



The Quail

November 2013

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our Treasurer

Looking Forward

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Inside The Quail

- From Our Treasurer** 1
• *Looking Forward*
- Conservation Column** 2
• *Empathy: Not Just for Humans*
- Article** 3
• *Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act: Greater Sage-Grouse Losing Ground in Effort to Survive*
- Field Notes** 4
- Article** 6
• *Audubon in the Schools Offers Many Rewards*
- Program Meeting** 7
- Board and Committees** 8
- LCAS Membership Form** 8
- Community Calendar** 9
- Bird Walks & Events** 10
• *Third Saturday Bird Walk*

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See page 2.

For me, November is a month for preparing and looking forward—preparing (somewhat regrettably) to spend more time indoors than out, harvesting and preserving for later use the late-season produce from my urban garden, anticipating the more regular appearance of our backyard winter bird populations, looking forward to the holiday season and the Christmas Bird Count ... the list goes on.

As Lane County Audubon’s treasurer, I have a few preparatory duties in November too, such as beginning to prepare LCAS’s financial reports as the year draws to a close, planning next year’s budget, and writing this column asking for your continued support of our organization.

In reviewing our financial reports, I’m always struck by how many ways we serve our members and other Lane County residents—young and old—by celebrating and educating them about birds, wildlife, and the habitats they depend on.

Our school programs, Audubon Adventures and Audubon in the Schools (see page 6), reach hundreds of young people through your support. Our field trips, program meetings, booth appearances, and volunteer talks to community groups continue to draw good crowds. And *The Quail* newsletter keeps everyone informed about conservation issues and other activities where LCAS involvement is making a difference.

The LCAS board and our large group of committed volunteers look forward to continuing and growing our outreach in 2014. That’s why we’re asking for your support now during our annual November fund drive. By using the enclosed envelope to mail in your tax-deductible contribution (and, of course, by renewing your membership whenever it expires), you can look forward to enjoying another year of LCAS programs and activities. Our efforts benefit the entire community, including the birds and wildlife we cherish. Thank you in advance for your support.



Empathy: Not Just for Humans

Debbie Schlenoff

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Imagine: You watch a friend get into a heated argument with someone. Afterward, you think your friend must be feeling bad, so you spend some time consoling him in the hope of making him feel better. Scenarios like this probably seem commonplace to you, and you are likely not surprised that such behavior occurs. But many people are astonished to learn that a goose or monkey might display similar behavior. It was long thought that people were the only animals that could understand the minds of others and respond as if they knew what others were thinking or feeling, a trait often dubbed *empathy*. Scientists have devised studies to demonstrate this ability in nonhuman animals and have shown that we are not the only ones that display empathy. Many of these studies featured our closest relatives, chimpanzees and other primates, but researchers have found intriguing evidence that birds have this ability as well.

For example, rooks who witness a social partner experience aggressive behavior from another rook will initiate affiliative contact with their friend after the skirmish, usually engaging in beak twining. Ravens console their friends after an aggressive encounter with a flockmate; the closer the relationship between victim and bystander or the greater the intensity of aggression toward the victim, the more likely the raven bystanders are to show consolation behavior (sitting nearby, preening, beak-to-beak or beak-to-body touching). Geese show elevated heart rates (a ubiquitous sign of distress) when they see mates or family members engaged in conflict. In one study of empathy in birds, domestic hens were placed in a separate area but allowed to observe when puffs of air were directed onto their chicks. The hens stopped preening, became very alert, and started vocalizing to their chicks. Physiological changes such as increased heart rate were also measured in the hens.

Here's another scenario. Your friend likes two kinds of food—say, chocolate and strawberries. You watch her eat her fill of strawberries, so you think she might appreciate

some chocolate. You bring her some. (Trust me, this will always score points!) In one experiment with Eurasian jays, researchers established that the birds liked to eat two kinds of larvae, and after the birds had been fed one kind—say, wax moth larvae—they readily switched to the other—mealworms, for example. Then male birds were placed in enclosures adjacent to their mates. When the males could not see what their mates were eating, they randomly chose to bring their mates either wax moth larvae or mealworms. But when they could see their mates eating one kind of larvae, the males would bring their mates the other type of food. What the males were eating did not affect the behavior; they were responding to what they thought their mates would prefer.

From a conservation standpoint, it is often disheartening to hear about decisions made for the short-term profit of a few people without consideration of how that judgment will affect others. Let's remember our shared ability for empathy and devote more effort to considering the needs of others. Let's also recognize that human development, resource extraction, and habitat alterations affect the lives of so many other beings. They are often intelligent animals with remarkable abilities, including the ability to empathize with others. Perhaps we can feel for them too and use our voices to speak for animals whose needs are ignored far too often.

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 Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com.

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act: Greater Sage-Grouse Losing Ground in Effort to Survive

Dave Stone

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It's 6:00 a.m. and still dark when we arrive at the Millican lek, just east of Bend. Even in the predawn darkness of this early May morning, we can hear the "thump-gurgle, thump-gurgle" of the male Greater Sage-Grouse as they try to impress the females. The elaborate courtship display goes on for an hour and a half until the birds finally settle down in the full light of day, and it will continue every morning for another month as the sage-grouse work out their relationships.

This fascinating ritual is becoming increasingly rare in Oregon and across the West as development, livestock grazing, wildfire, and other environmental impacts reduce sage-grouse habitat.

Natural History

The Greater Sage-Grouse is the largest of the North American grouse species, with the male weighing between 4 and 7 pounds and the female between 2 and 4 pounds. They typically live between 3 and 6 years. As the name implies, sage-grouse require sagebrush—and large areas of contiguous sagebrush at that—like we have in eastern Oregon. Sage-grouse have what is called strong site fidelity; that is, they are loyal to a specific area and return to it year after year, even if that area becomes degraded.

Sage-grouse mate on *leks*, which are patches of bare soil, short grass steppes, windswept ridges, or exposed knolls, often near nesting habitat. Due to low nesting rates, small clutch sizes (number of chicks per nest), and low chick survival, the population grows slowly, if at all.

Sagebrush is a hardy plant and is able to withstand very harsh conditions—except for fire. While an individual plant can live as long as 150 years, a stand of sagebrush may take as long as 120 years to recover from a wildfire.

Conservation Issues

Sage-grouse were considered abundant at the time of European settlement; estimates range up to 16 million



Photo: Dave Stone, Wildland Photography

Male Greater Sage-Grouse facing off on the Millican lek

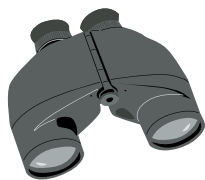
individuals at that time. By 2000, it was estimated that there were as few as 100,000. Like the decline of so many bird populations, habitat destruction is a primary cause of the decline of the sage-grouse. For instance, in Wyoming, which has by far the largest population of these birds, the fracking-driven oil and gas boom is decimating sage-grouse habitat by fragmenting it with untold miles of new roads to service the oil wells and other infrastructure.

Here in Oregon, the sage-grouse suffered a major setback in 2012 when the Long Draw fire in southeast Oregon burned nearly 600,000 acres, including nearly 500,000 classified as critical to sage-grouse survival. The wildfire burned across at least 20 known leks. Recovery of this critical sage-grouse habitat depends on controlling invasive species and allowing time for reestablishment of a diverse cover of native plants—growth that will take 25 to 120 years. Introduction of livestock grazing before this recovery is complete can cause the recovery to fail. While the Bureau of Land Management has withdrawn plans to build fences and water tanks in the burned areas, it still intends to reintroduce cattle grazing.

In 2010, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) decided that listing the Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered

(continued on page 9)

Field Notes: September 2013



- Long-billed Curlew
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- Black Turnstone
- Williamson's Sapsucker
- Red Knot
- Forster's Tern
- Long-billed Murrelet

Tom and Allison Mickel

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September was wetter than normal, especially at the end of the month, but portions of it were warm and sunny. Fall migration was in full swing, with the neotropical migrants leaving for the south and boreal breeders returning for the winter. As is always the case during migration, a few rare birds were found— see below for details.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), Lane Community College (LCC), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR)

WATERBIRDS

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|--------|--|
| Greater White-fronted Goose | Sept 9 | Eugene area | SMc | A little later than normal |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | Sept 23&24 | Eugene area | m.ob. | Large numbers migrating south! |
| Canada Goose (small flock) | Sept 18 | Eugene area | LF | Found feeding in his small residential backyard! |
| Tundra Swan | Sept 13 | Eugene area | SMc | Earlier than normal |
| Harlequin Duck (6) | Sept 11 | Stonefield Beach | SH, SM | A good location for this species |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Sept 13 | Junction City area | AC | Rarely found except at FRR |

VULTURES to ALCIDS

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|------------|--|
| Turkey Vulture (~80) | Sept 27 | Eugene–College Hill | A&TM | Two kettles circling then moving south |
| Merlin | Sept 12 | SJSR Deflation Plain | AC | First report for the winter season |
| Semipalmated Plover (20) | Sept 4 | FRR–Royal Ave | NS | A good number for this location |
| American Avocet | Sept 16 | Siltcoos River mouth | DF | Rarely found away from FRR |
| Solitary Sandpiper | Sept 6 | FRR–E Coyote | JS | Becoming more common during the fall |
| Lesser Yellowlegs (20) | Sept 6 | FRR–E Coyote | JS | Large numbers for Lane Co |
| Wandering Tattler (5) | Sept 4 | NJSR | AC | A higher than normal number |
| Willet | Sept 25 | NJSR | BG | Still being reported from the area |
| Long-billed Curlew | Sept 22 | NJSR | BG | Rarely found in Lane Co |
| Marbled Godwit (7) | Sept 6 | FRR–Royal Ave | JS | A large number for inland Lane Co |
| Marbled Godwit (14) | Sept 11 | Baker Beach | SH, SM | A flock of about this size was seen through the end of the month |
| Ruddy Turnstone | Sept 20 | NJSR | LF | Getting late for this migrant |
| Black Turnstone | Sept 6 | FRR–Royal Ave | AC, et al. | A very rare inland record |
| Red Knot (2) | Sept 11 | Baker Beach | SH, SM | A normal time for these rare migrants |
| Sanderling (100+) | Sept 11 | Baker Beach | SH, SM | First report of large flocks for the winter |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | Sept 4 | SJSR–Crab Dock | AC | A later than normal report |
| Pectoral Sandpiper (30+) | Sept 6 | FRR–E Coyote | JS | Large numbers for this time of year |
| Pectoral Sandpiper (40) | Sept 28 | FRR–Royal Ave | TMe | Very large numbers for this time of year |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | Sept 26 | FRR–Royal Ave | RR | Almost annual at this location in the fall |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | Sept 14 | Siltcoos River mouth | LF | Later than normal for this rare migrant |
| Short-billed Dowitcher (10) | Sept 4 | FRR–Royal Ave | NS | A high number for inland Lane Co |
| Red Phalarope (small flock) | Sept 7 | NJSR | LF | Normally pelagic except after storms |
| Sabine's Gull | Sept 13 | FRR–dam | LF | Almost annual in the fall at this location |

| | | | | |
|--|---------|----------------------|-------|--|
| Sabine's Gull | Sept 21 | FRR–Shore Lane | NS | The same bird or a different one? |
| Franklin's Gull | Sept 14 | Siltcoos River mouth | LF | Rarely found in Lane Co |
| Common Tern | Sept | Florence area & FRR | m.ob. | Found in fair numbers through the month |
| Common Tern (34) | Sept 4 | FRR | NS | A higher than normal number |
| Forster's Tern | Sept 22 | FRR–Perkins Pen | SH | Rare for Lane Co |
| Elegant Tern | Sept | Florence area | m.ob. | Were still being reported in small numbers |
| Parasitic Jaeger | Sept | Florence area | m.ob. | We received four reports—high than normal |
| Long-billed Murrelet (possible) | Sept 21 | Strawberry Hill | BC | Would be the first record for Lane Co |

OWLS to FINCHES

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------|------------|---|
| Western Screech-Owl | Sept 24 | Hendricks Park | A&TM | Roosting in the rafters of the Wilkins Shelter |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | Sept 5 | SW of Eugene | MS | Calling during the day! |
| Vaux's Swift (~1000) | Sept 5 | Agate Hall–U of O | MS | Entering the chimney at 1PM—because of the “bad” weather? |
| Vaux's Swift (4880) | Sept 8 | Agate Hall–U of O | BC | Roosting numbers slowly increased during fall |
| Vaux's Swift (5300) | Sept 14 | Agate Hall–U of O | MS | migration, as usual, peaking a little later than |
| Vaux's Swift (11,680) | Sept 28 | Agate Hall–U of O | BC | normal |
| Williamson's Sapsucker | Sept 12 | Waldo Lake | A&TM | Rarely found in Lane Co |
| Am. Three-toed Woodpecker | Sept 1 | Fuji Mountain | NS | A good area for this species |
| Black-backed Woodpecker | Sept 12 | Waldo Lake | A&TM | Always a good location for this species |
| Willow Flycatcher (2) | Sept 26 | Delta Ponds | SH | Last report for the breeding season |
| Pacific-slope Flycatcher | Sept 25 | LCC | HF | Last report for the breeding season |
| Cassin's Vireo | Sept 11 | Creswell area | NS | Last report for the breeding season |
| Barn Swallow (1000s) | Sept 18 | FRR–Royal Ave | LM, et al. | A little late for such large numbers |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | Sept 15 | The Twins | NS | First report for the winter season |
| Mountain Bluebird (3) | Sept 12 | Waldo Lake | A&TM | Also a good location for this species |
| American Pipit | Sept 4 | Crab Dock | AC | First report for the winter season |
| MacGillivray's Warbler | Sept 26 | Delta Ponds | SH | Last report for the breeding season |
| Yellow Warbler | Sept 27 | Ribbon Trail | JW | Last report for the breeding season |
| Hermit Warbler | Sept 15 | The Twins | NS | Last report for the breeding season |
| Wilson's Warbler | Sept 22 | FRR–Perkins Pen. | SH | Last report for the breeding season |
| Brewer's Sparrow (2) | Sept 6 | FRR–Royal Ave | AC | Still being reported |
| Fox Sparrow (Sooty) | Sept 18 | Florence area | DP, A&TM | First report for the winter season |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | Sept 6 | FRR–Royal Ave | AC | First nonbreeding location report |
| White-throated Sparrow | Sept 27 | River Road area | BC | First report for the winter season |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | Sept 18 | FRR–Royal Ave | LM, et al. | First report for the winter season |
| Black-headed Grosbeak | Sept 25 | north River Road | MR | Last report for the breeding season |

A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, AC Alan Contreras, BC Barbara Combs, BG Brandon Green, DF Daniel Farrar, DP Diane Pettey, HF Harry Fuller, JS John Sullivan, JW J'nene Wade, LF Luke Ferrenburg, LM Larry McQueen, m.ob. many observers, MR Mark Rudolph, MS Maeve Sowles, NS Noah Strycker, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, SM Silvia Maulding, SMc Steve McDonald, TMe Thomas Meinzen

Thank you to Dick Lamster for presenting at Lakeridge Birding Group

Dick Lamster presented information about local birds, feeding birds, and birdhouses at the September 10 monthly meeting of the Lakeridge Birding Group. Over 30 people attended the meeting of this newly formed

group of very enthusiastic residents of the Lakeridge of Eugene retirement park. The community is located in north Eugene on Ayers Lake.

Audubon in the Schools Offers Many Rewards

Bonnie Henderson

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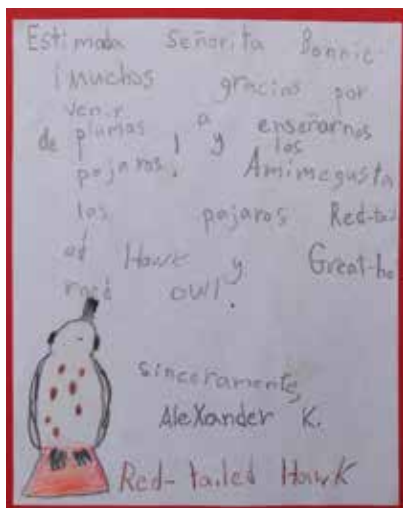
As an Audubon in the Schools volunteer, I've come to expect certain patterns in the classrooms I visit. I know the mallard duck will be the most popular bird to draw during the habitat lesson (Go Ducks, right?), maybe because the mounted mallard looks so familiar in its naturalistic setting, poised on a log. There will always be one kid, usually a boy, who chooses to draw the crow. I love the crow; museum-mounted and stretched out in its plastic tube, there's nothing naturalistic about its pose. And I love the kid who picks the crow. "It looks all black, right? But look closer," I always urge the boy, as I make my rounds among the pods of students. "Check it out: Here it's very black, but here it's more of a dark gray, sort of a charcoal gray, and here it's even a little lighter gray, just slightly. And check out those feet!" The boy drawing the crow smiles, because he and I now share a singular appreciation for a bird that seems so common and so monochromatic, but that we know, having taken a deeper look, isn't either of those things. The other students in the pod eavesdrop on our conversation, then return to drawing their own more colorful birds with a little more attention to detail.

I am not as knowledgeable about birds as some AITS volunteers, but no matter: The point of the program is discovery. Often I find that the kids already understand

the concept of habitat and may even know the definition of *nocturnal* and *diurnal*. But the feathers, birds, and nests I bring into the classroom prompt them to think for themselves about the connection between form and function and how habitat, behavior, and morphology all interact. The basic-shapes drawing technique we teach gives even the most reluctant young artist an experience of success. Every drawing is different, and every drawing looks like a specific bird. It's pretty magical.

Often my presentations are scheduled following recess, and invariably one or more kids start out with a sour face or even tears from hurt feelings, apparently from some playground hassle. By the end of the hour, having been led to focus closely on a particular bird or feather for the better part of an hour, closely enough to render it on paper, that child's mood is just as invariably transformed. Some of the rewards of teaching AITS have very little to do with birds.

To schedule an Audubon in the Schools presentation for your class, please contact our scheduling assistant, Doris Bakshi, at AITSLC@gmail.com.



These are some of the thank you notes I received after teaching AITS in my nephew's second-grade Spanish-immersion classroom; fortunately, they let me teach in English.

California Dreaming: Birding the Golden State

Herb Wisner

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Last spring, bird photographer and LCAS member Dave Stone traveled to California and visited the coast, the Central Valley, and the Klamath Basin in search of the best birds in that birdy state. Working on what he calls the “photogenic scale,” Dave brought back photos of the biggest, brightest, most approachable birds he could find.

Dave is well-known for his wonderful presentations, and for this program he’s produced a tapestry of bird images backed by an evocative sound track that moves the viewer through the state. Come and enjoy amazing images of waterfowl, shorebirds, and a few surprises.

Did he find his most sought-after bird, the California Condor? You’re just gonna have to come and find out!

November Program Meeting California Dreaming: Birding the Golden State with Dave Stone



Photo: Dave Stone, Wildland Photography

Tuesday, November 26, 2013
7:30 p.m.

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene

Bitterns

By Susanne Twight-Alexander

Bitterns look as if they could have flown
in the days of dinosaurs,
flown with pterodactyls, and
now just pop forward to our time
for a brief visit now and then.
They are an elusive bird of the marshes,
more likely to stand still
as a statue, when discovered, than to fly.
Immobile, bill raised toward the sky,
their stocky, brown-striped figure blends into the grasses.
Flying, with short legs stretched out behind
and head stretched forward,
their throat pouch seems too large for their size.

Hunters of amphibians, insects, and fish,
bitterns have a call that sounds
somewhat like a water pump—
whoosh, bloop, whoosh.

I’d like to learn their secret of blending
into their surroundings when stressed
instead of instantly reacting;
to learn how to hold very still and
stretch one’s neck
toward the sky.

“I’m not here,” my body
would say,
“Go away.”



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:

Dec.–Jan. Issue: Nov. 2

February Issue: Jan. 4

Submit material to
Paula Rich
richpaula@hotmail.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 _____

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

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Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Fall Birds of Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Mary Johnson and Chris Roth lead a walk for people with all levels of birding experience, beginners to advanced.

Free for members, \$5 for nonmembers. FMI: 541.747.1504

Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)

Tuesday, November 12, 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Wetland Wander at Wild Iris Ridge

Park on Bailey View Drive and walk to the end of the street to meet the group.

Free. FMI: 541.338.7047, info@wewetlands.org

Central Valley Birding Symposium

November 21–24, Stockton, CA

The 17th annual CVBS will feature well-known speakers, multiple field trips, artists' displays, and vendors. Register early—this is one of the premier birding events on the West Coast.

FMI: *Central Valley Bird Club, Frances Oliver, 209.747.6352, www.2013cvbs.org*

North American Butterfly Association and Eugene Natural History Society

Monday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.

Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street

Butterflies and the Natural History of China

Robert Pyle, an internationally recognized butterfly expert, author (*The Butterflies of Cascadia*), and naturalist, recently traveled to China, and he'll share his knowledge of the butterflies and natural history of that country. Refreshments are at 7:00 p.m., presentation is at 7:30.

Free. FMI: www.naba.org/chapters/nabaes/

Endangered Species Act (continued from page 3)

Species Act was warranted, but the listing is precluded at this time due to higher priority listing actions. A final listing decision is due in 2014.

Learn more about the Greater Sage-Grouse

- US Fish & Wildlife Service: www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/sagegrouse/
- Oregon Natural Desert Association: <http://onda.org/what-we-do/fish-and-wildlife/greater-sage-grouse>
- National Audubon Society: <http://policy.audubon.org/greater-sage-grouse>

Have Some Fun—Volunteer!

Lane County Audubon Society is an all-volunteer organization, and our members are very proud of the energy and diverse talents that volunteers bring to our cause—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!

If you're interested in volunteering for one of the opportunities below, or if you have other ideas about ways you can help, contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.

Publications Manager

Help inventory, organize, and update handouts used at our booth and other locations. Work with others to plan and create new handouts.

Bike Path Cleanup Coordinator

Coordinate cleanup of our stretch of the West Eugene bike path. Visit our Volunteer page online at <http://www.laneaudubon.org/support/volunteer>.



Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824?ref=hl>

Update on the Streaked Horn Lark

In the September *Quail*, we featured the Streaked Horned Lark and mentioned its pending listing by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. On October 2, the USFWS released its decision to list the Streaked Horned Lark as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Unfortunately, the final critical habitat designation for the lark was whittled down to just 4,629 acres in Washington and Oregon, far below the 12,000+ acres that conservationists had suggested as necessary. It also exempts all agricultural practices and field conversions, thus providing little or no effective protection to larks. Three national wildlife refuges, Finley, Baskett Slough, and Ankeny, are the only patches of critical habitat protected south of the Columbia River.


November Program Meeting

California Dreaming: Birding the Golden State with Dave Stone



**Tuesday, Nov. 26, 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



Jim Maloney 541.968.9249 *jimgmal@comcast.com*

**Saturday,
November 16**

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK
Site to be determined, led by Jim and Charlotte Maloney

Jim and Charlotte Maloney will lead November's Third Saturday Bird Walk. They will select the location based on interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL and other information available before the day. If a location is determined before the third Saturday, we will post it on the LCAS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824?ref=hl>) and on the website (www.laneaudubon.org).

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson) for greetings and carpooling, and we plan to return by noon. Remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables in your vehicle if it's parked at the high school. All levels of birders are welcome. A \$3 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities.

Contact Jim Maloney at 541-968-9249 or jimgmal@comcast.net.

Be sure to check our website at www.laneaudubon.org for the latest details on field trips and bird walks.

Christmas Bird Count Is Coming!

Mark your calendars! Sunday, December 29, is the date for the 2013 Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC). This will be the 72nd ECBC and the 114th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. Dick Lamster is the Coordinator again this year, supported by the Steering Committee (Dan Gleason, Barbara Gleason, Allison Mickel, and Herb Wisner), 27 great birdwatchers as Team Leaders, and—we hope—you! Watch for more information in the December-January issue of *The Quail*, or contact Dick Lamster at 541-343-8664.