



The Quail

December 2013–January 2014

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

The Mystery of Birding

Maeve Sowles

541.343.8664

president@laneaudubon.org

Audubon Phone – 541.485.BIRD

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Each fall, I anticipate the arrival of the first White-throated Sparrow at our feeder. We usually see only one or two individuals that stay from November to March or April. Then they leave, presumably to fly north to find breeding territory along the west coast or interior of Canada—or as the biologists say, to achieve their biological potential. When the sparrows arrive for the winter, I always wonder where they have been since last spring. Did they find a mate and adequate habitat to breed successfully? Why do we never see more of them? Are they the same birds that appeared last year at the feeder? Always mysteries without answers.



This one bird and the questions I have about it might seem insignificant, but think about its journey: It has traveled perhaps 1,000 miles each way, with just its small life force taking on all that it encounters. Each bird we see in our binoculars has such an adventure. Throughout its life it needs to find food, water, and shelter, evade predators and accidents, and stay warm or stay cool. It competes to find territory and a mate, breed, and feed and protect its young. Every day it is at risk of not succeeding. It has found its way back to a winter habitat where it can survive.

The White-throated Sparrow in my binoculars jumps up to the feeder and competes successfully with the juncos for the food there. In human terms, it looks brave and strong and confident. Biologists balk at attributing human characteristics to animals, but I take that zest for life, that sense of purpose and unwavering spirit of adventure to heart and give the little bird credit for making my day with its arrival.

(continued on page 10)

2013 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Approaches

Dick Lamster

541.343.8664

maeveanddick@q.com

This year marks the 72nd Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) and the 114th National Audubon Society (NAS) Christmas Bird Count. Our count this year will be on Sunday, December 29. Our 15-mile diameter count circle is centered in the Danebo area of Eugene and is divided into 27 areas, each with a Team Leader. The Team Leaders organize the teams, lead the groups through the area during the count day, and then submit the results to the ECBC Steering Committee.

No Fees

This is the second year that NAS has decided to eliminate the \$5 fee for each participant. In the past, NAS used the fee to compile, publish, and mail participants the results of the CBC in a publication called "American Birds." NAS now posts the results online rather than print them.

Count Coordinator

Dick Lamster is the Count Coordinator, and he will work with NAS on the administrative tasks of the count. He will also coordinate with the Team Leaders, handle publicity, cowrite the postcount narrative, and assign new participants to teams. If you want to participate this year and were not on a team last year, call Dick at 541.343.8664. Otherwise, call your Team Leader from last year (although he or she might be calling you soon).

Birds

Dan Gleason (541.345.0450) will accept the bird checklists from the Team Leaders at the end of the count, hopefully at the chili feed. He will also review rare and unusual bird sightings and then submit all the results to NAS. Dan will also work with Dick to prepare the postcount narrative.

Feeder Watchers

If you cannot participate on a count team but would like to count the birds that visit your yard, please call Herb Wisner at 541.344.3634. Herb is in charge of the Feeder Watchers and will assist you in recording the birds you see and including them in the official count. He will send you a form to help you record birds, coordinate your sightings with the leader



of the count area you live in so that birds are not reported twice, and submit your sightings to Dan to be included in the official results. Please call Herb by December 18th if you would like to be a Feeder Watcher.

Chili Feed

All Team Leaders and count participants are invited to gather after the count at the Eugene Garden Club at 1645 High Street for the traditional chili feed. Allison Mickel will once again provide her homemade vegetarian chili for this fun ending to a day full of birding. We will tally results and swap stories of the day's sightings. The door to the Garden Club will open around 3:30 p.m. so you can stop by as soon as you finish your count. The free chili feed will begin around 5:00 p.m. Lane County Audubon Society will furnish the chili along with salad, dinner rolls, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Please bring a dessert to share with others, plus your own table service, including plate, bowl, cup, and silverware. If you would like to drink something other than what we provide, bring that too. I really encourage you to join us for this delicious ending to a long day.

Last Year's Results

Last year the ECBC had the seventh largest number of participants out of 2,369 official CBCs in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Caribbean, and Pacific Islands. This is an amazing accomplishment by LCAS—kudos to the Steering Committee, Team Leaders, team members, and

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LCAS Works with Others to Make a Difference

Debbie Schlenoff

541.685.0610

dschlenoff@msn.com

“Birds of a feather flock together.” This old saying applies to both birds and humans. The benefits of flocking for birds are many: They use mobbing to chase off potential predators, even when the predator is larger than they are. They flock together when eating, roosting, and nesting. Who among us does not wish to be able to understand their communications when they gather for “information exchange?” Flycatcher pairs communally defend their nests from predators and issue alarm calls to rouse their neighbors for help. In one study, researchers prevented a flycatcher pair from aiding their neighbors when an artificial predator was placed in the area. When that pair alarm-called in the next round, the neighbors did not respond. Apparently, birds take note when others don’t pull their weight in a group. It pays to cooperate.

We at Lane County Audubon Society also appreciate the power of numbers and often join with other groups to sign on to letters addressed to members of the Obama administration, Congress, fish and wildlife agencies, and other decision makers. Below is a sampling of some of our most recent joint efforts.

- Congressional funding is essential to conservation programs. An impressive number of organizations—over 1600—have signed on to a letter to Congress in support of conservation grant programs such as the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program, North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, Forest Legacy Program, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. More information is available at <http://teaming.com/news/press-release-save-funding-protects-fish-wildlife-and-their-habitats>
- We have joined with 277 other organizations to urge legislators to support the conservation compliance and sodsaver components of the 2013 Farm Bill. These items ensure that the billions of taxpayer dollars spent on crop insurance will protect grasslands, wetlands, healthy soil, and clean water. As the Farm Bill makes its way through

Congress, we will continue to follow developments to encourage important conservation efforts.

- We have joined with several regional and national groups to request protection in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. This coalition works to protect the old-growth forest from logging and to protect important habitat areas in the Arctic from oil and gas development. Oregon’s Senator Wyden chairs the US Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources.
- Several recent reports in the United States and Canada have highlighted the devastating effects of outdoor cats on native birds and other wildlife, as well as the dangers to the cats themselves. Considering that domestic cats are now the leading lethal threat to birds in the country, better policy is necessary to reduce harm to birds and cats. A letter to the Secretary of the Interior asks the Department of the Interior to develop a clear management strategy to address the issue.
- New research has highlighted the importance of forage fish—sardines, anchovies, herrings, and the like—for the health of marine ecosystems. Small forage fish are eaten by larger fish (including those that we commonly consume), marine mammals, and seabirds such as the Sooty Shearwater and the endangered Marbled Murrelet. We have joined with organizations throughout the region to ask the Pacific Fishery Management Council to judiciously plan for this important component of the food web.

Thanks to Mushroom Festival Booth Staff

Fungi were in abundance at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum’s Mushroom Festival on October 27, and so were attendees, and so were visitors to the LCAS booth! Many thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who staffed the booth, including Dave Stone, Margot Fetz, Kris Kirkeby, Connie Berglund, and Joyce Baker.

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act: Northern Spotted Owl Continues to Decline

Dave Stone

dns@efn.org

At one time, the Northern Spotted Owl was found in old-growth forests throughout the Pacific Northwest. Heavy logging and other developments over the last 190 years have reduced spotted owl habitat by 60%. As a result, owl numbers have declined by 40%–60% in the last 10 years, leaving an estimated 2,000 pairs in existence today.

Because of this decline, the Northern Spotted Owl was declared a threatened species in 1990 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This status allows the USFWS to regulate activities on federal land that might harm the owl. In 1994, the Northwest Forest Plan became law; it provided protection for the spotted owl and as many as 600 other species that rely on old-growth forests. In the process, vital salmon runs were protected and clean water continued to flow from old growth.

Because many small and large logging companies and timber mills were outfitted for logging and milling large trees, they objected strongly to the new restrictions. They contended that they would have to curtail operations, leading to the loss of thousands of jobs. They predicted dire consequences from the resulting unemployment—“increased rates of domestic disputes, divorce, acts of violence, delinquency, vandalism, suicide, alcoholism and other problems.” Indeed, such social breakdown was possible, but that prospect didn’t stop the industry from rapidly increasing mill automation, mechanizing logging operations, and exporting raw logs, all of which led to greatly increased unemployment.

Had logging continued at the 1994 rate (125,000 acres per year), the old growth would have been gone within 30 years, thus simply postponing the mill closures.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) not only requires protection for the listed species, it requires a recovery plan leading to high enough numbers so that the species can be taken off the list. The first recovery plan was issued in 2008 and, after thorough study, was revised in 2011; it indicates



Northern Spotted Owl

the need to continue protecting the spotted owl and the other species that rely on old-growth forests.

In response to pressure from the timber industry, the 2011 recovery plan allows continued “limited harvesting” in old-growth forests. In that plan, the USFWS recommends “protecting high quality and occupied spotted owl habitat and actively managing [logging] forests to restore their health.”

Forests are dynamic—they grow, change, and eventually die. The Northwest Forest Plan provides late-successional reserves (LSRs) in the spotted owl’s range. LSRs allow forests to continue to grow and to ultimately develop into old-growth forests.

It turns out that protecting old-growth forests is not enough to stop the decline of the spotted owl. A new threat to the owl has emerged since it was originally listed under the ESA. The Barred Owl has been expanding its range from the east and has reached the Pacific Northwest. This owl is larger and more aggressive than the spotted owl and has been displacing it. In a highly controversial plan, the USFWS is proposing an experimental program to shoot Barred Owls as a way to protect the Northern Spotted Owl.

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Audubon Adventures Celebrates 30 Years!

Joyce Trawle

541.515.6244

jtrawle@comcast.net

Audubon Adventures, our award-winning educational program, returns to our community classrooms with new, dynamic online capabilities sure to delight and educate our young students. With captivating hands-on activities, students learn that we all have a personal stake in the health of the environment, and we all play an important role in its preservation and improvement.

This year's theme, Sharing Our World with Birds, includes four topics:

Seabirds: Feathered Ocean Travelers (starring Project Puffin)

Hooray for Hummingbirds!

Raptors: The Birds of Prey

Caring for Our Planet: Join in the Action!

This very popular initiative is funded by the generous donations of members through our Adopt-a-Classroom program. We are pleased to provide a full set of free Audubon Adventures materials to each student in sponsored classrooms. Teachers in Audubon Adventures classrooms receive several supplemental resources, including handouts, posters, brochures, a full-color teacher's manual with articles and worksheets to share with students, and a year's membership to National Audubon Society and Lane County Audubon Society.

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. You may request sponsorship of any of the schools and classes awaiting sponsorship listed below, or contact Joyce Trawle at jtrawle@comcast.net or 541.515.6244 if you have another school or classroom you would like to sponsor.

Thank you to all the classroom sponsors for their generous support!

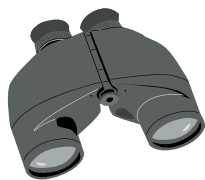
2013-2014 Sponsored Classrooms

Grade	School	Sponsor
1	Adams Elementary	Susie and Steve Gordon
4	Bohemia Elementary	Marty Beyer and John Bugley
3	Bohemia Elementary	Doris Wimber
4, 5	Camas Ridge Community	Doris Wimber
4, 5	Camas Ridge Community	Susan Markley
5	Camas Ridge Community	Peter and Jo von Hippel
3	Fairfield Elementary	John Levy and Janie Thomas
3	Fairfield Elementary	Peter and Jo von Hippel
1, 2, 3	Family School	Susan Mincks and Wendell Anderson
3	Gilham Elementary	Mary Beth Crawford
3	Gilham Elementary	Freeman Rowe
5	Good Samaritan School	Beth Bridges
3	Howard Elementary	Susie and Steve Gordon
3	Howard Elementary	John Levy and Janie Thomas
5	Lundy Elementary	Robin Gage
4, 5	Mapleton Elementary	Sara Brownmiller and Milo Mecham
3	McCornack Elementary	Russell and Christine Sampley
3	McCornack Elementary	Susan Markley
5	McCornack Elementary	Gaylene Carpenter
3, 4	Oakridge Elementary	Sara Brownmiller and Milo Mecham
4	Pleasant Hill Elementary	Jane Holloway
1, 2, 3	Ridgeline Montessori	Anne Bonine
5	Riverbend Elementary	Valerie and Dan Close
3	Siuslaw Elementary	Quail Mailing Crew c/o Eva Schultz
3	Siuslaw Elementary	Camilla Pratt
3	Two Rivers-Dos Rios Elem.	Rob Castleberry and Joyce Thomas
3	Two Rivers-Dos Rios Elem.	Charlotte and Dave Bontrager
3	Two Rivers-Dos Rios Elem.	Charlotte and Dave Bontrager
4	Thurston Elementary	Freeman Rowe
5	Thurston Elementary	Jane Holloway
3	Veneta Elementary	Mika Singer
3	Walterville Elementary	Robin Gage
4, 5	Walterville Elementary	Camilla Pratt
5	Willagillespie Community	Margot Fetz
3	Yujin Gakuen Japan. Imm.	Betsy Parry

Classrooms Awaiting Sponsors for 2013-2014

2, 3	Dorena Elementary
3	Gilham Elementary
3	Laurel Elementary
5, 6	Oakridge Elementary

Field Notes: October 2013



- Mountain Quail
- Sedge Wren
- Red-naped/Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Lapland Longspur
- Harris's Sparrow

Tom and Allison Mickel

541.485.7112

tamickel@riouisa.com

October was a mostly dry month with many foggy days in the valley. Most of the wintering waterfowl and raptors had arrived for the winter, and most, if not all, of the neotropical migrants had left. Dead swallows were found during the first few days of the month, after the cool, wet weather we experienced during the end of September.

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

WATERBIRDS

Snow Goose (6)	Oct 23	Mt Pisgah	LM, et al.	As usual, large flocks of
Snow Goose (2)	Oct 24	LCC	MLS	northern breeding geese arrived
Snow Goose	Oct 28	FRR—Shore Ln	PNHK	at about the same time
Cackling Goose	Oct 3	Clearwater Park	SMc	First flocks for the winter
Cackling Goose (4000)	Oct 23	Mt Pisgah/LCC	LM, et al.	A normal time for their arrival
Tundra Swan (3)	Oct 29	FRR—Shore Ln	LG	A normal time for their arrival
Cinnamon Teal	Oct 27	Delta Ponds	TMe	Wintering again this year?
Surf Scoter (2)	Oct 27	FRR—Jeans Rd	NS	Rare migrant at inland lakes
Common Loon	Oct 21	Cottage Grove res	BC	Rare migrant at inland lakes
Common Loon	Oct 27	FRR—yacht club	NS	Rare migrant at inland lakes
Red-necked Grebe	Oct 6	FRR—Shore Ln	LG	Rarely found in the valley
Eared Grebe (2)	Oct 27	FRR—Shore Ln	NS	Rare, but regular in migration
American White Pelican (30)	Oct 23	Creswell area	SN	Flying to the SE—leaving FRR?

QUAIL to SWIFTS

Mountain Quail	Oct 11	SW of Eugene	DL	Returned after five year absence
Rough-legged Hawk	Oct 29	SJSR	DP, et al.	First report for the winter season
Rough-legged Hawk	Oct 30	Creswell area	NS	First report for the valley
Sandhill Crane	Oct 27	Walterville	VB	A normal time for their migration
Sandhill Crane (10)	Oct 28	Mohawk River area	BC	A normal time for their migration
Pectoral Sandpiper (2)	Oct 27	Camas Swale	NS	Getting late for this species
Dunlin (3000)	Oct 30	FRR—Zumwalt Park	LM, et al.	A normal wintering flock
Band-tailed Pigeon	Oct 12	Mt Pisgah	TMe	Getting late for this species
Barred Owl	Oct 16	River Rd area	fide LG	Uncommon away from the south hills
Vaux's Swift (1560)	Oct 12	Agate Hall—U of O	BC	Last report for the breeding season
Vaux's Swift	Oct 19	Agate Hall—U of O	BC	No swifts entered the chimney

WOODPECKERS to FINCHES

Lewis's Woodpecker	Oct 19	FRR—Cantrell Rd area	BU	Rare, but regular in fall
Red-naped/Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Oct 27	River Rd area	LMI	Rare, but she has photo of one last year

Say's Phoebe	Oct 12	Stewart Pond	MP, DPs	Unusual fall report
Say's Phoebe	Oct 21	London area	BC	Unusual fall report
Northern Shrike (2)	Oct 15	SJSR	DP, et al.	First report for the winter season
Cassin's Vireo	Oct 11	Cottage Grove area	VT, TM	Last report for the breeding season
Warbling Vireo	Oct 3	Creswell area	NS	Last report for the breeding season
Gray Jay	Oct 6	Spencer Butte	LMf	They're irregularly found here
Blue Jay	Oct 22	Florence area	KK	Rarely found in Lane Co, especially the coast
Violet-green Swallow	Oct 11	Cottage Grove area	VT, TM	Last report for the breeding season
Sedge Wren (possible)	Oct 2	FRR—Royal Ave	DB	Would be a first Lane Co record
Wrentit (2)	Oct 22	Westfir area	BC	Found in small numbers in the area
Swainson's Thrush	Oct 16	Skinner Butte Park	LM, et al.	Last report for the breeding season
Northern Mockingbird	Oct 18	Alvadore	DB	Returned for the third winter
Lapland Longspur	Oct 19	Deflation Plain—SJSR	NS	Rare migrant mainly along coast
Orange-crowned Warbler	Oct 30	FRR—Zumwalt Park	LM, et al.	Last report for the breeding season
Common Yellowthroat	Oct 12	Lookout Point res	NS	Last report for the breeding season
Yellow Warbler	Oct 8	Creswell area	NS	Last report for the breeding season
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Oct 16	Skinner Butte	LM, et al.	Last report for the breeding season
Wilson's Warbler	Oct 8	River Rd area	TMe	Last report for the breeding season
Chipping Sparrow	Oct 9	Delta Ponds	LM, et al.	Last report for the breeding season
Fox Sparrow	Oct 9	River Rd area	BC	First valley report for the winter season
Harris's Sparrow	Oct 16	Creswell area	SN	Rare and irregular in Lane Co
Western Tanager	Oct 12	FRR area	MN	Last report for the breeding season
Black-headed Grosbeak	Oct 16	North Eugene area	BG	About a month later than normal in leaving
Black-headed Grosbeak	Oct 30	FRR—Zumwalt Park	LM, et al.	About a month later than normal in leaving

BC Barbara Combs, BG Brandon Green, BU Becky Uhler, DB Dave Brown, DL Dick Lamster, DP Diane Pettey, DPs Dael Parsons, KK Keith Kraft, LG Linda Gilbert, LM Larry McQueen, LMf Lori Markoff, LMI Libbie Marshall, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, MN Mark Nikas, MP Margie Paris, NS Noah Strycker, PNHK Priscilla Nam Hari Kaur, SMc Steve McDonald, SN Sally Nelson, TM Tom Mickel, TMe Thomas Meinzen, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson. **Fide** indicates a sighting that was reported to the listed observer.

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>.

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:

February Issue: Jan. 4

March Issue: Feb. 1

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

Lane Audubon Officers & Board Members

President..... Maeve Sowles 541.343.8664..... president@laneaudubon.org
Treasurer Ron Renchler 541.345.0834 christyandron@qwest.net
Members..... Debbie Schlenoff 541.685.0610..... dschlenoff@msn.com
Herb Wisner 541.344.3634 hrwisner@comcast.net
Jim Maloney..... 541.968.9249..... jimgmal@comcast.net

Lane Audubon Committee Chairs

Audubon Phone..... Dick Lamster 541.485.BIRD
Audubon Adventures..... Joyce Trawle..... 541.515.6244..... jtrawle@comcast.net
Audubon in the Schools (AITS)... Barclay Browne barclay.browne@gmail.com
AITS Scheduling..... Doris Bakshi..... aitslc@gmail.com
Booth..... Ron Renchler 541.345.0834 christyandron@qwest.net
Conservation..... Debbie Schlenoff 541.685.0610..... dschlenoff@msn.com
Education Volunteer Opportunity
Field Notes..... Allison & Tom Mickel... 541.485.7112 tamickel@riouisa.com
Field Trips..... Jim Maloney..... 541.968.9249..... jimgmal@comcast.com
FRESH Art Farley..... 541.683.1186 art@cs.uoregon.edu
Membership Data..... Tim Godsil 541.915.8852 tgodsil@gmail.com
Programs..... Herb Wisner 541.344.3634..... hrwisner@comcast.net
Quail Editor..... Paula Rich richpaula@hotmail.com
Quail Design & Layout..... Volunteer Opportunity
Recording Secretary..... Kathy Wilson kfred1953@yahoo.com
Webmaster..... Sara Lee Higgins sara.lee.higgins@gmail.com

Spotted Owl Research in the Willamette National Forest: Population Trends and Current Status

Herb Wisner

541.344.3634

hrwisner@comcast.net

Steve Ackers is the field crew leader of the Northern Spotted Owl project in the upper McKenzie watershed. He is an expert in wildlife population monitoring and mathematical modeling of demographic parameters. Steve has been studying the spotted owl in the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest in the Blue River/McKenzie Bridge area for about 14 years. He will talk about spotted owl ecology, his research objectives, and the relationship between Barred Owls and Northern Spotted Owls, among other topics.

Please plan to attend this very interesting and timely presentation! To read more about the Northern Spotted Owl, you need look no further than page 4 in this issue of *The Quail*.

January Program Meeting

Spotted Owl Research in the Willamette National Forest: Population Trends and Current Status with Steve Ackers



Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St., Eugene

Visit LCAS at the Good Earth Show, January 24–26

Plans are underway to host the Lane County Audubon booth at the Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show on January 24–26, 2014, at the Convention Center at the Lane County Fairgrounds in Eugene.

The show, which was established in 2006, is one of the most popular annual events promoting sustainability in Lane County. It features more than 250 exhibits and 50 seminars covering the amazing variety of earth-friendly products and services in our area.

Several thousand visitors attend annually, and Lane Audubon will be on hand to let community members know about our education and conservation programs designed to raise awareness about the importance of birds and the protection of their habitats. Our booth will feature lots of information on birds and birding, along with visual displays about our

feathered friends. We will also offer special workshops on bird-related topics during the show.

If you're interested in helping staff the booth during the show, contact Ron Renschler at 541.345.0834 or christyandron@qwest.net. It's a great opportunity to help LCAS spread the word about our organization. No experience is necessary; we'll match you up with an experienced booth staffer and help you have a great time.



From Our President (continued from page 1)

I find contentment, renewal, and excitement birdwatching through the kitchen window. People new to birding and those who have never developed a kinship with the outdoors might think birdwatching is just about looking at individual birds or trying to count the greatest number of birds or the greatest number of species. But it is all those things, and it is much more.



2013 Christmas Bird Count (continued from page 2)

Feeder Watchers. We had 157 birders in the field and 98 Feeder Watchers, for a total of 255 participants.

The entire group identified 136 species on count day plus four more species during count week. This is an above-average number for the ECBC. Our record is 140 plus two more during count week. We recorded 95,518 individual birds. You can view results of last year's ECBC, as well as all the other Christmas Bird Counts in North America, at www.christmasbirdcount.org. Our count code is OREU.

We hope you can join us for this year's ECBC. If you have questions, please call Dick at 541.343.8664 or contact any of the other committee members listed above. We look forward to seeing you on December 29th!



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.

Endangered Species Act (continued from page 4)

See these websites for discussion of the proposed plan to shoot Barred Owls:

<http://www.fws.gov/OregonFWO/Species/Data/NorthernSpottedOwl/BarredOwl/default.asp>

<http://audubonportland.org/issues/species/bocomments-june2012>

Learn More about the Northern Spotted Owl

<http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/species/data/northernspottedowl/main.asp>

<http://www.scu.edu/ethics/publications/iie/v4n1/>

<http://kswild.org/what-we-do-2/biodiversity/species-brofiles/nso>

Update on the California Condor

A bill banning the use of lead from all hunting ammunition in California was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on October 11, 2013; nonlead ammunition will be phased in by 2019. The ban that was in effect only in condor habitat now extends to the entire state. Lead bullet fragments in carrion that condors eat has been responsible for many condor deaths.

The California Quail

And now I'd like to tell a tale about the fascinating quail,
A member of a growing clan,
Definitely a family man.
A guard quail picks a high rooftop and calls instruction
to his flock.

The nesting pairs start appearing,
Each male waterfowl so endearing.
They join the others—start to eat,
They have a system that can't be beat.

They leave now as they came,
Tomorrow will be just the same.
When fall comes they will join the clan,
According to the master plan.

—Florilla Sorensen

Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Nearby Nature

Saturday, December 7, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Nearby Nature Quest—Tall Tree Trails and Tales

Enjoy a family-paced walk in the woods followed by cozy fireside nature tales and seasonal crafts in the Hendricks Park shelter. Meet at the Wilkins Shelter in Hendricks Park. Preregistration required.

Free for Nearby Nature members, \$2/person and \$5/family for nonmembers

FMI: 541.687.9699, www.nearbynature.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/

Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)

Tuesday, December 10, 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Wetland Wander at Golden Garden Ponds

Meet at the pull-off north of Barger Drive at the intersection of Golden Gardens Street and Jessen Drive.

Free. FMI: 541.338.7047, info@wewetlands.org

Nearby Nature

Saturday, December 14, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Lessons in the Learnscape Workshop—Draw Your Own Nature-Themed Holiday Cards

Learn from local naturalist-artist David Wagner how to use photographs as a template for making accurate ink drawings of natural objects. Create your own holiday cards to take home at the end of the class. Preregistration required.

Cost is on a sliding scale: \$17–\$30 for members, \$20–\$35 for nonmembers

FMI: 541.687.9699, www.nearbynature.org

Winter Wings Festival

February 13–16, Klamath Falls, OR

Registration begins in December for this very popular festival.

FMI: 1.877.541.BIRD, winterwingsfest.org,
info@WinterWingsFest.org

Paraguay birding trip

Late April/early May, 2014

Jack Anderson is planning a 10-day birding trip to Paraguay next spring. Exact dates are still to be determined. The bird guide will be Paul Smith, author of the book *Birds of Paraguay*.

FMI: Jack at jackkathy_anderson@yahoo.com

Injured Falcon Rescued

Tom McCartney came across this diminutive injured Merlin while he was fishing and birding in the Klamath Falls area in October. He writes, "I suspect it was a gunshot wound because it was dove hunting season. I captured the bird in a rubber fishing net and transported it to the ODFW office in the Klamath Wildlife Area, where they can facilitate its recovery or maybe provide a long life in an aviary. What fierce and elegant little assassins they are!"



Like us on Facebook!

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

Thank You, Members!

Thank you to our members for sending in their donation envelopes with support for Lane County Audubon Society activities! We cannot do this without you, and we truly appreciate your financial contributions.

—LCAS Board of Directors

January Program Meeting

Spotted Owl Research in the Willamette National Forest: Population Trends and Current Status with Steve Ackers



**Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2014
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

**Sunday,
December 19**

2013 EUGENE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday, December 29, is the date for this annual event. See the article on page 2 for all the details. For more information, contact the Count Coordinator, Dick Lamster, at 541.343.8664.

**Saturday,
January 18**

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK

Site to be determined, led by Jim and Charlotte Maloney

There will be no Third Saturday Bird Walk in December, because folks will be preparing for the annual Christmas Bird Count.

The January Third Saturday Bird Walk will be on the 18th. The location will be determined based on interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL and other information available before the day. If a location is determined before January 18, we will post it on the LCAS Facebook page and on the LCAS 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), rain or shine, for greetings and car pooling, and we plan to return by noon. Please remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables in your vehicle if it's parked in the high school lot. Folks who wish to meet at the actual walk location can check the website or Facebook page. All levels of birders are welcome. A \$3 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities.

For more information, contact Jim Maloney at 541.968.9249 or jimgmal@comcast.net.