



The

February 2015

Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

Audubon Phone – 541.485.BIRD

From Our President



LCAS Helps Save the Amazon Headwaters and Welcomes New Board Member

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Inside The Quail

From Our President	1
• <i>LCAS Helps Save the Amazon Headwaters and Welcomes New Board Member</i>	
2014 Eugene Christmas Bird Count... 2	
2014 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally.....	3
2014 Florence Christmas Bird Count	5
2014 Oakridge Christmas Bird Count	5
Field Notes	6
Audubon Adventures is Now Online!	8
Program Meeting	9
Board and Committees	10
LCAS Membership Form	10
Community Calendar	11
Bird Walks & Events	12
• <i>Third Saturday Bird Walk</i>	

This month, I'd like to pass along some news from the Lane County Audubon Society Board:

Amazon Headwaters: The Board is happy to have supported the City of Eugene's purchase of the Amazon Headwaters property by writing a \$25,000 check from funds that were donated by community members for that purpose. The original push to protect that property started in the late 1990s with a neighborhood grassroots effort. Lane Audubon became the nonprofit vehicle that allowed donated funds to become charitable contributions. Our Board hoped the property would eventually become part of the parks and open space that create a habitat corridor around Eugene for plants, birds, and other wildlife. The most recent successful effort toward this goal occurred when the Noble family brokered a deal with the city to include the Amazon Headwaters parcels. The funds that we had been holding for this purpose were a small piece of the overall money, but it represented a major community support effort lasting almost 15 years.

It is good news that the City of Eugene is willing to purchase property to hold for conservation. This aligns directly with the wishes of the many people who have chosen to live in a community that values parks, open space, wildlife, and wild birds. Thanks to all those people who donated toward this goal many years ago and have worked throughout the last 15 years to achieve conservation protection for the key habitat area of Amazon Headwaters. Environmental education depends on environmental appreciation, and these local sites that offer watershed and riparian habitat are living classrooms for our youth. Living with wild and open spaces in our midst is a habitat treasure that enhances Eugene's livability into the future.

(continued on page 9)

2014 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

Dick Lamster, Count Coordinator

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The 73rd Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) took place on Sunday, December 28, with 146 enthusiastic bird-watchers contributing their time and expertise in the field. From their sightings, combined with those of 90 Feeder Watchers, we recorded 133 species (plus one during Count Week) and 120,698 individual birds. The average numbers for the past 10 years are 134 species and 89,223 individual birds.

The participants were grouped into 26 teams, each led by an expert birder. The teams walked 116.5 miles in 162 hours. They also drove 462 miles in 70.5 hours. Four teams went owling for six and a half hours and covered 36 miles. Jim Maloney's team (#15) had the most members with 12, followed by Bruce Newhouse (#20B) with 11 members and Dennis Arendt (#21) with 10.

At the end of the day, 99 tired but happy birders came to the LCAS-sponsored Chili Feed to share stories about the birds they saw and to participate in the traditional countdown. Allison Mickel made 10 gallons of vegetarian chili to share with everyone. Allison was kind enough to prepare the chili well in advance because she and husband Tom planned to be at the Oregon Coast celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary on the day of the ECBC. Sandy Poinsett did a great job filling in for Allison at the Chili Feed. She was assisted by Kathy Wilson, Maeve Sowles, Wanda Manning, and Bruce Wilson to make the entire event a big success. The Chili Feed was a fun way to end a great day of birding, and everyone was proud to have contributed to the 115-year history of the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count.

At the Chili Feed we remembered longtime ECBC Team Leader and expert birder Fred Chancey, who passed away a few months ago. Fred was one of those really nice guys who was always willing to share his knowledge of birds and many other interesting things. We will miss Fred.

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 26 Team Leaders whose names appear below. 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, January 3, 2016 on your calendar for the 2015 ECBC. Please plan to join a team or be a Feeder Watcher for a fun, full day of birding. Your results will be entered into the 116-year record of all the Christmas Bird Counts around the continent. These data are used by scientists and researchers to study birdlife. The results of all the CBCs are available on the National Audubon Society's website at www.christmasbirdcount.org. The code for the ECBC is OREU.

Thanks again to all of you who participated and helped to make the 2014 ECBC one of the biggest and best in the country!

Team Leaders by Area

#1: Ron Renchler
#2: Jim Carlson
#3A: Dan Heyerly
#3B: Herb Wisner
#4: Rich Ahrens
#5A: Dan Gleason
#5B: Alan Contreras
#6: Kit Larsen
#7: Roger Robb
#8: Davey Wendt
#9: Luke Ferrenburg
#10: Vjera Thompson
#11A: David Novak

#11B: Barbara Butzer
#12A: Steve Gordon
#12B: Hendrik Herlyn
#13A: Charlie Thomas
#13B: Holly Hartmann
#14: Dave Bontrager
#15: Jim Maloney
#16: Linda Gilbert
#17: John Sullivan
#18: Caryn Stoess
#19: Barbara Combs
#20A: Jim Regali
#20B: Bruce Newhouse
#21: Dennis Arendt



American Robin spotted during the ECBC. Photo: Cary Kerst

2014 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally

December 28, 2014

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

133 species + 1 Count Week

Species	Total (from teams)	Home Counts	Grand Total	relative status
Greater White-fronted Goose.....	1		1	L
Cackling Goose.....	45,773	686	46,459	H
Canada Goose.....	3,797	775	4,572	
Tundra Swan.....	21		21	L
Wood Duck.....	55		55	L
Gadwall.....	169		169	
Eurasian Wigeon.....	3		3	
American Wigeon.....	929	10	939	
Mallard.....	1,274	101	1,375	
Northern Shoveler.....	247		247	
Northern Pintail.....	791		791	
Green-winged Teal.....	513		513	L
Canvasback.....	1		1	L
Ring-necked Duck.....	202		202	
Lesser Scaup.....	36		36	L
Bufflehead.....	124	1	125	
Hooded Merganser.....	79	7	86	H
Common Merganser.....	596	1	597	H
Ruddy Duck.....	112		112	
Mountain Quail.....	0	8	8	L
California Quail.....	53	80	133	L
Ring-necked Pheasant.....	18	6	24	
Wild Turkey.....	274	54	328	RH
Pacific Loon.....	1		1	
Common Loon.....	2		2	L
Pied-billed Grebe.....	80	12	92	
Horned Grebe.....	1	1	2	H
Red-necked Grebe.....	4		4	
Western Grebe.....	5		5	L
Double-crested Cormorant.....	374	8	382	
American White Pelican.....	28		28	RH
Great Blue Heron.....	75	3	78	
Great Egret.....	50		50	
Green Heron.....	4		4	
Turkey Vulture.....	48	2	50	H
White-tailed Kite.....	5		5	
Bald Eagle.....	86	1	87	H
Northern Harrier.....	69		69	
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	11	12	23	RH
Cooper's Hawk.....	16	6	22	H
Red-shouldered Hawk.....	28	1	29	H
Red-tailed Hawk.....	177	4	181	RH
Rough-legged Hawk.....	1		1	L
American Kestrel.....	81		81	
Merlin.....	7	1	8	
Peregrine Falcon.....	4		4	
Virginia Rail.....	1		1	
American Coot.....	211	2	213	
Black-bellied Plover.....	100		100	H
Killdeer.....	616		616	
Spotted Sandpiper.....	4		4	
Greater Yellowlegs.....	12		12	
Western Sandpiper.....	0		0	CW
Least Sandpiper.....	12		12	L
Dunlin.....	14,250		14,250	H

Species	Total (from teams)	Home Counts	Grand Total	relative status
Long-billed Dowitcher.....	130		130	
Wilson's Snipe.....	185		185	
Mew Gull.....	10		10	L
Ring-billed Gull.....	1,694		1,694	
Western Gull.....	10		10	
California Gull.....	11		11	L
Herring Gull.....	12		12	
Thayer's Gull.....	13		13	
Glaucous-winged Gull.....	137	11	148	
Rock Pigeon.....	358	6	364	
Band-tailed Pigeon.....	1		1	
Eurasian Collared-Dove.....	114	52	166	RH
Mourning Dove.....	223	77	300	H
Barn Owl.....	7		7	
Western Screech-Owl.....	6	1	7	
Great Horned Owl.....	12	2	14	
Snowy Owl.....	1		1	
Northern Saw-whet Owl.....	5		5	
Anna's Hummingbird.....	83	99	182	H
Rufous Hummingbird.....	0	1	1	RH
(First for ECBC)				
Belted Kingfisher.....	33	2	35	H
Acorn Woodpecker.....	49	18	67	
Red-breasted Sapsucker.....	27	7	34	H
Downy Woodpecker.....	59	18	77	H
Hairy Woodpecker.....	8	1	9	
Northern Flicker.....	326	54	380	
Pileated Woodpecker.....	5	1	6	
Black Phoebe.....	10		10	
Northern Shrike.....	2		2	
Hutton's Vireo.....	9		9	
Steller's Jay.....	281	135	416	H
Gray Jay.....	0	2	2	RH
Western Scrub-Jay.....	593	152	745	
American Crow.....	1,416	106	1,522	
Common Raven.....	123	1	124	
Black-capped Chickadee.....	660	247	907	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee.....	60	38	98	
Bushtit.....	432	496	928	H
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	102	42	144	H
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	40	8	48	
Brown Creeper.....	41	2	43	
Bewick's Wren.....	88	18	106	H
Pacific Wren.....	52	3	55	
Marsh Wren.....	16	1	17	
Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	428	14	442	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	309	30	339	
Wrentit.....	11	1	12	
Western Bluebird.....	58		58	
Hermit Thrush.....	8	1	9	
American Robin.....	3,487	51	3,538	
Varied Thrush.....	280	67	347	
Northern Mockingbird.....	1		1	
European Starling.....	22,271	227	22,498	
American Pipit.....	115		115	H

2014 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally *continued*

Species	Total (from teams)	Home Counts	Grand Total	relative status
Cedar Waxwing	23	8	31	L
Orange-crowned Warbler	5	1	6	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	139	41	180	
Townsend's Warbler	31	31	62	
Spotted Towhee	439	134	573	
Savannah Sparrow	1		1	L
Fox Sparrow	150	43	193	
Song Sparrow	564	82	646	
Lincoln's Sparrow	16		16	
White-throated Sparrow	7	13	20	
White-crowned Sparrow	138	34	172	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	794	112	906	RH
Dark-eyed Junco	1,968	28	1,996	
Red-winged Blackbird	2,450	968	3,418	
Western Meadowlark	118		118	H

Species	Total (from teams)	Home Counts	Grand Total	relative status
Brewer's Blackbird	564	2	566	
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	10	13	L
Purple Finch	31	44	75	
House Finch	353	156	509	
Red Crossbill	21		21	
Pine Siskin	542	288	830	H
Lesser Goldfinch	68	69	137	H
American Goldfinch	109	143	252	
Evening Grosbeak	2		2	L
House Sparrow	252	84	336	
Number of species seen	130	79	133	
Number of individuals	114,631	6,067	120,698	

2014 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally

Dan Gleason



Mild and generally clear weather greeted the birders conducting this year's Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) and helped us get some good numbers. For Count Day, 133 species were reported by the teams in the field and the Feeder Watchers. One additional species (Western Sandpiper) was reported during Count Week for a total of 134 species and 120,698 individual birds.

Record high numbers were reported for eight species: Wild Turkey, American White Pelican, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Rufous Hummingbird, Gray Jay, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Wild Turkeys continue to increase in numbers in the Willamette Valley, as do Eurasian Collared-Doves. The Rufous Hummingbird is a first for the ECBC and a very rare bird for Oregon during the winter.

The good weather that enabled the teams to see raptors more clearly may have been a factor in the relatively high numbers seen this year for most species. One notable exception is Rough-legged Hawk. Only one of these birds was seen on Count Day. The average number seen is six and as many as 44 have been reported (1973). In recent years, the number of Rough-legged Hawks have decreased locally during the winter months, when they are typically present.

The large number of Feeder Watchers contributed to the high numbers for several species. In particular, the majority of Anna's Hummingbirds were seen by folks who counted at home. This year, 182 Anna's Hummingbirds were reported. That's a high number, but still short of the record 204 reported last year. The wide use of hummingbird feeders in recent years has contributed to the northward spread of this species, which is now found in southern Canada.

Turkey Vultures continue to remain in high numbers throughout the year here in the southern Willamette Valley. Fifty vultures were reported on the ECBC this year, which is higher than usual. We have no way of knowing if these individual birds are breeding birds that did not migrate or if they are northern birds that did not move further south than our area. Turkey Vultures in the winter are rare anywhere else in the state, even just a few miles north of here, and it's rare to find wintering vultures south of the Eugene area. This year was an exception because some Turkey Vultures were seen in the Roseburg area and one or two were reported in southwestern Oregon. Our winter Turkey Vulture population is typically the highest and often the only winter population of Turkey Vultures in the state.

The 2014 ECBC was enjoyed by all the participants. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a great count!

2014 Oakridge Christmas Bird Count

Joel Geier, Count Compiler

The Oakridge Christmas Bird Count on December 14 benefited from mostly clear, mild weather and snow-free roads that allowed access all the way up to the highest elevations of the circle at 4,600 feet. The 19 volunteers found a total of 67 species. Pine Siskins were the most abundant species of the day with a round tally of 480. Golden-crowned Kinglets made their usual strong showing with 280, followed by 270 Dark-eyed (Oregon) Juncos and 220 Chestnut-backed Chickadees.

Unusual species for this circle included Common Loon and Common Goldeneye on Hills Creek Reservoir, Greater White-fronted Geese on the golf course (consorting with domestic—but apparently wild—white geese), and an immature Northern Shrike that was photographed on High Prairie.

Among the most intriguing birds of the day were two flocks of 20 chickadees that were hanging upside down as they fed on mountain hemlock cones near the summit of Buckhead Mountain. They were quite high up in the trees and very active, so it was difficult to see details. Because their backs were gray, we knew they were not Chestnut-backed Chickadees (the most likely suspect for conifer-dominated forests in this area). Black-capped Chickadees would be very surprising in that habitat zone. Based on their hoarse vocalizations, they were identified as Mountain Chickadees, although they were about 15 miles east of their nearest expected location in the Waldo Lake area.

All six of the expected woodpecker/sapsucker species were found, with Pileated Woodpeckers providing the biggest excitement. All five expected corvids were also found, including seven Gray Jays.

No large owls were found this year – even though Spotted, Barred, and Great Gray Owls are all known to be residents in the circle. Owling efforts turned up two Western Screech-Owls and at least one Northern Saw-whet Owl, not to mention a few unidentified noises in the dark. A total of five Northern Pygmy-Owls were found during daylight hours.

Only one grouse was found this year, and it caused perhaps the most frustration of any bird of the day as it evaded attempts at positive identification. The observers were leaning toward Sooty Grouse. Four Mountain Quail were also found. No California Quail turned up, as the usual town flock seemingly went into hiding in December.

Volunteers for this year's count included Forest Tomlinson, Torrey Gage-Tomlinson, Laars Skalmes, Linda Gilbert, Amy Weih, Marvel Loftus, Laurie Patty, Wil Geier, John Lucachick, Stephanie Lucachick, Brandon Wagner, Eric Clough, Jazlin Sobel, Jody Fairchild, Priscilla Sokolowski, Thomas Meinzen and Tom Mickel. Special thanks to co-organizers Cheron Ferland (who unfortunately had to miss the count, but added a count-week Red-shouldered Hawk) and Mary Lee Sayre.

2014 Florence Christmas Bird Count

Kit Larsen, Count Coordinator

The 31st Florence Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 20, under adverse weather conditions, with heavy and continual rain, winds, high surf, and flooded roads affecting the count numbers. The results paint an interesting picture of what the birds do when encountering an “atmospheric deluge.”

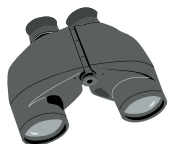
We found 91 species and just over 4,000 individual birds. The average for the past 30 years of the count is 128 species and more than 17,000 individuals. We counted birds for 13 hours on foot and 49 hours by car. Over the past three years, we averaged about 66 hours by foot and 33 by car.

Notable species included a Rufous Hummingbird (2nd sighting for the count). Species that are unusual for the count but were found this year include Red-shouldered Hawk, Black Phoebe, Brandt, Brown Pelican, Red Phalarope, and Orange-crowned Warbler.

For the first time in count history we missed entirely White-winged Scoter, Red-tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Bushtit, and Red-winged Blackbird. Some of the species we usually find but missed are Tundra Swan, Least Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Surf-bird, Brown Creeper, American Dipper, and American Goldfinch.

Some species were low in numbers; we found 1 Rock Dove, 2 Mourning Doves, and 13 Eurasian Collared-Doves. We found 3 Ravens, 3 Pacific Wrens, 6 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and 2 Wrentits. None of the coastal areas, including the city of Florence, reported any raptors. Raptors were found only in the interior areas. No Red-tailed Hawks or White-tailed Kites were seen. Where were all the birds hiding?

Field Notes: November–December 2014



- Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Snowy Owl
- Rufous Hummingbird
- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Tom and Allison Mickel

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Weather-wise, the period was pretty much normal—mostly cloudy, wet, and warmish—although we did have a cool, sunny stretch at the end and a very wet and windy weekend in mid-December. Bird-wise, we had a first record for the county and a couple possible firsts. Also, there were many larger than normal numbers of more common species and a few species that lingered later than normal.

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

WATERBIRDS

Snow Goose	Nov 17	C&M Stables, Florence	RL	Never common on the coast
Cinnamon Teal (2)	Dec 13	Canary area	DP	Winter in very small numbers
Surf Scoter	Nov 14	Alton Baker Park	SNa	Rarely found inland
Long-tailed Duck	Nov 29	NJSR	DI, SF	Winters most years
Common Goldeneye (4)	Dec 16	Hills Creek Rec.	TM, TMe	Not normally found on the Oakridge CBC
Barrow's Goldeneye	Dec 20	N Fork Siuslaw River	SNa	Rarely found along the coast in the county
Common Loon	Dec 16	Hills Creek Res.	TM, TMe	Later than normal for this location
Pied-billed Grebe (44)	Nov 2	FRR	JS	Just in "pond" near tern island
Eared Grebe	Nov 1	Siuslaw River	AC	Almost annual during the winter
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	Nov 29	Brays Point	SF	Rare seen from land
Am. White Pelican (183)	Nov 2	FRR	JS	Very high numbers for this late in year
Am. White Pelican (2)	Dec 7	Alton Baker Park	RR	Very unusual location
Am. White Pelican	Dec 7	Baker Beach	fide DP	Another unusual location
Brown Pelican (400)	Nov 8	Heceta Head	AC, DP	Highest count this fall
Great Egret (79)	Nov 2	FRR	JS	Numbers increasing every winter

HAWKS to GULLS

Red-tailed Hawk (109)	Dec 12	Raptor Route #2	JS, et al.	Highest number recorded
Rough-legged Hawk (3)	Dec 12	Eugene airport	JS, et al.	Higher than normal numbers
Sandhill Crane	Nov 8	NW of Eugene	LG	A normal time for their migration
Sandhill Crane (6)	Nov 30	Mt. Pisgah	B&JC	Later than normal
Red-necked Phalarope (2)	Nov 2	FRR	JS	Later than normal
Red Phalarope	Dec 20	Florence CBC	fide KL	Forced to shore with the high winds
Black-headed Gull (poss.)	Nov 8	NJSR	AC, DP	Seen flying south just past end of jetty
Bonaparte's Gull (16)	Nov 2	FRR	JS	Later than normal
Heermann's Gull (2)	Nov 8	Florence	AC	Southward migration
Heermann's Gull (5)	Nov 9	FRR	JS	Southward migration
Lesser Black-backed Gull (imm)	Nov 23	Camas Swale	BC	Second Lane Co record
Lesser Black-backed Gull (ad)	Nov 24	Camas Swale	NS	Both birds were photographed together
Glaucous Gull	Nov 25	FRR dam	SH	Rare inland

PIGEONS to FINCHES

Band-tailed Pigeon	Nov 1	Stonefield Beach	AC	Later than normal
Band-tailed Pigeon (3)	Dec 20	Florence	TM	Later than normal

Snowy Owl	Dec 3	FRR	SH	Seen throughout the month
Rufous Hummingbird	Dec 3	FRR area	DT	Rare “winter” record - photo
Rufous Hummingbird	Dec 20	Florence CBC	fide KL	Rare “winter” record
Acorn Woodpecker	Nov 15	U of O	MP	First she’s seen on campus
Prairie Falcon	Dec 12	Washburn Lane	JS	Winters most years
Tropical Kingbird	Nov 1	Stonefield Beach	AC	Almost annual in the last fall along coast
Gray Jay (2)	Nov 30	Mt. Pisgah	B&JC	Rare for this location
Barn Swallow (3)	Nov 14	FRR dam	SH	It still seems to be a mystery why these
Barn Swallow (2)	Nov 16	FRR	JS	swallows are showing up so long after the
Barn Swallow	Dec 17	Delta Ponds	DS, et al.	breeding birds have migrated south
Northern Mockingbird	Dec 25	Alvadore	A&DH	Still being seen
Orange-crowned Warbler	Dec 9	SW Eugene	AC	Very small numbers winter most years
Common Yellowthroat	Dec 6	FRR	BW, NP	They occasionally winter
Black-headed Grosbeak	Nov 24	SE Eugene	JSi	Rare “winter” record - photos
Am. Tree Sparrow	Dec 6	River Road area	fide VT	Not annual in the county
Swamp Sparrow	Dec 7	Meadowlark Prairie	SNa	A normal time and location for the species
Swamp Sparrow	Dec 17	FRR - Royal Ave.	KB	A normal time and location for the species
Harris’s Sparrow	Dec 6	River Road area	fide VT	Rare winter visitor
Cassin’s Finch (2)	Nov 20	SW Eugene	DPa	Rarely found away from the high Cascades
Pine Siskin (30)	Nov 5	SW of Eugene	MS	Finally showing up again
Pine Siskin (700)	Nov 8	SJSR	AC	Flocks moving north along the dunes

LATE REPORTS

Fulvous Whistling-Duck	mid-Oct	McKenzie River	BP	Briefly seen at edge of river in yard
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	late-Oct	Jasper - Willamette	JN, MB	Small flock on gravel bar in river. Both these reports are highly unusual, but we’ve included them given their proximity to each other both in time and location

A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, **AC** Alan Contreras, **B&JC** Becky & Jim Carlson, **BC** Barbara Combs, **BP** Bob Pickard, **BW** Becky Waterman, **DI** Dave Irons, **CPa** Dael Parsons, **DP** Diane Pettey, **DS** Don Schrouder, **DT** David Tabor, **JN** Jason Nuckols, **JS** John Sullivan, **JSi** Julia Siporin, **KB** Ken Burton, **KL** Kit Larsen, **LG** Linda Gilbert, **MB** Matt Benotsch, **MP** Margie Paris, **MS** Maeve Sowles, **NP** Nick Paget, **NS** Noah Strycker, **RL** Roy Lowe, **RR** Roger Robb, **SF** Shawnee Finnigan, **SH** Sally Hill, **SNa** Stephan Nance, **TM** Tom Mickel, **TMe** Thomas Mienzen, **VT** Vjera Thompson. **Fide** indicates a sighting that was reported to the listed observer.

Get Involved—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! For more information, visit our Volunteer page online at www.laneaudubon.org/support/volunteer or contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.

Lane Audubon Community Outreach

Help introduce Lane Audubon to community members at local events and present talks on birding and the natural world to small groups upon request. Help develop our “speaker bureau” materials and resources.

This is a great opportunity to use your creativity and get involved in community outreach for Lane County Audubon!

Program Chair

The Program Chair recruits speakers for the chapter Program Meetings that are scheduled eight times a year. This person seeks new programs that will enhance our members’ awareness of birding, habitats, natural history, conservation, and other issues and must be able to engage speakers and organize publicity and other logistics well in advance of each meeting.

Audubon Adventures is Now Online!

Joyce Trawle

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Audubon Adventures is well underway in our local schools. This beloved environmental program for students in grades 3–5 is now available completely online. This year's topics, Wild About Birds, The Buzz About Native Bees, and Neighborhood Biomes, are presented exclusively on the Audubon Adventures website, audubonadventures.org. Students can access all the magazines, activities, and information online, bringing the worlds of birds, bees, and biomes directly into their classrooms.

Through the generous support of LCAS members, Lane Audubon's Adopt-a-Classroom Program offers free subscriptions to this outstanding educational program.

If you would like to sponsor a classroom, please mail a tax-deductible donation of \$16, payable to LCAS, to Audubon Adventures, PO Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405. You can also donate online through the LCAS website: www.laneaudubon.org/education/audubon-adventures.

For more information about Audubon Adventures, please contact Joyce Trawle at jtrawle@comcast.net or 541.515.6244.

Thank you to all our sponsors for their generous support this year!

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Participating Classrooms

Awbrey Park Elementary
Bohemia Elementary (2 classrooms)
Camas Ridge Community School
(2 classrooms)
Centennial Elementary
Cesar Chavez Elementary
(3 classrooms)
Edison Elementary
Family School
Gilham Elementary (3 classrooms)
Guy Lee Elementary – Green Team

Howard Elementary
King's Valley Charter School
(2 classrooms)
Laurel Elementary
London School
Lowell Elementary
McKenzie Elementary
Meadow View School
Oakridge Elementary
Pleasant Hill Elementary
(2 classrooms)
Ridgeline Montessori School
(3 classrooms)
Ridgeview Elementary
Riverbend Elementary
Siuslaw Elementary
Territorial Elementary
Veneta Elementary (2 classrooms)
Walterville Elementary
Willagillespie Community School
Yolanda Elementary (4 classrooms)



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Bats: Our Other Amazing Winged Neighbors With Cameron Bishop

Herb Wisner

541.344.3634

hrwisner@comcast.net

Born and raised in Lane County and a graduate of U of O, Cameron Bishop has worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers for eight years as a biological technician and natural resource specialist. He has conducted acoustic and live-capture bat surveys in cooperation with the Interagency Northwest Bat Grid. He will talk about the life histories, biology, and taxonomy of bats, as well as the misconceptions people often have of these fascinating mammals. Cameron will also tell us about bats that are native to Oregon, white nose syndrome, and some of the monitoring and identification methods he uses.



Feb. Program Meeting
Bats: Our Other Amazing Winged Neighbors With Cameron Bishop
Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.
Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St., Eugene

Local Birdman Embarks on Big Year



photo: Corey Arnold

Noah Strycker, Eugene-Creswell native and self-proclaimed bird nerd, is devoting the entire year of 2015 to an international birding adventure. He is traveling light, carrying just a small backpack, binoculars,

and a spotting scope, and will visit all seven continents with the goal of seeing 5,000 species of birds. He will eventually write a book about his adventures. You can travel vicariously with Noah by following his blog (hosted by National Audubon) at <http://mag.audubon.org/articles/birds/welcome-birding-without-borders>.

Noah is an engaging speaker and writer; his books are must-reads for bird lovers. He brings intellect, humor, creativity, curiosity, and a deep love of nature to every project he undertakes.

From Our President *(continued from page 1)*

Welcome New Board Member! Caryn Stoess grew up in Reno, Nevada, and moved to Eugene for graduate school. Despite the quail running around the parking lot behind her house when she was a kid, Caryn didn't discover birds until 2011, when her husband gave her a bird feeder. At first Caryn was excited just to have birds at the feeders. Eventually she started to pay attention to the two types of birds—Chickadees and not-a-Chickadees. Even though her first attempt to identify a not-a-Chickadee was a failure (at the time a Red-breasted Nuthatch looked a lot like a Mountain Chickadee), she learned that birding could be fun and challenging. In the last several years, Caryn has gone on scores of bird walks, taken several birding workshops, read a large stack of birding books, spent countless hours watching birds, and dubbed herself a bird nerd. In birding, Caryn has found an avocation that is not only a great way to enjoy and observe nature, but also provides the opportunity to meet fun, interesting people who share a common interest and enjoy sharing their knowledge.

In her nonbirding life, Caryn is married to Scott, who supports her birding and occasionally joins her on short birding trips but has yet to be bitten by the birding bug. Caryn is the operations manager for a small organization that creates career development software.

Lane Audubon welcomes you—join or renew today!



We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. Your membership dues

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

Lane County Audubon Society Membership Benefits

- The Quail—9 issues/yr.
- Field trips and bird walks
- Program meetings
- Educational publications
- Conservation issue representation
- Answers to questions: 541.485.BIRD

Visit www.laneaudubon.org



Deadlines:

March Issue: Jan. 31

April Issue: March 7

Submit material to
Paula Rich
richpaula@hotmail.com

The Quail is the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society, which is a chartered chapter of National Audubon Society. Nine issues are published per year (*May-June, July-Aug. and Dec.-Jan. are double issues*).

Local members of National Audubon Society receive a free subscription to *The Quail* but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane County Audubon Society.

Subscriptions: Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com.

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Layout by Kerry Lutz



Lane Audubon Membership Dues

- Individual \$20\$ _____
- Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15\$ _____
- Family \$25\$ _____
- Lifetime Membership \$400\$ _____
- I want to do more. Here's my tax deductible contribution for.....\$ _____
- Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society)\$ _____

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

- Current National Audubon member Don't know

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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

Laredo Birding Festival

February 4–7, Laredo, TX

This festival offers a terrific line-up of events and trips that feature the best South Texas birding hotspots and scenic ranches. You might even spot a White-Collared Seedeater. Several ranches have been added to the scheduled trips this year.

FMI: www.laredobirdingfestival.com,
956.718.1063, laredobirdingfestival@rgisc.org

Winter Wings Festival

February 12–15, Klamath Falls, OR

Winter Wings offers a huge assortment of birding and nature-related activities for all ages and skill levels.

FMI: www.winterwingsfest.org,
877.541.BIRD

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 13–16

The 18th annual GBBC takes place this month. Participate in this online citizen-science project by visiting the official website at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org>.

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, February 7, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Lichen Walk

Join Botanist Daphne Stone on an easy stroll through the Arboretum exploring lichens, their habitats, and ecology. This walk is appropriate for both children and adults. Rain or shine.

Tuesday, February 10, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Exploring Winter Branches

Examine and learn to identify the many trees and shrubs in the Arboretum in their winter stage without leaves or flowers and notice which ones are breaking bud. Rain or shine.

Sunday, February 15, 8:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Late Winter Bird Walk

Join Nature Guides Chris Roth and Julia Siporin for another monthly bird walk intended for people with all levels of birding experience. We'll use

vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of our winter and year-round residents. Please bring binoculars. Rain or shine.

\$5, Members free. All Arboretum events begin at the Arboretum Visitor Center.
FMI: 541.747.1504,
www.MountPisgahArboretum.org

Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)

Tuesday, February 10, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Wetland Wander at Hansen/See-Sil

Meet at the Hansen/See-Sil site at the west end of Royal Ave. Participants should bring water and wear muck boots—it will be quite wet. WREN will provide binoculars.

Free. FMI: 541.338.7047,
info@wewetlands.org.

Thursday, February 19, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Volunteer Orientation

WREN is looking for Wetland Educators/Guides (no experience necessary), Bookkeeper, Citizen-Scientists, Curriculum/Education Materials Developers, Board Members, and Grant Writers.

To RSVP call 541.338.7046 or email
susanna@wewetlands.org.

John Scharff Migratory Bird Festival

April 9–12, Burns, OR

Spend an amazing weekend witnessing the spectacular spring migration in the Harney Basin of Southeast Oregon. View thousands of migratory birds as they rest and feed in the wide-open spaces of Oregon's high desert.

FMI: www.migratorybirdfestival.com,
855.438.8625



Olympic Peninsula 2015
BirdFest
Come bird with us!

- San Juan Island Cruise
- Neah Bay Birding Excursion
- Guided Birding Trips
- Bird Drawing Class
- Auction & Raffle
- Photography Workshop
- Gala Banquet with speaker
Lynsy Smithson-Stanley

April 10–12, 2015
For more information:
www.olympicbirdfest.org
info@olympicbirdfest.org
or 360-681-4076

OLYMPIC PENINSULA Audubon Society SEQUIM WASHINGTON
For lodging and visitor information, call 800-942-4042 or click www.visitsequeim.com 800-737-8462
First Federal



The Great
Backyard
Bird Count
FEBRUARY 13-16, 2015



SAVE THE DATES!
Klamath Basin
WINTER WINGS FESTIVAL
February 12–15, 2015
President's Day Weekend
Featuring:
Richard Crossley
Jennifer Wu

Feb. Program Meeting
Bats: Our Other Amazing
Winged Neighbors
With Cameron Bishop




Tuesday, Feb. 24
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



Saturday
February 21

Jim Maloney

541.968.9249

jimgmal@comcast.com

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK

Fern Ridge Wildlife Area, Royal Avenue, led by Anne and Dan Heyerly

Anne and Dan Heyerly will lead February's Third Saturday Bird Walk to the Royal Avenue area of the Fern Ridge Wildlife Refuge Area.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson), rain or shine, for greetings and carpooling. We plan to return by noon. Remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables in your vehicle if it's parked at the high school. You can also meet the group at the parking area at the end of Royal Avenue at 8:30 a.m. A parking permit is required, and must be purchased ahead of time from the ODFW.

All levels of birders are welcome. A \$3 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities. Contact Jim Maloney at 541-968-9249 or jimgmal@comcast.net for more information.

Electronic version of *The Quail* available!

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

version of our newsletter. If you would like to begin receiving *The Quail* electronically or would like more information, please contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com.