



The Quail

April 2013

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Check Out the New Lane Audubon Web Site!!

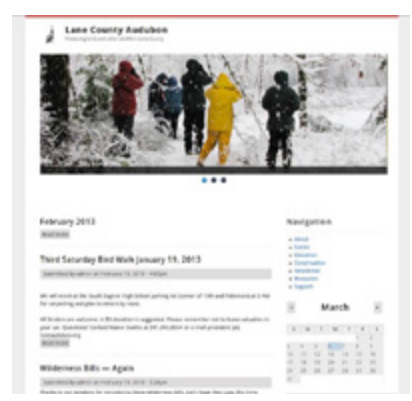
Maeve Sowles 541.343.8664 president@laneaudubon.org

Audubon Phone – 541.485.BIRD

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See page 3.

We are thrilled to announce our new Lane County Audubon Society web site with added features such as a calendar, live link to the Facebook page, and a photo gallery. We still have our activities, resources, references, and ongoing features available, but all are much nicer looking! The new web page will give us more flexibility and allow us to keep everything updated more easily. We are very happy to have it refreshed and up to date with new technology and content!



laneaudubon.org

We have this new web site thanks to the generous donation of time and expertise from Concentric Sky (<http://concentricsky.com/>), a Eugene-based web technology development firm. They created a company initiative to donate some of their staff time to helping non-profits in the local community. We worked with Joey Bruckner and Elijah Hamovitz, two talented, energetic, and technically adept professionals at Concentric Sky. They assessed our needs, looked at our old web page, reviewed the wish-list for our new web page, and put everything together for us. They also provided training for future updates and changes for the new web page. Lane Audubon's Board is truly grateful for this generous donation.

To the owners of Concentric Sky, whose generosity made this possible, and to Joey and Elijah for their work on our behalf, Lane Audubon says, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"



Bird Brains: Some Amazing Capabilities of Birds

Debbie Schlenoff

541.685.0610

dschlenoff@msn.com

The following summarizes a few studies demonstrating the capacity of birds to recognize and remember other individuals. A study on ravens conducted by Boeckle and Bugnyar examined the reactions of ravens to the calls of previous raven group members. They found that ravens responded differently to calls from previous group members than to calls from unfamiliar ravens. They also appeared to remember their former relationship. If they heard calls of an individual they had a good relationship with, they responded with a “friendly” call. But if they heard a “foe,” they used lower frequencies with rougher auditory characteristics. Did I mention that they observed this response even when it had been up to three years since the ravens’ last interaction?

On the campus of a large university, Levey and collaborators set up an experiment where they had a person approach the nests of Northern Mockingbirds on four consecutive days. Out of the thousands of people on campus, and despite the fact that the person wore different clothes on every visit, the individual was recognized by the birds after only two 30-second exposures. Each day, the birds reacted more aggressively, increasing their alarm calls and attacks. On the fifth day, a different person approached the nest in the same manner. The birds reduced their degree of alarm to the level of day one. Clearly, the birds were able to recognize individual people and respond based on past experience.

At the University of Washington, Marzluff and colleagues were asking similar questions about crows. For the initial study, they wore caveman masks when they banded seven crows; an activity the crows were vehemently opposed to. The researchers would then walk around campus wearing the mask. Crows would respond by loudly scolding and harassing the wearers. If they wore another mask (including one of Dick Cheney, go figure), the crows did not react. The word spread. Within two years, several dozen birds were reacting to cavemen masks, and the behavior had spread almost a mile from its place of origin.



Pop-quiz: The lesson to take away from these studies is:

- Never assume you are anonymous, especially when you are up to no good.
- Be nice. They know who you are and they’re holding a grudge.
- Never underestimate anybody, even if you think they are a bird-brain.
- Some or all of the above.

Douglas J. Levey, Gustavo A. Londoño, Judit Ungvari-Martin, Monique R. Hiersoux, Jill E. Jankowski, John R. Poulsen, Christine M. Stracey, and Scott K. Robinson. Urban mockingbirds quickly learn to identify individual humans. *PNAS* 2009. doi:10.1073/pnas.0811422106

Markus Boeckle, Thomas Bugnyar. Long-term memory for affiliates in ravens. *Current Biology*, 2012; DOI: 10.1016/j.cub.2012.03.023

Heather N. Cornell, John M. Marzluff, and Shannon Pecoraro. Social learning spreads knowledge about dangerous humans among American crows. *Proc. R. Soc. B* 2012 vol. 279 no. 1728: 499-508

The Himalayas

Herb Wisner

541.344.3634

hrwisner@comcast.net

The Himalayan Mountains System, stretching across 2,200 miles of Asia, is home to the world's highest peaks. Everest, K2, and other summits are well known, but the rich Himalayan natural history receives less publicity. A visit to this mountain uplift is rewarding both for the stunning views and for a chance to sample diverse biomes that range from the Asian tropics to mountain tundra.

The Himalayas is not a wilderness area, and a journey to the region is an immersion in a rich tapestry of human history and traditions. Besides these cultural dimensions, there are fine conservation successes in the Himalayas that often incorporate local populations. For example, the Sherpas of Khumbu in eastern Nepal have benefited from the establishment of the Sagarmatha [Everest] National Park, and wildlife such as Musk Deer, Himalayan Tahr, and Impeyan Pheasants thrive beside the human residents.

Over the years, Bob Fleming has visited many parts of the Himalayas, and his presentation will offer a naturalist's overview of the system, ranging from One-Horned Rhinoceros and Giant Hornbills at low elevations to Tibetan Snow Cocks, who dig for tubers amid clumps of Golden Edelweiss and Sedums at 18,000 feet.

Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, at the Eugene Garden Club, 1655 High Street, Eugene, for a naturalist's view of the Himalayas.

April Program Meeting

The Himalayas with Bob Fleming



Tuesday, April 23, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

**Eugene Garden Club,
1645 High St., Eugene**

Electronic version of *The Quail* available!

Help us save paper and postage! Lane County Audubon Society offers an electronic version of *The Quail*. Each month, LCAS will send a link to your email address that will take you to a pdf version of our newsletter. If you would like to begin receiving *The Quail* electronically or would like more information, please contact Tim Godsfil at tgodsil@gmail.com.

Help Us By Volunteering!

Studies at Cornell University show there are long-term health benefits to doing community volunteer work in terms of perception of healthier, longer lives and life satisfaction. There are no guarantees of this, of course, but if you want to become involved we could use your help in the following projects:

- Web Master for the new web site
- Field Trip Organizer for the monthly third Saturday bird walks
- Bike Path Clean-up Organizer for the event twice per year

For more information, call Maeve at 541.343.864 or email president@laneaudubon.org.

Field Notes: February 2013



- **Band-tailed Pigeon**
- **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**
- **Palm Warbler**
- **Horned Puffin**

Tom and Allison Mickel

541.485.7112

tamickel@riousa.com

The weather seemed drier and warmer than normal for the month, but we did have another period of persistent fog. Interesting reports for the month included the second winter Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, two different warblers—Palm and Hermit—and about the tenth Horned Puffin record for the county. The Horned Puffin was observed on the beach and swam away once it was coaxed back into the ocean. Some of the earlier migrants are arriving or migrating through. More migrants will be arriving next month, and a number of our wintering species will be leaving for their breeding areas to the north.

Abbreviations:

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), many observers (m.ob.), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR).

WATERBIRDS

Ross's Goose	Feb 15	Leaburg Lake area	TB	Individuals are found in large flocks of Cackling Geese.
Cinnamon Teal (2)	Feb 9	FRR – Royal Ave	TMe	About a month earlier than normal, but they do winter some years.
Common Goldeneye (5)	Feb 13	Will Rvr/Springfield	NS	Not a normal location for this species.
Common Goldeneye (6)	Feb 14	Greenway Bridge	TMe	Not the same birds as seen Feb 13 – this group contained two males with four females and the other group were all female.
Barrow's Goldeneye (2)	Feb 13	Will Rvr/Springfield	LM	Not a normal location for this species.
Long-tailed Duck	Feb 2	Strawberry Hill SW	NS	Small numbers along the coast most winters.
Ruddy Duck (400)	Feb 15	FRR – Royal Ave	RR	A large number in Lane Co.
Pacific Loon	Feb 4	Ayres Lake	JP	A species not commonly found inland in Lane County.
Great Blue Heron	Feb 10	Delta Ponds	BN, PB	Starting to hang around last year's nests.
Green Heron	Feb 2	Row River Nat Pk	A&TM	Small numbers during the winter in the valley.

HAWKS to OWLS

Osprey	Feb 8	Alton Baker Park	PB	A normal wintering location.
Bald Eagle (29)	Feb 1	FRR to Junction City	JS,BAM	A record number for this raptor route.
Northern Harrier (16)	Feb 9	FRR – Royal Ave	TMe	A large number except at roost.
Red-shouldered Hawk (9)	Feb 1	FRR to Junction City	JS,BAM	A record number for this raptor route.
Sandhill Crane	Feb 17	Eugene, Creswell	m.ob.	Right on schedule – many flocks reported.
Lesser Yellowlegs	Feb 2	EWEB @ Roosevelt	NS	A rare wintering bird in Oregon.
Western Sandpiper	Feb 15	FRR – Royal Ave	RR	A rare wintering bird in Lane Co.
Glaucous Gull	Feb 2	Bob Creek	NS	Small numbers along the coast most winters.
Horned Puffin	Feb 17	SJSR beach	GG,CP	About the tenth record for Lane Co.
Band-tailed Pigeon	Feb 15	McKenzie View Rd	JSo	About a month earlier than normal.
Short-eared Owl (2)	Feb 2	Meadowlark Prairie	NS	A normal wintering location.

HUMMINGBIRDS to FINCHES

Rufous Hummingbird	Feb 18	SE Eugene	DG	A few days earlier than normal.
Rufous Hummingbird	Feb 21	Florence area	DP	First report for the area.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Feb 2	N River Road	LMI	Sixth record for Lane Co. & 2nd this winter.
Northern Shrike	Feb 12	Lily Lake	AC	Still being found.
Tree Swallow (20)	Feb 3	FRR – Royal Ave	DH	Right on schedule for normal arrival date.
Western Bluebird (22)	Feb 20	EWEB – Roosevelt	TMe	A large flock for Lane Co.
Northern Mockingbird	Feb 1	Lancaster	JS,BAM	A second winter bird in the county.
Townsend's Warbler (14)	Feb 9	SE Eugene	DG	A large flock for a feeder.
Hermit Warbler	Feb 17	U of O area	LM	Very rare in winter, but reports have been
Hermit Warbler	Feb 18	Creswell	NS	increasing in the last few years.
Palm Warbler	Feb 8	EWEB – Roosevelt	QF	About the sixth record for inland Lane Co.
Palm Warbler	Feb 19	Golden Gardens Park	SH	About the seventh record for inland Lane Co.
Chipping Sparrow	Feb 16	River Rd area	BC	Still being seen.
Fox Sparrow – red subspecies	Feb 4	Mt. Pisgah	DS	Rarely found in Oregon.
Swamp Sparrow	Feb	FRR – Royal Ave	m.ob.	Seen throughout the month.
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Feb 17	FRR – Royal Ave	BC	The earliest date ever by over a month!
Cassin's Finch (5)	Feb 2	S of Eugene	DL,MS	Rare in the valley at any season.

PB Peg Boulay, TB Toni Brown, BC Barbara Combs, AC Alan Contreras, QF Quentin Furrow, DG Dan Gleason, GG George Grier, DH David Hausam, SH Sally Hill, DL Dick Lamster, LMI Libbie Marshall, BAM Barry McKenzie, LM Larry McQueen, TMe Thomas Meinzen, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, BN Bruce Newhouse, JP Jone Palmquist, CP Cynthia Pappas, DP Diane Pettey, RR Roger Robb, JSo Jim Salerno, DS Don Schrouder, MS Maeve Sowles, NS Noah Strycker, JS John Sullivan.

Welcome Back Vaux's Swifts at Agate Hall



Lane County Audubon Society will hold its annual spring swift event outside Agate Hall on Friday, April 12, and Friday, April 26, at sunset. We hope to see early arrivals by mid-April, and the numbers should increase over the next three to four weeks.

Vaux's Swifts use the chimney at Agate Hall to roost for the night as they gather during spring migration. It's a wonderful chance to observe and learn about the birds returning from Central and South America for the breeding season.

Lane Audubon will have handouts with information about the birds. Look for the LCAS banner at 17th and Agate Street. Stop by and enjoy this annual natural phenomenon. It's free!

Call 541.343.8664 for more information.

Remember to check the Vaux's Happening web site at: http://www.vauxhappening.org/Vauxs_Happening_Home.html

A new temperature-monitoring study includes data collected last year in Monroe, Washington!

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



Deadlines:

May-June Issue: April 6

July-Aug Issue: June 1

Submit material to
Cheron Ferland
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.

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Layout by Kerry Lutz



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 _____

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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

Lane Audubon Officers & Board Members

President..... Maeve Sowles541.343.8664 president@laneaudubon.org
Treasurer Ron Renchler541.345.0834 christyandron@qwest.net
Members Debbie Schlenoff541.685.0610 dschlenoff@msn.com
Herb Wisner541.344.3634 hrwisner@comcast.net
Jim Maloney.....541.968.9249..... jimgmal@comcast.net

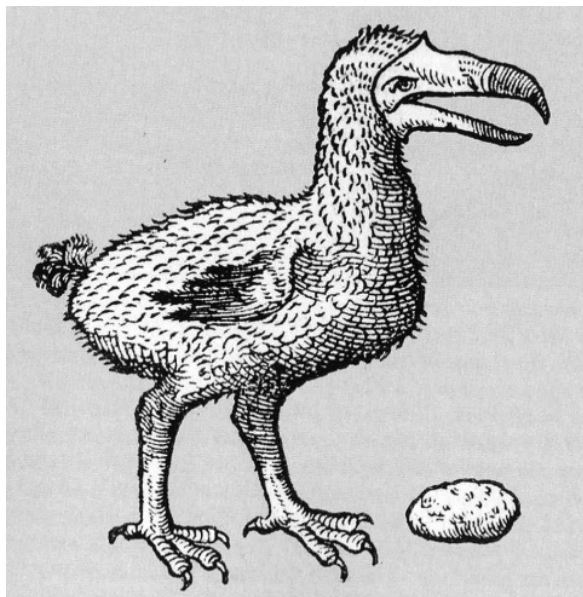
Lane Audubon Committee Chairs

Audubon Phone..... Dick Lamster541.485.BIRD
Audubon Adventures..... Joyce Trawle541.515.6244 jtrawle@comcast.net
Audubon in the Schools (AITS) ... Barclay Browne..... barclay.browne@gmail.com
AITS Scheduling..... Bonnie Lindberg..... aitslc@gmail.com
Booth..... Ron Renchler541.345.0834 christyandron@qwest.net
Conservation..... Debbie Schlenoff541.685.0610 dschlenoff@msn.com
Education Volunteer Opportunity
Field Notes..... Allison & Tom Mickel...541.485.7112..... tamickel@riouisa.com
Field Trips..... Volunteer Opportunity
FRESH Art Farley541.683.1186..... art@cs.uoregon.edu
Membership Data..... Tim Godsil541.915.8852 tgodsil@gmail.com
Programs Herb Wisner541.344.3634 hrwisner@comcast.net
Quail Editor..... Cheron Ferland.....541.654.1122..... cheron.ferland@mac.com
Quail Design & Layout..... Volunteer Opportunity
Recording Secretary..... Kathy Wilson kfred1953@yahoo.com
Webmaster Volunteer Opportunity

Endangered Species Act Celebrated On Its 40th Anniversary

Dave Stone

dns@efn.org



It's been a long time coming.

- In 1662, we lost the dodo, a mere 64 years after it was “discovered” by Dutch sailors on the island of Mauritius.
- In 1914, after centuries of enormous flocks of passenger pigeons “blackening the sky,” “Martha,” the last living passenger pigeon, died in captivity in the Cincinnati Zoo.
- In 1962, Rachael Carson sounded the alarm with the publication of *Silent Spring*, which detailed the impact that unrestricted pesticide use was having on wild bird populations.

It took 11 more years before the U.S. Congress took action and passed the current Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Signed into law by President Richard Nixon on December 28, 1973, the ESA was designed to protect critically imperiled species from extinction as a “consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation.”

The stated purpose of the ESA is to protect species and “the ecosystems upon which they depend.” The ESA is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

A species is added to the list when it is determined to be endangered or threatened because of any of the following factors:

- present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range
- over-utilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes
- disease or predation
- inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms
- other natural or manmade factors affecting its survival

The ESA can list a species as either an “endangered” species or a “threatened” species, depending on the degree of threat it faces. An “endangered species” is one that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A “threatened species” is one that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

How a Species Is Listed

A species being considered for ESA protection is called a “candidate species.” The USFWS can identify potential candidates, or any member of the public can nominate a species. Public petitioners must submit supporting biological information.

Once a species is nominated by the public or the agency, the agency conducts a formal process involving data gathering and opportunities for public comments. Priority is given to those species most threatened and the immediacy of the threat. It is not a popularity contest; the Snail Darter is given the same consideration as the Spotted Owl and Polar Bear.

Following this process, the agency makes a decision as to whether the listing is warranted and whether immediate listing is called for or must be deferred to higher-priority species. In that case, the species becomes a “candidate” species.

Once it is listed, it must be protected from “adverse” effects of Federal activities and from the “taking,” transporting, or

(continued on page 8)

Endangered Species Act

(continued from page 7)

selling of the species. Next comes a plan to recover the species and the designation of important “critical” habitat.

Recovery plans can include restoring and acquiring habitat, removing invasive species, conducting surveys, monitoring individual populations, and sometimes captive breeding in order to release the species into its historic range.

How Well Does the Process Work?

Since passage of the Act, 28 species have recovered enough to be removed from the list, including the Bald Eagle, Brown Pelican, and American Alligator. Ninety-nine percent of listed species have been prevented from going extinct. However, the Endangered Species Coalition estimates that there are 6,500 species in the U.S. at risk of extinction, while only 1,200 are listed. The listing process is very cumbersome, fraught with delay and political opposition, and woefully underfunded.

In recognition of the importance of the ESA, future issues of *The Quail* will feature the story of an endangered bird.

For more information, visit the following sites:

- USFWS: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/index.html>.
- Endangered Species Coalition: <http://www.stopextinction.org/species.html>.
- Center for Biological Diversity: http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/esa_works/index.html

LCAS Thanks Our Volunteers!

- Cheron Ferland has been our *Quail* editor for the past year! She is great to work with, and we are happy to benefit from her editorial skills.
- Hugh and Sandy Larkin have led our biannual Bike Path Cleanup since spring of 2006! Thanks for their commitment of seven years, twice per year. We wish them happy trails on their forthcoming bicycle adventures.
- Hugh Larkin has been our web master since summer of 2007, and we owe him a big thank you for keeping this important public face of Lane Audubon up and running over the years. Hugh always took care of requests for changes to the web site wherever he was travelling. We will miss him and thank him for helping us in this important function.
- Kathy Danz has been helping for two years by sending “thank you” post cards to those who have made donations. It is a huge help since we do not have an office or staff members to assist with this important acknowledgement for our membership. Thank you, Kathy!
- John Hartman provided contact information for Concentric Sky, the company that updated our web site. This was a huge benefit to our group!

Thanks to each of these volunteers for their selfless contributions!

Lane County Audubon Third Saturday Bird Walk, February Report

by Maeve Sowles

On February 16 we visited the Goodpasture Island Road path at Delta Ponds. The walk was led by Jim Regali. Twenty people gathered under cloudy skies but there was no rain. The cloudiness gave us wonderful light to observe the 39 species of birds we spotted!

We had long looks at many species, but especially fun were:

- a Cinnamon Teal, which was across the water but brightly colored and unmistakable

- a good look at the subtle but beautiful back feathers of Gadwall
- the strikingly orange legs of the Northern Shoveler
- three Turkey Vultures, which were the first of the year for everyone that day

Jim gave us helpful hints on how to remember and ID some of the birds as we walked along the ponds. Thanks to Jim for sharing his expertise and thanks to those who came along for a morning of birding!

Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

OLYMPIC BIRDFEST 2013

Sequim, Washington

April 5-7

Guided birding trips, boat tours, an auction and raffle, banquet, totem tour, and many other events.

Fees and registration required.

FMI: <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>

WILLAMETTE RESOURCES AND EDUCATIONAL NETWORK (WREN)

April 9 (Tuesday)

“Wetland Wanders to Stewart Pond,” Eugene

“Wetland Wanders” are casual walks through various West Eugene wetlands sites.

Free; FMI: <http://www.wewetlands.org>

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Guided Spring Walks

April 11 (1-3 p.m.) - “The World of Plants”

April 13 (1-3 p.m.) - “Tree Talk Walk: Trees of the Southern Willamette Valley”

April 20 (8-10 a.m.) - “Birds and Blooms”

Fee; FMI: <http://www.mountpisgaharboretum.com/>

PACIFIC CITY BIRDING AND BLUES FESTIVAL

Pacific City, Oregon

April 12-14

The 10th annual festival includes birding trips, workshops, guest speakers, and music.

Fees and registration required.

FMI: <http://www.birdingandblues.com>

WILLAMETTE RESOURCES AND EDUCATIONAL NETWORK (WREN)

April 13 (Saturday)

“Family Exploration Day at Stewart Pond”

Family exploration days foster unstructured play, discovery, and exploration for families and adults.

Free; FMI: <http://www.wewetlands.org>

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

April 16, 7:00 p.m. (Tuesday)

“Animal Wise: The Thoughts and Emotions of Our Fellow Creatures”

A presentation by acclaimed science writer Virginia Morell, who will discuss her new book on her research on animal cognition and emotion.

Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO Campus, Eugene

Free; FMI: Contact David Alexander Craig,

davidalexandercraig@gmail.com

EUGENE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

April 19, 7:30 p.m. (Friday)

“A Landscape Shaped by Instability: Using Lasers to Decipher Landslides, Ancient Lakes, Outburst Floods, and Fish Evolution in the Eel River, California”

A presentation by Josh Roering.

Free; Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO Campus, Eugene

MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM & NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON

May 4-5

Workshop: “Introduction to Botanical Art”

Learn the basics for creating botanical illustrations from professional botanist, botanical illustrator, and teacher, Dr. Linda Ann Vorobik

Fees and registration required. FMI: Joan Sprow Ojerio,

541.343.0535 or 541.206.7054, josprow@comcast.net

WILLAMETTE RESOURCES AND EDUCATIONAL NETWORK (WREN)

May 11, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Saturday)

7th Annual ‘Walkin’ & Rollin’ Event

Explore the West Eugene wetlands by biking, rolling, or walking the Fern Ridge Bike Path between Bailey Hill and Terry Street. Local experts and organizations will have educational displays highlighting the many wonders of the wetlands. Participants receive a Wetland Passport they can have stamped at each booth for a chance to win prizes in a drawing.

Free; FMI: <http://www.wewetlands.org>

MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

May 19, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sunday)

Wildflower Festival

A day of wildflowers, music, food, crafts, and microscopes!

FMI: <http://www.mountpisgaharboretum.com/festivals-events/>

April Program Meeting
The Himalayas
with Bob Fleming



Tuesday, April 23, 2013
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



Maeve Sowles

541.343.8664

president@laneaudubon.org

FRIDAY
April 12 & 26

WELCOME BACK VAUX'S SWIFTS AT AGATE HALL

The swifts return, and we hope you'll be there with LCAS. See page 5 for complete information.

SATURDAY
April 20

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK

Mount Pisgah Arboretum (Nature Conservancy Confluence Project Site), led by Diane Horgan

A guide from the Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah Arboretum will explain some of the site's history and plans for habitat restoration in the greater Mt. Pisgah area. The tour will explore the Confluence Project, which is only accessible with a guide. We should see lots of birds this time of year in an infrequently visited habitat!

Meet at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson) for carpooling at 9:00 a.m. and plan to return by 12:30 p.m. All birders are welcome. A \$3 donation is suggested. As a precaution, please remember not to leave valuables in your car. Questions? Call Maeve Sowles at 541-343-8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.