



# The Quail

February 2014

News from Lane County Audubon Society

Audubon Phone – 541.485.BIRD

## From Our President



## Of Hawks and Songbirds

Maeve Sowles

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Inside <i>The Quail</i>	
From Our President.....	1
• <i>Of Hawks and Songbirds</i>	
2013 Christmas Bird Counts.....	2-7
Program Meeting .....	7
Field Notes.....	8
Board and Committees .....	10
LCAS Membership Form .....	10
Community Calendar .....	11
Bird Walks & Events.....	12
• <i>Third Saturday Bird Walks</i>	

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 See page 12.

A Cooper's Hawk regularly visits the bird-feeder area on our property in the southwest hills of Eugene. The raised bird feeders are in a deer-fenced 20' x 20' space filled with plants and flowers and surrounded by trees. In our effort to provide suitable habitat for songbirds, we have attracted the resident predator of birds.



Photo: Cary Kerst

During the winter, the Cooper's Hawk often perches conspicuously in an oak tree about 100 feet away from the bird feeders until she decides it is time to hunt. Often we see her make quick-strike passes through the yard, scaring the smaller birds away and, unfortunately, sometimes flushing them into a window. We have seen the hawk catch birds in midair and pursue them around and through trees. She is a fast and agile hunter, making sharp turns and looping back around to continue her surprise attacks. After an unsuccessful foray, she sometimes sits on the fence around the bird feeders, giving us a great view from the kitchen window. Her alert eyes and quick glances show that she is watching for movement in the bushes below. We have seen the Cooper's pounce to the ground and stomp her feet near the low bushes to flush the smaller birds hiding there.

The ground-hunting behavior is interesting to watch. We have seen the hawk dive into a bush and the small birds quickly exit through the other side. She may remain on the ground for several minutes, checking the bushes thoroughly. We know the Cooper's hunts successfully this way because we've found evidence—feather piles that we've identified as Mourning Dove, Band-tailed Pigeon, Spotted Towhee, Dark-

(continued on page 2)

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# 2013 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

Dick Lamster, Count Coordinator

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The 72nd Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) took place on Sunday, December 29, 2013, when 139 enthusiastic bird-watchers went looking for birds. Another 99 reported birds seen at their homes to Herb Wisner, Feeder Watcher Coordinator. Birders in the field and those at home recorded a combined total of 133 species, which is the average number of species seen on the past six ECBCs.

The 139 participants were grouped into 25 teams, each led by an expert bird-watcher. The teams walked 119.5 miles in 171.5 hours. They also drove 491.5 miles in 74.25 hours. Six teams went owling for eight hours and covered 38 miles. Jim Maloney's team (#15) had the most members with 14, followed by Bruce Newhouse (#20B) with 10 members and Dave Bontrager (#14) with nine members.

Vjera Thompson, Team Leader for Area #10A, wore her pedometer and registered over 24,000 steps. That computes to over 10 miles of walking and looking for birds. She said that a couple of years ago she recorded about 30,000 steps on the ECBC! We had two Robins (Wisner and Hartmann) on this year's count and one Starling (Nate).

At the end of the day, 101 tired birders came to the LCAS-sponsored Chili Feed to talk about all the birds they saw and to participate in the countdown. Allison Mickel prepared almost 10 gallons of homemade vegetarian chili to share with everyone. Sandy Poinsett and Kathy Wilson assisted Allison in organizing the room, setting up tables and chairs, serving chili, and cleaning up afterward. Bruce Wilson and others helped with the cleanup. The Chili Feed was a fun way to end a great day of birding.

I personally want to thank Allison and her crew for the Chili Feed, Dan Gleason for compiling the results, Herb Wisner for coordinating the Feeder Watchers, and the 25 Team Leaders. Without the Team Leaders' hard work of assembling their teams, guiding them all day, and reporting the results, the ECBC would not be the great event that it is.

Be sure to mark Sunday, December 28, 2014, on your calendar for the 2014 ECBC. Please plan to join a team or



Janie Thomas, Steve Gordon, and Clint Brumitt at work.  
Photo: Cary Kerst

be a Feeder Watcher for a full, fun day of birding. Your results will be entered into the 114-year record of all the Christmas Bird Counts around the continent, and they are used by scientists for research on bird life. The results of all the CBCs are on the National Audubon Society's website at [www.christmasbirdcount.org](http://www.christmasbirdcount.org). The code for LCAS is OREU.

Thanks again to all of you who participated and helped to make the 2013 ECBC one of the biggest and best in the country!

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## From Our President (continued from page 1)

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eyed Junco, Steller's Jay, Varied Thrush, Western Bluebird, and swallow species (which we have seen caught on the wing).

The hawk does not catch a bird every time she tries. Sometimes she seems to take all day to catch a meal, based on the number of hunting forays we observe. The hawk lives on the edge of survival in the winter cold, and she certainly puts pressure on the songbirds. Usually the healthy songbirds can escape her attacks, and the predator's presence keeps them fit and alert so they are better able to survive as well. The small birds resume their own eating and chasing once the Cooper's Hawk leaves the immediate vicinity.

It is nature's way. We love the songbirds and the hawks alike.

# 2013 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

Dan Gleason, Count Compiler



December's record cold left many people concerned about how some bird populations would be affected. Many people expressed fear that the Anna's Hummingbirds would not survive. I'm sure that some did not survive, but a large majority did. This year's count produced a record high of 204 Anna's Hummingbirds. I had more concern for the ground-feeding birds. With the ground frozen and snow blanketing the area, many of these birds were denied an opportunity to forage at will. Many likely left the area to seek more open terrain, such as that along the south coast. The effect on ground-feeders is reflected by our count data—some species were completely lacking (Western Sandpiper and Least Sandpiper, for example) or in very low numbers (302 Killdeer and only 2 Long-billed Dowitchers). An exception to this trend was a high number of Dunlin (5,180).

Many raptor species were in high numbers this year. No records were broken, but numbers were much higher than usual for most raptors. Absent, however, were Rough-legged Hawk and Osprey.

Songbirds showed high numbers of some species, such as chickadees, jays, and nuthatches, for example, and low numbers of other species. Some of those in low numbers are birds that, like the shorebirds, typically feed on or near the ground. Low numbers were seen for Marsh Wren, Savannah Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Sparrow. Pine Siskins were also very low in numbers, but this species wanders greatly across the forests of the northern states and Canada, and low years are not unusual. Record high numbers were reported for Bushtit (1,510), Brown Creeper (89), Wrentit (26), and White-crowned Sparrow (510).

Waterfowl counts showed low numbers for many species, yet some were recorded at high levels or record-high levels. Record Highs were found for Cackling Goose (68,432), Bufflehead (165), and Hooded Merganser (100).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue their expansion into western Oregon. This is a bird unknown in Oregon just a few



Chicadee working on a seed. Photo: Cary Kerst

years ago, but now its numbers continue to grow and this year a record 134 were reported. Expect to see these doves in more places as the years pass.

New to the Eugene CBC is Gray Jay. This species is unusual for the Willamette Valley, but it has occasionally been reported in the south end of the valley, in the forests near Spencer Butte. This is the first year that a sighting has been made on Count Day.

Another rarity for winter in our area is Western Tanager. Barbara Combs saw and photographed one in her yard before and after the count, and it was also sighted on Count Day. Two Lewis's Woodpeckers and a Mountain Chickadee are also good finds, because these birds are not seen on many Eugene CBCs. A Northern Mockingbird is also not normal for our count, but this bird has been present in the Alvadore area for quite some time and it was nice to see it reported on Count Day.

The total number of species reported on Count Day was 133, and 126,930 individual birds were reported. These numbers represent an average count for the Eugene CBC.

Many thanks to all participants for making this a good CBC.



# 2013 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally

December 29, 2013

H = High, RH = Record High, L = low, RL = Record Low

133 species; 126,930 individuals

Greater White-fronted Goose.....1 ..... L	Western Gull.....20	Spotted Towhee .....495 ..... H
Cackling Goose ..... 68,432 ..... RH	California Gull .....25 ..... L	Vesper Sparrow ..... 1
Canada Goose ..... 4,715	Herring Gull .....6 ..... L	Savannah Sparrow .....21 ..... L
Tundra Swan.....411	Thayer's Gull.....12	Fox Sparrow .....301 ..... H
Wood Duck.....116 ..... H	Glaucous-winged Gull .....120	Song Sparrow..... 667 ..... H
Gadwall.....145	Rock Pigeon .....472	Lincoln's Sparrow .....3 ..... L
Eurasian Wigeon .....1	Eurasian Collared-Dove .....134 ..... RH	White-throated Sparrow .....31 ..... H
American Wigeon..... 605	Mourning Dove.....235	Harris's Sparrow ..... 1
Mallard .....1,481	Barn Owl.....4	White-crowned Sparrow .....510 ..... RH
Cinnamon Teal.....1	Western Screech-Owl.....14	Golden-crowned Sparrow ..... 905
Northern Shoveler .....271	Great Horned Owl .....27 ..... H	Dark-eyed Junco .....3,133
Northern Pintail ..... 151 ..... L	Northern Pygmy-Owl.....1	Western Tanager ..... 1
Green-winged Teal.....381 ..... L	Barred Owl.....1	Red-winged Blackbird.....2,404 ..... L
Canvasback.....19	Short-eared Owl.....1	Western Meadowlark ..... 44 ..... L
Redhead.....1	Northern Saw-whet Owl.....7 ..... H	Brewer's Blackbird ..... 696 ..... L
Ring-necked Duck .....173	Anna's Hummingbird ..... 204 ..... RH	Brown-headed Cowbird.....12 ..... L
Greater Scaup .....6	Belted Kingfisher .....25	Purple Finch .....43
Lesser Scaup.....77 ..... L	Lewis's Woodpecker .....2	House Finch .....519
Bufflehead.....165 ..... RH	Acorn Woodpecker.....53	Pine Siskin .....20 ..... L
Common Goldeneye .....5	Red-breasted Sapsucker .....17	Lesser Goldfinch ..... 203 ..... H
Hooded Merganser .....100 ..... RH	Downy Woodpecker.....102 ..... H	American Goldfinch.....171
Common Merganser ..... 309 ..... L	Hairy Woodpecker .....18 ..... H	House Sparrow .....325 ..... L
Ruddy Duck .....100	Northern Flicker .....431 ..... H	Unidentified gull sp.....291
California Quail.....64	Pileated Woodpecker .....10	
Ring-necked Pheasant .....16 ..... L	Black Phoebe.....8	
Wild Turkey.....235 ..... H	Hutton's Vireo.....2	
Pied-billed Grebe .....79	Gray Jay .....2 ..... 1st	
Horned Grebe.....2	CBC record	
Eared Grebe ..... 1	Steller's Jay..... 445 ..... H	
Western Grebe.....2 ..... RL	Western Scrub-Jay ..... 902 ..... H	
Double-crested Cormorant..... 386	American Crow .....2,689	
Great Blue Heron .....92	Common Raven .....188	
Great Egret.....38	Black-capped Chickadee.....1,003 ..... H	
Green Heron.....1	Mountain Chickadee.....1	
Turkey Vulture .....29 ..... H	Chestnut-backed Chickadee .....158 ..... H	
White-tailed Kite .....3	Bushtit.....1,510 ..... RH	
Bald Eagle.....62 ..... H	Red-breasted Nuthatch .....102 ..... H	
Northern Harrier.....64	White-breasted Nuthatch.....29	
Sharp-shinned Hawk .....19 ..... H	Brown Creeper .....89 ..... RH	
Cooper's Hawk .....12 ..... H	Bewick's Wren.....93	
Red-shouldered Hawk.....26 ..... H	Pacific Wren.....54	
Red-tailed Hawk .....162 ..... H	Marsh Wren .....7 ..... L	
American Kestrel .....100	Golden-crowned Kinglet..... 486	
Merlin .....14 ..... H	Ruby-crowned Kinglet..... 238	
Peregrine Falcon .....6	Wrentit.....26 ..... RH	
Virginia Rail .....2	Western Bluebird .....129 ..... H	
American Coot.....337	Hermit Thrush ..... 17	
Black-bellied Plover.....20	American Robin.....2,589 ..... H	
Killdeer.....302 ..... L	Varied Thrush.....175	
Spotted Sandpiper.....1	Northern Mockingbird.....1	
Greater Yellowlegs .....27	European Starling.....17,401 ..... H	
Dunlin .....5,180 ..... H	American Pipit ..... 6	
Long-billed Dowitcher .....2	Cedar Waxwing ..... 209 ..... H	
Wilson's Snipe .....74	Orange-crowned Warbler .....2	
Mew Gull.....7	Yellow-rumped Warbler .....88	
Ring-billed Gull ..... 386 ..... L	Townsend's Warbler .....126 ..... H	



Screech Owl in Area 10A.  
Photo: Eddie Thompson

# 2013 Florence Christmas Bird Count

Kit Larsen, Count Coordinator



The 30th Florence Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held on Saturday, December 14, on a mostly sunny and comfortable day with temperatures in the 40s. About 50 birders participated in the count—41 in the field and the others as Feeder Watchers.

Overall numbers for the count were average, with 128 species and almost 15,000 individual birds observed. Both of those numbers are very close to the average for the previous 29 years of the Florence CBC.

Unusual sightings included Red-shouldered Hawk (two), Palm Warbler (two), and Northern Fulmar (one), which were recorded for only the sixth time. Species that are usually found on the count but were missed this year include Tundra Swan

and Surfbird. We counted 90 Eurasian Collared-Doves; last year we saw 103. Maybe the population has stabilized. We also recorded two notable count-week birds: Orange-crowned Warbler and Barred Owl.

We recorded higher than average counts for American Coot (six times average), Pelagic Cormorants (five times average), and Common Murre and Red-throated Loon (three times average).

Some low counts were noted among the finches, with only two Pine Siskin, 12 Red Crossbill, and 10 American Goldfinch counted. In addition, both White-winged and Surf Scoter were at about 10% of their historical average numbers.

## 2013 Florence Christmas Bird Count Tally

December 14, 2013

128 species, 14,786 individuals (numbers do not include Feeder Watcher counts). Party Hours on Foot = 68.25; Party Hours by Car = 25.95; Party Miles on Foot = 43.5; Party Miles by Car = 268.3; Owling Hours = 0; Owling Miles = 0

Gr. White-fronted Goose..... 4	Brandt's Cormorant ..... 41	Western Gull..... 519	Varied Thrush..... 388
Canada Goose ..... 299	Pelagic Cormorant..... 392	Glaucous-winged Gull ..... 147	Wrentit..... 79
Cackling Goose..... 15	American Bittern ..... 1	Black-legged Kittiwake ..... 8	American Pipit ..... 23
Wood Duck..... 6	Great Blue Heron ..... 41	Common Murre..... 1697	Northern Shrike..... 1
Green-winged Teal..... 283	Great Egret..... 3	Rock Pigeon ..... 26	European Starling..... 805
Mallard..... 347	Bald Eagle..... 6	Mourning Dove..... 33	Hutton's Vireo ..... 5
Northern Pintail ..... 133	Northern Harrier..... 8	Eurasian Collared-Dove ..... 90	Yellow-rumped Warbler ..... 542
Northern Shoveler ..... 5	Sharp-shinned Hawk ..... 2	Barn Owl ..... 1	Townsend's Warbler ..... 7
Gadwall..... 9	Cooper's Hawk ..... 4	Northern Pygmy-Owl..... 2	Palm Warbler..... 2
American Wigeon..... 130	Red-shouldered Hawk..... 2	Anna's Hummingbird..... 30	Spotted Towhee ..... 137
Ring-necked Duck..... 235	Red-tailed Hawk ..... 27	Belted Kingfisher ..... 17	Savannah Sparrow ..... 1
Greater Scaup ..... 10	American Kestrel..... 3	Red-breasted Sapsucker ..... 1	Fox Sparrow ..... 273
Lesser Scaup..... 32	Merlin ..... 2	Downy Woodpecker..... 6	Song Sparrow..... 343
Harlequin Duck ..... 1	Peregrine Falcon ..... 8	Hairy Woodpecker ..... 7	Lincoln's Sparrow ..... 6
Long-tailed Duck ..... 4	Ruffed Grouse..... 4	Northern Flicker ..... 72	White-throated Sparrow ..... 5
Black Scoter..... 2	Virginia Rail ..... 20	Pileated Woodpecker ..... 5	Golden-crowned Sparrow ..... 140
Surf Scoter..... 212	Sora..... 2	Black Phoebe..... 4	White-crowned Sparrow ..... 123
White-winged Scoter..... 109	American Coot..... 557	Gray Jay ..... 3	Dark-eyed Junco ..... 303
Bufflehead..... 418	Snowy Plover ..... 15	Steller's Jay..... 172	Red-winged Blackbird..... 32
Hooded Merganser ..... 40	Killdeer ..... 204	American Crow ..... 558	Western Meadowlark ..... 33
Common Merganser ..... 52	Greater Yellowlegs ..... 3	Common Raven ..... 39	Brewer's Blackbird ..... 2
Red-breasted Merganser..... 66	Spotted Sandpiper..... 6	Black-capped Chickadee..... 45	House Finch ..... 34
Ruddy Duck ..... 55	Black Turnstone ..... 6	Chestnut-backed Chickadee . 176	Red Crossbill..... 12
Red-throated Loon ..... 243	Sanderling..... 977	Bushtit..... 84	Pine Siskin ..... 2
Pacific Loon ..... 230	Least Sandpiper..... 58	Red-breasted Nuthatch ..... 3	American Goldfinch..... 10
Common Loon ..... 41	Dunlin ..... 17	Brown Creeper ..... 14	House Sparrow ..... 34
Pied-billed Grebe ..... 21	Long-billed Dowitcher..... 14	Bewick's Wren ..... 12	Glaucous-winged Gull X
Horned Grebe..... 32	Wilson's Snipe ..... 46	Pacific Wren..... 51	Western Gull (hybrid)..... 30
Red-necked Grebe..... 5	Red Phalarope ..... 12	Marsh Wren..... 40	loon sp..... 507
Eared Grebe ..... 2	Mew Gull..... 137	American Dipper ..... 2	loon sp..... 160
Western Grebe..... 57	Ring-billed Gull ..... 7	Golden-crowned Kinglet..... 160	scaup sp..... 19
Northern Fulmar ..... 1	California Gull ..... 92	Ruby-crowned Kinglet..... 131	
Short-t. Shear./Sooty Shear..... 1	Herring Gull ..... 30	Hermit Thrush ..... 77	
Double-crested Cormorant..... 68	Thayer's Gull ..... 9	American Robin..... 572	

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# 2013 Oakridge Christmas Bird Count

Joel Geier, Count Compiler



The Oakridge Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was active for 14 years from the early 1970s through the mid-1980s, with data recorded from the winter of 1971–1972 through the winter of 1984–1985. We (Cheron Ferland, Lynda Kamerrer, Wanda Wilson and I) restarted the count in December 2009. We ran into some organizational difficulties the next winter, but managed to conduct CBCs in January 2012, December 2012, and December 2013. In addition to organizing the count again this year, Cheron assisted with compiling the results.

So there are now 18 years of data. However, the landscape around Oakridge has gone through some big changes since the logging boom of the 1970s and early 1980s. Some species that thrive in open or patchy landscapes, such as Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, and Killdeer, have practically disappeared or at best are present in much-reduced numbers.

Mountain Quail, which thrive in regenerating clear-cuts, are much less common now than in the late 1970s, when counts of around a hundred were regularly recorded. In the winter of 1977–1978 the Oakridge circle established the world record of 235 Mountain Quail; no other North American count has even come close to this record in recent years. Another CBC that I organize, the Antone CBC in Wheeler County, was the top count in North America one year with 56 Mountain Quail, but that took a lot of luck. We haven't come anywhere close to that total in recent years.

(Note: Lane County Audubon Society's roots are in Oakridge, and this newsletter's name, *The Quail*, refers to the Mountain Quail that are regularly found in the Oakridge area.)

While some species are diminishing in numbers, others that used to be scarce in the region have moved in. We recorded two Red-shouldered Hawks again this year. We saw one Wrentit, which is lower than our high count of four in December 2009; we found it in what seems to have become a reliable spot. This species was only recorded once in the historical 14-year period.

Eurasian Collared-Doves (which have shown up in Oakridge just in the past three years) are now abundant around town. It's hard to get an accurate count since our teams tend to overlap in the town areas, and flocks can move around during

the day. However, this year's total of 71 is very high compared with counts of 23 and 12 in the past two years. Rock Pigeons don't seem to be suffering from the competition and also registered a record high count of 172. (Again, hard to be sure that this doesn't reflect some overlap.)

On the other hand, we found no Mourning Doves during the CBC, although 11 were seen during count week.

Volunteer participation was low this year, with just nine counters. However we had enough experienced birders to field teams in all four of the main sectors, so our party-hour numbers were comparable to recent years.

The weather was reasonably nice on count day, Monday, December 16. It was frosty in the morning, but there was plenty of sunshine and temperatures were generally above freezing in the afternoon. We had limited access to upper elevations in some parts of the circle (any place with a north-aspect slope, where snow up to six inches deep was still hanging around on some of the forest roads), although in a couple of sectors with south exposures we were able to climb up to almost 4,500 feet in elevation.

Like many counts in Oregon this winter, we saw the lingering effects of early December's cold snap, especially for insectivores. Our counts of four Pacific Wrens and five Ruby-crowned Kinglets were record lows in the history of this count (in both cases, the first single-digit count on record in 18 years of data). Our counts of five American Robins and five Varied Thrushes were both just one bird higher than the record low counts. We missed Hermit Thrush, which was only missed in one previous year, and Western Bluebird, which has been found in most years. We only found one Golden-crowned Sparrow, which compares to a previous record low of six, and our count of six Fox Sparrows is the second-lowest count on record.

On the other hand, our counts of hardy species such as Oregon Junco (101), Spotted Towhee (20), and Song Sparrow (34) were fairly typical for this count. Our count of Black-capped Chickadees (11) was a record low but our count of Chestnut-backed Chickadees (50) was in the normal range.

Goose, duck, and grebe numbers were generally low, but not too surprising given that many ponds were frozen solid. Perhaps

more surprising, considering the circumstances, is that we recorded the first Northern Shovelers (two) ever for this count, we set a record for the most American Coots (30), and with 45 Mallards we came close to the historical record of 62.

We had a couple of rare count-week raptors (Northern Goshawk and Peregrine Falcon), but couldn't find either on count day. Well, we had one possible goshawk sighting on count day by Cheron Ferland, the same observer who found one for count week, but she said it was too far away to be sure.

(She studied this species in Colorado for her M.Sc.) So we'll let that one go for this year.

A pair of Great Gray Owls is still around the High Prairie area, but they evaded detection for this count (and count week). We did not have any nocturnal owling effort this year, so no importance should be attached to our failure to detect other owls, except for Northern Pygmy-Owl, which seems to be on a low cycle.

## 2013 Oakridge Christmas Bird Count Tally

December 16, 2013. CW = Count Week. 54 species on count day; 6 species during count week; 1,288 individuals

American Wigeon.....2	Bald Eagle .....3	Northern Flicker .....6	American Robin .....5
Mallard .....45	Sharp-shinned Hawk .....1	Steller's Jay .....53	Varied Thrush .....5
Northern Shoveler .....2	Northern Goshawk .....CW	Western Scrub-Jay .....16	Wren Tit .....1
Green-winged Teal.....CW	Red-shouldered Hawk .....2	American Crow .....68	European Starling .....200
Ring-necked Duck .....10	Red-tailed Hawk .....7	Common Raven .....44	Spotted Towhee .....20
Lesser Scaup .....1	Peregrine Falcon .....CW	Black-capped Chickadee .....11	Fox Sparrow .....6
Bufflehead .....12	American Coot .....30	Chestnut-backed Chickadee ..50	Song Sparrow .....34
Common Goldeneye .....2	Killdeer .....2	Bushtit .....30	Golden-crowned Sparrow .....1
Hooded Merganser .....9	Rock Pigeon .....172	Red-breasted Nuthatch .....11	Dark-eyed Junco .....101
Common Merganser .....1	Mourning Dove.....CW	Brown Creeper .....3	Red-winged Blackbird .....10
Ruddy Duck .....1	Eurasian Collared-Dove .....71	Pacific Wren .....4	Brewer's Blackbird .....CW
Ruffed Grouse .....5	Anna's Hummingbird .....1	Marsh Wren .....2	Purple Finch .....CW
Mountain Quail .....1	Belted Kingfisher .....4	American Dipper .....5	House Finch .....12
Double-crested Cormorant ....12	Red-breasted Sapsucker .....2	Golden-crowned Kinglet .....170	Pine Siskin .....4
Great Blue Heron .....2	Downy Woodpecker .....2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet .....6	House Sparrow .....8

## Program Meeting: Tuesday, February 25

### Birds as Villains?

Herb Wisner


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**L**ong-time LCAS member and frequent presenter Dan Gleason will talk about the villainous side of birds. Some birders dislike the cowbird because it leaves its egg for another species to raise. We speak unkind words about the European Starling and House Sparrow. Yet where is the evil in these birds but in our own minds? We adore the Black Phoebe, but would the damselfly it seeks view it so charitably? Nature makes no moral judgments. This program offers the opportunity to consider birds from a different perspective and learn about who they really are. You may discover beauty among villains, and villains among beauty.

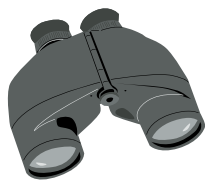
**February Program Meeting**

**Birds as Villains? with Dan Gleason**



**Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St., Eugene**

## Field Notes: November–December 2013



- Tundra Swan
- Palm Warbler

- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Hooded Merganser

*Tom and Allison Mickel*

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The November–December period was very dry (second driest December on record) and cold (record-setting lows in early December). The bird numbers and species seemed to be about normal for this time of year, with a few exceptions listed below. It will be interesting to analyze the CBC numbers to see what effect the cold snap had on birds in the area.

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

### WATERBIRDS

Snow Goose (5)	Nov 27	FRR area	BN	They winter in small numbers
Tundra Swan (8)	Oct 29	Waldo Lake	PY	Rare sighting from the high Cascades
Blue-winged Teal (2)	Nov 21	Delta Ponds	CT	A rare winter report
Cinnamon Teal	Nov 6	Delta Ponds	LM, et al.	Wintering for the third year
Canvasback	Nov 2	N Delta Rd pond	TMe	Good numbers found this year
Canvasback	Nov 4	Walterville Pond	BC	Good numbers found this year
Canvasback (5)	Nov 16	N Delta Rd pond	TMe	Good numbers found this year
Redhead	Nov 16	N Delta Rd pond	TMe	Found in small numbers most winters
Long-tailed Duck (4)	Dec 14	Florence CBC	JS, TM, TMe	A large number for Lane Co
Common Goldeneye (3)	Dec 18	Delta Ponds	JR	Not normally found “in town”
Barrow’s Goldeneye (19)	Nov 1	Waldo Lake	A&TM	Still on the breeding grounds
Hooded Merganser (2)	Nov 8	McKenzie River	BP	A pair on river
Eared Grebe (2)	Nov 5	NJSR	DH	Seen throughout period
Eared Grebe (3)	Nov 16	FRR—Orchard Pt	NS	Being found more often than in the past
Northern Fulmar	Nov 16	Strawberry Hill	JW	Not commonly seen from shore
American White Pelican (14)	Nov 16	FRR—Orchard Pt	NS	Getting late for them
Green Heron	Nov 23	Delta Ponds	JSi	They winter in small numbers
Green Heron	Nov 28	Barger & Delta Hwy	E&VT	They winter in small numbers
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nov 30	Royal Ave & Terry St	AC	Rarely found in winter except at day roosts
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Dec 11	Delta Ponds	DS, et al.	Rarely found in winter except at day roosts

### VULTURES to FALCONS

Turkey Vulture	Dec 7	Delta Ponds	JC	An unusual location
White-tailed Kite (4)	Nov 10	FRR—Royal Ave	TMe	Returning for the winter
Bald Eagle (6)	Nov 1	Waldo Lake	A&TM	Feeding on spawning kokanee
Virginia Rail	Nov 29	FRR—Royal Ave	PB	Normally only heard, not seen
Sora	Dec 14	Florence CBC	E&VT	Found most years in the area
Sandhill Crane (42)	Nov 10	Creswell area	NS	A normal time for their migration
Killdeer (75+)	Dec 6	SJSR	DP	Common for them to move out of the valley during cold weather
Red Phalarope (5)	Nov 30	NJSR	AC	Getting late for this species
Bonaparte’s Gull (5)	Nov 16	FRR—Orchard Pt	NS	Normally found when water is released
Heermann’s Gull	Nov 4	Walterville Pond	BC	A very rare inland record
Barred Owl	Nov 7	Garden Way—U of O	fide BN	Becoming more common around town



Barred Owl	Nov 15	central Eugene	fide EC	Becoming more common around town
Peregrine Falcon (3-6)	Dec 14	Florence CBC	TM, TMe	Large numbers for Lane Co

## WOODPECKERS to FINCHES

Lewis's Woodpecker	Nov 10	FRR—Royal Ave	TMe	Same bird as reported last month?
Northern Shrike (2)	Nov 10	Meadowlark Prairie	TMe	Rare to see two birds interacting
Northern Shrike	Nov 20	Cantrell Rd	AP, BH	A normal area for them to winter
Northern Shrike	Dec 4	FRR—Royal Ave	EC	A normal area for them to winter
Tree Swallow	Nov 21	FRR—Royal Ave	SG	Rare during the winter
Swallow species (2)	Dec 4	Dexter reservoir	VB	Rare during the winter
Western Bluebird (20)	Nov 29	FRR—Royal Ave	BN, PB, NB	A large number
American Pipit (30+)	Dec 6	SJSR	DP	Moving out of the valley during cold weather
Orange-crowned Warbler	Nov 11	W Eugene	fide AP	Normally winter in small numbers
Orange-crowned Warbler	Nov 13	central Eugene	EC	Normally winter in small numbers
Orange-crowned Warbler	Dec 25	Delta Ponds	JC, AC	At least a couple survived the cold and snow
Orange-crowned Warbler	Dec 25	Alton Baker Park	JH	At least a couple survived the cold and snow
Palm Warbler (2)	Dec 14	Florence CBC	TM, HH	Unusual in Lane Co
Clay-colored Sparrow	Nov 11	W Eugene	fide AP	About a dozen records for Lane Co
Savannah Sparrow	Dec 18	River Rd	BC	Unusual species for a feeder
Fox Sparrow	Nov 16	N Delta Rd	TMe	Red subspecies is rarely found in Oregon
Swamp Sparrow	Nov 26	Washburn Ln	HH, OH	One was found in the same area last year
White-throated Sparrow (5)	Dec 8	N Eugene	MM	Unusually high numbers in the cold and snow
White-throated Sparrow (6)	Dec 8	River Rd	BC	Unusually high numbers in the cold and snow
Western Tanager	Dec 25	River Rd	BC	Very rarely found in the winter

A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, AC Alan Contreras, AP Al Prigge, BC Barbara Combs, BH Bill Hunter, BN Bruce Newhouse, BP Bob Pickard, CT Charlie Thomas, DH Dan Heyerly, DP Diane Pettey, DS Don Schrouder, E&VT Eddie & Vjera Thompson, EC Ellen Cantor, HH Hendrick Herlyn, JC Jim Carlson, JH Jim Hardman, JR Jim Regali, JS John Sullivan, JSi Julia Siporin, JW Jay Withgott, LM Larry McQueen, MM Marica Maffei, NB Neil Bjorklund, NS Noah Strycker, OH Oscar Harper, PB Peg Boulay, PY Penelope Youngfeather, SG Steve Gordon, TMe Thomas Meinzen, VB Vickie Buck. **Fide** indicates a sighting that was reported to the listed observer.

## Update on the Greater Sage-Grouse

Dave Stone

[dns@efn.org](mailto:dns@efn.org)

When I wrote about the Greater Sage-Grouse in the November issue of *The Quail*, I mentioned that a final decision on protection of the bird would come in 2014. The Bureau of Land Management has just released its draft plan and is receiving comments until February 20. As expected, the draft plan is not as strong as it should be in protecting the grouse.

Please send comments before February 20 to urge the strongest possible protection for the Greater Sage-Grouse to: Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Joan Suther, 1220 SW Third Ave., Portland, OR 97204

For more information about this issue, go to:  
<http://onda.org/get-involved/take-action>

## Thank You, Members!

Thanks to our members for sending in their donation envelopes with support for Lane County Audubon Society activities! Since our November request, we have received over 125 donations. We appreciate YOU, our members!

—LCAS Board of Directors



# 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](http://www.laneaudubon.org)



### Deadlines:

**March Issue: Feb. 1**

**April Issue: March 1**

Submit material to  
Paula Rich  
[richpaula@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com).

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## 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

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Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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- Check here if you prefer to receive your newsletter by e-mail.

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

### Please contact me regarding

- Gift memberships
- Volunteering for Lane Audubon activities
- Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program
- I'd like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

### Mail this form and your payment to:

Lane County Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 5086  
Eugene, OR 97405

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## Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

*A service to Lane Audubon members*

### **Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah**

Sunday February 2, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

*Tour: TNC's Willamette Confluence Preserve, Lower Middle Fork Complex*

John Helmer will lead a tour of the rarely seen Lower Middle Fork complex of the Willamette Confluence Preserve.

Friends tours are limited to 20 people; registration is required and opens 30 days before the tour.

*Free. FMI: 541.344.8350, [www.bufordpark.org/tours](http://www.bufordpark.org/tours)*

### **North American Butterfly Association**

Monday, February 10, 7:30 p.m.

*Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street*

*Organizing a Collection of Three Million by Dr. Christopher Marshall*

Dr. Marshall is the curator of OSU's arthropod collection of almost 3 million specimens, representing tens of thousands of species. He will speak about how he is digitizing and cataloging the collection so that researchers can pull out a "virtual drawer" and examine images of any specimen. Refreshments are at 7:00 p.m., presentation is at 7:30.

*Free. FMI: [www.naba.org/chapters/nabaes/](http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabaes/)*

### **Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)**

Tuesday, February 11, 9:00–10:30 a.m.

*Wetland Wander at Meadowlark Prairie*

Meet at the Meadowlark Prairie Overlook on Green Hill Road, south of the intersection with Royal Avenue. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes; WREN will provide binoculars.

*Free. FMI: 541.338.7047, [info@wewetlands.org](mailto:info@wewetlands.org)*

### **Winter Wings Festival**

February 13–16, Klamath Falls, OR

This festival offers a huge assortment of birding and nature-related activities for all ages and skill levels. Featured speakers and trip leaders include Bill Thompson III, editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*; Rick Sammon, photographer; and Brian Sullivan, raptor expert.

*FMI: 1.877.541.BIRD, [winterwingsfest.org](http://winterwingsfest.org), [info@WinterWingsFest.org](mailto:info@WinterWingsFest.org)*

### **Great Backyard Bird Count**

Friday, February 14, through Monday, February 17

The 17th annual GBBC takes place this month. Visit the official website at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) for more information.

### **Mt. Pisgah Arboretum**

Saturday, February 15, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

*Lichen Walk*

Join botanist Daphne Stone on an easy stroll through the Arboretum to learn about lichens and their habitats and ecology. This walk is appropriate for both children and adults.

Members free, \$5 for nonmembers

*FMI: 541.747.1504, [www.MountPisgahArboretum.org](http://www.MountPisgahArboretum.org)*

### **Olympic Peninsula BirdFest**

April 4–6, 2014

Participate in guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, a silent auction, and a gala banquet. The featured speaker is Noah Strycker.

*FMI: [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org), [opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com](mailto:opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com), Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society at 360.681.4076*

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## 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 LCAS 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](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org).

[laneaudubon.org](http://laneaudubon.org). For more information, visit our Volunteer page online at [www.laneaudubon.org/support/volunteer](http://www.laneaudubon.org/support/volunteer).

### **Membership Renewal**

Prepare mailings to Lane County Audubon members whose local memberships have expired. You can do this from home; no technology needed! This opportunity requires a couple of hours, four or five times a year.

### **Bike Path Cleanup Coordinator**

Coordinate cleanup of our stretch of the West Eugene bike path.

**February Program Meeting**

**Birds as Villains?  
with Dan Gleason**



**Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014  
7:30 p.m.**


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



**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER**

*The Quail*

**P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405**

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**Bird Walks and Events**



*Jim Maloney*

541.968.9249

*jimgmal@comcast.com*

**Saturday,  
February 15**

**THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK**

*Site and leader to be determined*

The destination for February's Third Saturday Bird Walk will be determined by interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL and other pertinent information prior to the day. If a location is identified before February 15, we will post it on the LCAS Facebook page and on the LCAS website ([www.laneaudubon.org](http://www.laneaudubon.org)).

We 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](mailto:jimgmal@comcast.net).



**Electronic version of  
*The Quail* available!**

Help us save paper and postage! Lane County Audubon Society offers an electronic version of *The Quail*. Each month, LCAS will send a link to your email address that will take you to a PDF version of our newsletter.

If you would like to begin receiving *The Quail* electronically or would like more information, please contact Tim Godsfil at [tgodsil@gmail.com](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com).



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