



The

February 2017

Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Armchair Nature for Winter

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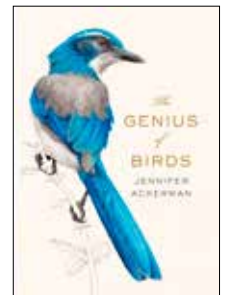
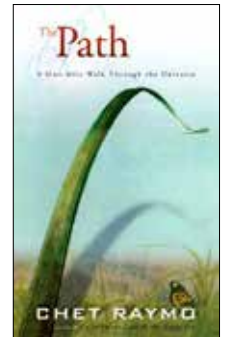
Contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com

Winter is not the greatest time to find and watch birds, thanks to cold, inclement weather. But it is a great time to read and learn about birds! Here are some book recommendations shared by other nature lovers. Finding an interesting bird book to expand our knowledge and interest in nature will be easy this year. Hope you enjoy the flights of mental imagery on the pages of some of these books!

Steve Gordon’s recommendation: “I just read a really nice little book, *The Path* by Chet Raymo (Walker & Co., 2003). It makes me remember the amazing wonder I felt as a child for small parts of my yard and the fields nearby.” The author teaches astronomy and physics at Stonehill College in Massachusetts. His daily walks to and from work take him about one mile, including a stretch through a park. He ties the history of the universe and his town in with observations of stars, birds, plants, photosynthesis, and more. He has a good eye, ear, and mind. Through his story, he tells us of his feelings and knowledge of “place” at both a minute and universal scale.

Jim Maloney recommends *The Genius of Birds* by Jennifer Ackerman (Penguin Press, 2016). A *New York Times* bestseller, this book is not pretty prose about our favorite feathered friends. It succinctly summarizes studies of bird intelligence by informing us not only of the facts but also the history of

(continued on page 8)



2016 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

Dick Lamster, Count Coordinator



Many Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) birders awoke Sunday morning, January 1, 2017, to a half inch of snow and cold weather. This was predicted but somewhat unexpected since many were outside three days before in short sleeve shirts and no jacket. Such is the life of Christmas Bird Count (CBC) participants all over North America.

Even with the poor weather and lousy driving conditions, 130 hardy bird watchers gathered with the 27 Team Leaders and took to the field to see all the birds possible within their designated areas. Combined, the teams walked 142 miles in 158 hours and drove 522 miles in 98 hours. Six teams went owling for 10 hours and covered 31 miles.

Another 111 people decided to be Home Counters, and they reported 75 species. When these figures were added to the results of the field teams, a total of 131 species and 73,390 individual birds were seen this year. An additional 10 species were seen during Count Week. Check Dan Gleason's report on pages 3 and 4 for the complete species list and total numbers of birds.

At the end of the day, nearly 100 tired but happy birders gathered for the LCAS-sponsored Chili Feed to share stories and participate in the traditional countdown. They were treated to two large cakes in celebration of the 75th ECBC. All



participants were given "lapel" pins with the image of the LCAS Mountain Quail logo on it along with the 75th anniversary lettering. The two cakes were decorated to match the pins. If you were on a team or a Home Counter and did not receive a pin, please attend one of the next three monthly LCAS programs to pick one up. If you cannot attend one of these meetings, please contact Dick at 541-343-8664 or maeveanddick@q.com with your mailing address.

Allison Mickel prepared 10 gallons of homemade vegetarian chili for the group, which was served along with dinner rolls, chips and salad. Sandy Poinsett organized the rooms and food service supplies to make for a fun ending to a great day of birding.

I want to thank Allison and Sandy for doing the Chili Feed, Robert Mertz for spearheading the clean-up, Herb Wisner for

organizing the Home Counters, Dan Gleason for compiling the results and the 27 Team Leaders whose names appear below. Without the Team Leaders' hard work of assembling their teams, guiding them all day and then reporting the results, the ECBC would not be the heart-warming event that it is.



The results of this year's ECBC will be entered into the 117-year record of all the CBCs around the continent. Results are used by scientists and researchers to assess changes in bird life over the past century. The results of all the CBCs (2,505 last year) are on the National Audubon Society's website at christmasbirdcount.org. The code for the ECBC is OREU.

Thanks again to all of you who participated and helped to make the 2016 ECBC one of the biggest and best in the country!

Team Leaders by Area

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1: Ron Renchler | 12A: Steve Gordon |
| 2: Jim Regali | 12B: Thomas Meinzen |
| 3A: Dan Heyerly | 13A: Charlie Thomas |
| 3B: Darryl Wisner | 13B: Holly Hartmann |
| 4: Rick Ahrens | 14: Dave Bontrager |
| 5A: Donna Albino | 15: Jim Maloney |
| 5B: Diane Horgan | 16: Linda Gilbert |
| 6: Kit Larsen | 17: John Sullivan |
| 7: Roger Robb | 18: Caryn Stoess |
| 8: Davey Wendt | 19: Barbara Combs |
| 9: Tom Mickel | 20A: Brandon Green |
| 10: Vjera Thompson | 20B: Bruce Newhouse |
| 11A: David Novak | 21: Pat Boleyn |
| 11B: Dick Lamster | |

2016 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally

January 1, 2017

131 Species + 10 Count Week, 73,390 individuals

H = High, RH = Record High, L = Low, RL = Record Low, TRH = Ties Record High, CW = Count Week

Species	Grand Total	Relative Status	Species	Grand Total	Relative Status
White-fronted Goose	40		Common Loon		CW
Snow Goose	3		Glaucous-winged Gull	110	
Brant	1	TRH	Double-crested Cormorant	420	
Cackling Goose	21,200		American White Pelican	65	RH
Canada Goose	9,309		Great Blue Heron	97	
Canada Goose type	1,080		Great Egret	56	
Tundra Swan	28	L	Green Heron	1	
Wood Duck	91	H	Black-crowned Night-Heron	1	
Gadwall	109		Turkey Vulture	34	H
Eurasian Wigeon	2		Osprey	3	
American Wigeon	485		White-tailed Kite	6	
Mallard	1,005		Bald Eagle	61	H
Blue-winged Teal	1		Northern Harrier	85	H
Cinnamon Teal	4		Sharp-shinned Hawk	15	
Northern Shoveler	272		Cooper's Hawk	22	H
Northern Pintail	229	L	Red-shouldered Hawk	25	H
Green-winged Teal	668		Red-tailed Hawk	7	L
Canvasback	2	L	Rough-legged Hawk	1	L
Redhead		CW	Barn Owl	2	
Ring-necked Duck	200	H	Western Screech-Owl		CW
Greater Scaup	4		Great Horned Owl	3	
Lesser Scaup	74		Northern Pygmy-Owl		CW
Bufflehead	135	H	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	
Common Goldeneye	6		Belted Kingfisher	25	
Hooded Merganser	53	H	Acorn Woodpecker	103	H
Common Merganser	98		Red-breasted Sapsucker	17	
Ruddy Duck	72		Downy Woodpecker	101	H
California Quail	63		Hairy Woodpecker	11	H
Ring-necked Pheasant	17		Northern Flicker	396	
Wild Turkey	590	RH	Pileated Woodpecker	3	
Pied-billed Grebe	62		American Kestrel	83	
Western Grebe	9	L	Merlin	8	
Rock Pigeon	550		Peregrine Falcon	9	RH
Eurasian Collared-Dove	265	RH	Black Phoebe	22	H
Mourning Dove	247		Say's Phoebe		CW
Anna's Hummingbird	283	RH	Hutton's Vireo	3	
Virginia Rail	1		Steller's Jay	318	H
American Coot	28	L	California Scrub-Jay	644	
Sandhill Crane		CW	American Crow	1,480	
Semipalmated Plover		CW	Common Raven	111	H
Killdeer	830		Tree Swallow	1	
Dunlin	4,885	H	Black-capped Chickadee	905	
Long-billed Dowitcher	2	L	Mountain Chickadee	1	
Wilson's Snipe	49		Chestnut-backed Chickadee	145	H
Spotted Sandpiper	2		Bushtit	886	H
Greater Yellowlegs	95	H	Red-breasted Nuthatch	84	
Lesser Yellowlegs	1		White-breasted Nuthatch	22	
Mew Gull	3	L	Brown Creeper	63	H
Ring-billed Gull	218	H	Bewick's Wren	92	
Western Gull	8		Pacific Wren	38	
California Gull	17	L	Marsh Wren	8	
Herring Gull	8		Golden-crowned Kinglet	442	
Thayer's Gull	2	L	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	305	
(Unidentified Gull)	355		Wrentit	6	

2016 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally *continued*

Species	Grand Total	Relative Status	Species	Grand Total	Relative Status
Western Bluebird	123	H	Yellow-rumped Warbler	212	H
Hermit Thrush	7		Townsend's Warbler	71	
American Robin.....	2,643		Spotted Towhee	514	H
Varied Thrush.....	32	L	Savannah Sparrow	6	
European Starling.....	6,794		Fox Sparrow	189	
Cedar Waxwing	34	L	Song Sparrow.....	484	
House Sparrow	385		Lincoln's Sparrow	10	
American Pipit	230	H	Swamp Sparrow.....	1	
House Finch	475		White-throated Sparrow	48	RH
Purple Finch	94		Harris's Sparrow	2	
Cassin's Finch		CW	White-crowned Sparrow	432	H
Red Crossbill.....		CW	Golden-crowned Sparrow	992	H
Pine Siskin	15	L	Dark-eyed Junco	3,232	
Lesser Goldfinch	130	H	Western Tanager.....		CW
American Goldfinch.....	297	H	Red-winged Blackbird.....	3,851	
Orange-crowned Warbler	3		Western Meadowlark.....	93	
MacGillivray's Warbler.....	1		Brewer's Blackbird	881	
Palm Warbler	1+ 1	CW			

Eugene Christmas Bird Count Compiler Notes

Dan Gleason, Count Compiler



For the 2016 Christmas Bird Count, participants were greeted with freezing, wet weather, but that didn't prevent most people from spending the day in the field. Despite the weather, good numbers were reported for many species of birds.

On count day, 131 species were reported by the teams and home counters. Ten additional species were seen during Count Week. Some unusual species seen this year included Brant, Harris's Sparrow, MacGillivray's Warbler and Palm Warbler on Count Day, and Sandhill Crane and Western Tanager during Count Week. A Brant (1 bird), seen this year, has only been seen on two previous counts, also with a single bird reported each time. Palm Warbler has only been reported once before and MacGillivray's Warbler and Sandhill Crane have been included on two previous counts.

Record high numbers were reported for six species: Wild Turkey (590), Eurasian Collared-Dove (255), Anna's Hummingbird (283), American White Pelican (65), Peregrine Falcon (9) and White-throated Sparrow (48). Many other species were also high in numbers. Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawks, Cooper's Hawks and other raptors were among the species with high numbers, but oddly, Rough-

legged Hawk (1, tied record low) and Red-tailed Hawk (7) were in very low numbers.

In addition to field participants, 111 home counters reported their sightings. These home observers helped contribute to our record number of Anna's Hummingbirds. This is the second year in a row in which we exceeded the record number reported.

It was a good count despite the unpleasant weather. Everyone enjoyed gathering at the end of the day for great chili and sharing of finds. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a good count despite a high count of cold hands and feet.



photo by Cary Kerst

2016 Florence Christmas Bird Count

Kit Larsen, Count Coordinator and Compiler



The 33rd Florence Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday December 17, 2016. The weather was cold, dry, and generally overcast with mild winds. At least 37 people participated in the field, and another 9 sent in Home Counter reports.

We added a species for the count week. A Brambling was found on Sunday, within the count circle. The species number was a low 117, compared to an average of 126. The total number of birds was also low—about 9,000 versus 16,000.

Red-shouldered Hawk and Snow Goose were reported and are not usually found on our count. Duck and goose numbers were higher than normal. We found 18 Black Phoebe, 41 Virginia Rail, and 4 Sora.

Mew Gull, California Gull, and Western Gull numbers were low. Less than a quarter of their usual numbers were seen. Other gull counts were down as well. Additional low species numbers included Northern Pintail, White-winged Scoter, Snowy Plover (only 1), Varied Thrush, Townsend's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Belted Kingfisher, and House Finch.

We counted only 25 Collared Doves. Three years ago, we spotted more than 100. Only 2 Purple Finch were reported (from a feeder), and only 4 Pine Siskin were found.

Species not found included Ruddy Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Tundra Swan, Surfbird, Ring-billed Gull, Dunlin, and American Dipper.

2016 Oakridge Christmas Bird Count

by Joel Geier, Count Coordinator and Compiler



The Oakridge Christmas Bird Count had to be postponed when an ice storm on December 14 produced dangerous driving conditions. The weather for our second try on December 29, 2016, turned out much better, with Oakridge temperatures rising to 57° F in bright sunshine by early afternoon. However, shaded parts of valley bottoms remained frosty, and access to elevations above 2,500 feet was hindered by lingering snow up to eight inches deep.

Forested areas seemed surprisingly quiet even where the sun was shining. Our total counts of Steller's Jays (14), Varied Thrushes (4), Chestnut-backed Chickadees (50), and Golden-crowned Kinglets (99) were well below average. We found no forest finches, such as Red Crossbills or Pine Siskins. For just the second time in seven years, we found no accipiters. Perhaps the Sharpies and Cooper's Hawks figured out ahead of us that there just aren't many songbirds in the forests this winter!

We had better luck in the residential areas around ponds and brush patches. Our counts for Fox Sparrows and Song Sparrows were the highest since this count was revived in 2009, after being discontinued in 1985. One of those Fox Sparrows

was a well-described "Red" Sparrow, a new subspecies for this count and perhaps our rarest bird of the day.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets sallied after small flying insects that emerged in the afternoon warmth. Even a Spotted Towhee tried to do some aerial flycatching! Other birds that brought enjoyment included Wrentits (a life bird for one volunteer), American Dippers (found by four out of five teams), and Anna's Hummingbirds.

Two new species made it onto the count list this year: Clark's Grebe and Lesser Goldfinch. Clark's Grebe was considered to be a subspecies of Western Grebe prior to 1985, so even if some occurred in the earlier period of this count, they might not have been noticed. An adult Golden Eagle and three Purple Finches were the first records for those species in the "modern" period of this count. Wild Turkeys were found for the second time, increasing here as elsewhere in the Willamette Basin.

Our total of 58 species on count day was below the average for recent years. We guessed that the cold conditions earlier
(continued on page 7)

Field Notes: November-December 2016



- Snowy Egret
- Palm Warbler

- “Red” Fox Sparrow
- Western Tanager

- Brambling
- Black-legged Kittiwake

Tom and Allison Mickel

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Weather conditions ranged widely during the period, from sunny and warm to many days of freezing rain! A few very rare birds were found and an amazing number of “summer” birds lingering or trying to overwinter. It will be interesting to see what the rest of the winter brings.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR), Tokatee Klootchman State Wayside (Tokatee Klootchman).

WATERBIRDS

Snow Goose (3)	Dec 30	Alvadore Rd	DE	Normally a few are around
Brant	Dec 3	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	Rarely found inland
Trumpeter Swan (3)	Nov 29	Creswell area	NS	Rare in Lane Co
Cinnamon Teal (9)	Dec 3	South Canary Rd	SB	Large number; normally winter in this area
Cinnamon Teal	Dec 30	Cantrell Rd	CT	One or two normally winter in the valley
Surf Scoter	Nov 10	LCC ponds	AP	Rarely found inland
Surf Scoter	Dec 5	Kirk Pond	SM	Rarely found inland
Common Goldeneye	Dec	Florence area	m.ob.	Normally not found in large numbers
Red-breasted Merganser	Dec 6	Creswell area	NS	Rarely found inland
Eared Grebe	Dec 1 & 15	Creswell area	NS	Also a good location
Clark’s Grebe	Dec 29	Oakridge CBC	fide JGe	A first for the count
Northern Fulmar (15)	Nov 15	NJSR	DP	A good movements of seabirds
Pink-footed Shearwater	Nov 15	NJSR	DP	A good movements of seabirds
Sooty Shearwater (40)	Nov 15	NJSR	DP	A good movements of seabirds
Parasitic Jaeger	Nov 15	NJSR	DP	A good movements of seabirds
American White Pelican	Nov/Dec	FRR	m.ob.	Very large numbers
Brown Pelican	Nov 13	Tokatee Klootchman	JS,JL	Last report for the year
American Bittern	Nov 20	FRR	M&JVW	Last report for the year in the valley
American Bittern	Dec 10	Siltcoos River area	GR	They winter most years
Snowy Egret	Nov 11	Cottage Grove Res.	TMo	Rare in Lane Co.
Green Heron	Dec 16	Row River Nature Park	BB	They winter most years

VULTURES to GULLS

Turkey Vulture	Dec 14	Oakridge	MLS	Rare in the winter in this area
Osprey	Dec 11	Alton Baker Park	RR	Have wintered here before
Osprey	Dec 25	Cottage Grove Res	TMo	Have wintered here last few years
Rough-legged Hawk	Nov 7	Van Duyn Rd	BC	First report for the winter season
Golden Eagle	Dec 29	Oakridge CBC	fide JGe	Unusual in Lane Co
Virginia Rail (17)	Dec 17	Duncan Island area	E&VT	Very high numbers
Virginia Rail (10)	Dec 17	Heceta Beach Rd	LS	Very high numbers
Sora (4)	Dec 17	Duncan Island area	E&VT	A normal wintering location
Sandhill Crane (46)	Dec 4	Creswell area	NS	Later than normal migration
Sandhill Crane (60-70)	Dec 6	Mt Pisgah	TC	Headed south
Sandhill Crane (67)	Dec 6	Camas Swale	NS	Same flock landing for night
Sandhill Crane	Dec 29	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	Very late for Lane Co
Red Phalarope	mid-Nov	Valley & Coast	m.ob.	Very large numbers!
Red Phalarope (2000)	Nov 15	NJSR	DP	Amazing numbers!
Lesser Yellowlegs	Dec 30	FRR	JS	Rare in the winter
Ancient Murrelet (2)	Dec 17	NJSR	GF et al.	Always a good find
Black-legged Kittiwake	Nov 13	Tokatee Klootchman	JS,JL	Only report for the period - rare
Franklin’s Gull	Dec 9	Washburn Ln	JS,BMc	Rare in Lane Co except migration
Heermann’s Gull	Nov 13	Tokatee Klootchman	JS,JL	Last report for the year

WOODPECKERS to FINCHES

Black-backed Woodpecker	Dec 7	Gold Lake area	LG	Always a good find, especially in winter
Say's Phoebe	Nov 5	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	Getting to be almost annual in winter
Tree Swallow	Dec 22	Creswell area	NS	First report for the "spring"
American Pipit (300)	Nov 16	Golden Gardens Park	LM et al.	Large flock for Lane Co
Cedar Waxwing (5)	Dec 20	SE Eugene	JGa	Small numbers around, but no Bohemians
Orange-crowned Warbler	Dec 26	SW Eugene	AC	Winter in small numbers most years
MacGillivray's Warbler	Dec 29	NW Eugene	fide DG	Have wintered a couple times
Common Yellowthroat	Nov 18	FRR - Royal Ave	SM,CA	Last report for the breeding season
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Nov 16	Kirk Pond	SH	Fourth Lane Co record - last reported 11/21
Palm Warbler	Nov 11	FRR - Royal Ave	SH	Rarely found inland
Palm Warbler	Dec 30	Cantrell Rd	CT	Rarely found inland
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Nov 30	Alton Baker Park	DA et al.	Very rarely winter
Hermit Warbler	Dec 6	near U of O	BN	Very rarely winter
American Tree Sparrow	Nov 4	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	Seen almost annually in very small numbers
Harris's Sparrow	Dec 3	Bond Rd	SH	Rare wintering species
Vesper Sparrow	Dec 3	FRR - Royal Ave	SM	Very late report
"Red" Fox Sparrow	Dec 18	Eugene	JD	Rare in Oregon
"Red" Fox Sparrow	Dec 29	Oakridge CBC	fide JGe	Rare in Oregon
Swamp Sparrow	Nov 7	Bond Rd	SH	First report for the winter
Western Tanager	Nov 14	SE Eugene	A&TM	Rarely found in the winter
Western Tanager	Dec 29	SE Eugene	TM	Rarely found in the winter
Brambling	Dec 18	Sutton Lake	LW	Third record for Lane Co
Pine Siskin (100+)	Dec 16	Oakridge	MLS	Only report for the period
Late Reports				
Tropical Kingbird	Oct 28	Florence	AC	Annual this time of year
Northern Mockingbird	late Oct	Morse Ranch Park	CQ	Annual wintering species in the valley
Clay-colored Sparrow (2)	Oct 28	Florence	AC	Rare late migrant/wintering species

A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, AC Alan Contreras, AP Al Prigge, BB Barbara Butzer, BC Barbara Combs, BMc Barry McKenzie, BN Bruce Newhouse, CA Cindy Armstrong, CQ Charlie Quinn, CT Charlie Thomas, DA Dennis Arendt, DE Deanna Emig, DG Dan Gleason, DP Diane Pettey, E&VT Eddie & Vjera Thompson, fide indicates a sighting reported to the listed observer, GF Graham Floyd, GR Glenn Reubon, JD Joni Dawning, JGa Joshua Galpern, JGe Joel Geier, JL Joshua Little, JS John Sullivan, LG Linda Gilbert, LM Larry McQueen, LS Lorelle Sherman, LW Lisa Wallace, m.ob. many observers, M&JVW M&J VarnumWeber, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, NS Noah Strycker, RR Roger Robb, SB Sean Burns, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, TC Tom Cable, TMO Tori Morgan

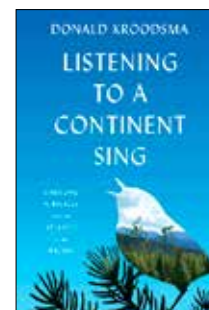
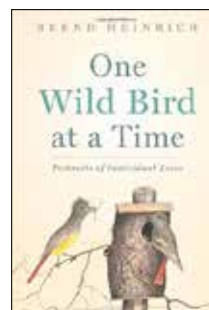
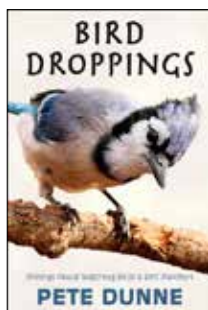
2016 Oakridge Christmas Bird Count

(continued from page 5)

in December may have caused some birds to move to lower elevations. Species observed during the week of the count but missed on count day included Mountain Quail, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch.

Thanks to this year's field volunteers: Barbara Butzer, Grace Fowler, Julie Parker, Diane Horgan, Dave Braunschweiger, Mary Lee Sayre, Amy Weih, Alicja Nichols, Jeannie Cabello-Penn, and Wil Geier. Thanks also to The Ridge Homestyle Cafe for hosting our morning meeting, and to Brewer's Union Local #180 for hosting the countdown.





the research and observations of the wonderful world of bird ingenuity. There are many layers of information to increase our love, respect and appreciation for these wonderful animals. Jim also suggests this website for more bird book reviews: forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2017/01/09/the-twelve-best-books-about-birds-and-birding-in-2016/#252e95e938b0

We cannot overlook the books by two West Coast authors who presented programs for Lane Audubon in 2016:

Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America by Stephen A. Shunk (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016). Like other Peterson Reference Guides this is a guide to the natural history of these birds. With many excellent photos and interesting information on each of North America's 23 woodpecker species, this is a treasure.

Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls by Paul Bannick (The Mountaineers Books, 2016). *Owl* integrates more than 200 new intimate and dramatic images, up-to-date science about owls and first-hand experience based upon tens of thousands of hours spent with owls on their territories in the wild. Bannick continues to bring us into the lives of birds with his stunning photography.

Some other new books that have caught my attention via the Birder's Library: birderslibrary.com/news/book_news/2016-bird-book-preview.htm

Bird Droppings: Writings About Watching Birds and Bird Watchers by Pete Dunne (Stackpole Books, 2016). A collection of new birding essays from the popular author of a dozen bird books. He is also a teacher and the director of Cape May Bird Observatory.

One Wild Bird at a Time: Portraits of Individual Lives by Bernd Heinrich (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016). Heinrich is a retired biologist living in a cabin in the Maine woods. He is still observing birds and doing scientific research without leaving his own backyard.

Listening to a Continent Sing: Birdsong by Bicycle from the Atlantic to the Pacific by Donald Kroodsma (Princeton University Press, 2016). Kroodsma's previous books about birdsong—*The Singing Life of Birds* and *Birdsong by the Seasons*—are excellent. His new book is poignant and insightful, taking you on a travel adventure unlike any other—accompanied on every leg of your journey by birdsong.

Happy Winter Reading!

Volunteer to Be an Audubon in the Schools Instructor

Would you like to teach elementary school students about birds? The Audubon in the Schools program sends teams of volunteer instructors into the schools to teach third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students both science and art using bird specimens, feathers, bones, and nests. No teaching experience or artistic talent

is required. All you need is an interest in teaching children and a few hours a month. You can check out the program by sitting in on a class. If you would like more information, contact Caryn Stoess, Audubon in the Schools Coordinator, at 541.357.8739 or AITSEugene@gmail.com

Birding Oregon: Bringing it all back home, with Dave Stone

Judy Brown

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Here's Dave Stone's description of his February program:

Oregon – what a wonderful place to learn birding!

Years ago, when I was asked to become Conservation Chair of Lane County Audubon Society, I eagerly put on

that hat – a great platform to advocate for conservation, I thought. And it turned out that it was.

I also found out that when you wear that hat, people expect you to know birds. Even though I had been teaching nature photography for ten years, I had paid little attention to birds. That all changed when I donned the hat. I began learning birds on what I call the photogenic scale – I started with the biggest, most approachable birds out there – Great Blue Herons. I now have more photos of GBHs than any other species. Turns out they occur all over Oregon. As I chased them around the state I discovered and photographed nearly 200 more species right here in Oregon. Don't worry, I'm not going to show you 200 different bird species.


Join me on February 28 as I take you on a tour of our Pacific Wonderland and all the places to see birds.

—Dave Stone

Dave has been photographing professionally since 1988. He has been published by National Geographic, National Audubon Society and numerous local and regional publications. He offers photo trips, workshops and private lessons covering many aspects of photography. His class titles include: Nature Photography, Bird Photography, Travel Photography, Making Friends with your Digital Camera, and Photoshop. He spends his spare time traveling and photographing landscapes, wildflowers, birds and anything else that needs to be photographed.

February Program Meeting

**Birding Oregon:
Bringing it all back home,
with Dave Stone**



Tuesday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.

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



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 laneaudubon.org



Deadlines:

March issue: Feb. 7
April issue: March 4

Submit material to
Karen Irscher
quailkaren@earthlink.net

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)\$ _____

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

- Current National Audubon member Don't know

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

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

Please contact me regarding

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

Mail this form and your payment to:

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

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Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Winter Wings Festival

February 16-19

Klamath Basin

FMI: 877.541.2473; info@winterwingsfest.org

Great Backyard Bird Count, 2017

February 17-20

Join bird watchers worldwide who will be counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of what birds are where. Count birds in your backyard, local park, or wherever you spot a bird, and submit observations online.

FMI or sign-up for participation: gbbc.birdcount.org

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, February 18, 10 a.m.-noon

Lichens Walk

Join Daphne Stone on this popular walk through the Arboretum exploring lichens, their habitats, and ecology. Learn a few names and enjoy the moist winter air which makes the Pacific Northwest such a great place for lichens to grow. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

Sunday, February 19, 9 a.m.-noon

Winter Bird Walk

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for a monthly bird walk intended for people at all levels of birding experience. Vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues will be used to identify the Arboretum's diversity of winter and year-round residents. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Rain or shine. \$5, members free. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center.

FMI: 541.741.4110 or mountpisgaharboretum.org

Nearby Nature

Monday, February 20, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Birding Blitz! No School Day

Discover who's zipping, zooming, and looming in Alton Baker Park. Practice beak techniques, check out our talon collection, and make a tasty bird seed treat. Go on a bird-watching walk in the park. \$40 members/\$45 non-members. Ages 6-9 kids. Outdoors in Alton Baker Park and at our yurt.

FMI or to register, 541.687.9699; nearbynature.org/programs/no-school-day-programs; or email info@nearbynature

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, February 20, 7 p.m.

Highlights from a Life List in Photos, with Dave Stone

Attendees start by sharing recent sightings and discussing bird-related topics. Local photographer Dave Stone will share a selection of photos and short video clips, enhanced by music and maps. All are drawn from the photo archive he has built during decades of visiting reserves throughout the United States and Canada. Free. All are welcome. Location: McNail-Riley House, 601 W 13th Ave., Eugene, at the NW corner of 13th and Jefferson St, by the old Lincoln School.

FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com

Olympic Birdfest

April 7-9

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction and raffle, gala banquet, and more. The featured speaker is noted nature photographer Bonnie Block. Join the festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 4-6. Register separately at pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon. Extend your festival with a Neah Bay post-trip on April 9-11: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington.

FMI and/or to register: olympicbirdfest.org



Wood Ducks

Photos by Cary Kerst



Dark-eyed Junco

Feb. Program Meeting
Birding Oregon:
Bringing it all back
home, with Dave Stone




Tuesday, Feb. 28, 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

Third Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, February 18, 8 a.m.

Site and leader will be determined by interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL and other pertinent information available before the day of the walk. Details will be posted on the LCAS Facebook page (facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824?ref=hl) and on the website (laneaudubon.org).

All ages and skill levels are welcome. To carpool, meet at 8 a.m. 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: Jim Maloney at 541.968.9249 or jimgmal@comcast.net



Spotted Towhee

Photos by Cary Kerst



Anna's Hummingbird