

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

All Animals Are Smart, But in Different Ways



Photo: Getty / Life on White

A recent article published in *The Atlantic* prompted a good discussion among LCAS Board members. The article, “A Journey Into the Animal Mind,” can be seen at: tinyurl.com/y2mwpbdo

It is only partially about crows, but includes many examples of animal consciousness and learning. It is a story of the Jain sect in India, which is an ancient religion whose highest commandment forbids violence not only against humans, but also against animals. The Jains run a Birds Hospital in Delhi, India.

This article brought recommendations from other board members of recent books on animal consciousness. Debbie Schlenoff recommended two by Frans de Waal. *Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?* de Waal’s 2016 bestseller is reviewed in *Earth Island Journal* at: tinyurl.com/y4qrulv6

Frans de Waal just wrote a new one, *Mama’s Last Hug: Animal Emotions and What They Tell Us About Ourselves*. Here’s a *New York Times* book review: tinyurl.com/y53dj9xx

Jim Maloney suggested Carl Safina’s fascinating and expansive book, *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel*, published in 2015. See: tinyurl.com/y4l9tpru

The overall messages of these books is that science is finally looking at both animal cognition and emotion

as relevant fields of study, and that to understand animals we should not simply compare them to humans.

Frans de Waal says it best: “Animal cognition is adapted to the specific circumstances of a species instead of thinking in terms of a scale like fish, birds, mammals, and us. This kind of scale thinking is very prevalent in many people. They think there is a kind of linear scale from low to high in the animal world.”

“What we really see is that each species is different and each species depends on what they do and what they need to know. It’s very hard to say which one is smarter, and that sort of comparison is not even relevant. The study of animal intelligence brings animals up, in the sense that we get a higher opinion of what animals are all about and how they think and how they feel. But it also brings down humans a little bit.

“I think it has a profound effect on how we look at ourselves and our place in nature.”

Lane County Audubon Society

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laneaudubon.org

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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Support Efforts to Ban the Use of Harmful Pesticides in Oregon

Most of us are aware of the alarming decline in populations of pollinators and other beneficial insects. This affects all of us, our food supply, and the birds that we love. In addition to habitat loss, pesticides use is a major culprit. Recent investigations have found pesticide residue everywhere, in the body tissues of people and animals, in the food we buy at our supermarkets, and even (sorry about this) in our beer and wine.

Some of the worst offenders are in the neonicotinoid and organophosphate families of pesticides, including frequently used chlorpyrifos, one of the most harmful insecticides. It is applied on several common crops, our fruits, vegetables, beans, and grains. Concentrated doses are in the seeds and pellets used to grow crops, many of which are especially attractive to birds. Bees are considered to be at an especially elevated risk of harm due to chlorpyrifos' high toxicity and prevalence in pollen and honey.

The Environmental Protection Agency's own analysis found chlorpyrifos "likely to adversely affect" about 97% of threatened and endangered animals including over 100 species of listed birds. In birds, incidences of poisoning, weight loss, and alteration of migratory orientation have been reported. It remains toxic in aquatic environments, where it threatens

listed salmon, steelhead, and other fish, as well as other aquatic animals, such as orcas.

Among several ill effects on people, it has been shown to have detrimental effects in children on the development of their brains and on their motor development, even at very low exposure levels. A plethora of evidence on the harmful effects of chlorpyrifos led the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a ban on its use. It was noted at the time that a diverse array of alternative crop protection practices exist. But in 2017, the then-new, now ex-EPA chief, Scott Pruitt, reversed the ban. Currently, the use of this poison remains legal and, unfortunately, widespread in our country. So if the federal protection agency failed to protect us, what can we do?

Legislation at the state level is a significant tool. Two bills this year in the Oregon legislature could make a difference. House Bill 3058 and Senate Bill 853 both "Prohibit sale, purchase or use of pesticide chlorpyrifos." The proposed legislation also places neonicotinoids on Oregon's list of restricted-use pesticides. Hawai'i has banned chlorpyrifos. Other states are restricting its use. When we try to adopt least harmful practices, we need to think of levels of hierarchy. I'm reminded of a see-saw chant we use to sing: "Where's your money? In my pocket. Where's your pocket?



In my pants. Where's your pants? In my house? Where's your house?" We would then move on to street, neighborhood, city, and state. (I was a nerd, so I'd add planet and solar system and galaxy.)

We share the planet, but to best support it, we need to work from the ground up, literally. Let's plant native vegetation for wildlife and keep our yards free of poisons. We can encourage our neighbors to do the same. Let's support the city in restricting pesticide use. (Note that Eugene became the first city in the nation to ban the use of neonics on city property.) While we continue to push at the national level for the EPA to do its job properly, we can enact reform at the state level. Help protect our children and wildlife including the birds and the bees. Please contact your representatives and let them know that you support House Bill 3058 and Senate Bill 853.

To find your legislator: tinyurl.com/zzz854e



Hawaiian supporters of a ban on chlorpyrifos that was later passed.

Field Notes: February 2019

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



Black-legged Kittiwake and chick



Mountain Bluebird

Black-legged Kittiwake, Mountain Bluebird, Red Crossbill, Tricolored Blackbird

The weather started out normal but ended with a “winter wonderland” of snow! Some of the early migrants have started to show up, but most are more than a month away.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), South Eugene High School (SEHS)

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

Green-winged Teal (Common).....	Feb 4	Stewart Pond	AC.....	Rare Eurasian subspecies
Long-tailed Duck	Feb 18	Siuslaw River	NS.....	Not normal in the river
Long-tailed Duck	Feb 24	Florence Oldtown.....	DF.....	Most likely the same bird moving with tides
Goldeneye sp. (19).....	Feb 9	below Dexter dam.....	JS.....	Both species: Common & Barrow's
Eared Grebe (9).....	Feb 12	Dexter Reservoir.....	NS.....	A large number for the valley
Band-tailed Pigeon	Feb 7	Florence area.....	AC.....	Rarely found during winter in Lane Co
Rufous Hummingbird	Feb 13	South Slough Rd	DP.....	A normal arrival date for the coast
Rufous Hummingbird	Feb 21	Eugene, south hills.....	RF.....	First report for the valley - right on time
Sandhill Crane	Feb 17	Stewart Pond area.....	MB.....	Heard overhead; normal time for N migration
Sandhill Crane (45).....	Feb 17	North River Rd	MRu.....	Flying north; normal time for N migration
Semipalmated Plover	Feb 22	FRR - Royal Ave.....	JS.....	Winter in small numbers some years
Western Sandpiper	Feb 22	FRR - Royal Ave.....	JS.....	Rare in winter
Black-legged Kittiwake (photo).....	Feb 15.....	Eugene - Chad Dr.....	NC.....	Rarely found away from the coast
Black-legged Kittiwake	Feb 21	Siltcoos River mouth.....	DF.....	Few reports this winter
Glaucous Gull	Feb 3	Glenwood	JS.....	Likely the same bird that's been in the area
Glaucous Gull	Feb 21	SEHS - Eugene.....	JG.....	Likely the same bird that's been in the area
Osprey	Feb 13	Clearwater Park.....	SM,et al.....	First report from Eugene/Springfield area

WOODPECKERS TO GROSBEAKS

Say's Phoebe	Feb 19	River Bend hospital	JF.....	Normal time for their spring migration
Say's Phoebe	Feb 23	W 11th & Greenhill Rd.....	JL.....	Normal time for their spring migration
Swallow sp.	Feb 4	Delta Ponds	NC.....	Normal time for these to arrive
Sedge Wren	Feb	Waite Ranch.....	DF.....	Has been seen throughout the month
Mountain Bluebird	Feb 2	Cantrell Rd.....	AC,JG.....	Rarely found in the valley
Cedar Waxwing (21).....	Feb 5	River Rd area.....	BC.....	Small numbers winter some years
Evening Grosbeak (2).....	Feb 17	Eugene, College Hill.....	JA.....	Very few reports this winter
Red Crossbill (3)	Feb 8	Grimes Rd area.....	SH.....	Rare this winter
Tricolored Blackbird	Feb 3	Crow Rd	SH.....	Rare; in with large blackbird flock
Orange-crowned Warbler	Feb 15.....	West Lawn Cemetery.....	NS.....	It's been in the area since mid-Dec
Orange-crowned Warbler	Feb	Eugene/Springfield.....	M.ob.....	Three other reports of wintering birds
Palm Warbler	Feb 2	West Lake Co Park.....	DF.....	Seen throughout the month

AC Alan Contreras, **BC** Barbara Combs, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **DP** Diane Pettey, **JA** Jacqueline Albert, **JS** John Sullivan, **JG** Joshua Galpern, **JL** Joshua Little, **JF** Judy Franzen, **MRu** Mark Rudolph, **MB** Matt Benotsch, **NC** Nancy Clogston, **NS** Noah Strycker, **RF** Rachael Friese, **SH** Sally Hill, **SM** Sylvia Maulding. **Fide** references a sighting reported to the listed observer. **M.ob.** signifies many observers.

Big Thank You's to:

Oakshire Brewery for hosting an LCAS Fundraiser February 6th. The brewery donated \$1 for each pint of beer sold that day. LCAS volunteers who helped with the event are Rachael Friese, Rebecca Waterman, Debbie Schlenoff, and Ron Renschler. We had raffle drawings with prizes and educational outreach materials, plus pub tables full of birders enjoying the Oakshire brews. The total raised was \$397! We plan to use the funds to help with the purchase of books for use in Audubon in the Schools classes! A fun way to support a worthy cause!

Dick Lamster for giving a backyard habitat and birding talk to a receptive group of 15 people at Down To Earth on February 2nd. We appreciate his ongoing outreach efforts to promote habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Richard Weeks for donating half the proceeds from his recent art show at Wandering Goat Coffee Shop in Eugene to LCAS. The other half went to Ophelia's Place. He sold several of his wonderful paintings. Thanks so much for your generosity, Richard!

Janet Jernberg, her great niece, **Starr**, and great-great nephew **Dominick**, for doing *The Quail* mailing labels for the March issue. The normal crew was stranded by the snowy weather, so this small family group took on the task and got the job done. Dominick was home from school for a snow day, so he enjoyed helping them with this important project. **LaRue Rodgers** took *The Quail* to the post office a day later, after the roads had been plowed.

We have great volunteers who give extra effort when needed! – *Maeve Sowles*

A Reason to Celebrate

The U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives just passed a public lands package that will designate about 1.3 million acres as wilderness, the highest federal level of land protection. This designation protects habitat from mining, timber farming, development, and motorized vehicles. Support from Oregon's representatives in Congress helped establish about 30,000 acres of wilderness designation in our state, including the Devil's Staircase in the coastal rainforest. About 250 miles of Oregon's rivers gained protections under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers program. This was a bipartisan bill that many Oregonians and organizations (including ours) actively supported. Way to get it done! – *Debbie Schlenoff*

New Lane County-focused Birding List Available

OBOL (Oregon Birding OnLine) has gotten so huge over the past few years that it's sometimes overwhelming. Not a criticism, just an observation.

For those who seek more local reports, a new Lane County-focused listing of rarer birds has recently come online. Subscribers can join this free list by sending email to: lanebirds-request@freelists.org, with "subscribe" in the subject field, or by visiting a list page at: freelists.org/list/lanebirds.

Audubon in the Schools Flourishing

The Audubon in the Schools program has blossomed over the last year. In 2018, the volunteer team visited 12 schools and taught 722 students! So far in 2019, AITS has visited 7 other schools, with more requests for the remaining months of the school year.

Keeping the program energized is the awesome team of AITS Instructors: Kathy Wilson, Barb Pope, Marty Merrill, and Rose Britton. Our current assistants are Janet Barnes, LaRue Rodgers, Joe Britton, and Laurie Costa. We also have a new volunteer, Pam Sheridan, who hopes to do school visits this month. Janet Barnes also serves as database manager, tracking the visits and tallying the numbers. Barb Pope is handling the initial scheduling with the schools. Kathy Wilson keeps our supplies organized, and the whole team works to make sure everything is

ready to go for the next visit. Rose Britton has fine-tuned a PowerPoint presentation for each of the two lessons: "Feathers" and "Birds and Ecosystems." We have had enthusiastic feedback from teachers and students.

LCAS has ordered copies of *Robert Bateman: The Boy Who Painted Nature* by Margriet Ruurs (Orca Book Publishers) to donate to AITS classrooms that have had program visits this year. The book can be a lasting inspiration for the kids to explore nature and see it in new ways.

The AITS team meets when needed to plan for upcoming school visits and to share information. The group is wonderfully communicative, cooperative, supportive, creative, and engaged! They work together to problem solve, share ideas, develop new methods, and build the program. Good job, AITS Team! – *Maeve Sowles*

Program Meeting, Tuesday, April 23, 7:30 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

Noah Strycker: Birds of the Photo Ark

Lawrence Hall, Room 177, on the UO Campus



Noah Strycker, now a world-renowned birder, grew up in Lane County. He went on to study birds on six continents, with field seasons in Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Australia, Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands, and the Farallon Islands. During this presentation, he will focus on *Birds of the Photo Ark*, for which he provided the text, while acclaimed National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore provided the photos. This new way of looking at birds allows

readers to encounter each bird face to face, in formal studio portraits.

Sartore has been on a mission to document every animal under human care around the world, with more than 7,000 species represented in his ongoing Photo Ark project. In 2018, Joel and Noah teamed up to feature the most beautiful, exotic, and threatened birds in this lush portfolio published by National Geographic. It is their belief that when you look at any bird up close, it suddenly becomes an individual, with emotions, expressions, and personality. In Noah's presentation of engaging stories about the gorgeous images, be prepared to see birds as you've never seen them before.

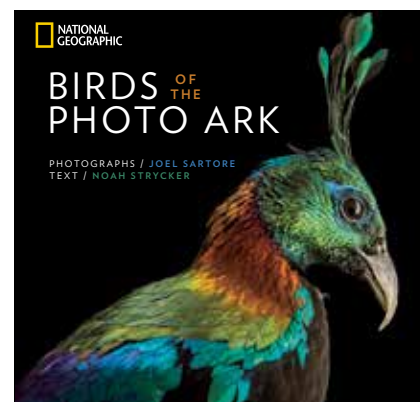
Due to the typically large size of Noah's local following, this presentation will be held in the UO's Lawrence Hall, Room 177, instead of our usual Eugene Garden Club location.

Noah Strycker is associate editor of *Birding* magazine and a regular contributor of photography and articles to all major bird magazines

as well as other media. In 2015 he set a Big Year world record. His 2017 book, *Birding Without Borders*, recounts many details of that heroic odyssey. His other books are: *Among Penguins* (Oregon State University Press, 2011) and *The Thing with Feathers* (Riverhead Books, 2014). He also works as a naturalist guide on expedition cruises to Antarctica and Norway's Svalbard archipelago, literally spreading the inspiration of birds from pole to pole. Plus he is a competitive tennis player, has run five marathons, and hiked the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada. He is still based in Oregon, where his backyard has hosted more than 100 species of birds. You can visit his website at: noahstrycker.com

To locate Lawrence Hall and nearby parking options, click on this website: map.uoregon.edu/

One close parking area is lot 2, on the north side of Franklin Blvd.



Seeking Sponsors for Audubon Adventures



Audubon Adventures is developed by professional educators and designed for grades 3-5. Each kit contains 32 printed magazines on each topic as well as access to online features and activities. Thanks to generous sponsors, we offer these kits at no cost to teachers in Lane County.

If you would like to sponsor a classroom, please mail a tax-deductible donation of \$45 (payable to LCAS) to Audubon Adventures, PO Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405, or donate online via the provided link: tinyurl.com/y5sehclg

Please contact Rachael Friese at audadventures@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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

May/June issue: April 6
July/August issue: June 1

Submit material to Karen Irmischer at quailkaren1@gmail.com

Nine issues published per year (Feb., Mar., Apr., May-June, July-Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec.-Jan.)

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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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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

4/6

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, April 6, 1 pm - 3 pm

Wildflower Walk

Come enjoy spring wildflower displays along the Arboretum trails on a walk led by Gail Baker, retired LCC plant ecology professor. Gentle trails will pass through forests, wetlands, meadows, and riverside habitats. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

FMI for all Mt Pisgah events:

mountpisgaharboretum.org or 541.741.4110

4/13-14

Saturday and Sunday

April 13 & 14, 10 am - 3 pm

Botany Workshop

In this two-day workshop, botanist Tobias Policha will help participants improve their identification skills and knowledge of our local flora. Topics include plant anatomy, family characteristics, and using a botanical key to aid in identification, with the focus on flowering plants. Be prepared to go outside. Recommended text for class: Gilkey and Dennis' *Handbook of Northwestern Plants* (2001 edition). Members \$60, non-members \$70. \$7 materials fee (paid to instructor). All materials included. Please bring a hand lens if you have one.

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

4/14

Sunday, April 14, 8-11 am

Bird Walk

Join Joni Dawning and Julia Siporin for their monthly bird walk intended for people with all levels of birding experience. They'll use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of spring migrants and year-round residents. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

4/15

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, April 15, 7 pm

Eugene Birders' Night

Randy Sinnott will transport attendees to the East African countries of Kenya, Tanzania,

and Uganda. Most of the photos will be from the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, and Lake Manyara in Tanzania, and Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls in Uganda. Location: 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 McNail-Riley house, or across 13th in the fairgrounds parking lot. All are welcome to attend this free monthly event.

FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com

4/20

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, April 20, 10 am - noon

Ethnobotany Walk

What four plants at Mount Pisgah make the "top ten" for the greatest number of uses by American indigenous peoples with over a hundred uses each? What plant saved the lives of miners? Join us as we answer such questions on an easy walk exploring the lure and lore of plants at Mount Pisgah. Led by anthropologist Madronna Holden. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

4/20

Cottage Grove Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 20

Bird Walk

At Row River Nature Park in Cottage Grove. The time is not set yet. When Earth Day event planning has solidified, the info will be posted at facebook.com/events/332639934033942/

4/27

Coast Fork Birders

Saturday, April 27, 8-11 am

Cottage Grove Reservoir Bird Walk

Join Julie Parker and the Coast Fork Birders at Lakeside Park for a spring bird walk along Cottage Grove Reservoir. The varied terrain includes paved, unpaved, uneven, and potentially muddy surfaces. Bring weather-appropriate clothing and footwear, binoculars, bird ID book, and your own snacks and water. Free parking. Location: Lakeside Park is located on London-Weyerhaeuser Road about 6 miles south of Cottage Grove.

FMI: facebook.com/events/334282307170585/

4/27

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, April 27, 10 am - 12:30 pm

Birds, Bees, Butterflies, and Blooms Walk

Join local ecologists Peg Boulay and Bruce Newhouse in enjoying the vibrant spring life at the Arboretum. Peg and Bruce will identify and talk about flowers and trees, birds and bees, and anything else you please! Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

4/27

Nearby Nature Quest

April 27, 10 am - noon

Wow Newts!

Join with Nearby Nature for their 4th annual newt count! Learn all about newts from naturalist Tom Titus, as participants count these cool critters in Tugman Park's creek. Meet at the Tugman Park picnic shelter, 3666 Hilyard St, Eugene 97405. Nearby Nature members free, non-members \$5/family.

FMI or pre-register: nearbynature.org or 541.687.9699



Photo: Cary Kerst

Bald Eagle



Photo: Cary Kerst

Northern Pintail

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your *Quail* subscription expired?
See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org

Third Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, April 20, 8 am

Don Holtgrieve will lead a walk through some of the property managed by the MacKenzie River Trust. 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. 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 541.653.3354 or Rebecca.waterman@gmail.com.

Vaux's Swift Watch – April 19, 2019

We know we can expect the Vaux's Swifts to arrive with a warm wind from the south sometime between early April and early May. What we don't know is exactly when. The timing of the migration has varied recently, with the birds coming through earlier, which makes it hard for humans to know when to have a party to celebrate their arrival!

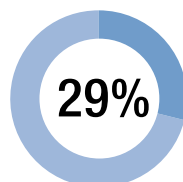
We hope the Vaux's Swifts will be here April 19th, when we gather to watch them ride in on the wind. They use the chimney to roost for the night, funneling in to rest and recover after their long migration from the south.

Come join us at sunset, Friday, April 19th. Reluctant family members will often join in, if you promise ice cream at nearby Prince Pucklers. Outside Agate Hall on the UO campus, 17th Ave. and Agate Street.

FMI: Lane Audubon Facebook page or website or call the Lane Audubon phone at 541.485.2473. Also access tinyurl.com/y4vpkgf2



April Program Meeting
Noah Strycker: Birds of the Photo Ark
Tuesday, April 23, 7:30 pm
Lawrence Hall, Room 177
UO Campus, Eugene OR



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