug. 30 | Deflation plain | HH | First report of coastal migrants |
| Red-necked Phalarope (3) | Aug. 20 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | JS | Occasional inland migrant |
| Red-necked Phalarope (13) | Aug. 23 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | JS | |
| Red Phalarope | Aug. 26 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | LM et al. | Uncommon inland |
| Bonaparte's Gull | August | Fern Ridge Reservoir and North Jetty | m. ob. | Reports continued during August |
| Elegant Tern (2) | Aug. 6 | South Jetty | KL | Young bird still in juvenal plumage unusual |
| Black Tern (10) | Aug. 26 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | LM et al. | Lingering at end of breeding season |

SWIFTS

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|------------------------|-----------|---|
| Black Swift (not sighted) | Aug. 5 | Diamond Pk. Wilderness | JG et al. | None found in possible breeding habitat |
|---------------------------|--------|------------------------|-----------|---|

PROGRAM MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Willamette River Field Guide: 200 Miles of Adventure from the Cascades to the Columbia

Herb Wisner

344.3634

by Travis Williams
hrwisner@comcast.net



Travis Williams, executive director of Willamette Riverkeeper, will present a program based on his book *The Willamette River Field Guide: 200 Miles of Adventure from the Cascades to the Columbia*. He will provide practical information on the natural and environmental history, paddle trips, and more, all accompanied by beautiful

photography. The audience will discover the sources of water that create the Willamette River and the problems of water quality encountered as it flows to its junction with the Columbia River. **L**

PROGRAM MEETING

*Willamette River Field Guide:
200 Miles of Adventure from the
Cascades to the Columbia*

by Travis Williams



Tuesday, October 27
7:30 p.m.

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street, Eugene

FIELD NOTES: AUGUST 2009, *continued*

PASSERINES

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|------------------------|-----------|---|
| Black Phoebe (2 juvs.) | Aug. 8 | Booth Kelly Pond | TE | This species has bred here the last two years |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | Aug. 9 | Eugene yard | BG | Not common in town |
| MacGillivray's Warbler | Aug. 1 | Friendly St. yard | DI | Surprising yard migrant |
| Common Yellowthroat (juv.) | Aug. 2 | S. Eugene yard | AC | Surprising yard migrant |
| Horned Lark | Aug. 1 | FRR (Neilson Rd.) | WM | Not a known breeding area |
| Brewer's Sparrow (2) | Aug. 26 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | LM et al. | Irregular fall migrant |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | Aug. 9 | FRR Headquarters | KC | An early migrant |
| Evening Grosbeak (15) | Aug. 5 | Diamond Pk. Wilderness | JG et al. | Normal sighting at high elevations |

ABBREVIATIONS

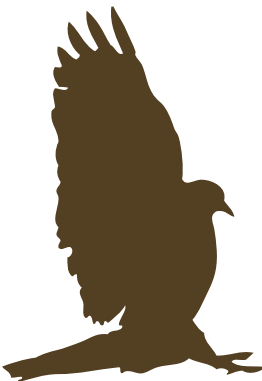
Deflation Plain Deflation Plain near South Jetty, Siuslaw River; **FRR** Fern Ridge Reservoir; **m. ob.** many observers;

North Jetty North Jetty of the Siuslaw River; **South Jetty** South Jetty of the Siuslaw River

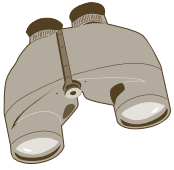
THANK YOU, CONTRIBUTORS!

KC KC Childs, **AC** Alan Contreras, **TE** Tom Escue, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **JG** Joel Geier, **BG** Brandon Green, **HH** Hendrik Herlyn, **A&DH** Anne & Dan Heyerly, **DI** Dave Irons, **KL** Kit Larsen, **LM** Larry McQueen, **RM** Richard Messenger, **WM** Wayne Morrow, **JS** John Sullivan.

Many thanks to Vjera Thompson for assembling this month's Field Notes. **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.

Leila Snow

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leilas@ori.org

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 17**

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK: LOCAL BIRDING HOT SPOTS WITH DENNIS ARENDT

Our trip leader, Dennis Arendt, has taught birding identification for 20 years at Lane Community College and was an elementary school principal for 20 years. He started birding in 1974 in Chicago and has continued birding throughout Europe, Africa, and Central and South America. We'll be exploring a local birding hot spot of Dennis' choice.

All levels of birders are welcome, from first timer to expert. We will meet in the South Eugene High School parking lot (19th and Patterson), rain or shine, at 8:00 a.m. and return by 12 noon. A \$3 donation is suggested. Please note: As a precaution, do not leave valuables in your parked car.

Questions? Contact Leila at leilas@ori.org or 968.5533.

**SUNDAY
JANUARY 3**

SAVE THE DATE—EUGENE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 2009 Eugene Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, January 3, 2010. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on this important endeavor. For more information, see your November *Quail*. L

PROGRAM MEETING

*Willamette River Field
Guide: 200 Miles of
Adventure from the
Cascades to the Columbia*
by Travis Williams



**Tuesday, October 27
7:30 p.m.**
Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street, Eugene




NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER

The Quail

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