



The

Dec. 2011– Jan. 2012

Quails

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Finding hope within nature’s pleasures

Maeve Sowles

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As 2011 draws to a close and we greet the New Year of 2012, economic, social, and environmental instability looms for an uncertain future. As conservationists we have been struggling on behalf of habitat and the environment for decades. The battles never seem to resolve, and the future of our planet has serious pressures with seven billion human inhabitants consuming resources unsustainably. What will we see in the New Year? More of the same, of course. I’m afraid I cannot be optimistic about true positive change.

I find my Audubon volunteer work, contacts, and outdoor pastimes a refreshing counterpoint to the negative energy of our world. One of the only real positives I see on a day to day basis is the pleasure and beauty we can find in the natural world. My husband and I bird watch as we walk our dogs, work on our property, or visit other locations. Regardless of the weather we take time to smell, watch, and listen to our surroundings. Watching to see what birds might be nearby gives us an expectancy, an excitement and an excuse to get out and explore wherever we visit. The enjoyment of birds and birding provide a connection to our surroundings and to our social contacts. I’m not sure any other activity could offer the same interconnectedness.

None of this enjoyment changes the deep concerns we share about our social and natural environment. It does, however, allow me to keep a sense of balance and hold nature’s beauty in my life, so I can do the rest of the work of living in today’s challenging world. Sharing our birding stories, group bird walks, and the powerful appeal of birds in their natural habitats keep us strong on the path of doing our part to protect and preserve the natural wonders we observe. I am unwilling to give up hope that we can make a difference in the world around us.

2011 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

Dick Lamster

541.343.8664



Golden-crowned Sparrow – by Cary Kerst

2011 Eugene Christmas Bird Count, Sunday, January 1, 2012

This year will be the 70th Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) and the 112th National Audubon Society (NAS) Christmas Bird Count. Our Count this year will be on Sunday, January 1, 2012. For you college football fans, there will be no college football bowl games that day. The bowl games that are typically on New Year's Day, including the Rose Bowl, will be on Monday, January 2nd. Our 15-mile diameter Count Circle is centered in the Danebo part of town and is divided into 27 areas, each with a Team Leader. The Team Leader organizes the team, leads the group through the area during the Count Day and then submits the results to the ECBC Committee.

Count Coordinator

Dick Lamster is the **Count Coordinator** this year (officially called the Count Compiler) and he will be working with NAS on the administrative tasks of the Count. He will also be coordinating with the Team Leaders as well as handling publicity, assembling the packets for the Team Leaders, and writing part of the post-Count narrative.

Volunteers

Barbara Gleason is the **Volunteer Coordinator**. If you would like to participate on one of the teams that searches for birds on Count Day, please call Barbara at 541-345-3974. She will

match you up with a team. If you have been on a team in the past and would like to remain on that team, feel free to call the Leader and get “hooked up” for this year.

Birds

Dan Gleason (541-345-0450) will be accepting the **Bird Checklists** from the Team Leaders at the end of the Count Day. He will also review **rare and unusual bird sightings** and then submit all the results to NAS. Dan also works with Dick in preparing the post-Count narrative.

Feeder Watchers

If you cannot participate on a Count Team but would like to count the birds that visit your yard please call Herb Wisner at 541-344-3634. Herb is in charge of the **Feeder Watchers** and will assist you in recording the birds you see and getting them included in the official count. He will send you a form to help you record the birds you see. Then he coordinates your sightings with the leader of the Count Area for the area you live in so that birds are not reported twice. Herb then submits your sightings to Dan to be included in the official results. Please call Herb by December 26th if you would like to be a Feeder Watcher.

Chili Feed

All Team Leaders and Count Participants are invited to gather at the Eugene Garden Club at 1645 High Street after the Count for the traditional Chili Feed. Allison Mickel will once again be making homemade vegetarian chili for this fun ending to a day full of birding. We will tally results at the Garden Club and swap stories of the day's sightings. The doors to the Garden Club will open around 3:30 p.m. if you would like to stop by as soon as you finish your Count. The Chili Feed will start around 5:00 p.m. The Lane County Audubon Society will furnish the chili along with a salad, dinner rolls, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Please bring a dessert to share with others plus your own table service including plate, bowl, cup, and silverware. If you would like to drink something other than

(continued on page 9)



Can the Migratory Bird Treaty Act provide birds protection from today's conservation threats?

Debbie Schlenoff

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dschlenoff@msn.com

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 prohibited the “take” of migratory birds and their feathers, eggs, or nests. Unless permitted by regulations, hunting, pursuing, wounding, killing, possessing, or transporting any migratory bird, nest, egg, or part thereof is illegal under the MBTA. The treaty was originally signed with Great Britain and subsequently with Mexico, Japan, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (now Russia). The MBTA has been amended several times over the years but the basic provisions still stand. The responsible regulatory agency is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Many people do not know that it is illegal to collect birds or the feathers, nests, or eggs of protected species. The USFWS maintains a list of over 1,000 protected species. Introduced birds are not included. For the record, Lane Audubon has a permit which allows us to collect for the purpose of educational display.

At the time that the Act was established, many bird species were threatened by commercial trade, especially in feathers because feathered hats were the fashion trend of the day. The MBTA has effectively protected birds from large commercial slaughter and from several hunting and poaching offenses. Today, many threats to wildlife come from development including habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, predation by cats, and collisions with buildings, power lines, wind turbines, and other man-made structures. Recently, a conference was held at the Lewis and Clark Law School to discuss how best to use the Act as a conservation tool. Can the MBTA be sufficiently enforced to prevent predicted mortality resulting from logging and commercial development? Can it be used to regulate potentially large-scale threats to birds in the form of wind energy development?

The MBTA is a strict liability law, meaning that intent to harm need not be considered for misdemeanors. Felony convictions require proof that the violation was knowingly committed.

The decisions of various courts have been mixed. Oil companies are occasionally fined for bird deaths that occur in their waste pits or other structures, but the enforcement of the law has not been vigorous and the associated fines are usually small. At last month's Conference, some of the strengths and weaknesses of the Act were discussed. Although informative, frustration was palpable that many good ideas could not be implemented due to the political climate in Washington. It is not clear that the USFWS intends to use the law to more effectively protect birds from energy development and logging. However, participants agreed to take several steps to move forward.

The reach of the MBTA can be strengthened by the use of President Clinton's Executive Order 13186 on January 10, 2001: “Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds.” The Executive Order specifically states that the migratory bird treaties “impose substantive obligations on the United States for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.” The order directs departments and agencies to take certain actions to further implement the MBTA. Participants at the conference will ask the USFWS to provide agencies like the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management direction on how they can conserve migratory birds. A committee of conference participants is being formed to discuss legislative options and develop a reform package for when the Act comes up for revision before Congress. In addition, migratory bird treaties with other countries can be expanded to protect migratory birds. All of these actions have the potential to advance conservation efforts. However, it will take much political will before the threat of enforcement is enough to compel industry to take every possible precaution before developing sites for commercial purposes. Wind energy can be successfully advanced only when strict, compulsory regulations are imposed to protect birds, bats, and other wildlife.

Audubon Adventures

“Thanks again for these materials—the kids love them!”

Joyce Trawle

541.515.6244

jtrawle@comcast.net

Thirty-five teachers and their students throughout Lane County have appreciated receiving *Audubon Adventures* during this school year. This means that over **1,000** children have been introduced to this national award-winning environmental education program in our local schools.

This year’s theme, **“Feathers, Furs, Fins and You”** explores the natural world of pollinators and the biology of rivers, and introduces the students to “Wild Alaska.” The content and activities allow teachers to successfully adapt the materials to students’ different skills and learning styles.

Teachers receiving *Audubon Adventures* materials receive several supplemental resources, including student handouts, posters, brochures, and a full-color teacher’s manual with articles and worksheets to share with students. A one-year membership to National Audubon Society and Lane County Audubon Society is also included.

Through the generous donations of LCAS members, Lane Audubon’s Adopt-a-Classroom Program makes this material available to local teachers at no cost to the school system. If you have been thinking about sponsoring a classroom, now is a great time to do so, for we are still in need of several sponsors. Simply mail a tax-deductible donation of \$45, payable to LCAS, Audubon Adventures, P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405 or contact Joyce Trawle at jtrawle@comcast.net or 541-515-6244.

We try our best to match your sponsorship to the classes you request, but if we can’t, those students that you do sponsor are in for an exciting Audubon Adventure.



Thank you so much for your support!

Sponsored Classrooms for the 2011-2012 School Year

Grade	School	Sponsor
6	Agnes Stewart Middle	Susie & Steve Gordon
3	Camas Ridge Elementary	Doris Wimber
4	Riverbend Elementary	Rob Castleberry & Joyce Thomas
4, 5	Walterville Elementary	Susan Mincks & Wendell Anderson
5	Thurston Elementary	Quail mailing crew c/o Eva Schultz
4, 5	Guy Lee Elementary	Edrey Anker
4, 5	Chavez Elementary	Charlotte & Dave Bontrager
5	Arts and Technology	Margot Fetz
2	McCornack Elementary	Anonymous
6	Applegate Elementary	Betsy Parry
4, 5	Spring Creek Elementary	Susan McConnell
3	Veneta Elementary	Marty Beyer & John Bugley
5	Riverbend Elementary	Anne Bonine
5	Riverbend Elementary	Valerie Close
3	Spring Creek Elementary	Robin Gage
3	Spring Creek Elementary	Betty Dewald

4, 5	Spring Creek Elementary	Charles & Reida Kimmel
4	Adams Elementary	Susie & Steve Gordon
5	Adams Elementary	M Bedortha
3	Willagillespie Elementary	Russell & Christine Sampley
4	Willagillespie Elementary	Debbie Schlenoff
3, 4	Walterville Elementary	Camilla Pratt
3	Veneta Elementary	Mika Singer
1, 2, 3.	Family School	Sara Brownmiller & Milo Mecham
1, 2, 3.	Ridgeline Montessori	Charles & Reida Kimmel
4, 5	Good Samaritan School	Sara Brownmiller & Milo Mecham
3	Bohemia Elementary	Robin Gage
4	Bohemia Elementary	Camilla Pratt
3, 4	Oakridge Elementary	Herb & Ruth Wisner
3	Adams Elementary	Herb & Ruth Wisner

Classrooms Awaiting Sponsors

4	Bohemia Elementary
3	Adams Elementary (2 classes)
4	Pleasant Hill Elementary
5	Pleasant Hill Elementary

Consider volunteering with Lane Audubon this New Year!



Black Phoebe – by Cary Kerst

Lane County Audubon Society is an all-volunteer organization, and our members are very proud of the energy and diversity of talents volunteers bring—we couldn't do it without them! Volunteering with Lane Audubon is a great way to meet new people, give back to the community, and best of all, have fun! Currently, we are looking for volunteers to fill the following roles, but please feel free to contact one of us if you'd like to help in another capacity.

The Quail Editor: Lane Audubon is looking for someone who enjoys editing and has excellent proofreading skills to take on the role of editor for *The Quail*, the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society. Responsibilities include setting submission deadlines and communicating with contributors; collecting, organizing, and proofreading submissions; selecting photos for print; communicating with the printer; and writing small articles as needed. This is an exciting opportunity to take responsibility for a newsletter that reaches nearly 1,500 members across Lane County! Contact Maeve Sowles at 541-343-8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.

Bird Walk Coordinator: Lane Audubon is looking for a volunteer to plan the monthly third Saturday Bird Walks. This is a fun opportunity to meet and learn from birding experts; best of all, you get to pick the location and be out birding! Lane Audubon has all the dates set, a network of willing field trip leaders, and a list of past birding locations to choose from. Your responsibility would include deciding on a location, contacting field trip leaders, emailing the field

trip publicity, and meeting the birding group on the day of the walk to get things started. Contact Maeve Sowles at 541-343-8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.

Booth Operations Coordinator: If you enjoy coordinating events and working with people, Lane Audubon is looking for one or two people to adopt the booth operations, which occur about five times per year. This includes setting up and taking down the booth as well as coordinating the schedule of booth staffers. We will provide orientation and training for these volunteer opportunities. We're also always looking for people to staff booth events. Contact Ron Renchler at 541-345-0834 or christyandron@qwest.net.

Publicity Volunteer: Help us get public notices to various media services and spread the word about upcoming Program Meetings, bird walks, and other activities. We also need to make sure we are ahead of publication deadlines. Other goals include developing new contacts with media and keeping contacts and deadlines organized. Contact Maeve Sowles at 541-343-8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.

The Quail Layout and Graphics: Do you have document publishing experience, and do you enjoy the creativity of layout and document design? Lane Audubon is looking for a skilled volunteer to produce the layout for *The Quail*. This volunteer receives edited Word documents and photos from the editor and arranges them in Adobe InDesign, adds graphics, and makes sure each issue looks fantastic. There are nine yearly issues of 10-14 pages each, requiring approximately 6-12 hours per issue. Contact Ron Renchler at 541-345-0834 or christyandron@qwest.net.

Member appreciation

Thank you to new volunteer Craig Talarico, who has volunteered to deliver *The Quail* to the post office and distribute extra copies of *The Quail* to locations around town.

THANKS to Craig!!

Thank you to Dick Lamster for presenting a "Birds in the Garden" talk at Junction City Garden Club on October 4th with over 35 people attending.

Check us out on Facebook

Lane Audubon is now on Facebook! Please join our page and stay informed about events, bird walks, news, and conservation issues. Share bird sightings, photos, links, events, nature news and stories.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824>



Deadlines:

February issue: January 7

March issue: February 4

Submit material to
Ron Renschler
christyandron@qwest.net

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

Local members of National Audubon Society receive a free subscription to *The Quail*, but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane County Audubon Society (see page 7).

Subscriptions: Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com.

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Electronic version of *The Quail* available!

Help us save paper and postage! Lane County Audubon Society offers an electronic version of *The Quail*. It's easy to change your current membership to an electronic notification. Each month, LCAS will send a link to your email address that will take you to a pdf version of our newsletter. You'll receive the added benefit of viewing *The Quail's* photos in color, and families can sign up more than one email address to receive the newsletter under one membership. If at any time you decide you'd rather switch back to receiving your *Quail* in the mail, no problem! If you would like to begin receiving *The Quail* electronically or would like more information, please contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com.

Lane Audubon Officers & Board Members

President	Maeve Sowles	541.343.8664	president@laneaudubon.org
Treasurer	Ron Renschler	541.345.0834	christyandron@qwest.net
Members	Debbie Schlenoff	541.685.0610	dschlenoff@msn.com
	Herb Wisner	541.344.3634	hrwisner@comcast.net
	Kris Kirkeby	541.349.2439	k2kirk@comcast.net
	Jim Maloney	541.968.9429	jimgmal@comcast.net

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Audubon Phone	Dick Lamster	541.485.BIRD	
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Booth	Ron Renschler	541.345.0834	christyandron@qwest.net
Conservation	Debbie Schlenoff	541.685.0610	dschlenoff@msn.com
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Membership Data	Tim Godsil	541.915.8852	tgodsil@gmail.com
Programs	Herb Wisner	541.344.3634	hrwisner@comcast.net
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Quail Design & Layout	Volunteer Opportunity		
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Webmaster	Hugh Larkin	541.359.6473	hdlarkin2@clearwire.net

A message from Lane Audubon Board of Directors

Maeve Sowles, President

541.343.8664

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 County Audubon Society Membership Benefits



The Quail—
9 issues/yr.



**Field trips and
bird walks**



**Program
meetings**



**Educational
publications**



**Conservation issue
representation**



**Answers to
questions—
541.485.BIRD**

**Visit our web site:
www.laneaudubon.org**



Lane Audubon welcomes you—join or renew today!

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 County Audubon Society 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)\$ _____
- Current National Audubon member Don't know

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

- Check here if you prefer to receive your newsletter by e-mail.

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

Please contact me regarding

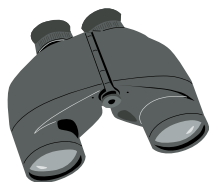
- Gift memberships
- Volunteering for Lane Audubon activities
- Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program
- I'd like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

Mail this form and your payment to:

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



Field Notes: October 2011



- **Dunlins make first appearance for winter**
- **Northern Saw-whet Owls at Spencer Butte**
- **Acorn Woodpeckers around later than usual**
- **White-tailed Kites at Fern Ridge**

Tom and Allison Mickel

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The month started out a little wet but ended up being quite nice for October! Given the mild weather, numerous species seemed to linger longer than normal, especially passerines. One of the more unusual reports was of a pair of nesting Acorn Woodpeckers that fledged one young during the third week of the month!

WATERBIRDS TO TERNS

Greater White-fronted Goose	Oct. 1	FRR – Royal Ave	LG,JS	Large numbers found in the area
Greater White-fronted Goose	Oct. 2	Eug/Springfield	SMc	The last night of hearing migrating flocks after higher than normal numbers of migrants over the last ten days
Common Loon	Oct. 15	FRR – Orchard Pt	JS	Found in small numbers on inland lakes
Eared Grebe	Oct. 6	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Occasionally reported from the area
Double-crested Cormorant	Oct. 8	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Returning after the breeding season
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Oct. 8	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Found in small numbers outside of the breeding season
White-faced Ibis (10)	Oct. 30	FRR – Royal Ave	fide RA	A late occurrence for Oregon
Turkey Vulture (45)	Oct. 8	Downtown Eug	A&TM	A large kettle moving quickly south
Turkey Vulture (50)	Oct. 11	Skinner Butte	DH	Another large kettle migrating south
White-tailed Kite (7)	Oct. 7	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Numbers increasing for the winter
Black-bellied Plover (80)	Oct. 4	FRR – Royal Ave	RR	A large number for this location
American Golden-Plover	Oct. 1	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Golden-Plovers are never common inland. This one was sporadically seen through the 15th (JS).
Pacific Golden-Plover	Oct. 6	Heceta Beach	B&ZS	Occurs in small numbers
Lesser Yellowlegs (4)	Oct. 4	FRR – Royal Ave	RR	Getting late for this species
Marbled Godwit	Oct. 1	FRR – Royal Ave	LG	Rarely found at this location
Pectoral Sandpiper	Oct. 2	Delta Ponds	DH	Not a common location for this species
Pectoral Sandpiper	Oct. 3	SJSR	B&ZS	A normal time and location for this species.
Dunlin (10)	Sept. 26	FRR – Royal Ave	A&TM	The first report for the winter
Red-necked Phalarope	Oct.	FRR	m.ob.	Still being seen throughout the month
Black-legged Kittiwake (3)	Oct. 21	Siuslaw R. mouth	JS	First report for the winter season
Sabine's Gull	Oct. 8	FRR – Shore Ln	JS	Annual in small numbers during migration
Sabine's Gull (2)	Oct. 9	FRR – Orchard Pt	SMA	Annual in small numbers during migration
Bonaparte's Gull	Oct. 16	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Found annually as the reservoir is drained
Herring Gull	Oct. 22	NJSR	JS	First report for the winter season
Thayer's Gull	Oct. 14	Heceta Beach	B&ZS	First report for the winter season
Common Tern (3)	Oct. 8	FRR – Shore Ln	JS,EC	Annual in small numbers during migration

OWLS TO BLACKBIRDS

Barred Owl	Oct. 22	Spencer Butte	A&TM,TMe	Still being found in the area
Northern Saw-whet Owl (2)	Oct. 18	Spencer Butte	TM,JS	The east side of the butte between Fox

Northern Saw-whet Owl (3)	Oct. 22	Spencer Butte	A&TM,TMe	Hollow Rd and the top seem to be a good location for this species in mid-October.
Vaux's Swift	Oct. 6	Skinner Butte	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season
Rufous Hummingbird	Oct. 30	Springfield	JS	A very late report
Acorn Woodpecker	Oct. 16	FRR – Royal Ave	JSi,et.al.	A very late nesting record for the species
Western Wood-Pewee	Oct. 6	Skinner Butte	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Oct. 2	North Eugene	TMe	Last report for the breeding season
Northern Shrike (juv)	Oct. 19	SJSR – Crab Dock	B&ZS	First report for the winter season
Violet-green Swallow (10)	Oct. 9	Skinner Butte	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season
Barn Swallow (5)	Oct. 8	FRR – Royal Ave	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Oct. 2	Skinner Butte	A&TM	First report for the winter season
Western Bluebird (5-6)	Oct. 6	Fiddle Creek	B&ZS	Not common in the area
Swainson's Thrush (2)	Oct. 9	Skinner Butte	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season
Northern Mockingbird	Oct. 11	SJSR – Crab Dock	B&ZS	Last winter's bird returning?
Orange-crowned Warbler	Oct. 6	Skinner Butte	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season
Yellow Warbler	Oct. 9	Skinner Butte	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Oct. 9	Skinner Butte	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season
Common Yellowthroat	Oct. 1	Row River NP	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season
Wilson's Warbler	Oct. 6	Skinner Butte	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season
Western Tanager	Oct. 9	Skinner Butte	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season
White-throated Sparrow	Oct. 10	North Eugene	DH	First report for the winter season
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Oct 7.	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Last report for the breeding season

Abbreviations

Fern Ridge Reservoir (**FRR**), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (**NJSR**), Row River Nature Park (**Row River NP**), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (**SJSR**).

Thank you, contributors!

RA Rich Adney, **EC** Ellen Canter, **LG** Linda Gilbert, **BG** Brandon Green, **DH** Dan Heyerly, **SMa** Sylvia Maulding, **SMc** Steve McDonald, **TMe** Thomas Meinzen, **A&TM** Allison & Tom Mickel, **RR** Roger Robb, **JSi** Julia Siporin, **B&ZS** Bill & Zanah Stotz, **JS** John Sullivan.



Black-Capped Chickadee – by Cary Kerst

2011 Eugene Christmas Bird Count continued from page 2

what we furnish, then please bring that also. I really encourage you to join us for this delicious ending to a long day.

Last Year's Results

Last year we were the Christmas Bird Count with the fourth largest number of participants. This is out of the 2,215 official NAS counts in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific Islands. This is an amazing accomplishment for all of us including the committee, Team Leaders, team members and Feeder Watchers! We had 151 birders in the field and 99 feeder watchers for a total of 250 participants.

The entire group identified 130 species on Count Day plus four more species during Count Week. This is a high average number for our Count. Our record is 140 plus two more during Count Week. We recorded 82,347 individual birds. Results of last year's Count as well as all the other Christmas Bird Counts in North America can be seen at: www.christmasbirdcount.org. Our Count code is OREU.

We hope you can join us for this year's ECBC. If you have questions please call Dick at 541-343-8664 or any of the other committee members listed above. We are looking forward to seeing you on January 1st!

Community Calendar, Events and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Basic Butterfly Biogeography

North American Butterfly Association

Jonathan Pelham of the Burke Museum of History and Culture in Seattle, will discuss where butterflies occur and the reasons for their distribution patterns.

Monday, December 5. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m., presentation at 7:30.

Free. Location: EWEB Training Center at 500 4th Ave. FMI: david.hagen@clearwire.net.

Sea Birds

Eugene Natural History Society & Co-Sponsored By Lane County Audubon
Marine birds have lifestyles perhaps more diverse than humans, from those that hardly venture over the water to those that stay in and over the ocean for many months at a time. Enjoy a program on sea birds by Jan Hodder, Academic Coordinator and instructor at the Oregon Institute of Marine biology. She'll talk about numerous sea birds, including their fascinating adaptations and survival mechanisms.

Friday, December 21, 7:30 p.m.

Free to the public. Location: Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO Campus. FMI: jmclarkson@q.com.

Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Festival brings out fungi revelers



More than 4,200 people attended the 30th Annual Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Festival on October 30, and Lane County Audubon was there to help celebrate the occasion. Our booth has

been a part of the festival for many years now.

Cosponsored by the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, Cascade Mycological Society, and Lane Community College, the festival offers the largest mushroom display on the West Coast, with about 350 species. The festival provides a

great opportunity for LCAS to spread the word about our educational and conservation programs in the bird-friendly setting of Mt. Pisgah Arboretum.

A dedicated corps of booth staffers helped make the event fun and informative for all festival goers. Volunteers this year included Connie Berglund, Margot Fetz, Debbie Schlenoff, Phil Smyser, Dave Stone, and Susanne Twight-Alexander. Thanks to all of them.

Booth Staffers Needed for Good Earth Show

The LCAS booth will be at the Good Earth Show Friday-Sunday, January 20-22, 2012 (see article on page 11). If you'd like to join the LCAS staffing crew and be a part of this truly exciting event, contact Ron Renschler, christyandron@qwest.net, 541-345-0834.

Afield but not alone... Backwoods feathered friends in Oregon's high places



Freelance writer and Lane Audubon member Marcie Bushnell writes about an endearing winter encounter with one of our smallest corvids, the Gray Jay, while cross-country skiing near Mount Bachelor in the Deschutes National Forest. "Afield" was originally published in *Bird Watcher's Digest* in January 2006. While there was not enough room in this issue of *The Quail* to publish Marcie's account of Gray Jay behavior and life history wrapped neatly into a this charming story, we would like to share it with our members nonetheless. Marcie's account of Gray Jay behavior and life history is wrapped neatly into a charming story, and we would like to share it with our members by inviting you to read the full article on Lane County Audubon Society's website at www.laneaudubon.org and click on the link for *The Quail*.

“Birds, bats, and wind energy—an unnatural history”

Herb Wisner

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Industrial scale wind energy facilities are relatively new factors in the landscapes and habitats of birds and bats. Wind energy’s ability to generate electricity without many of the environmental impacts associated with other energy sources (e.g., air pollution, water pollution, mercury emissions, climate change) may benefit birds, bats, and many other plant and animal species including people. However, possible impacts of wind facilities on birds, bats, and their habitats have been

documented and continue to be an issue. Populations of many bird and bat species are experiencing long-term declines, due in part to habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, and numerous anthropogenic impacts, increasing the concern over the potential effects of energy development.

At January’s Program Meeting, Jim Maloney will summarize the current status of the issues and what we know about fatalities in the Northwest. He will approach the subject from a natural history perspective and suggest that more attention to and regulation of the placement, design, and operation of proposed facilities could reduce impacts.

January Program Meeting

“Birds, bats, and wind energy—an unnatural history”



by Jim Maloney

**Tuesday, January 24, 7:30 p.m.
Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene**

Visit the Good Earth Show and LCAS Booth, January 20-22

Now in its seventh year, the Good Earth Home, Garden, and Living Show has a well-earned reputation for being one of the nation’s premier celebrations of all things sustainable. The 2012 show runs Friday-Sunday, January 20-22, at the Lane Events Center, Lane County Fairgrounds, located at 13th Avenue and Jefferson Street, Eugene.

As in years past, Lane County Audubon will be among the more than 250 vendors and exhibitors at the show promoting good stewardship of the Earth. Our booth will have new educational bird and nest displays along with an array of free handouts on birds, the environment, and conservation.

The show is organized around several themes of sustainability—Good Homes, Good Gardens, Good 2 Go (transportation),

Good 2 Recycle, and Good Arts—with informative, earth-friendly exhibits in each area. The LCAS booth will be located in the Good Gardens section this year.

The show also offers seminars on topics of interest to everyone. At past shows, Lane County Audubon representatives have presented seminars on backyard birding, drawing birds, and other topics.

There will be music, food, and other attractions, too. Visit http://www.eugenehomeshow.com/Welcome_Eugene_Home_Show.html for an advance look at some of the scheduling. Then be sure to visit the Good Earth Show and the Lane Audubon booth to begin your new year in a positive, sustainable way.



Bird Walks and Events



Maeve Sowles

541.343.8664

president@laneaudubon.org

Bird Walk Coordinator needed

Lane Audubon is looking for a volunteer to plan the monthly third Saturday Bird Walks. This is a fun opportunity to meet and learn from birding experts; best of all, you get to pick the location and be out birding! Lane Audubon has all the dates set, a network of willing field trip leaders, and a list of past birding locations to choose from. Your responsibility would include deciding on a location, contacting field trip leaders, emailing the field trip publicity, and meeting the birding group on the day of the walk to get things started. Contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.

SATURDAY **THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK** **January 21** **Wintering ducks and shorebirds at Fern Ridge** **Birding in Eugene**

This month, we will visit a birding hot spot near Eugene. Bird Walk Leader will be Vjera Thompson. We will meet at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson) for carpooling at 8:00 a.m. and plan to return by noon. All birders are welcome. A \$3 donation is suggested. Please remember not to leave valuables in your car as a precaution.

January Program Meeting

**"Birds, bats, and
wind energy—an
unnatural history"**

by Jim Maloney

Tuesday, January 24,
7:30 p.m.




Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER



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