



# The Quail

November 2012

News from Lane County Audubon Society



## From Our Treasurer

### Appreciating What's Around Us

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**T**his summer our family camped for a week at Lake Billy Chinook in central Oregon, and for a too-brief time we became immersed in the spectacular outdoor environment surrounding us. We watched in wonderment every evening as dozens of Turkey Vultures landed in a roost tree right in the middle of our campground. We hiked up to the rim of a deep river canyon to view the immense expanse of land stretching before us. We craned our necks to look in awe at (but not climb!) the sheer faces of the outcroppings at Smith Rock. We learned to appreciate more deeply the rugged beauty of the wide-open spaces that many of Oregon's indigenous people call home.



Lake Billy Chinook, Deschutes National Forest, Oregon, photo by Bob Nichol

Experiences like these invariably remind me of how fortunate and proud I am to live in Oregon, and especially in Lane County, where so many of us are committed to preserving and protecting our natural wonders from needless exploitation. I'm also reminded of other voices that have warned us of the dangers of losing our connection with the natural world. One of my favorites is the opening stanza of a poem by William Wordsworth:

*The world is too much with us; late and soon,  
 Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;  
 Little we see in Nature that is ours;  
 We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!*

(continued on page 2)

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# Birding Memories from an LCAS Member: A New Bird

By Tom McCartney

**Y**ou might think that one's birding skills would be fairly acute after nearly five decades of application in three different flyways. I received my first *Peterson's Field Guide* at age seven and immediately began correcting my farmer grandfather's identification lapses: "No, Grandpa, it's not a red bird, it's a Cardinal"; "It's not a jay bird, but a Blue Jay"; "Not a butcher bird, but a Shrike"; "Not a rain crow, but a Mockingbird"; and so on.

One time, my awful uncles suggested we go on an Iowa snipe hunt. I was to stand between the cornrows in the dead of night, holding a gunny sack, while they would drive the snipe down the corn row and into the sack. I replied, "You mean a Wilson's Snipe? They don't live in the corn. They live down by the marsh." They just groaned and pretty much left me alone after that.

In my late teens, I made the mistake of explaining to friends the difference between various diving ducks and the American Coot. To this day, I am still called "Coot" by this same circle of friends.

Recently, while fishing on the lower Owyhee River, I spied a bird new to me. I noted its markings, size, and behavior; determined it to be a male; and noted the fact that we were both very interested in the bug life around us. My efforts to identify him remain unfulfilled and probably will remain so. I guess I really shouldn't fret since I was able to observe his beauty, his peculiarities, his preferred habitat (tree dweller), his chirp, and his busy demeanor. He is somewhere between a sparrow, flycatcher, and warbler—and that will just have to be good enough for now ... until next time!

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

### **Coordinate Monthly Bird Walks**

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, e-mailing 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](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org).

### **Distribute and Deliver *The Quail* to the Post Office**

Our newsletter reaches a broad audience. Help us get printed newsletters out to our subscribing membership by delivering them to the Post Office nine times per year. Call or email Maeve at 541-343-8664 or [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org).

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## **From Our Treasurer: Appreciating What's Around Us** *(continued from page 1)*

One of the many reasons I give my time and energy to Lane County Audubon Society is that LCAS strives to help us all regain our hearts and power, recognize the value of the natural world, and work to protect the environment and the birds and other wildlife that inhabit it.

Each year at this time we ask our members to help LCAS strengthen its educational and conservation mission through a tax-deductible donation, large or small. These donations help fund the material costs of offering our school education programs, program meetings, bird walks, community outreach, and more.

If you're able to help us in our efforts, please use the envelope inserted in this issue of *The Quail* to show your support. And thank you for your generosity over the years.



## VOTE

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**P**lease vote! It is important for each and every one of us to cast our votes in this representative democracy, even if we have been disillusioned by partisan politics, media spin, political ads, and the vast amounts of money spent on campaigns. Some people have called the current House of Representatives the most anti-environmental in recent history. Luckily the Senate has not supported many of the most egregious bills passed by the House, but there is no guarantee that some of the legislation will not get through. The following is just a sampling of some of these bills.

A bill passed by the House of Representatives last June (H.R. 2578, which includes H.R. 1505) would allow the Border Patrol to perform any activity along the entire U.S.-Canada and U.S. - Mexico borders without the need to adhere to any environmental regulations. About 30 environmental laws (including the Endangered Species Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act) would be relinquished on federal lands within 100 miles of the Canadian and Mexican borders. The zone includes National Parks such as Glacier, Olympic, Isle Royale, Joshua Tree, and Big Bend, as well as wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, and national forests. Construction such as road building, new walls, towers, and forward operating bases would proceed with no consideration of any environmental impact. There is already a memorandum of understanding between border security agencies and federal land managers that allow for cooperation in security issues. Many organizations, including prominent environmental groups, the Department of the Interior, and ironically, Customs and Border Protection itself, do not consider the bill to be necessary.

Another bill passed by the House of Representatives in April is HR 4089, the so-called "Sportsmen's Heritage Act." The bill abolishes the Wilderness Act's prohibitions on road-building, structures, and installations in Wilderness Areas and allows

the use of motorboats, aircraft, and off-road vehicles. It would allow for any activity that might be considered to increase hunting prospects, such as logging, bulldozing, and predator-control methods such as aerial gunning, traps, and poisoning. Many hunting and fishing organizations that avail themselves of opportunities to hunt and fish in the wild oppose the bill due to language that would effectively take the "wilderness" out of Wilderness Area. The non-partisan Congressional Research Service (CRS) analyzed the bill and reported that "the language could be construed as opening wilderness areas to virtually any activity related to hunting and fishing, even if otherwise inconsistent with wilderness values." The protective National Environmental Policy Act is rendered ineffective by the bill, and it restricts the ability of Presidents to designate new wilderness. Other provisions limit opportunities to protect wildlife in wilderness areas. The American Bird Conservancy and several other groups, including our own, have petitioned the federal government to ban the use of lead ammunition. An estimated 10-20 million birds, including Bald and Golden Eagles, California Condors, Mourning Doves, and waterfowl such as Trumpeter Swans, loons, ducks, and geese, die each year from lead poisoning. Nearly 500 published scientific papers have documented the harm to both humans and wildlife that is caused by the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle. One of the provisions of bill HR 4089 would amend the Toxic Substances Control Act so that there could be no prohibition of the use of lead shot on public lands.

For those of us who value nature, it is imperative that we stay informed about legislation and let our lawmakers know what we think.

This website provides contact information for your legislators: <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

## Field Notes: September 2012



- Greater White-fronted Geese
- American Golden-plover
- South Polar Skua
- Black-necked Stilt

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The month was warm and dry, as seems to be the new norm. The shorebirding at Fern Ridge Reservoir continued to be quite good with the ODF&W staff pumping water into the ponds to keep them from drying up during migration – thanks again Wayne Morrow and staff! As is normal for the month, most of the neotropical migrants have left for their wintering grounds and a number of the northern breeders have arrived for the winter.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR).

### WATERBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Goose	Sept 23	Eugene	SMc	First flocks for the fall migration.
Cackling Goose	Sept 25	FRR	JG	First flocks for the winter season.
Pink-footed Shearwater	Sept 9	NJSR	DP	Small numbers can normally be seen from shore most falls.
South Polar Skua	Sept 25	55 mi off shore	JW et al.	Few observers this far offshore, so little is known about abundance.
Black-crowned Night-heron	Sept 15	FRR	JS	Last report for the summer from this location.
White-faced Ibis	Sept 22	FRR	LG	A rare fall report.

### RAILS – TERNS

Sora	Sept 7	SJSR – deflation plain	MN	Migrant or early wintering bird?
American Golden-plover	Sept 7	SJSR – deflation plain	MN	Occasionally found during fall migration.
American Golden-plover	Sept 29	FRR	JS	Occasionally found during fall migration.
Pacific Golden-Plover	Sept 29	FRR	K&RP	Occasionally found during fall migration.
Black-necked Stilt (2)	Sept 2	FRR	RR	Last report for the fall season.
Solitary Sandpiper	September	FRR	m.ob.	Seen throughout the month.
Greater Yellowlegs (75)	Sept 2	FRR	RR	Large numbers for Lane Co.
Lesser Yellowlegs (25)	Sept 2	FRR	RR	Large numbers for Lane Co.
Whimbrel	Sept 9	Heceta Beach	DP	A normal migrant.
Whimbrel	Sept 25	FRR	JG	Never common at this location.
Marbled Godwit (2)	Sept 9	Heceta Beach	DP	A normal migrant.
Marbled Godwit	Sept 23	FRR	NS	Never common at this location.
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Sept 15	FRR	JS	A late report for this species.
Red-necked Stint (possible)	Sept 12	FRR	LM et al.	It would be the fifth record for Lane Co.
Baird's Sandpiper	Sept 12	FRR	WR	Last report for the fall season.
Pectoral Sandpiper (61)	Sept 19	FRR	JS,EC	A large number for Lane Co!
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Sept 9	FRR	GF	Almost annual at this location in the fall.
Dunlin	Sept 25	FRR	JG	First report for the winter season.
Stilt Sandpiper	Sept 2	FRR	RR	Last report for the fall season.
Short-billed Dowitcher (2)	Sept 23	FRR	NS	Getting late for this species.
Red-necked Phalarope	Sept 2	FRR	RR	About the end of their southward migration.
Red-necked Phalarope	Sept 2	SJSR – dog pond	WH	About the end of their southward migration.
Common Tern (15-20)	Sept 9	Heceta Beach	DP	Seen in small numbers this time of year.
Common Tern (2)	Sept 23	FRR	NS	Normally found during the fall at this location.

## SWIFTS to SPARROWS

Vaux's Swift (4300)	Sept 8	Agate Hall – O of U	BC	A low high count for the fall.
Rufous Hummingbird	Sept 30	North Eugene	TMe	Last report for the breeding season.
Lewis's Woodpecker	Sept 18	Mt Pisgah	MPs	A normal migrant location.
Williamson's Sapsucker	Sept 28	Koch Mtn.	MS	Occasionally found in the high Cascades.
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Sept 1	Delta Ponds	TMe	Last report for the breeding season.
Western Wood-pewee	Sept 13	Alton Baker Park	VT	Last report for the breeding season.
Willow Flycatcher	Sept 12	FRR	LM et al.	Last report for the breeding season.
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Sept 23	North Eugene	TMe	Last report for the breeding season.
Cassin's Vireo	Sept 7	Skinner Butte	VT	Last report for the breeding season.
Warbling Vireo	Sept 11	Alton Baker Park	VT	Last report for the breeding season.
Gray Jay	Sept 13	Spencer Butte	A&TM	Seen in small numbers at this location.
Mountain Chickadee	Sept 29	Lookout Point Res.	NS	Rare outside of the high Cascades.
Mountain Chickadee	Sept 29	North Eugene	BC	Rare outside of the high Cascades.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Sept 16	Creswell	NS	First report for the winter season.
Wrentit	Sept 5	College Hill – Eugene	MPs	They can show up in unusual places in the fall.
Varied Thrush	Sept 13	Creswell	NS	First report for the winter season.
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Sept 26	Alton Baker Park	DS	Last report for the breeding season.
Hermit Warbler	Sept 24	Creswell	NS	Last report for the breeding season.
Wilson's Warbler	Sept 25	Garden Lake	NS	Last report for the breeding season.
Yellow-breasted Chat	Sept 19	Kirk Pond	LM et al.	Last report for the breeding season.
Chipping Sparrow	Sept 23	FRR	NS	Last report for the species this year?
Lincoln's Sparrow	Sept 14	Creswell	NS	First report for the winter season.
Fox Sparrow	Sept 12	Creswell	NS	First report for the winter season.
White-throated Sparrow	Sept 21	FRR	LM et al.	First report for the winter season.
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Sept 16	Creswell	NS	First report for the winter season.
Western Tanager	Sept 29	Lookout Pt Res.	NS	A normal last date for the breeding season.
Black-headed Grosbeak	Sept 19	Springfield	VT	Last report for the species this year?

### Late report

**Horned Lark (3)** July 21 Bohemia Mtn MPk An unusual location for the breeding season.

EC Eric Clough, BC Barbara Combs, GF Gary Fredricks, JG John Gatchet, LG Linda Gilbert, WH Wayne Hoffman, MS Marylee Sayre, SMc Steve McDonald, LM Larry McQueen, TMe Thomas Meinzen, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, MN Mark Nikas, MPs Margie Paris, MPk Magnus Persmark, K&RP Karen & Ron Peterson, DP Diane Pettey, WR Will Riser, RR Roger Robb, DS Don Schrouder, NS Noah Strycker, JS John Sullivan, VT Vjera Thompson, JW Jay Withgott.

### 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>

### 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 Godsfil at [tgodsfil@gmail.com](mailto:tgodsfil@gmail.com).

# Lane Audubon welcomes you—join or renew today!



We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. Your membership dues

for National Audubon Society no longer support a membership in your local chapter. 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! We appreciate your support. —Maeve Sowles, President

## 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 [www.laneaudubon.org](http://www.laneaudubon.org)



### Deadlines:

Dec./Jan. Issue: Nov 3  
February Issue: Jan 5

Submit material to Cheron Ferland  
[cheron.ferland@mac.com](mailto:cheron.ferland@mac.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.

**Subscriptions:** Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or [tgodsil@gmail.com](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com).

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## 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

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- 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

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## Texas Gulf Coast Treasures

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Last March and April, professional photographer Dave Stone took a road trip to the Texas Gulf Coast to find and photograph birds we can never hope to see around here. He visited ten birding hotspots in Texas and the southwest, including Padre Island, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Big Bend National Park, Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, and more. Along the way, he visited the rugged Red Rock country in southern Utah, White Sands National Monument, and several ancient petroglyph sites.

He saw and photographed such exotic (to us) birds as Roseate Spoonbill, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Chachalaca, Great Kiskadee, Green Jay, and many more.

Plan to join us on Tuesday, November 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, for a multimedia slide and music tour of the best birding spots on the Gulf Coast.

Note: The Garden Club has a newly constructed ramp leading to the front door. Attendees no longer have to climb steps to enter.

### November Program Meeting Texas Gulf Coast Treasures with Dave Stone



Roseate Spoonbill, by Dave Stone

**Tuesday, Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m.  
Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St., Eugene**

## Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

*A service to Lane Audubon members*

### **Mt. Pisgah Arboretum**

November 3-4, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Saturday and Sunday)

### **Mushrooming on the Mountain Workshop**

*Fee, Registration Required; FMI call 541.747.3817 or MountPisgahArboretum.org*

### **Mt. Pisgah Arboretum**

November 10, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Saturday)

### **Play in the Rain Day**

Hikes, horses, tree-climbing, nature crafts, scavenger hunts, seed planting, campfire cookery, and more!

*Free, FMI call 541.747.3817 or MountPisgahArboretum.org*

### **Eugene Natural History Society**

November 16, 7:30 p.m. (Friday)

### **Ecosystem Engineers – Pocket Gophers**

A presentation by Dr. Jim Reichman, past President of the American Society of Mammalogists and Program Officer in Ecology at the National Science Foundation

*Free, University of Oregon Campus, 100 Willamette Hall, Eugene*

Nov. Program Meeting  
**Texas Gulf Coast Treasures**  
with Dave Stone




**Tuesday, Nov. 27,  
7:30 p.m.  
Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High St., Eugene**



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER

*The Quail*

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## Bird Walks and Events



*Daneen Justice*

310.503.4537

*dkjustice@mac.com*

**SATURDAY  
November 17**

**THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK**  
**Mt. Pisgah**, led by Davey Wendt

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. As a precaution, please remember not to leave valuables in your car. Questions? Call Daneen at 310.503.4537 or email: [dkjustice@mac.com](mailto:dkjustice@mac.com)

**SUNDAY  
December 30**

**2012 EUGENE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, December 30, 2012, as the date for the 2012 Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC). This will be the 71st ECBC and the 113th National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. Dick Lamster will be the Coordinator again this year supported by the Steering Committee of Dan Gleason, Barbara Gleason, Allison Mickel, and Herb Wisner, plus 27 great bird watchers as Team Leaders. Stay tuned for more information in the December-January issue of *The Quail*, or contact Dick Lamster at 541.343.8664.

