



The

April 2011

Quails

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

In Flights of Imagination, inspiring essays explore birds throughout the world

Maeve Sowles

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I recently unearthed a book from my bedside table and read it during a trip. *Flights of Imagination: Extraordinary Writing about Birds*, edited by Richard Cannings and published by Greystone Books, is an anthology that includes writings by such luminaries as Bernd Heinrich, Barbara Kingsolver, and Ken Kaufman. There are over 20 essays taking the reader on an exploration of birds throughout the world including New Zealand, the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, the United Kingdom, Costa Rica, and Vietnam.

One author’s essay simply writes about his initial “aha!” moment that led him to a life of watching birds. Another essay includes scientific explanations for of the colors of eggs and the adaptive advantages of this survival strategy. Kingsolver writes about searching the Costa Rican coast and forests for Scarlet Macaws, which represent a sense of hope to the Costa Rican people—hope with feathers. The book has surprising and inspiring stories about bird courtship, migration, nesting, and survival. Each author’s voice comes through as a well-crafted message of their inspiration derived from experiencing and studying birds. In some cases, it is an accidental encounter, as with one man while surfing. In another case, the open-mindedness that comes with travel to new places introduces a tourist to birding. One particularly poignant story is of one bird only, Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon. Nearly all of the contributors are award-winning writers and accomplished in their field, and yet what comes across in the stories is the utter delight and love of birds and the environments that sustain them. I learned many things about birds in this book, but the deepest message is of their power to inspire. We are fortunate to have them in our lives.



Budget bill threatens conservation efforts and environmental standards

Debbie Schlenoff

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As I write this in mid-March, I can't help but recall the warning issued long ago, "Beware the Ides of March." The good news is that the Senate has just rejected the proposed House budget bill, but in the week to come, it must come up with an alternate version that can work. I hope that by the time you are reading this, reason has prevailed and the latest proposed budget does not undo so many years of work to protect the health of people and the ecosystems we inhabit. Anti-environmental riders packed the House budget bill. It would slash funding for the Environmental Protection Agency, the largest cut for any agency. It would prohibit the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases, and it would deny any funds to EPA to "implement, administer, or enforce" standards to reduce pollutants such as mercury, arsenic, lead, PCBs, dioxins and furans, and heavy metals from cement plants. Is this really a money saver? Due to medical conditions caused by these toxins, the EPA has found that regulation benefits the public at a value of up to \$17 billion in health benefits.

This budget bill would eliminate funding for important conservation programs such as wetland protection and grants to states to aid conservation measures. It would also cancel an initiative to protect western wilderness, and the Land and Water Conservation program, which protects wildlife habitat in National Wildlife Refuges, Parks, Forests and other public lands, would not receive enough money to be effective. A relatively small amount of money invested now can help restore these habitats, but once they are degraded further or gone completely, even throwing vast sums of cash at the problem would do little to bring them back.

The Senate budget bill also carried a rider to delist gray wolves. Wolves are an important component of healthy ecosystems, and studies have shown that. We didn't see a real recovery of the Yellowstone ecosystem until after wolves were restored to the national park. The wolves keep the elk population in check, and their presence discourages the browsers away



Anna's Hummingbird by Steve Gordon

from sensitive riparian habitat. This allowed the vegetation to return, which provided habitat for songbirds and allowed beavers to restore healthy waterways. The Endangered Species Act was enacted to provide conservation management to listed species based on scientific evaluation. If approved, the rider would render the ESA useless and leave wildlife even more vulnerable to shifting political winds.

Audubon chapters from all over the country are sending letters to their senators in Congress, as are other organizations and individuals. Perhaps representative democracy will be successful and a reasonable budget that considers the health of the planet will triumph. There is a disturbing tendency to scapegoat environmental regulation when legislators discuss "balancing" the budget during times of economic downturn. Slashing funds for environmental regulation and conservation in the name of fiscal responsibility is an oxymoron. It does not make financial sense when considering the long-term impact of such foolhardy action, nor is it responsible. There is no doubt that corporate polluters benefit from these changes, but they do so at the expense of clean air, clean water, and the health of people and wildlife. Protecting our environment should not be made into a partisan issue. We all live here.

In Celebration of International Migratory Bird Day
THE SIXTH ANNUAL FERN RIDGE
WINGS & WINE
FESTIVAL



MAY 14, 2011

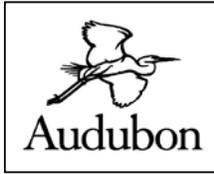
Domaine Meriwether
Veneta, Oregon
Grounds Open 10am - 4pm
Birding Walks begin at 8:30am

Birding Walks & Educational Speakers
Sailing, Kayak & Canoe Tours
Live Raptors & Children's Activities
Wine Tastings with Local Wineries
Some Activities Require Pre-Registration and Fees

Presented by City of Veneta, Domaine Meriwether, Lane County Audubon Society, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Travel Lane County, Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, South Willamette Wineries Association
& Gascades Raptor Center, City of Eugene Outdoor Program

wingsandwinefestival.com





Help in a big way!

Volunteer with Lane Audubon

Lane Audubon is currently seeking to fill the following volunteer positions. Please visit our website at www.laneaudubon.org/volunteer.htm for more information about these opportunities.

Bird Walk Coordinator: The Bird Walk Coordinator is responsible for setting up our third Saturday Bird Walks, contacting field trip leaders, emailing the publicity and meeting the group on the day of the walk to get things rolling. It is perhaps, the most fun job in Lane Audubon if you want to be out birding, meeting new people, and learning from our bird walk leaders! Contact Maeve Sowles at 541-343-8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.

Quail Layout and Graphics: We are looking for a skilled volunteer to produce the layout for *The Quail*, the monthly newsletter of the Lane County Audubon Society. The layout and graphics volunteer lays out the content and adds graphics for 10-14 pages in each of the nine yearly issues. Contact Rob Hoshaw at 541-505-9541 or rhoshaw@gmail.com.

Booth Operations Coordinator: We need 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. Contact Ron Renschler at 541-345-0834 or christyandron@quest.net.

Delivery and distribution of *The Quail* materials: This volunteer is responsible for delivering the printed newsletters to the post office, picking up supplies, and delivering paperwork. Coordinate with the timing of

The Quail crew and deliver extra *The Quail* if necessary. Contact Maeve Sowles at 541-343-8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.

Publicity person: 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.

Brochures and handouts: These educational materials periodically need revisions or updates to reflect current contact information. This would be a team effort with members of the Board so we can work through the materials and get help with the implementation, and some new materials need to be developed. Contact Maeve Sowles at 541-343-8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.



Bustits feeding on suet by Marian Little

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



Bird photographs wanted!

Do you enjoy birding and photography? Lane Audubon is seeking quality bird photographs to publish in *The Quail* as space allows. Please submit high contrast JPG, TIF, or PSD images with a minimum of resolution of 300 dpi to Rob Hoshaw, at rhoshaw@gmail.com

Electronic version of *The Quail* available!

Lane County Audubon Society offers an electronic version of the *The Quail*. Each month, LCAS will send a link to your email address that will take you to a pdf version of our newsletter. Viewing your subscription digitally helps save paper and keeps printing costs down. Of course, you still have the option to continue receiving your *The Quail* in the mail.

If you would like to begin receiving *The Quail* electronically or would like more information, please contact Tim Godsfil at tgodsil@gmail.com.



Deadlines:

May-June issue: April 9
July-August issue: June 4

Submit material to
Rob Hoshaw, editor
rhoshaw@gmail.com

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 pg. 5).

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

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Thank you, Joanna DeFelice!

Many thanks to Joanna DeFelice for her work on *Quail* graphics and layout for the past year. She brought a fresh look to *The Quail* and worked hard to meet the publication deadlines. Her behind-the-scenes work and expertise gave us more time to focus on

editing and providing quality content for the Lane Audubon newsletter.

We appreciate Joanna's hard work and wish her success in her new graphics employment obligations.

Best wishes and thank you, Joanna!



Bird art and thank you photo to Audubon in the Schools from the After School Program Charlemagne at Fox Hollow French Immersion School

Community Calendar, Events and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Butterflies, People, and Hydroelectric Schemes in Turkey

North American Butterfly Association

Dr. Paul Severns will report on his recent trip to the Kaçkar Mountains in Turkey, a biodiversity “hot spot.” Hear about the relationship between traditional agricultural practices and butterfly diversity, as well as the potential impact of hydroelectric schemes.

Monday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.

EWEB Training Center, 500 4th Ave.

FREE! FMI: 541.684.8973

Walk on the Wild Side!

Nearby Nature

Join us for a celebration of spring and all things wild. Enjoy trailside presentations, storytelling, spring Learnscape garden goodies, heron nest watching, crafts, a raffle, water table activities, and more. Own a business? Let us know if you are interested in donating to our raffle!

Saturday, April 9, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Meet at Nearby Nature Learnscape at Alton Baker Park.

Free for members, \$5/family for non-members. FMI: info@nearbynature.org

Wetland Wander at Fisher Butte

Willamette Resources & Educational Network (WREN)

Wetland Wanders are casual walks through various areas in the West Eugene Wetlands each second Tuesday of every month. This month we will explore the Fisher Butte Unit at the end of Royal Ave.

Tuesday, April 12, 9 – 10 a.m.

Free! WREN will provide binoculars.

FMI: 338.7047 or info@wewetlands.org

Restoration Celebration

Nearby Nature

Join Nearby Nature SOLV for litter pick up in Alton Baker Park. Please come dressed for the weather and bring a reusable water bottle. Sponsored in part by REI.

Friday, April 15, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Meet at Nearby Nature Learnscape at Alton Baker Park.

Please register; Free! FMI: 541.687.9699 or info@nearbynature.org.

No School Day Program: Creature Feature

Nearby Nature

Discover who’s zooming, digging, and hopping in the park! Use nets and magnifiers to find hidden life in the ponds and meadows. Enjoy fun critter games and create your own creature out of beads.

Saturday, April 16, 1 – 4 p.m.

Meet at Nearby Nature Learnscape at Alton Baker Park.

Registration required; \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members; FMI: 541.687.9699 ext 2.

A Journey to the Cloud Forest of Northwestern Ecuador

Native Plant Society

Tobias Policha, a graduate student writing a book on the flora of Ecuador, will present on tree ferns, orchids, and other wonders.

Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Meet in the EWEB Training Room, 500 East 4th Ave.

FMI: 541.746.9478

Celebrate the Ridgeline Trail Day

Wide range of organizations participating. Bird walks, work parties, ecology stroll, bike rides, climb the butte, hike the ridgeline, fiddle music, information, refreshments, and fun!

Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Meet at the event headquarters in the Spencer Butte parking lot.

To pre-register for a free hike or to volunteer: 541.682.4845 or lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us. See the schedule on the web site:

http://web.me.com/artfarley47/RidgelineFriends/Ridgeline_Day_2011.html

2011 Members’ Earth Day Celebration

Cascades Raptor Center

Watch for your invitation in the mail and plan to come for food, wine, beer, music, great activities, and spectacular birds!

Saturday, April 23

FMI: louise@eraptors.org

Field Trip: Ecology Stroll

Native Plant Society & North American Butterfly Association

Join local ecologists Peg Boulay and Bruce Newhouse for a visit to the “Mariposa Woodlands” at Spencer Butte Park. See migrating birds, wildflowers, and restoration of pine/oak habitat by the City of Eugene.

Saturday, April 23, 10:30 a.m.

Meet at the parking lot at 52nd St. and Willamette St.

FMI: 541.343.2364

WREN Family Exploration Day – Tsanchiifn Train

WREN

Spring is a wonderful time to explore the West Eugene Wetlands with your family. WREN staff and volunteers will be on hand to checkout nature exploration equipment and provide guidance for independent exploration of the spring wonders in the wetlands. Bring a picnic lunch, water, a raincoat, and sturdy shoes. Generously supported by a grant from REI.

Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Free! No registration required; FMI: 338.7047 or info@wewetlands.org

(continues on page 10)

Field Notes: February 2011



- Rough-legged Hawks at Eugene Airport
- Over 300 Sandhill Cranes at Mt. Pisgah
- Tree Swallows – first report for spring!
- Black-throated Gray Warbler makes rare winter appearance

Tom and Allison Mickel

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tamickel@rioussa.com

February began with some warm weather before turning cold late in the month with snow and overnight temperatures in the teens! For the most part, the spring migrants are returning at about their typical times, with the exception of Rufous Hummingbirds. They're normally found in the Eugene/Springfield area by the third week of February, but no reports were received by the end of the month.

WATERBIRDS

Cinnamon Teal	Feb. 21	Delta Ponds	TM	Arrived about a week earlier than normal
Green-winged (Common) Teal	Feb. 5	Stewart Pond	A&TM	One to two are found most years in large
Green-winged (Common) Teal (2)	Feb. 12	Stewart Pond	BMc,JRi	flocks of "American" Green-winged Teal
Common Goldeneye	Feb. 6	Siltcoos River	DF	An unusual location for this species
American White Pelican	Feb. 16	FRR	LM, et.al.	Still being reported from the reservoir

TURKEY VULTURES TO SHOREBIRDS

Turkey Vulture	Feb. 4	Southeast Eugene	A&TM	Given these reports, migrant birds must be
Turkey Vulture	Feb. 6	Santa Clara	MRu	moving into the area, because none of
Turkey Vulture	Feb. 10	Valley River Center	AC	these areas are places where wintering birds are found.
Turkey Vulture	Feb. 15	Florence area	DP	The first report for the spring on the coast
Osprey	Feb. 1	Walterville area	DHy	Not a normal wintering area
Bald Eagle (18)	Feb. 5	Eugene Airport area	JS	Average of 4.8 on the raptor route
Bald Eagle (pair)	Feb. 21	Judkins Point	PSt	A pair sitting in a large fir tree
Rough-legged Hawk (3)	Feb. 5	Eugene Airport area	JS	Average of 1.5 on the raptor route
Merlin	Feb. 7	East Eugene	JD	A species that likes to hunt from tall trees
Prairie Falcon	Feb. 5	Eugene Airport	JS	Seen in the area the last couple months
Sandhill Crane (35)	Feb. 20	Mt. Pisgah	MP	A normal time for their northward migration.
Sandhill Crane (300+)	Feb. 23	Mt. Pisgah	JRn	They normally use the eastern edge of the valley
Dunlin (20,000+)	Feb. 16	FRR	LM, et.al.	Large flocks can be found along the muddy edges of the reservoir in the winter.

FLYCATCHERS TO GROSBEAKS

Say's Phoebe	Feb. 19	Eugene Airport	DW	The same date it's been reported the last three years
Northern Shrike	Feb. 5	Meadowlark Prairie	JS	An area where one has been reported this winter
Northern Shrike	Feb. 5	Washburn Lane	JS	Always a good area for the species

Horned Lark	Feb. 12	FRR – E Coyote	BU	An area where nesting may occur
Horned Lark (2)	Feb. 19	Eugene Airport area	DW	An area where nesting has occurred
“White-bellied” Swallow	Feb. 7	FRR – E Coyote	A&DH	Several large flocks flying high overhead
Tree Swallow (15-20)	Feb. 15	Delta Ponds	AC	First report for the spring identified to species
Violet-green Swallow (4)	Feb. 28	LCC Ponds	JS	Right on time!
Varied Thrush (white form)	Dec. 21	SE Eugene	DHm	A rare form of the species where all orange feathers are replaced with white feathers. It was seen and photographed until Feb. 19.
Varied Thrush (white form)	Feb. 13	North Eugene	DS	A different bird based on photos
Orange-crowned Warbler	Feb. 5	North Eugene	BG	A species that winters in small numbers
Black-throated Gray Warbler (2)	Feb. 11	E Regional Park	J&JD	A very rare wintering species
Chipping Sparrow	Feb. 12	North Eugene	BG	A species that winters in small numbers
Swamp Sparrow	Feb. 16	FRR - Zumwalt Park	LM, et.al.	Found in small numbers in appropriate habitat around the reservoir
Fox Sparrow	Feb. 1	SE Eugene	AC	First one seen since Oct. in yard
Red Crossbill	Jan 30	FRR - E Coyote	ER,JE	An unusual location for this coniferous species
Evening Grosbeak	Feb. 21	SE Eugene	TM	An early report for the area
Evening Grosbeak (9-21)	Feb.	South Eugene	SG	First winter they’ve had them at their feeder

Abbreviations

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

Thank you, contributors!

AC Alan Contreras, JD Joni Dawning, J&JD Jim & Jodi DeLapp, JE John Egan, SG Steve Gordon, BG Brandon Green, DF Daniel Farrar, DHm David Hausam, A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, BMC Barry McKenzie, LM Larry McQueen, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, MP Margie Paris, DP Diane Pettey, JRi Jim Regali, JRn Jim Robertson, MRu Mark Rudolph, ER Eleanor Ryan, DS Don Schrouder, PSt Paula Staight, JS John Sullivan, BU Becky Uhler, DW Davey Wendt.

Community Calendar (continued)

Green Tracks: Community Service in the World of Native Plants

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

This fun-filled educational event includes live music, food, and a native plant sale. Learn about native plants, bees, birds, and the benefits of gardening with native plants. All proceeds benefit the vocational programs at the Department of Youth Services.

Sunday, May 22, 12 – 5 p.m.

John Serbu Youth Campus, 2700 MLK Blvd.

Free! FMI: ngap@emeraldnpsoregon.org

Western Field Ornithologists Conference

Registration is available for this year’s conference. Visit www.westernfieldornithologists.org and click on the ‘Annual Conference’ banner in the middle of the page.

August 17-21, 2011, Sierra Vista, AZ



Great Blue Heron in Alton Baker Park by Lindsay Pierce

Birding in Ecuador

Herb Wisner

541.344.3644

hrwisner@comcast.net

Eccuador is a small country, encompassing an area about the size of Colorado, and yet it hosts over 1,600 bird species—the fourth largest country-wide bird list in the world. Birding in Ecuador, as in much of the neo-tropics, is more than looking for as many of these species as you can find. It is also about visiting remote locations, meeting local residents, seeing strange animals, plants and insects, and sharing the experiences with friends. Kit Larsen birded Ecuador for a couple of months last fall, some of it while volunteering at an eco-lodge near Zamora in south-east Ecuador, and some of it with professional guides in locations closer to Quito such as Mindo, Yanacocha, Angel Paz’s refuge, Coca, and the Napo River in the upper Amazon basin. Kit will recount some of his adventures with photos of birds, butterflies, animals, plants, places and people from the recent trip.

Upcoming Program Meetings

May: “The Colorful World of Birds” by Dan Gleason

September: Bill Sullivan

October: Jim Regali

November: Jim Maloney

April Program Meeting

“Birding in Ecuador”

by Kit Larsen

Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.



Crimson-rumped Toucanet by Kit Larsen

**Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street, Eugene**

Among Penguins: A Bird Man in Antarctica

Sponsored by the Eugene Natural History Society

What’s it like to be dropped by helicopter to live for three months with a quarter million Adélie penguins in one of the harshest climates on Earth? Lane Audubon member and “birder at large” Noah Strycker will talk about his incredible experience on ice and his research with these charismatic birds in a PowerPoint presentation at the April Eugene Natural History Society meeting. Noah is not only passionate about science but also about photography, and he’s excited to share both with you.



“Among Penguins: A Bird Man in Antarctica.”

Free and open to everyone

Friday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.

Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO campus



Bird Walks and Events

Maeve Sowles

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president@laneaudubon.org

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.

Third Saturday Bird Walk

SATURDAY
April 19

Skinner Butte spring migrants

Our April bird walk will feature a treasure hunt on Eugene's Skinner Butte Park for spring migrants. Bird walk leader: TBA.

All levels of birders are welcome, from first timer to expert. We will meet at South Eugene High at 19th and Patterson, rain or shine, at 8:00 a.m. and return by noon. A \$3 donation is suggested, as well as a share of gas costs for carpooling. Please note: As a precaution, do not leave valuables in your parked car.

Questions? Contact Maeve at 541.343.8664 or president@laneaudubon.org

Program Meeting

Birding in Ecuador
by Kit Larsen

Tuesday, April 26,
7:30 p.m.



Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street,
Eugene



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER



The
Quail

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