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The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

The Refreshing Freshness of Spring



photo: Cary Kerst

Golden-crowned Sparrow

With the pressures of politics and pandemics over the past few months, I feel the need to de-stress in nature as much as possible. Fortunately, this time of year, that is easy. Temperatures are warming, flowers are blooming, trees are leafing out, and songbirds are singing. In Oregon we have lovely habitat diversity, which gives us more

opportunity to enjoy nature's wonders than in many other areas.

Each morning, I open my upstairs window to breathe in the freshness. I listen and watch to discover what is happening out in the yard. I take in the air, the weather, the temperature – a human barometer.

Plants are reaching for the sun. Birds of every kind are singing their dawn chorus of happy sounds. I look and listen for new arrivals of birds. A sense of excitement and anticipation helps me start my day.

Squirrels are giving chase up, down, and around the trees.

Swallows chase each other through the sky. Mourning Doves, chickadees, and Stellar Jays are paired up with their mates. Robins hunt for worms to feed their mates on the nest. Purple

Finches sing from the tops of trees. Song Sparrow chicks are already begging for food. The animal world is awake and ready to face a new day.

Once I do my stretches, start the coffee, and take the dogs outside, my husband and I can take stock of what we have to be thankful for. I strive to find at least one thing that makes me happy, such as the Rufous Hummingbirds feeding at my Flowering Red Currant plants! We are lucky to live in a beautiful place like Oregon.

I feel strongly that our life in Oregon gives each of us an opportunity to connect with nature and learn to love and appreciate it. If not in the spring, then when can we better feel that interconnectedness and bond with nature? It is a healing balm for the woes of the world. It can make us feel more human and more able to love the world and people around us. We all need some of that!

Truly, love is in the air this time of year!

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/



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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com



photo: Cary Kerst

April 2020 Annual Bee Report

Here's the buzz from our first year as official members of BeeCity USA. Representatives from the City of Eugene Parks and Open Spaces, Xerces Society, Beyond Toxics, Walama Restoration Project, GloryBee, and Lane Audubon serve on the pollinator protection committee and work to promote pollinator education and native habitat. Below are some highlights from the annual bee report filed in February.

Eugene's first Bee City Celebration last June was a mix of education, outreach, and celebration of bees and pollinators. The day included a native bee survey to provide hands-on education at one of Walama Restoration Project's prairie restoration sites; a tour of the City's Native Plant Nursery; a bike tour of the University of Oregon's "Bee Campus"; and an entertainment hub with music and food, outreach, and local native plant vendors selling pollinator-friendly plants. One highlight was Eugene's mayor, Lucy Vinis, ceremoniously cutting a ribbon for the dedication of our Bee City USA sign.

Several other events supporting native pollinators were held in our community last year at: Awbrey Park, Mt. Pisgah, Hendrick's Park, Alton Baker Park, and Razor Park. At the Native Plant Nursery, volunteers designed and built two "Pollinator Palaces" to provide nesting habitat for native bees and to use as demonstrations for nursery visitors, including day campers at Nearby Nature, an adjoining day camp. Walama Restoration Project ran projects to create or enhance native flower gardens, natural areas, and meadows. Beyond Toxics created a pollinator garden at Huerto de la Familia Community Garden.

Thousands of volunteers helped the City of Eugene to create or enhance over 170 acres of native plant habitat. Natural areas included riparian, wetland, prairie, oak savanna, and woodland, or conifer forest habitats. Several thousand trees, shrubs, vegetation, and bulbs were planted in these areas. More than 600 pounds of native seed representing 55 native plant species were distributed at 14 local restoration sites and seeded onto 210 acres.

On the UO campus, a new Student Sustainability Center organization, the Bee Friendly Campus

Committee, met weekly to learn about the importance of pollinators and plan events. Students engaged in outreach activities through tabling at the student union. They hosted events such as mason bee workshops and a honey bee hive installation, and they made hummingbird feeders, bee baths, and bee boxes.

A major restoration of the historic Millrace and the ongoing restoration of the Willamette River edge on campus now emphasize native plants for pollinators. Pocket gardens across campus have been created, using snags, fallen trees, and the introduction of native pollinator species. Pesticides are not used in these areas. The two-acre Urban Farm is an ongoing project that supports both native and European bees as well as a collection of dozens of other pollinators.

These projects reflect a growing partnership between campus grounds staff, faculty, and students. Service learning projects through courses and organizations are connecting students on campus with organizations throughout Eugene. Projects included planting and weeding native habitat on campus, installing mason bee structures, plus planting and mulching a pollinator garden with Beyond Toxics at Huerto de la Familia Community garden. Other projects included planting and weeding at a prairie restoration site (Walama Restoration Project), planting and weeding at Delta Ponds and other Eugene Parks and Open Space locations, assisting at City of Eugene Native Plant Nursery, assisting at FOOD for Lane County Garden Program, assisting at the School Garden Project of Lane County, and assisting at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum.

The campus bee committee created an interactive layer on the campus map specifically dedicated to pollination habitat. Upon clicking, people will access photos of the site as well as links to pertinent pollinator information: uoregon.edu/native-pollinators

You can help support bees by planting native flowers that bloom throughout the season, leaving undisturbed spaces, and eliminating the use of pesticides.

FMI: emu.uoregon.edu/bee-campus or BeeCityEugene.org

Field Notes: February 2020

Tom and Allison Mickel, 541.485.7112, tamickel@riouisa.com



Photo: Wikipedia

Red-throated Loon

Short-eared Owl, Red-throated Loon, Sooty Shearwater, Palm Warbler

The weather for the month was drier and cooler than normal, especially the last half of the month. The very early migrants are starting to show up, but many more are on their way in the next couple months.

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

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

Brant	Feb 2	Heceta Head	TJ,et al	An unusual location
Redhead (3)	Feb 8	Kirk Pond	SH	Earlier than normal
Ruddy Duck (lots!)	Feb 1	FRR	JF	Larger numbers than normal
Band-tailed Pigeon	Feb 16	Creswell area	TMo	An early returning bird
Anna's Hummingbird	Feb 20	College Hill area	Fide NC	Female building nest
Anna's Hummingbird	Feb 23	NW Eugene	Fide AC	Female on nest
Rufous Hummingbird	Feb 24	Westlake	M.ob	First report from the coast
Rufous Hummingbird	Feb 25	Mt Pisgah area	FT	A few days later than normal
Sandhill Crane (30)	Feb 14	East Springfield	RR	First of many sightings
Black Oystercatcher (11)	Feb 6	Bob Creek	AC	Large number for the Lane coast
Semipalmated Plover (4)	Feb 14	FRR	JS,FT	Uncommon during winter in the valley
Surfbird (120)	Feb 2	Kloutchman	TJ,et al	Large number for the Lane coast
Lesser Yellowlegs	Feb 17	Junction City area	BC	Rare in the valley during the winter
Ancient Murrelet	Feb 12	Florence area	SH,DP	Seen all along the northern Lane coast
Bonaparte's Gull	Feb 10	NJSR	SH	Rare during the winter
Glaucous Gull	Feb 15	Glenwood	JS	Rare in the valley
Red-throated Loon	Feb 1	Dexter Reservoir	TJ,et al	Rare away from the coast
Sooty Shearwater (2)	Feb 16	NJSR	DP	Rare in the winter
Osprey	Feb 6	FRR	EC	Very early sighting for this location
Northern Goshawk	Jan 31	Goshen area	JS,FT	Rare in the valley
Short-eared Owl	Feb 23	Eugene airport area	JS,TJ	Only report for the month
Prairie Falcon	Feb 7	FRR	EC	They winter in very small numbers

FLYCATCHERS TO WABLERS

Say's Phoebe	Feb 8	Oakridge	MLS	The first migrant outside of the valley
Vermilion Flycatcher	Feb	Alton Baker Park	M.ob	Seen throughout the month
Tree Swallow	Feb 22	Oakridge	MLS	The first returning birds for the area
Violet-green Swallow (10)	Feb 23	Delta Ponds	PN	A couple days earlier than normal
Cliff Swallow (25)	Feb 18	Ada area	NT	A very early report
Townsend's Solitaire	Feb 16	Lowell area	SH	More seen than normal - early migrant?
Townsend's Solitaire	Feb 21	Skinner Butte	SH	More seen than normal - early migrant?
Townsend's Solitaire	Feb 21	U of O	NC	More seen than normal - early migrant?
Townsend's Solitaire	Feb 22	Wild Iris Ridge	EG	More seen than normal - early migrant?
American Pipit (150+)	Feb 16	FRR area	NB,RA	A large flock for midwinter
Chipping Sparrow	Feb 7	Springfield	SM	A rare winter sighting
Orange-crowned Warbler	Feb 3	Downtown Eug area	EC	More sightings than normal
Orange-crowned Warbler	Feb 7	Florence	DP	More sightings than normal
Orange-crowned Warbler	Feb 15	Churchill area	BD	More sightings than normal
Orange-crowned Warbler	Feb 15	River Rd area	LMa	More sightings than normal
Orange-crowned Warbler	Feb 19	Alton Baler Park	RR	More sightings than normal
Palm Warbler	Jan 10	Alton Baker Park	DR	Rare sighting away from the coast

continued on page 5



Photo: Pacific Southwest Region USFWS

Volunteers and Binoculars Needed

AITS Scheduler

The Audubon in the Schools team would like a volunteer to help with the scheduling of classroom visits. It usually takes 5-6 emails between the teacher and scheduler, to schedule an AITS visit. This volunteer needs to be organized and attentive to the teachers' requests as well as work with the AITS instructors and their schedules. It is a critical piece of keeping this program running and helping everyone succeed in their mission to bring the AITS program into classrooms, where the kids can learn about drawing birds, feathers, and ecosystems!!

FMI: please contact Maeve Sowles at audubon@laneaudubon.org or 541.343.8664.

Binoculars Needed

The AITS team sometimes leads beginning birding sessions for kids at the Outdoor School's Forest Field Day. Team members distribute binoculars and use bird silhouettes in trees to practice focusing, then they take a brief walk to look for birds in the forest. The AITS team would like to have more binoculars for the kids, so each child can practice using them. To donate used, but working, binoculars, please call Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or bring them to an LCAS Program Meeting.

Administrative Assistant

Lane Audubon would also like a volunteer who could serve as an Administrative Assistant for Board responsibilities. Requisite skills include the ability to use typical word processing, Excel spreadsheets, and PowerPoint. Since we do not have a physical office, working from home would be required.

FMI: please contact Maeve Sowles at audubon@laneaudubon.org or 541.343.8664.

Booth Staffing Scheduler

This position requires only a few hours of time two or three times each year, when booth events are scheduled. Some basic computer and organizational skills, such as sending group e-mail messages and putting together staffing schedules, are needed. The process begins by sending out announcements to an email list of potential volunteers, alerting them to a booth staffing opportunity. After volunteers respond, the scheduler puts together staffing schedules and distributes them to booth staffers.

Orientation and training will be provided, and the work can be done from your home. It can be rewarding to work behind the scenes to help Lane Audubon spread the word about the importance of birds and their habitats.

To learn more about this position, please call contact Ron Renschler at christyandron2@gmail.com or 541.345.0834.

Bird Display Volunteer

Lane County Audubon Society has a nice collection of encased taxidermied birds, bird nests, feathers, and eggs which are used for educational display at various locations around town (schools, libraries, etc.). If you're interested in identifying locations and setting up and monitoring the displays, this could be an ideal volunteer position for you.

Since exhibits are usually on display for a full month or two, this position doesn't require a tremendous amount of time. After a display location is identified, the volunteer establishes the display dates with someone at the location, transports the display to the site, and sets it up. Then the he or she inventories and monitors the exhibit until it is taken down. Only one or two displays are typically up at any one time.

Some basic organizational skills are useful, as is email access (although this is not required). If you have an interest in helping LCAS display its collection of educational materials, email or call Ron Renschler at christyandron2@gmail.com or 541.345.0834.

Program Meeting, Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

New Hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades with William L. Sullivan



Photo: Mary Jo Nyssen

William L. Sullivan

In this slide show presentation, Eugene author and hiking guru William L. Sullivan will take us on a tour of a dozen new or dramatically changed trails in the area between Salem and Bend. All are featured in the newly released fifth edition of his guidebook, "100 Hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades." Included are a new path along the Deschutes River north of Bend, a new bird refuge trail at Salem, and several reopened trails to wildflowers in the Cascades. He'll also

discuss the effects of wildfires and the Forest Service's new permit system. Along the way, expect anecdotes about local history, plants, and outdoor lore.

William L. Sullivan is the author of 22 books and numerous articles about Oregon, including an "Oregon Trails" feature column for the Eugene Register-Guard. A fifth-generation Oregonian, Sullivan began hiking at the age of five and has been exploring new trails ever since. After studying at Deep Springs College in the California desert, receiving an English degree from Cornell University, and studying linguistics at Germany's Heidelberg University, he earned a master's in German literature from the University of Oregon.

William will be introduced by Ruby McConnell, a writer, geologist, and environmental activist. Among other titles, she is the author of *A Woman's Guide to the Wild*, *A Girl's Guide to the Wild*, and *The Girl's Guide to Nature Journal and Activity Book*.



7 pm start time!

By popular request, our program meeting time has permanently changed from 7:30 pm to 7 pm.

Field Notes *continued from page 3*

AC Alan Contreras, BC Barbara Combs, BD Bishop Dean, DP Diane Pettey, DR Doug Robinson, EC Ellen Cantor, EG Eughan Gormley, FT Forest Tomlinson, JF Judy Franzen, JS John Sullivan, LMa Libbie Marshall, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, NB Neil Bjorkland, NC Nancy Clogston, NT Nikki Thomas, PN Peter Nelson, RA Ramiro Aragon, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, TJ Tye Jeske, TMo Tori Morgan. Fide references a sighting reported to the listed observer. M.ob. signifies many observers.



We have scheduled our spring **Bike Path Clean Up for Sunday, April 26.**

The Bike Path Clean Up will run from 9 am - noon.

We will meet near the Euphoria Chocolate Company at Stewart Road and Bertelsen, just north of West 11th.

Please volunteer to help!

If you are interested in participating, email April Paulson aprilpaulson23@yahoo.com.

Events are being canceled due to virus concerns. Check before you go.



photo: Hans Hillewaert

Black-bellied Plover

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Lane County Audubon Society



The Quail is the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society, a chartered chapter of National Audubon Society. Local members of National Audubon Society receive a free subscription to *The Quail* but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane County Audubon Society.

The Quail Subscriptions

Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com

The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

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July-Aug issue: May 6

Submit material to Karen Irmscher at quailkaren1@gmail.com

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Lane County Audubon Society 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 fully cover the costs of 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 Audubon 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
- Website: laneaudubon.org

Lane County Audubon Society Yearly Membership

- 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).....\$ _____

To pay by PayPal, go to laneaudubon.org/support/join

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Please contact me regarding

Gift memberships Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

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Mailing Address _____

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I would prefer to receive the e-Quail newsletter by e-mail.

I would like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

I would like to volunteer for Lane County Audubon activities.

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

Mail this form and your payment to: Lane County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

Community Calendar and Events

A service to Lane County Audubon Society members

Events are being canceled due to virus concerns. Check before you go.

4/11

Coast Fork Birders

Saturday, April 11, 9-11 am

Family-friendly Bird Walk at Row River Nature Park

Join Alison Center for this Earth Day recognition walk. She will focus the beginner-friendly walk on looking for spring migrant birds, and will point out turtles, butterflies, dragonflies, and flowering plants. The terrain is flat and the walk will be on both paved and unpaved surfaces. Location is 33301 Row River Road, Cottage Grove. Park in the parking area and meet at the kiosk near the weigh station.

FMI: coastfork.org

4/11

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, April 11, 10 am-noon

Ethnobotany Walk

How did indigenous residents of the Willamette Valley view the plants that provided them with food, shelter, medicine, and spiritual knowledge? Join us for an easy walk exploring the historical relationships between people and plants at Mount Pisgah. Led by anthropologist Madronna Holden. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. Members \$5 per family, non-members \$8 per family.

FMI for all walks: mountpisgaharboretum.org, or 541.741.4110

4/12

Sunday, April 12, 8 am-11 am

Bird Walk

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for their monthly bird walk for people with all levels of birding experience. Please bring binoculars. Rain or shine. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

4/14

Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group

Tuesday, April 14, 7 pm

Feathers and Flora

Dan and Barbara Gleason, proprietors of Wild Birds Unlimited in Eugene, will take a look at the many fascinating, and sometimes complex relationships between plants and birds. Unitarian

Universalist Church, 1685 W 13th Ave, Eugene. Free for members, \$5 for non-members.

FMI: thehardyplantgroup.org or email at info@thehardyplantgroup

4/14 & 18

Nearby Nature

April 14 & 18, 10 am-11:30 am

Green Start Play Days: Spring

Sprouts & Nature Notes

Enjoy outdoor nature play in our Learnscape plus toddler and pre-school activities. Kids 5 and under only, with an adult. Rain or shine! Nearby Nature Learnscape, 622 Day Island Rd., Eugene 97401. Members free, non-members \$7/family.

FMI and/or pre-register: nearbynature.org or 541.687.9699

4/17-19

15th Annual Pacific City Birding and Blues Festival

Friday, April 17 to Sunday, April 19

This three-day festival has now been postponed due to concerns about COVID-19.

FMI for rescheduling information: birdingandblues.org



4/20

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, April 20, 7 pm

Eugene Birders' Night

"Fern Ridge Wildlife Area: Management and Opportunities"

David Speten, manager of Fern Ridge Wildlife Area, will discuss the current management plan. Attendees will have an opportunity to express questions or concerns directly to him. All are welcome to attend this free monthly event., held at the historic McNail-Riley house, 601 W 13th Ave, Eugene, at the NW corner of W. 13th and Jefferson St., by the former Lincoln School. Park in the five spaces closest to the M-R house, or across 13th in the fairgrounds parking lot.

FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com

4/25

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

April 25, 10 am-1 pm

Birds, Bees, Butterflies, and Blooms Walk

Local ecologists Peg Boulay and Bruce will identify and talk about flowers and trees, birds and bees, and anything else you please!

Attendees can also participate in City Nature Challenge (CNC). Anyone interested will be invited to take photographs along the walk. Afterward, we'll spend a half hour or so on a briefing of what the CNC is, and upload our photos to iNaturalist. Advance prep: download the iNaturalist app to your phone, and test it by uploading a backyard observation of a flower. Rain or shine.

Meet at the Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

4/27

Willamette Resource Education Network (WREN)

Monday, April 27, 10 am-noon

City Nature Challenge Bioblitz

Join WREN and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in a family-friendly citizen science effort to record as many species as possible in Eugene over the weekend. Participants will be using the iNaturalist phone app to photograph and collect data on the local flora and fauna at Stewart Pond. All you have to do is observe. No experience necessary and all ages welcome!

FMI: wewetlands.org

5/1

Nearby Nature

May 1, 8:30 am-3 pm

No School Day Adventure: Wild Child

Outdoors in Hendricks Park, explore remote trails, balance on logs, find funky trees, and discover what's wild about spring in the forest and gardens. Ages 6-9, max 12 kids. After-care 3-4 pm! \$50 members/\$60-non-members. Scholarships available. Meet at Hendricks Park Shelter.

FMI or preregister: nearbynature.org or 541.687.9699

5/2, 9, 23, 30

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturdays, May 2, 9, 23, and 30, 8 am-noon

Bird Songs and Calls Workshop

In this four-part series led by Julia Siporin, learn how to identify and better understand local and summer resident birds by their songs and calls. Julia co-leads the Arboretum's monthly bird walks and has been exploring the world of bird vocalizations for about eight years. Meet at the Visitor Center. Members \$60, non-members \$70. Pre-registration required.

FMI and/or to register: mountpisgaharboretum.com/workshop-registration or 541.747.3817



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See page 6 to renew!



Events are being canceled due to virus concerns. Check before you go.

LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org

Third Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, April 18, 8 am

Gerry Meenaghn will lead the April walk, exploring the LCC campus and adjacent areas. Details will be posted on the LCAS Facebook page: facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824, and on the website: laneaudubon.org.

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars, if you have them. To carpool, meet at 8 am at the South Eugene High School parking lot, corner of 19th and Patterson. If you come on your own, meet up with the group in Lot C. We plan to return by noon. Remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables or your vehicle registration in your car if you leave it at the lot. A \$3 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities.

FMI: Rebecca Waterman at fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org, or 541.653.3354

Vaux's Swift Watch—Spring 2020

Friday, April 24, around sunset

We can expect the Vaux's Swifts to arrive with a warm wind from the south in early to mid-April. The timing of the migration varies, depending on wind and weather patterns. We hope the Vaux's Swifts will be here April 24th, when we will be watching at Agate Hall chimney!

The Vaux's Swifts use the chimney to roost for the night as they gather and recover after migration from the south.

Come join us at sunset Friday, April 24th, Agate Hall on the UO campus, 17th Ave. and Agate Street.

FMI: Lane Audubon Facebook page or website, or call 541.485.2473. And/or check out the Vaux's Happening website for more information about Vaux's Swifts: vauxhappening.org/Vauxs_Happening_Home.html



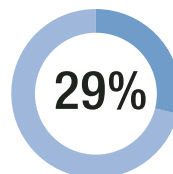
April Program Meeting

New Hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades
with William L. Sullivan

Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 pm

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene

New
7pm Start
Time!



Join your fellow 29% of Lane County Audubon Society members who help save paper and postage by receiving *The Quail* electronically.

Contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com