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News from Lane County Audubon Society



## From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

## Barry Lopez: Revered and Remembered

I would like to acknowledge the passing of Barry Lopez, the well-known author who lived along McKenzie River for decades. I began reading his work in the 1970s and continued to buy his books as new ones were released. I still have some of those old books on my shelves, having boxed and moved them with me several times. I have given his books as gifts and feel that his words help open a person's mind to the possibilities of imagination.

After my mother began losing her vision, I read one of his short stories into a tape recorder, so she could enjoy listening to it. Barry Lopez' *Of Wolves and Men* and *Arctic Dreams* are non-fiction, based on field studies and exploration he was involved with. Both books are a result of his search to understand the

interface of nature and humanity, and the interdependence of humanness and the earth's places where we live and that we cherish. His short stories explore the range of human experience in relation to nature. He finds creases in the normal perceptions of a world view to push into a realm of mystery and imagination. Lopez' words can transport us with evocative visual imagery that leaves an afterglow of an unexpected new experience. We come away, wanting more! We are lucky to have had such a talented, true friend of the environment in our midst.

I asked a few friends to share their thoughts about Barry Lopez' works and their experiences with him.

Ron Renschler wrote that *Field Notes: The Grace Note of the Canyon Wren* (1994) is one of Lopez' several



Barry Lopez

works of fiction. A collection of 12 short stories, the book is brief, and most stories are lightly intertwined. One of their overarching themes is the connection between humans and nature, including the mysteries that result when the two are in tension. Stylistically, references to birds figure prominently in many stories, just as they do in the subtitles of two other works he wrote that make up a trilogy of sorts: *Desert Notes: Reflections in the Eye of a Raven* (1976), and *River Notes: The Dance of Herons* (1979).

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Lane County Audubon Society

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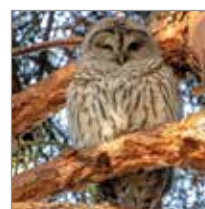
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# Lane County Audubon Society's 2020 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

By Dick Lamster, Count Coordinator



In late September, the National Audubon Society notified all 2,646 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Coordinators that they would allow CBCs, but only under strict COVID guidelines. These included social distancing, masks, no carpooling except family “pods,” and no live Countdowns. They further recommended no sharing of spotting scopes, binoculars, or bird identification books.

I discussed this with all 27 Team Leaders, and everyone agreed that we could do this. It would really be somewhat easy for us, as we have been doing all of this by following the State of Oregon guidelines since the beginning of the pandemic. Not being able to have our traditional Chili Feed Countdown was going to be the most difficult activity to give up.

So, on Sunday, January 3, 2021, we had the 79<sup>th</sup> Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC). The weather was really good for an Oregon day in early January and we took advantage of it. One Team Leader commented that she needed to add sun screen to her list of items to take on the Christmas Bird Counts! We had 140 people on the 27 Field Teams, plus another 119 Home Counters. That's 259 observers, a new record! The old record of 255 was set in 2012. The combined groups reported an amazing 133 species on Count Day and 74,642 individual birds. A more detailed summary by Species Compiler, Vjera Thompson, can be found on page 3.

The Field Observers walked 155

miles in 196 hours and drove 494 miles in 77 hours. One birder rode his bike for 2.5 hours and 10.5 miles while covering his area. Seven teams went owling for nine hours, covering 16 miles. The 119 Home Counters spent 293 hours looking for birds. They saw 5,988 birds of 64 species.

At the end of the day, we had a Zoom Countdown to replace the traditional Chili Feed. It was certainly not the same, but 55 people tuned in to listen to the Team Leaders give their reports and discuss some unusual birds seen, plus some that we missed. We are all looking forward to the 2021 ECBC and Chili Feed!

A big thank you goes to Marcia Maffei, the new Home Count Coordinator. She did an excellent job of recruiting Home Counters, designing easy to follow procedures, and creating a revised checklist for submitting results more quickly and accurately. Her efforts paid off as we set a new record for the most Home Counters ever at 119. The previous record of 111 was set in 2016.

A big thank you also goes to Vjera Thompson, the Species Compiler. This year she developed a new Excel program which allowed Team Leaders to submit their reports electronically. This made the process easier, quicker, and more accurate.

A third big thank you goes to the 27 Team Leaders who are listed below. They assembled their teams, guided them throughout the day, and then reported the results. Five teams spotted more than 70 species. The top two reported 82 and 83 species. A

remarkable effort! The ECBC would not be the great event it is without the work of the Team Leaders.

Speaking of our great efforts, last year we had the 9<sup>th</sup> largest number of participants of the 2,646 CBCs in North America and Central America. That is a remarkable effort for a small town in Oregon.

I am very pleased that we conducted a safe and very successful 79<sup>th</sup> ECBC. Thanks to all of you who participated. It was fun!

## Team Leaders by Area

- 1: Ron Renchler
- 2: Rich Hoyer
- 3A: Dan Heyerly
- 3B: Darryl Wisner
- 4: Rick Ahrens
- 5A: Donna Albino
- 5B: Marcia Maffei
- 6: Kit Larson
- 7: Roger Robb
- 8: Dave Kofranek
- 9: Tom Mickel
- 10: Vjera Thompson
- 11A: David Novak
- 11B: Dick Lamster
- 12A: Steve Gordon
- 12B: Torrey Gage-Tomlinson
- 13A: Rebecca Waterman
- 13B: Holly Hartmann
- 14: Julia Siporin
- 15: Jim Maloney
- 16: Cynthia Stockwell
- 17: John Sullivan
- 18: Caryn Stoess
- 19: Barbara Combs
- 20A: Brandon Green
- 20B: Bruce Newhouse
- 21: Ellen Cantor

# Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally

by Vjera Thompson

133 Species + 4 Count Week, 74,642 individuals  
H = High, L = Low, CW = Count Week



| Species                          | Grand Total | Relative Status | Species                       | Grand Total | Relative Status | Species                        | Grand Total | Relative Status |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Snow Goose.....                  | 1.....      | L               | Western Gull.....             | 3           |                 | Chestnut-backed Chickadee..... | 115.....    | H               |
| Greater White-fronted Goose..... | 1.....      | L               | California Gull.....          | 5.....      | L               | Tree Swallow.....              | 0.....      | CW              |
| Cackling Goose.....              | 17221       |                 | Herring Gull.....             | 5.....      | L               | Bushtit.....                   | 1504.....   | H               |
| Canada Goose.....                | 2810        |                 | Iceland (Thayer's) Gull.....  | 1.....      | L               | Wrentit.....                   | 19.....     | H               |
| Trumpeter Swan.....              | 4           |                 | Glaucous-winged Gull.....     | 108         |                 | Golden-crowned Kinglet.....    | 271         |                 |
| Tundra Swan.....                 | 32.....     | L               | Double-crested Cormorant..... | 363         |                 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....      | 635.....    | H               |
| Wood Duck.....                   | 95.....     | H               | American White Pelican.....   | 67.....     | H               | Red-breasted Nuthatch.....     | 217.....    | H               |
| Northern Shoveler.....           | 304.....    | H               | Great Blue Heron.....         | 114         |                 | White-breasted Nuthatch.....   | 78.....     | H               |
| Gadwall.....                     | 198         |                 | Great Egret.....              | 82.....     | H               | Brown Creeper.....             | 92.....     | H               |
| Eurasian Wigeon.....             | 2           |                 | Snowy Egret.....              | 1.....      | L               | Pacific Wren.....              | 87.....     | H               |
| American Wigeon.....             | 582         |                 | Green Heron.....              | 1           |                 | Marsh Wren.....                | 44.....     | H               |
| Mallard.....                     | 1242        |                 | Turkey Vulture.....           | 45.....     | H               | Bewick's Wren.....             | 247.....    | H               |
| Northern Pintail.....            | 2018        |                 | Northern Harrier.....         | 75.....     | H               | European Starling.....         | 11935       |                 |
| Green-winged Teal.....           | 1559.....   | H               | Sharp-shinned Hawk.....       | 20.....     | H               | Western Bluebird.....          | 200.....    | H               |
| Redhead.....                     | 2           |                 | Cooper's Hawk.....            | 27.....     | H               | Varied Thrush.....             | 81          |                 |
| Ring-necked Duck.....            | 186.....    | H               | Bald Eagle.....               | 66.....     | H               | Hermit Thrush.....             | 9           |                 |
| Greater Scaup.....               | 16.....     | H               | Red-shouldered Hawk.....      | 38.....     | H               | American Robin.....            | 2845        |                 |
| Lesser Scaup.....                | 35.....     | L               | Red-tailed Hawk.....          | 172.....    | H               | Cedar Waxwing.....             | 92          |                 |
| Bufflehead.....                  | 176.....    | H               | Rough-legged Hawk.....        | 1.....      | L               | House Sparrow.....             | 393         |                 |
| Common Goldeneye.....            | 10.....     | H               | Barn Owl.....                 | 4           |                 | American Pipit.....            | 498.....    | H               |
| Hooded Merganser.....            | 71.....     | H               | Western Screech-Owl.....      | 3           |                 | House Finch.....               | 717         |                 |
| Common Merganser.....            | 205         |                 | Great Horned Owl.....         | 29.....     | H               | Purple Finch.....              | 27          |                 |
| Ruddy Duck.....                  | 10.....     | L               | Northern Pygmy-Owl.....       | 2           |                 | Red Crossbill.....             | 49.....     | H               |
| California Quail.....            | 170.....    | H               | Barred Owl.....               | 2.....      | H               | Pine Siskin.....               | 1268.....   | H               |
| Ring-necked Pheasant.....        | 7.....      | L               | Short-eared Owl.....          | 2           |                 | Lesser Goldfinch.....          | 325.....    | H               |
| Wild Turkey.....                 | 413.....    | H               | Northern Saw-whet Owl.....    | 3           |                 | American Goldfinch.....        | 265.....    | H               |
| Pied-billed Grebe.....           | 96.....     | H               | Belted Kingfisher.....        | 31.....     | H               | Fox Sparrow.....               | 282.....    | H               |
| Horned Grebe.....                | 1.....      | L               | Red-breasted Sapsucker.....   | 33.....     | H               | Dark-eyed Junco.....           | 2435        |                 |
| Western Grebe.....               | 0.....      | CW              | Acorn Woodpecker.....         | 146.....    | H               | White-crowned Sparrow.....     | 505.....    | H               |
| Rock Pigeon.....                 | 732         |                 | Downy Woodpecker.....         | 181.....    | H               | Golden-crowned Sparrow.....    | 1362.....   | H               |
| Eurasian Collared-Dove.....      | 373.....    | H               | Hairy Woodpecker.....         | 40.....     | H               | White-throated Sparrow.....    | 33.....     | H               |
| Mourning Dove.....               | 283.....    | H               | Pileated Woodpecker.....      | 12.....     | H               | Savannah Sparrow.....          | 18          |                 |
| Anna's Hummingbird.....          | 425.....    | H               | Northern Flicker.....         | 486.....    | H               | Song Sparrow.....              | 893.....    | H               |
| Virginia Rail.....               | 4           |                 | American Kestrel.....         | 99          |                 | Lincoln's Sparrow.....         | 100.....    | H               |
| Sora.....                        | 2.....      | H               | Merlin.....                   | 17.....     | H               | Swamp Sparrow.....             | 3.....      | H               |
| American Coot.....               | 191         |                 | Peregrine Falcon.....         | 9.....      | H               | Spotted Towhee.....            | 639.....    | H               |
| Black-bellied Plover.....        | 0.....      | CW              | Prairie Falcon.....           | 1           |                 | Western Meadowlark.....        | 252.....    | H               |
| Semipalmated Plover.....         | 0.....      | CW              | Black Phoebe.....             | 67.....     | H               | Red-winged Blackbird.....      | 1447        |                 |
| Killdeer.....                    | 245.....    | L               | Say's Phoebe.....             | 2.....      | H               | Brown-headed Cowbird.....      | 1.....      | L               |
| Dunlin.....                      | 6500.....   | H               | Hutton's Vireo.....           | 6           |                 | Tricolored Blackbird.....      | 1           |                 |
| Least Sandpiper.....             | 75          |                 | Northern Shrike.....          | 3           |                 | Brewer's Blackbird.....        | 360.....    | L               |
| Long-billed Dowitcher.....       | 30          |                 | Steller's Jay.....            | 469.....    | H               | Orange-crowned Warbler.....    | 4           |                 |
| Wilson's Snipe.....              | 73          |                 | California Scrub-Jay.....     | 920         |                 | Common Yellowthroat.....       | 1           |                 |
| Spotted Sandpiper.....           | 6           |                 | American Crow.....            | 1879        |                 | Yellow-rumped Warbler.....     | 273.....    | H               |
| Greater Yellowlegs.....          | 43          |                 | Common Raven.....             | 160.....    | H               | Townsend's Warbler.....        | 140.....    | H               |
| Ring-billed Gull.....            | 59          |                 | Black-capped Chickadee.....   | 1102.....   | H               |                                |             |                 |

# 2020 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Compiler Notes

By Vjera Thompson, Species Compiler

Rain was forecast for Count Day, January 3, 2021, but it held off until 4 pm. The large number of Field Counters who took on the challenge of following COVID-19 safety guidelines were rewarded with birds and sun.

A total of 133 species and 74,642 individual birds were reported by the Field Teams and Home Counters on Count Day. An additional four species were found during Count Week. We re-found an unusual bird, a Snowy Egret. Although not normally found in the Willamette Valley, one is wintering at Fern Ridge this year. The last previous Count report of this species was back in 1965. Other unusual finds were four Trumpeter Swans, found on three previous Counts, and two Soras, found only once previously.

Unusual Count Week additions were a Semipalmated Plover and Tree Swallows, not usually here in the winter. A flock has been present

at Delta Ponds for a few weeks. A few expected birds missed on Count Day were found during Count Week: Western Grebe and Black-bellied Plover. Other misses were Osprey, White-tailed Kite, and Canvasback.

The COVID-19 safety precautions led teams to split into smaller groups, which may have resulted in more thorough coverage, especially on foot. One Team Leader covered his area by bicycle, and his careful counts contributed to an astounding record high of 67 Black Phoebes (last year's record was 27), and 247 Bewick's Wrens (the old record was 142).

The spread of Eurasian Collared-Doves continued with another record high: 373 counted in 21 different areas. We also shattered our previous record high of Anna's Hummingbirds, increasing from last year's record of 299 to a glittering 425.

Our record number of Home Counters contributed to the high counts of Eurasian Collared-Doves,

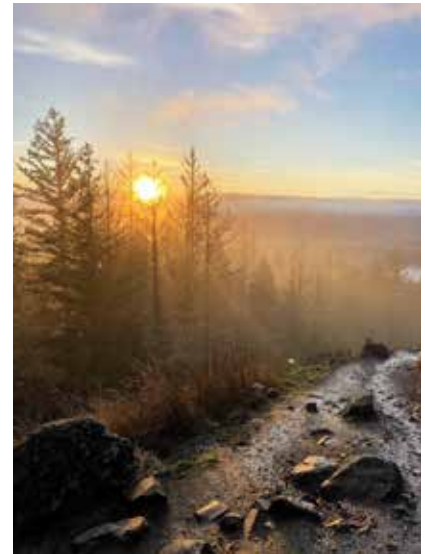


Photo: Vjera Thompson

Anna's Hummingbirds, and Bewick's Wrens, as well as records for Downy Woodpeckers and Lesser Goldfinches. The weather unexpectedly cleared for a few brave owling teams, allowing us to find all the expected species of owls. One team enjoyed seeing a Barred Owl on a neighborhood roost mid-morning.

Thanks to all the birders that took on the extra challenge of counting 6+ feet apart with masks and fogging glasses, or counted from home to keep teams smaller. You made this a successful count, and one to remember.

## Home Counters Summary

This year, Marcia Maffei coordinated the Home Count for the first time, taking over for longtime Home Count Coordinator/Compiler Herb Wisner, age 98 1/2, who has managed this part of the count for 30 years. Because Marcia updated the data collection system, we were unable to easily compare last year's numbers with this year's. Next year will be a snap!

What we can provide is a brief

summary of the highest count birds:

Not surprisingly, considering their flocking nature, Bushtits easily took first place with 621. Dark-eyed Juncos came in second, with 575. Pine Siskins and American Crows weren't far behind, tallied at 459 and 456. Next highest numbers were several hundred lower: European Starlings at 299, American Robins at 276, and Black-capped Chickadees at 263. A

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Photo: Rich Hoyer

*Downy Woodpecker*

# 2020 Oakridge Christmas Bird Count

By Joel Geier, Count Coordinator and Compiler

The Oakridge CBC went ahead on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, following state and Audubon recommendations for COVID-19 safety. Twelve volunteers enjoyed mostly good weather with mild temperatures and no rain until evening. Warm rains in the preceding week cleared most of the prior snow pack from forest roads, allowing relatively easy access up to 3,500 feet, where roads and trees were blanketed with fresh snow from the previous night.

We found 73 species, tying the count-day record for the 11 years of data since this count was re-started in 2009. Finches were the main story, headlined by a flock of 20 White-winged Crossbills just off the Salmon Creek Road, and numerous flocks of Pine Siskins. Two types of Red Crossbill were also found, along with

House and Purple Finches. Strangely, goldfinches were scarce, with Lesser Goldfinches barely making it into Count Week, and not one American Goldfinch showed up.

Dabbling ducks were scarce, but diving ducks made a strong showing with 17 Common Goldeneyes plus two Lesser Scaup along with the usual Ring-necked Ducks and mergansers. Eight Horned Grebes and three Western Grebes were seen on Hills Creek Reservoir, several of them feasting on fingerling-sized fish.

Diurnal raptor highlights included a Red-shouldered Hawk, two Peregrine Falcons, and nine Bald Eagles. We didn't manage to find any owls on Count Day, but a Great Gray and a Barred Owl were found during Count Week. Northern Pygmy-Owls, found in most years, managed to hide until

just after the end of Count Week.

Forest chickens included both Sooty Grouse and Ruffed Grouse, but we missed Mountain Quail. We found all five expected woodpecker/sapsucker species, but our dreams of Black-backed Woodpeckers in a two-year-old burn were stymied by windfalls blocking Deception Creek Rd. Next year we might need to pack a chainsaw!

Black Phoebe were found in three spots this year, after showing up last winter for the first time on this count. Only two American Dippers were found, likely due to very high river flows causing them to move up into small forest streams. The tally of 47 Red-breasted Nuthatches was encouraging after a very surprising miss last year. We also had good counts of Hermit (15) and Varied Thrush (43), plus a charming flock of 19 Western Bluebirds at the Oakridge State Airport.

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# Cottage Grove's 18th Christmas Bird Count

By Grace Fowler-Gore, Count Coordinator, Compiler and participant

The 18<sup>th</sup> Cottage Grove CBC took place on January 2, 2021. It's 32 participants identified 88 species and counted 5,302 individuals. This was an increase from 2019, but not as good as 2018. The day started out overcast, drizzling, and in the 40s, and ended drizzling in the mid-50s. Luckily, it wasn't heavy rain.

Eurasian Wigeon, a new bird for the CGCBC, was found by Noah Strycker. On CBC day, we also found these birds not reported in recent CBCs: Mountain Chickadee (Dan Heyerly), Merlin and Northern Pygmy Owl

(Anne Heyerly), and Red Crossbill (Tori Morgan and Nola Nelson).

### Additional Count Week birds: 11

Count Week was especially exciting this year, because many of the birds observed had not been reported in the last three counts. Noah Strycker found four of these: Red-necked Grebe, American Pipit, Cinnamon Teal, and Marsh Wren. Count Week birds that had been reported in recent CBCs: American Dipper (Noah), White Pelican and Audubon's Yellow-

rumped Warbler (Alison Center), Spotted Sandpiper (Noah and Grace), and Least Sandpiper (Grace).

Beck McCoy, a K/1 Teacher at Dorena School in Cottage Grove, led 17 participants on this year's Christmas Bird Count. Six of them were children, ages 4 and up. They are hoping to make it an annual event for their school as a part of incorporating more citizen science projects into their curriculum.

To all participants —THANK YOU! This couldn't happen without your efforts.

## Field Notes: November-December 2020

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



Photo: Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren, wikt commons

*Red-bellied Woodpecker*



Photo: Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren, wikt commons

*White-winged Crossbill*

## Red-bellied Woodpecker, White-winged Crossbill, Lapland Longspur, Hermit Warbler

A number of “good” birds were found during the period, as has been the case for the last few months. We assume it has to do with people staying closer to home because of the pandemic.

**Abbreviations:** Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR), Springfield (Spfd)

### SWANS TO OWLS

|                        |         |                       |       |  |
|------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------|--|
| Wood Duck (40+)        | Dec 21  | U of O                | KL    | Going to roost in trees at dusk        |
| Lesser Scaup (2)       | Dec 22  | Hills Ck reservoir    | JG    | Uncommon for this location             |
| Long-tailed Duck (1-3) | Nov-Dec | Siuslaw River mouth   | M.ob. | Seen throughout the period             |
| Common Goldeneye (2)   | Nov 7   | Amazon Creek          | NC    | An unusual location                    |
| Common Goldeneye (12)  | Dec 22  | Hills Creek Reservoir | JG    | A large number for this location       |
| Horned Grebe (8)       | Dec 22  | Hills Creek Reservoir | JG    | A large number for this location       |
| Red-necked Grebe (20)  | Nov 20  | Siuslaw River mouth   | KL    | A large number for Lane                |
| Band-tailed Pigeon     | Nov 8   | Florence              | CH,ES | Rarely found in the winter             |
| Western Sandpiper      | Nov 15  | Siltcoos River mouth  | DF    | Rare during the winter in Lane         |
| Red Phalarope          | Dec 17  | Siuslaw River mouth   | KN,WW | Much later than normal                 |
| Ancient Murrelet (3)   | Nov 20  | Siuslaw River mouth   | KL    | Rarely found in river, normally at sea |
| Franklin's Gull        | Nov 7   | SJSR                  | CH,ES | Rare for Lane                          |
| Glaucous Gull          | Dec 23  | SJSR                  | MC    | First report for the winter season     |
| American Bittern       | Dec 17  | FRR - Royal Ave       | EC    | Uncommon in the winter                 |
| Snowy Egret            | Nov 14  | FRR dam area          | A&DH  | Unusual for Lane - seen through Dec    |
| Osprey                 | Nov 30  | Lower McKenzie Rvr    | RR    | They winter some years in the valley   |
| White-tailed Kite      | Nov-Dec | FRR                   |       | Almost no reports this winter so far!  |
| Swainson's Hawk        | Nov 20  | Cantrell Rd area      | A&DH  | Rare in Lane, especially in the fall   |
| Short-eared Owl (3)    | Nov 22  | FRR - Royal Ave       | RR    | Good numbers for one location          |

### WOODPECKERS TO THRUSHES

|                                |        |                        |       |   |
|--------------------------------|--------|------------------------|-------|---|
| Black Phoebe (5)               | Dec 22 | Oakridge CBC           | JG    | High number for that area                 |
| Say's Phoebe                   | Nov 11 | Florence - Old Town    | FT    | Uncommon along the Lane coast             |
| Tropical Kingbird (2)          | Nov 8  | Florence               | CH,ES | Almost annual in late fall                |
| Tropical Kingbird              | Dec 12 | Florence               | PA    | Last date it was seen                     |
| Northern Shrike                | Dec 4  | SJSR Deflation Plain   | AC    | First winter report from this area        |
| Cassin's Vireo                 | Dec 13 | Willamette R-bike path | NG    | Very late report for this species - photo |
| Tree/Violet-green Swallow (20) | Dec 12 | Delta Pnds/W "D" St    | M.ob. | Found through the end of the year         |
| Barn Swallow                   | Dec 15 | Delta Ponds            | JW    | Only reported the one day                 |
| House Wren                     | Nov 12 | Springfield            | MG    | A very late sighting - photos             |
| American Dipper                | Nov 30 | McKenzie River, Spfd   | RR    | An unusual sighting from the valley       |
| Swainson's Thrush              | Nov 22 | Dexter Res             | AC,RH | A very late sighting - photos             |
| Northern Mockingbird           | Nov 1  | Mt Pisgah              | DA    | An almost annual wintering species        |
| Northern Mockingbird           | Nov 17 | SJSR area              | KN,WW | Found in Oct, seen through end of year    |

## SPARROWS TO GROSBEAKS

|                             |        |                     |       |   |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------|-------|---|
| White-winged Crossbill (2)  | Dec 4  | Gold Lake area      | RN    | Rare in Lane                                |
| White-winged Crossbill (20) | Dec 22 | Salmon Creek area   | BA    | Rare in Lane - a good year for them         |
| Pine Siskin (800+)          | Nov 14 | Eugene              | DB    | Very large numbers at feeders in the area   |
| Lapland Longspur            | Nov 8  | Baker Beach         | CH    | Normal migration time along the coast       |
| Lapland Longspur            | Nov 23 | Eugene airport area | SH    | Rare in the valley                          |
| Snow Bunting                | Nov 11 | SJSR                | RN    | Good time to find this species at the coast |
| Chipping Sparrow            | Nov 13 | Eugene              | DA    | A late report for this species - photos     |
| Swamp Sparrow               | Dec 1  | FRR - Kirk Pond     | RA    | Small numbers normally found in winter      |
| Orange-crowned Warbler      | Nov 25 | Eugene - near UO    | KL    | A rare wintering species in the valley      |
| Orange-crowned Warbler (2)  | Dec 3  | River Rd area       | RH    | Gray-headed subspecies                      |
| Orange-crowned Warbler      | Dec 4  | Eugene              | EC    | I'm not sure why so many reports?           |
| Orange-crowned Warbler      | Dec 4  | Coburg Rd area      | BG    | Late migration, I assume                    |
| Palm Warbler                | Nov 29 | Ada Grange          | LW,NT | Small numbers normal along coast            |
| Hermit Warbler              | Dec 24 | Springfield         | RR    | Rare in the winter                          |
| Western Tanager (2)         | Nov 4  | River Rd area       | RH    | Very late for this breeding species         |
| Western Tanager (2)         | Nov 4  | FRR - Kirk Pond     | RA    | Interesting that 2 birds were found today   |

### Late Report

Red-bellied Woodpecker .....Late Aug.....Row River Trail.....WM ..... First sighting for Lane, 2nd for Oregon

AC Alan Contreras, A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, BA Bob Archer, BG Brandon Green, CH Chris Hinkle, DA Dennis Arendt, DB David Bickford, DF Daniel Farrar, EC Ellen Cantor, ES Em Scattaregia, FT Forest Tomlinson, JG Joel Geier, JW Jeff Ward, KL Kit Larsen, KN Kim Nelson, LW Lisa Wallace, MC Matt Cahill, MG Marissa Gibson, NC Nancy Clogston, NG Norman Goo, NT Nikki Thomas, PA Paul Adamus, RA Ramiro Aragon, RH Rich Hoyer, RN Russ Namitz, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, WM Wendy Marsigli, WW Will Wright. **M.ob** signifies many observers.

## Home Counters Summary

*continued from page 4*

few other birds were in the 100-200 range: House Finch, 183; California Scrub-Jay, 140; American Goldfinch, 123; Golden-crowned Sparrow, 116; Spotted Towhee, 112; and Lesser Goldfinch, 108. All of the rest were in the single and double digits.

Many of the Home Counters added a few comments to their tallies. A short selection follows:

- Thanks for doing this. I missed so many species this year that I usually have. I'm wondering about the effect of the fires on our local populations.
- Didn't have as many birds this count due to the weather and the fact that the Sharp-shinned Hawk hung around the yard most of the afternoon.
- I'm an amateur bird watcher and this is my first year in the count.

I had SO much fun! I was a bit disappointed that the wild turkeys and the Northern Flicker who visit every day didn't stop by on this particular day, but I did identify three species I'd never identified before, so I think today was a big win.

- I would have enjoyed it more if the birds had shown up!
- I have more variety in my yard usually. Still enjoyed the birds, sitting, and coffee.
- My first time counting. I'm signing up next time! Would have been a five-star except I had a hard time ID'ing some of the darn things. Found out I need better binocs!!
- I would give it 5 stars, but have a hard time counting birds once there's more than about 6-8, as they move around so much.
- Well done, Marcia! And best regards to Herb Wisner who hides his age very well. I'm not the birder

my father was (Wilbur Jessen), but I do enjoy my feathered friends who are an important part of my gardening.

- This was my first home count. The preparation for doing it, i.e., the directions, response by the coordinator, the recording form, and easy transmit—were all excellent. It was a very peaceful day, but I look forward to doing it out in the field, and enjoying the Chili Feed with friends again.



Photo: Rich Hoyer

*Spotted Towhee*

# Lane County Audubon Society



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

### The Quail Subscriptions

Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or [tgodsil@gmail.com](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com)

### The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

March issue: February 1

April issue: March 1

Submit material to Karen Irsmscher at [quailkaren1@gmail.com](mailto:quailkaren1@gmail.com)

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|                             |                           |  |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
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## Lane County Audubon Society Welcomes You—Join or Renew Today!

We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. Your membership dues for National Audubon Society no longer fully cover the costs of a membership in your local chapter. Your local dues stay here to help us work on local education projects and conservation issues related to birds and their habitats. With your support, we will continue to do the things you expect from us. We welcome your suggestions—this is your Audubon! We appreciate your support. — *Maeve Sowles, President*

### Lane Audubon Membership Benefits

- *The Quail*—9 issues/yr.
- Field trips and bird walks
- Program meetings
- Educational publications
- Conservation issue representation
- Answers to questions: 541.485.BIRD
- Website: [laneaudubon.org](http://laneaudubon.org)

### Lane County Audubon Society Yearly Membership

- Individual \$20.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Family \$25.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
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To pay by PayPal, go to [laneaudubon.org/support/join](http://laneaudubon.org/support/join)

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

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



Alan Contreras shared this story about Barry Lopez: “Barry made me a genius. I first met him when I was eighteen, give or take. I had invited him to speak about wolves at the Eugene Natural History Society around 1975. I was the president that year and someone had recommended him as a speaker. He showed up with NO SLIDES. No pictures at all. I did not know that until he got there. The whole audience stared at me as though I’d gone crazy. I sat down prepared for disaster. Barry began to speak. And that’s all it took. An hour later the audience was on its feet in astonished admiration and I was a genius for fifteen minutes.

Barry’s passing feels like the disappearance of an entire genus of sensory organs from our world. Like Ursula K. Le Guin, he built his own kind of vision where there had been none—an expansion of what is possible in seeing and writing. Yes, a writer, but much more. We got so much in the way of unearned pleasure from his writings. They all felt like gifts prepared just for us. Run free, Barry.”

Louise Shimmel of Cascades Raptor Center offered this remembrance when asked about his writings:

“I never made it through *Arctic Dreams*, but did love *Of Wolves & Men*, and I like his short stories a lot. Some of the essays he’s written in magazines like *Orion* are also memorable.

Oddly enough, one of my favorites is *Crow and Weasel*, and this quote is particularly fitting, I think, as part of a farewell to Barry:

“Remember on this one thing, said Badger. The stories people tell have a way of taking care of them. If

stories come to you, care for them. And learn to give them away where they are needed. Sometimes a person needs a story more than food to stay alive. That is why we put these stories in each other’s memories. This is how people care for themselves.” —Barry Lopez, *Crow and Weasel*

I love that book and its illustrations; I remember Barry telling me that someone had asked him why Badger was the only character who was not clothed. And he showed me a framed piece of artwork that the artist had done for him, after the book’s publication, of Badger in clothes.

Barry was one of our Cascades Raptor Center transport volunteers for many years – basically since he brought me an injured Saw-whet Owl when I was still in my old duplex. He would answer his phone for me even if he was out of town on a speaking engagement or traveling. He was excited to tell me once that his Toyota 4-Runner had passed 300,000 miles ... and he would give me considered opinions/advice about the facility and what we were doing. He even helped me rewrite our mission statement. He once climbed down into a container at a transfer station to rescue a raven and once transported a skunky Great Horned Owl!

Barry gave the keynote speech at our annual benefit a few years ago. He spoke about caring about nature and acting on that caring. I will miss him a lot!”

A thoughtful, loving obituary written by Bob Shacochis of *Outside* magazine can be found at this link:  
[outsideonline.com/2420105/barry-lopez-obituary](https://outsideonline.com/2420105/barry-lopez-obituary)

## More photos from the CBC



Area 5A birders Group selfie by Donna Albino

*Headed up Skinner’s Butte: Donna Albino, Jan Morrow, Rose Britton, Karen Fieldler, Betsy Huffsmith*



Photo: Charlie Quinn

*Social distanced birding*



Photo: Anne Heyerly

*Barred Owl, taken on the ECBC*



Photo: Rich Hoyer

*Wren tit*

## Thanks for Your Support ... And It's Not Too Late to Give!

Thank you to everyone who responded to our annual fundraising request in the November *Quail*. Knowing that 2020 was a difficult year for everyone, your support of Lane County Audubon Society was very much appreciated.

If you weren't able to support LCAS financially last year, it's not too late to give in 2021. We accept donations year-round, of course, to support our educational and conservation efforts. This year, to supplement our Audubon in the Schools and Audubon Adventures programs for local schools, we plan to purchase a newly produced, streamed video—*Bird Flight Patterns*

and *Music*—from the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra. We will distribute the link to this video to educators in our area to supplement their online teaching. The resource comes with a teacher guide and should be a valuable addition to the online curriculum.

On the conservation front, in lieu of our annual sponsorship of the Willamette Valley Bird Symposium, which was offered online and free to viewers this year, we gave support instead to the Chintimini Wildlife Center and the Cascades Raptor Center. We use both of these organizations as referrals when our members and others contact us with

questions or issues related to injured birds and other wildlife.

Our program meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month will continue to be offered via Zoom; check our web page or Facebook page each month for the link. Our bird walks (with a limited number of participants) will continue to be offered this winter and spring to interested participants. Page 12 of this issue of *The Quail* has more information on our walks.

We're fortunate that we have easily accessible outdoor locations in our area so that birdwatching can continue during the pandemic. Your contributions to LCAS help us educate both young and old to the joy, and sometimes solace, that nature offers.

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## Remembering Paul Sherrell

December 26, 1940, to December 9, 2020

By Dennis Arendt



Paul on the Rio Madre de Dios, Peru

Many of you knew Paul Sherrell. He attended LCAS Program Meetings, Bird Walks, and participated in our Christmas Bird Count. Paul passed away in early December.

Paul grew up in Vancouver, Washington, and completed his Master's Degree in Washington. He

moved to Oregon to teach, mostly at Jefferson Middle School. His interest in birding began in the 1980s. After retiring in 1999, his focus on birding increased and he started going on international birding tours with his friends.

Several of his birding friends remarked how easy it was to have Paul as a companion. He was willing to go anywhere and at any time. When a visitor needed some help finding birds, you could always count on Paul to assist. He traveled with friends to Costa Rica in 2003, South Africa in 2005, Panama, Kenya and Tanzania in 2007, Ecuador in 2008, and Peru in 2009. He was lucky, too. He found a Rustic Bunting in his yard, a Tricolored Heron and a Least Tern

at the beach, and, during the Panama trip, the first ever Slaty-crowned Flycatcher in North America. His international birding ended after the trip to Peru, but he kept involved with local birding and helping others. He studied the birds for locations far away to help others, when he couldn't go there himself. After multiple sclerosis began to limit his ability to walk, he continued joining the Wednesday birders regularly and, when that became too difficult, he birded by car. Two years ago, he moved from Eugene to an assisted living facility near his children and sister in Portland.

Paul is remembered for what he did and for who he was. He was thoughtful and gentle. He never complained; he always found the good parts of any experience. He had a booming voice and a big laugh. He was a friend to many people.

## Zoom Program Meeting Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



For access details, check [laneaudubon.org](http://laneaudubon.org)

## New Hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades

A slide show presentation by William L. Sullivan



Photo: Janelle Sorensen

William L. Sullivan

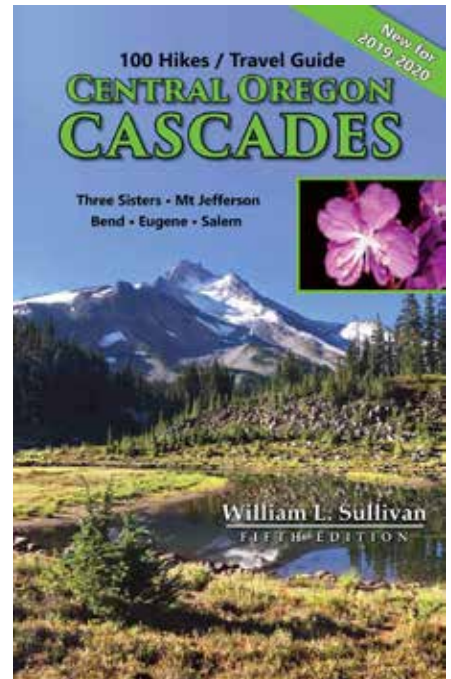
Author and hiking guru William L. Sullivan takes us on a tour of new or dramatically changed trails in the area between Salem and Bend. All are featured in the newly released fifth edition of his guidebook, *100 Hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades*. Completely revised, this new edition

to the area between Bend, Salem, and Eugene includes lots of new trails to make up for those that have been closed or changed by recent fires. Included are a new path along the Deschutes River north of Bend, a new bird refuge trail at Salem, and several reopened trails to wildflowers in the Cascades. He'll also discuss the effects of wildfires and the Forest Service's new permit system. Along



Photo: Bill Sullivan

Mt. Jefferson from the Bugaboo Ridge Trail



the way, expect anecdotes about local history, plants, and outdoor lore.

Sullivan is the author of five novels and a dozen books about Oregon, including the popular "100 Hikes" series, *Hiking Oregon's History*, and *Oregon Favorites*. His journal of a 1,000-mile hike he took across Oregon, *Listening for Coyote*, was chosen by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission as one of Oregon's "100 Books," the 100 most significant books in the state's history.

FMI William Sullivan and his books: [oregonhiking.com/william-l-sullivan](http://oregonhiking.com/william-l-sullivan) and/or [oregonhiking.com/navillus-press](http://oregonhiking.com/navillus-press)



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## Mini Book Review: *The Echo Maker*

Richard Powers uses the annual migrations of Sandhill Cranes as his central metaphor in *The Echo Maker*, set in and around the Platte River and Kearney, Nebraska. Hundreds of thousands of cranes congregate there each spring before continuing their journey to more northerly breeding grounds. The first page is a magnificently poetic rendering of this setting. On the

second page, a single car accident occurs on a freezing night, viewed only by the disrupted cranes. This mysterious event sets the stage for the interwoven human dramas.

Written in 2008, *The Echo Maker* was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. As with Powers' Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Overstory*, written in 2018, this book interweaves the urgency of addressing climate change with

the personal struggles of fictional humans. It also explores some of the aberrant thought patterns that can occur due to traumatic brain damage.

Characters wrestle with a barrage of self-identity questions in the face of changes, interior and exterior. This aspect of the book particularly resonated with my own musings on self-identity, thrust on all of us by COVID-19's unprecedented societal changes.

—Karen Irmscher

### LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, [fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org)

### Third Saturday Bird Walk

Walk Coordinator Rebecca Waterman no longer plans to leave Eugene. She continues to lead small walks with some restrictions in place in order to adhere to local safety guidelines. Attendance is capped at 10 birders, but she also enjoys doing it for as few as one. Beginners welcome! If more than 10 email her that they'd like to join a walk, she will schedule another walk. If she is free, she will lead walks at other times.

Folks wishing to join a walk can email Bex at [rebecca.waterman@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.waterman@gmail.com). All participants must wear a mask for the entirety of the walk and maintain the recommended 6-foot distance from each other. No carpooling.

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