

November 2009 The

News from the Lane County Audubon Society

From our Treasurer



Lane Audubon makes your gift go a long way

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Contents
From Our Treasurer
Field Notes—September 2009 3
LCAS Membership Form 5
Conservation Column
Community Calendar 8
Program Meeting 9 • Madagascar, by Jim Rigali
Bird Walks and Events 10 • Introduction to the Eugene Christmas Bird Count

• Eugene Christmas Bird Count

◀ ach August, Lane County Audubon Society (Lane Audubon) submits an annual report to the National ▲ Audubon Society (NAS) in order to maintain our status as a certified NAS chapter. Our NAS chapter certification gives us added credibility as a local nonprofit organization active in educating people in our region about birds, other wildlife, and the habitats that sustain them.

The report reflects the great job we are doing of conducting our local programs and managing our finances. Filing the report each year also entitles us to receive a modest annual dues share payment from NAS of about \$2,500. This represents a very small fraction of dues paid by Lane County NAS members, and this dues share covers less than 20 percent of Lane Audubon's annual budget.

So how do we manage to remain such a strong and stable local nonprofit? The answer lies in the simple fact that Lane Audubon members have always given generously of their time and financial support because they value what we do.

Volunteers are critical

The annual report is form-based, so it's not exactly a riveting read. But it does make manifestly clear how much Lane Audubon is able to accomplish through volunteer power. For example, the report shows that last year more than 140 volunteers contributed 7,400 hours of their time to carry out our educational and conservation activities. This includes volunteering for our school-based programs (Audubon Adventures and Audubon in the Schools); staffing our community outreach booth; coordinating and leading bird walks; helping at Lane Audubon program meetings; serving on the Lane Audubon board and committees; assisting with administrative tasks; working diligently on local and statewide conservation issues; writing, editing, and producing the Quail nine times each year; and helping in dozens of other ways. We would never be able to accomplish what we do without the generous gift of time from many individuals within our organization.

continued

Feeder Maintenance and Hygiene

With the arrival of the rainy season, feeder cleaning becomes critical. I thought this article from National Audubon was timely.—the editor

Cleaning birdfeeders and birdbaths is a crucial practice in preventing the spread of disease between birds. Recently, scientists noted that the spread of Trichomonad protozoan parasites, which cause a disease termed Trichomoniasis, was on the rise, especially among mourning dove and band-tailed pigeon populations in the West.

You can tell if you have a disease problem at your feeders because diseased birds are less alert and less active, they feed less and may cower on a feeder, they may be reluctant to fly, and their feathers do not appear to be in good shape. Birds afflicted with Trichomoniasis typically develop sores in their mouths and throats. Unable to swallow, they drop food or water contaminated with Trichomonads that other birds then consume, thus spreading the disease.

With the concern over this and other diseases, including Salmonellosis, Aspergillosis, and Avian Pox, which are easily transmitted at birdfeeders and birdbaths, Audubon recommends paying diligent attention to cleanliness in pursuit of responsible and rewarding bird feeding practices. Birds with disease are more likely to die from starvation, dehydration, predation, and severe weather, so protect them by following these tips:

→ Disinfect your feeder and birdbath.

To keep pathogens at bay, immerse your seed feeder or birdbath in a nine to one water/bleach solution, rinsing it thoroughly, one to two times per month. In the presence of outbreaks, disinfect twice as often.

→ Empty water from your birdbath every day. Brush or wipe it clean and rinse, then refill the birdbath with fresh water.

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Lane Audubon makes your gift go a long way, continued

Financial support is critical, too

Just as there are many ways to volunteer, there are many ways our members help defray the material costs of conducting our events and activities. First, we benefit from a healthy contingent of members who pay separately for both local and national memberships. Unlike national dues, 100% of local dues are directed toward serving Lane County citizens with our programs. We encourage you to add a standalone local membership to your national membership if you so choose. You can use the local membership form inside each *Quail* to do so.

Additionally, you can support our school education programs by personally sponsoring entire classrooms of students. You can contribute to the donation box at the end of our free program meetings and bird walks. You can also purchase the T-shirts, birding books, and other items we sell at program meetings and booth appearances.

Finally, the best way to help is to give a tax deductible gift to the Lane County Audubon Society. Once each year, in November, we include an envelope in the *Quail* and ask that you use it to send your gift to help us sustain and build the programs that you and our local community value. As our annual report shows, we have a solid track record of making every gift, large or small, go a long way.

Happy birding, and thank you for making 2009 another successful year. With your continued help, we're sure to have a productive 2010 as well.

Lane Audubon to host the Oregon Audubon Council; meeting open to members

Lane Audubon will host the Oregon Audubon Council meeting the weekend of November 7. Delegates from all 11 chapters will be invited to attend the weekend of activities:

Friday evening An informal gathering as people arrive from around the

state

Saturday meeting
The main focus will be setting conservation priorities for the

statewide group; each chapter will give an informative report

about their activities.

Saturday evening Group dinner at one of our local restaurants

Sunday morning Bird walk to Fern Ridge Reservoir will give everyone a chance

to bird together and see our Important Bird Area.

Call Maeve at 343.8664 if you have an interest in participating. This will be an opportunity to find out more about our statewide conservation efforts and to get to know Auduboners from around the state.

Field Notes—September 2009

Lewis' Woodpeckers dot the Valley • Sora, Red-eyed Vireo visit Delta Ponds • Long-billed Curlew at Fern Ridge

Tom and Allison Mickel 485.7112 tamickel@rio.com

September is typically an action-packed birding month in Lane County, with north and south migration in full swing. The Neotropical birds, who migrated here in the spring to breed, have finished this part of their annual cycle and disappear from our view as they head back south. Meanwhile, we are flooded with birds from the north, those who bred during summer in the arctic or other northerly locations. Of these, many waterfowl land here to spend the winter with us, but the shorebirds typically migrate through on their way south.

Although the migration season is always fun for birders, we noticed this year that the high water levels at Fern Ridge Reservoir resulted in a lackluster year for shorebirds, with fewer of the exciting sightings that we have experienced in the past few years.

WATERBIRDS, RAPTORS

Red-necked Grebe	Sept. 19	North Jetty, Siuslaw R.	JS	First report for winter
Pink-footed Shearwater	Sept. 9	North Jetty, Siuslaw R.	DF,LC	First report for fall migration
Pink-footed Shearwater	Sept. 17	Siltcoos River mouth	DF,LC	Observed In larger numbers than the Sooty Shearwaters-it's normally the opposite
Red-shouldered Hawk	Sept. 1	Rock Creek, Coast	MPn	Continuing their northward expansion

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, and TERNS

Sora	Sept. 18	Delta Ponds	KG	Not a normal location
	· ·			
Black-bellied Plover (2)	Sept. 26	Fern Ridge Reservoir	AC et al.	The first report for this wintering location
Black-bellied Plover (31)	Sept. 27	South Jetty crab dock	HH	A good sized flock
American Golden-Plover	Sept. 2	Deflation plain	DF	Higher than usual numbers of Golden-Plovers
American Golden-Plover	Sept. 26	South Jetty crab dock	AC et al.	were found during the period, especially the
Golden-Plover spp (Am?)	Sept. 13	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DI	American species, which is typically less
Pacific Golden-Plover	Sept. 2	Deflation plain	DF	common than the Pacific in Western Oregon.
Pacific Golden-Plover (4)	Sept. 11	Deflation plain	DS, SM	
Lesser Yellowlegs (8)	Sept. 10	Fern Ridge Reservoir	BMc, WS	First report for fall migration
Willet	Sept. 2	South Jetty crab dock	НН	A rare, but regular migrant on the coast
Long-billed Curlew	Sept. 2	Fern Ridge Reservoir	LM et al.	Migrates through Lane Co. in small numbers
Marbled Godwit (3)	Sept. 2	North Jetty, Siuslaw R.	DF	First report for the fall migration
Ruddy Turnstone	Sept. 11	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	DS,SM	Normal in small numbers during fall
Dunlin	Sept. 26	Fern Ridge Reservoir	AC et al.	First report for the winter
Buff-breasted Sandpiper (4)	Sept. 8	Deflation plain	НН	Not an annual migrant, but a typical time
Red-necked Phalarope	early Sept.	Coast and Fern Ridge Res.	m. ob.	They were reported in good numbers.
Mew Gull (2)	Sept. 25	Fern Ridge Reservoir	LN	A normal time for their winter arrival
Sabine's Gull (3)	Sept. 4	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DI	Found in small numbers this time of year
Common Tern (35)	Sept. 4	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DI	A normal number for this time of year
Forster's Tern	Sept. 4	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DI	Occasionally found during migration

Field Notes—September 2009, continued

SWIFTS

Vaux's Swift (4000)	Sept. 2	Agate Hall, UO	MPs	A normal number for this migration roost
Vaux's Swift (approx. 10,000)	Sept. 25	Agate Hall, UO	MRh	A normal number for this migration roost

PASSERINES

Rufous Hummingbird	Sept. 30	Santa Clara area	MRh	Getting to be late for this breeder
Lewis's Woodpecker	Sept. 12	Royal Ave. near FRR	E&VT	A higher number than usual was found in the
Lewis's Woodpecker	Sept. 21	Pine Grove and Crow Rds.	DH	valley during September.
Lewis's Woodpecker	Sept. 27	Skinner Butte	A&TM	
Western Kingbird	Sept. 1	Rock Creek, Coast	MPn	A normal time for their southward migration,
Western Kingbird	Sept. 14	South Jetty dog pond	DF	but larger than usual numbers for the coast
Western Kingbird	Sept. 22	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	НН	
Red-eyed Vireo	Sept. 6	Delta Ponds	SG	Unusual location for this rare Lane County breeder
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Sept. 26	SE Eugene	A&TM	First report for the winter
American Pipit	Sept. 23	Carpenter Mtn.	Ма	Not normally found in the forested "old Cascades"
Hermit Warbler	Sept. 30	Alton Baker Park	LM et al.	Getting to be late for this breeder
Fox Sparrow	Sept. 14	Florence area	DP	First report for winter
Lapland Longspur	Sept. 11	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	JM et al.	Less than annual occurrence during fall/winter

Abbreviations

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

Thank you, Contributors!

AC Alan Contreras, LC Lydie Cruz, DF Daniel Farrar, SG Steve Gordon, KG Katie Guske, HH Hendrik Herlyn, DH Dan Heyerly, DI Dave Irons, Ma Maitreya, SM Sylvia Maulding, BMc Barry McKenzie, LM Larry McQueen, JM Judy Meredith, A&TM Allison and Tom Mickel, LN Lars Norgren, MPn Mike Patterson, MPs Margie Paris, DP Diane Pettey, MRh Mark Rudolph, DS Don Schrouder, WS Wayne Schmidt, JS John Sullivan, E&VT Eddie and Vjera Thompson



Feeder Maintenance and Hygiene, continued

- → Discard old seed and hulls. When you clean your feeder, get rid of the old seed. Rake or sweep up any uneaten hulls on the ground. The disease-causing Trichomonad protozoan, for example, can live for up to five days in food and several hours in water.
- → **Avoid overcrowding.** If possible, provide more than one feeder and spread them out. Crowding only expedites the spread of disease, so give the birds variety and plenty of room.

—National Audubon Society

For more information, visit www.audubon.org, Audubon at Home, Helping Birds and Wildlife

Volunteer Welcome



Lane Audubon welcomes a new addition to our volunteer crew. Joanna deFelice, a graphic designer with more than 20 years of publication, illustration, and

web design experience, is now providing layout and graphics for the *Quail*.

Among other outdoor activities, Joanna enjoys gardening and hiking, and is looking forward to learning more about identifying wild mushrooms this fall.

2010 Winter Wings Festival

February 12–14 Klamath Basin Audubon Society Some highlights of the Winter Wings Festival:

Friday night guest speakers: Bill Clark, a photographer, author, and lecturer with over 45 years experience working with birds of prey, including 5 years as Director of the National Wildlife Federation's Raptor Information Center. Following Bill's talk, Canon will present their Explorer of Light photographer, Rick Sammon, author of *Rick Sammon's Digital Photography Secrets*.

Keynote speaker: Scott Weidensaul, a well-known wildlife writer, lecturer, and field researcher, will present his topic, *Living on the Wind: The World of Migratory Birds,* after the banquet on Saturday, February 13.

Visit the Festival website at www.WinterWingsFest.org for the latest in Festival planning information. If you have questions in the meantime, contact Todd Christian, Festival Registrar, at 541.850.0084 or e-mail him at singingbear@charter.net.



Deadlines

December–January issue: **November 7**

February issue: **January 9**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 page 6).

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

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A Message from Lane Audubon Board of Directors

Maeve Sowles, President

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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 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

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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	\$\$ contribution for \$ y Audubon Society) \$ ubon member \(\square \) Don't know					
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Conservation—October 2009

Roadless Rule—Protecting our nation's forests

Debbie Schlenoff dschlenoff@msn.com

rn 2001, during the Clinton administration, an extensive series Lof meetings, millions of public comments, and years of scientific review led to the establishment of the Roadless Rule protecting pristine areas in our national forests. Since then, it's been a bumpy ride. Almost immediately, the Bush administration worked to suspend and then repeal it. Over the last eight years, the Roadless Rule has been in the courts many times, where sides have rendered conflicting opinions, and protection for our national forests has been spotty. This August, a federal appeals judge ruled that the Bush approach was illegal and reinstated the rule. This was a huge victory for conservation organizations, including National Audubon Society, which has worked to curtail new road building, logging, mining, and development on over 40 million acres of national forests. After the recent ruling, the Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, issued a statement affirming the Obama administration's support for the Roadless Rule. However, it will be some time before the current administration takes decisive action as it reviews and issues decisions on the many proposals that challenge the Roadless Rule. But fasten your seatbelts. This month Congress has moved to codify the rule and make it law, and it would no longer be subject to the changing opinions of various courts and subsequent administrations. Almost 200 congressional members, including Oregon Representatives Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio, David Wu and Senator Jeff Merkley have co-sponsored legislation called the

Roadless Area Protection Act of 2009. This bill would finally put an end to years of conflict and confusion over roadless area management. We hope it travels

through Congress smoothly.

Benefits of the Roadless Area Protection Act

- → Protects and preserves habitat
- → Protects endangered, threatened, sensitive, and declining populations of fish and wildlife
- → Increases carbon storage by maintaining intact forest
- → Ensures continued opportunities for outdoor recreation
- → Preserves public access to existing roaded areas
- → Decreases erosion, runoff, the concomitant transport of sediment and pollutants, and damage from floods
- → Protects healthy watersheds, provides clean drinking water to over 60 million people, and saves money spent on filtration systems for downstream communities
- → Decreases the spread of invasive species
- → Decreases fragmentation of habitat which allows wildlife contiguous territory for finding food and mates, raising young, and defending against predators and brood parasites
- → Decreases injuries to wildlife
- → Increases diversity of plant and animal communities
- → Decreases wildfire danger (According to the National Fire Plan, fires are twice as likely to occur in roaded areas as in roadless areas, and roadless areas are more resilient in the face of wildfires.)
- → Allows development of roads deemed necessary for fire fighting, public safety, and to maintain healthy forests
- → Saves millions of taxpayer dollars and allows the Forest Service to concentrate on its huge maintenance backlog for existing roads
- → Ensures that the benefits of our nation's magnificent forests survive for future generations



Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members



Late Fall Bird Walk

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Join birder Davey Wendt as we take an easy stroll to seek out the Arboretum's late fall residents.

Saturday Nov. 7, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Rain or shine. Fee: \$5 (MPA members/donation). FMI: 747.1504

Play in the Rain Day

Youth in Nature Partnership

Family fun in nature—crafts, hikes, hay rides, scavenger hunts, tree climbing, live animals, a visit from Smokey the Bear, native plants, campfire cookery, and more!

Saturday Nov. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

All activities, including campfire food, are FREE! Mount Pisgah Arboretum, rain or shine. FMI: 349.5055, ext. 201, 747.1504, or www.youthinnature.org

Umpqua Wilderness Conference

Oregon Wild and Umpqua Watershed

"Our Community, Our Future"

A one-day discussion of the Wilderness effort in Oregon's south central Cascades. Join host Umpqua Watersheds and Keynote Speaker Bill Bradbury for an exploration of the issues facing the Wilderness movement in the Umpqua National Forest and beyond.

Saturday, Nov. 7, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Umpqua Community College; event is free (donations accepted).

Finding and Harvesting Edible Mushrooms

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Join 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. The class will meet at the Arboretum, then carpool to a mushrooming location about 45 minutes away. Dress for a walk in the woods and pack a lunch. Bring a mushroom guidebook or plan to purchase one from us. 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.

Sunday Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fee: \$25; Reservations required; FMI: 747.1504

Eugene Birders' Night

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

Monday, Nov. 9, 7:00 p.m.

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

Mushroom Walk

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Take a walk through the Arboretum's forested trails with mycologists Molly Widmer and Chris Melotti of the Cascade Mycological Society.

Saturday Nov. 14, 12 noon-2 p.m.

Meet at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Visitor Center, rain or shine; Fee \$5 (MPA members/ donation); FMI: 747.1504

Invertebrate Natural History

Eugene Natural History Society

If you'd like to learn more about invertebrates, crabs, spiders, and insects, come hear Professor Nora Terwilliger from the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology.

Friday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO Campus

Tales of the Night

Nearby Nature

Fall Nature Quest

Learn about raccoons and other creatures of the night and find out how they stay warm in winter. Join us for a family-paced hike, craft, snacks, and a visit from one of our costumed Kinder Critters!

Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m.-12 noon

Meet outside the Alton Baker Park Host Residence, rain or shine. Cost: \$2/person, \$5/family; Preregistration is suggested: call 687.9699.



PROGRAM MEETING—TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Madagascar by Jim Regali

Herb Wisner 344.3634 hrwisner@comcast.net





ast year avid birder and world traveler Jim Regali took us on a vicarious trip to Cameroon. This year, Jim returns to show us slides of his trip to Madagascar, the oldest and fourth largest island in the world. Because of its unique natural history, much of the fauna and flora is endemic. Jim will show photos of his trip, with an emphasis on the birds and lemurs.



PROGRAM MEETING

Madagascar by Jim Regali

Tuesday, November 24 7:30 p.m. Eugene Garden Club 1645 High Street, Eugene

UPCOMING...

Crows and Ravens

by John Marzluff

Friday, December 11, 7:30 p.m., Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO Campus

niversity of Washington Professor John Marzluff, co-author of In the Company of Crows and Ravens, presents a talk on corvids, jointly presented by the Lane County Audubon Society and the Eugene Natural History Society. Marzluff is a Professor of Wildlife Science in the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington and has authored over 100 articles on bird behavior and wildlife management.

His current research interests include studying the effects of forest fragmentation on the nest predators of the endangered Marbled Murrelet and a variety of songbirds in coastal Washington, understanding how best to conserve birds native to the Pacific Islands, and determining how birds respond to urbanization. "Although these topics seem disjunct, they have a strong common thread that has anchored most of my research since graduate school. That thread is my personal interest and enthusiasm for corvids, especially jays, crows, and ravens."

Booth volunteers step up at Eugene Celebration

Ron Renchler

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For many years, the Eugene Celebration has been a regular stop on the Lane Audubon Booth Tour at the end of summer. This year was no exception. The Celebration ran September 5th and 6th, and we had several of our veteran booth staffers on hand to answer visitors' questions. Thanks to all of them: Connie Berglund, Pat Bitner, Margot Fetz, Dick Lamster, Debbie Schlenoff, Dave Stone, and Herb Wisner.

A special thanks goes to **Eric Swenson**, who staffed the booth both days while overseeing our *Happy Indoor Cats* educational

initiative. Eric acted as a Lane Audubon intern over the summer and did a fantastic job of educating community members about our responsibilities as pet owners to protect bird populations from free-roaming outdoor cats.

If you're interested in helping staff the Lane Audubon booth at community events, call or e-mail Ron Renchler at 345.0834 or christyandron@qwest.net. No experience is necessary. You'll be matched with an experienced booth staffer to learn about the booth operations.

PROGRAM MEETING

Madagascar

by Jim Regali



Tuesday, November 24 7:30 p.m. Eugene Garden Club 1645 High Street, Eugene



Has your *Quail* subscription expired? See page 6 for renewal info!

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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 968.5533 leilas@ori.org

Saturday, November 21

Third Saturday Bird Walk— Introduction to the Eugene Christmas Bird Count

Ever wonder what the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is all about? Our trip leader, Davey Wendt, has been CBC team leader for south central Eugene for many years. He'll explain how and why we conduct the CBC each year as he takes us on a bird sampling tour through the local cemeteries, golf courses and other areas that comprise his CBC count area.

All un of birders are welcome, from first timer to expert. We will meet in the parking lot at South Eugene High (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 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

Mark your calendars for the Eugene Christmas Bird Count—Sunday January 3, 2010! Dick Lamster will be contacting Team Leaders in late November with details of this year's count. If you are new to the area or have not been on our Christmas Bird Count recently, please contact Dick at 343.8664 to get more information.