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The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

2020 Has Been a Year Like No Other!



Due to the pandemic, we have learned enlightening essential practices to secure our families and ourselves from an infection affecting the human population of the earth. Precautions to ensure protection from disease have become daily rituals, changing our lives dramatically. This situation has also raised awareness of our basic needs for safe food supplies, safe water, and safe spaces for shelter.

And it has also shown us the fragility of having safe and productive ways to make a living.

All of these are the same essentials we strive to protect for the birds and wildlife who share the earth with us. Usually humans feel they are above or apart from these necessities, since many of us are buffered from the precarious edge of survival. Unfortunately, this is not true for all people.

Recently we have seen the violent side of human nature on stark display. This is an aspect of our humanity that I cannot fathom. Humans are all related – we share the DNA, the human history, the earth. Each of us has the same biological and daily needs, and together we could recreate a safe earth for all. Why are compassion and empathy such elusive principles?

We need to find the resolve to be better at supplying essential needs for ourselves and each other. We need to stop and learn from our huge ongoing mistakes. Drop the prehistoric sub-brain ego responses, and use our hearts to feel the flow of compassion toward all living things. We can do better together in focusing on our mutual needs.

Can we learn from this stressful time and actually make our lives and communities healthier, more holistic and more productive for everyone? It is time for humans to lift themselves to fulfill their potential for caring, empathy, and compassion. Please, let us use our big brains to imagine this into our new reality and make choices that bring us forward to a better future together. This goal needs to become more than a dream and more than rhetoric. Humans have great capacity for adaptation.

Let's make it work for the common good of all people and the earth. My deepest wish is that we reach a time of peace and wellness for us all.

Lane County Audubon Society

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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com



Oregon's Anti-poaching Campaign

Lane County Audubon Society has joined a diverse group of stakeholders to fight poaching and illegal harm to wildlife in Oregon. This campaign is a collaboration among conservationists, recreationists, hunters, and landowners. We and other wildlife organizations (including Portland Audubon) believe this to be an opportunity to help protect non-game wildlife.

Stakeholder meetings include representatives from the legislature, Oregon State Police, Oregon Department of Justice, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Hunters Association, and Defenders of Wildlife among others. Recently passed legislation authorized the Oregon Department of Justice, State Police, and Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to work together to fight poaching. New legislation increased fines and restitutions for fish and wildlife crimes. Funding was made available to support the Stop Poaching campaign.

Numerous illegal bird-killing reports over the years have included Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks and other raptors, swans, crows, and Red-winged Blackbirds. In addition, we have concerns that poaching of wildlife often includes trophy hunting, which targets the very individuals who are best suited for ensuring reproductive success and a healthy gene pool. As was noted at the first stakeholders meeting, poachers steal from all Oregonians and destroy natural resources that belong to all, depriving us of the opportunity to encounter wildlife in their own habitats.

Most people identify poaching as illegal hunting and indeed, ODFW reports cases of poaching of ducks, geese, etc. without legally obtained hunting licenses, during the off-season, and on closed refuge lands. Unfortunately, most people are unaware that it is likewise illegal to kill or harm non-game birds. Wildlife Care Centers treat birds and other wildlife that have been illegally shot, trapped and poisoned, often intentionally. Portland Audubon's Care center lists Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Osprey, and Great Blue Herons among the bird species harmed. Birds are protected under several laws including the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which prohibits the "take" (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species. This vital protective law is under attack right now by the

current administration. The Interior Department is fast-tracking efforts to strip away critical protections in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act: audubon.org/takeaction

The goal of the Stop Poaching Campaign is to help protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitat for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The three prongs of the campaign are:

(1) Detection: Identifying and reporting crimes or suspicious activities to the TIP Line or Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division.

(2) Enforcement: Troopers enforce laws by issuing warnings or citations and by making arrests.

(3) Prosecution: Legal action through the Department of Justice including fines, restitution, and/or imprisonment.

The Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division has hired additional troopers across the state to detect wildlife crimes. They are assisted by K-9 unit, Buck, a Golden Labrador Retriever, who can detect carrion, gunshot residue, and human scent (not to mention being a terrific ambassador for education and awareness programs). Members of the Oregon Department of Justice will work throughout the many Oregon counties to help prosecute poachers. A roving district attorney can increase prosecution rates, especially in court jurisdictions that don't seem to prioritize it. Oregon State Parks and Recreation has agreed to post Turn In Poachers (TIP) Line signs at more than 200 state parks, campgrounds, and trailheads across Oregon. The TIP program offers people cash rewards for providing information that leads to a poaching citation. Other organizations have agreed to help raise awareness about the campaign, and we will provide more information, especially tips on how to recognize and report illegal activity, as it becomes available.

To report fish, wildlife and habitat crimes including habitat destruction, call the Turn In Poachers (TIP) Line at 800.452.7888 or email TIP@state.or.us or online at oregon.gov/osp/programs/fw/Pages/tip.aspx

For more information on the campaign, contact Yvonne Shaw: Yvonne.l.shaw@state.or.us.

And, as always, feel free to contact me for further information: dschlenoff@msn.com.

Field Notes: Spring 2020

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

Long-billed Curlew, White-faced Ibis, Willet, Sage Thrasher

For the most part, spring seemed wetter and cooler than normal, with a very warm and dry spell toward the end. Most migrants arrived earlier than the norm in comparison to the last 30+ years; our records go back to 1994. Are the birds really arriving earlier, or are more birders out there looking to be the first to name a species? I suspect it's a little of both. And due to the pandemic, everyone was staying closer to home, looking for the first of this or that.

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



Photo: Wikimedia

Long-billed Curlew



Photo: Cary Kerst

White-faced Ibis

WATERFOWL TO SHOREBIRDS

Snow Goose (6)	April 18	Clear Lake Rd	SM	They were around for longer than normal
Greater White-fronted Goose	April 23	NE Eugene	SMc	Start of their northward migration
Brant	April 28	FRR - Royal	JS	Rare inland
Blue-winged Teal	April 16	Cantrell Rd	LG	A little over a week earlier than normal
Harlequin Duck	May 4	S Fork McKenzie	DS	Are they nesting in the area?
Black Swift	May 3	S Hills Eugene	RA	Rarely found in migration away from coast
Vaux's Swift	April 4	Alton Baker Park	JL	About a week earlier than normal
Calliope Hummingbird	April 5	EWEB	BC	The first of many reports
Sandhill Crane (2)	April 10	Creswell area	RSe	Very late birds - nesting locally?
Black-necked Stilt (2)	April 27	Meadowlark Prairie	GM	A few days later than normal
American Avocet	May 28	FRR - Royal	PR	They have nested in the past
Long-billed Curlew	May 5	Sutton Creek	DF	Rare on the coast
Long-billed Curlew	May 25	FRR - Royal	VT,NC	Rare inland as well
Marbled Godwit	May 2	FRR - Royal	RR	Not common inland in Lane
Marbled Godwit	May 11	FRR - Royal	DB	Not common inland in Lane
Marbled Godwit (4)	May 14	FRR - Royal	JS,LJ	Not common inland in Lane
Sanderling	May 2	FRR - Royal	RR	Not common inland in Lane
Pectoral Sandpiper	May 3	Stewart Pond area	DJ	An unusual spring sighting
Solitary Sandpiper	April 17	Stewart Pond area	RA	About a week earlier than normal
Solitary Sandpiper	May 13	Danebo Pond	VT	Last report for spring & later than normal
Wandering Tattler (2)	May 9	NJSR	GM	They migrate through in small numbers
Willet	May 10	FRR - Royal	JS	Rare in the valley
Wilson's Phalarope	May 8	Meadowlark Prairie	SJ	A few days later than normal
Red-necked Phalarope	April 25	KR Neilsen	AB	Migrate through the valley in small numbers

GULLS TO VIREOS

Franklin's Gull	May 30	FRR - Royal	EB	Rare-normally found in fall
Black Tern	May 1	FRR	BC	A couple days earlier than normal
Forster's Tern (3)	May 11	FRR - Royal	JS	They have nested in the past
American White Pelican	April 14	Santa Clara area	MRu	A first for their neighborhood - many flocks reported flying over areas throughout the Eugene/Springfield area this spring (M.ob.)
Black-crowned Night-Heron	April 15	W Eugene	VT	Seen flying over her house in the evening
White-faced Ibis (26)	May 9	FRR area	FT,TG-T	Uncommon spring overshoots to the valley
White-faced Ibis (20)	May 9	Heceta Beach	SH,DP	A first for coastal Lane!
White-faced Ibis	May 22	FRR	JF	The last report for the area
Swainson's Hawk - photos	May 5	KR Neilsen Road	GM	Rare in Lane
Northern Saw-whet Owl	April 5	Alton Baker Park	JL	An unusual day roost location

GULLS TO VIREOS CONTINUED

Lewis's Woodpecker	May 5	Willamette Heights	SM	Later than normal
Red-naped Sapsucker - photos	April 19	Mulkey Cemetery	VT	A rare visitor to western Oregon
Merlin	April 2	Oakridge	MLS	Getting late for this species
Olive-sided Flycatcher	April 24	Razor Park	AC	About a week and a half earlier than normal
Western Wood-Pewee	April 27	Friendly St	DA	A few days earlier than normal
Willow Flycatcher	May 7	Meadowlark Prairie	NA	About a week earlier than normal
Hammond's Flycatcher	April 11	Creswell area	NS	A little over a week earlier than normal
Gray Flycatcher	April 24	Razor Park	SH	Migrate through in very small numbers
Dusky Flycatcher	April 18	SE Eugene	A&TM	A few days earlier than normal
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	April 15	Hendricks Ridge	JG	About a week earlier than normal
Ash-throated Flycatcher	May 2	Willamette Heights	JS	A little over a week earlier than normal
Ash-throated Flycatcher	end of May	Eugene/Springfield	M.ob	Larger numbers than normal for Lane
Western Kingbird	April 14	Santa Clara area	BB	A few days earlier than normal
Western Kingbird (7)	April 27	Alton Baker Park	JS,LJ	An amazing number for one location in Lane
Northern Shrike	April 2	FRR - E Coyote	RR	The last report for the winter season
Cassin's Vireo	April 6	Mt Pisgah	MP	Right on time
Warbling Vireo	April 17	Skinner Butte	LG	A few days earlier than normal

SWALLOWS TO BUNTINGS

Purple Martin	May 1	LCC area	KL	Nesting in snag - they seem to be nesting in
Purple Martin	May 10	Hult Pond area	LG	more areas than they used to
Rock Wren	May 15	Lowell area	JS	They're annual in Lane in spring migration
House Wren	April 13	River Road area	TMe	A few days earlier than normal
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	April 13	Mt Pisgah	JH	The same area where they nested last year
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	May 7	LCC area	DA	Migrant or new nesting location?
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (4+)	May 15	Mt Pisgah	SH,DP	Some of last year's fledglings coming back?
Townsend's Solitaire	April 8	FRR - Perkins	SM	There seemed to be more reports than normal
Townsend's Solitaire	April 8	Skinner Butte	SH	There seemed to be more reports than normal
Townsend's Solitaire (4)	April 17	Skinner Butte	TJ	Very high number for anywhere in the valley
Swainson's Thrush	May 1	SE Eugene	TM	Right on time
Sage Thrasher	May 31	FRR - Royal	GM	Rare - almost annual spring overshoot
American Pipit (4)	May 8	Stewart Pond area	AC	Getting late for this species
Evening Grosbeak	April 12	W Eugene	AC	First of the hordes to show up
Lapland Longspur	April 11	NJSR	DP,TD	Late for this species - breeding plumage
Red Crossbill	May 27	River Road area	RH	Rarely reported inland so far this year
Chipping Sparrow	Mar 28	Eugene	RA	A few days earlier than normal
Vesper Sparrow	April 18	Balboa Park	JL	They may be breeding in the area
Lark Sparrow	May 9	Bond Rd	FT,TG-T	Becoming almost annual in spring in Lane
Lark Sparrow	May 12	N Eugene	JW	Becoming almost annual in spring in Lane
Grasshopper Sparrow	April 26	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	A couple weeks earlier than normal
Grasshopper Sparrow	April 29	FRR area	M.ob	They seem to be more common this year
Yellow-breasted Chat	April 25	LCC area	DA	About a week and a half earlier than normal
Yellow-breasted Chat	May 22	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	Rare along the outer coast in Lane
Bullock's Oriole	April 17	Stewart Pond area	JL	About a week earlier than normal
Nashville Warbler	April 9	FRR - Perkins	RA	A few days earlier than normal
MacGillivray's Warbler	April 15	Creswell area	NS	Just under a week earlier than normal
Yellow Warbler	April 9	FRR - Perkins	RA	About two and a half weeks earlier than normal
Black-throated Gray Warbler	April 5	Alton Baker Park	JS	Right on time
Hermit Warbler	April 18	Skinner Butte	RSi,SH	A few days earlier than normal
Wilson's Warbler	April 13	Skinner Butte	TMe	A couple days later than normal
Western Tanager	April 16	Delta Ponds	MBP	About a week earlier than normal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	May 20	Ferry St Bridge area	TG	Almost annual in Lane during May/June
Black-headed Grosbeak	April 16	Creswell area	TMo	About a week earlier than normal
Lazuli Bunting	April 24	Moon Mtn Park	DH	A few days earlier than normal

AB Aaron Beerman, AC Alan Contreras, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, BB Brian Broderick, BC Barbara Combs, DA Dennis Arendt, DB Deborah Bernhard, DF Daniel Farrar, DH Dan Heyerly, DJ Dave Jones, DP Diane Pettey, DS Diane Stewart, EB Evan Burregg, FT Forest Tomlinson, GM Gerry Meenaghan, JF Judy Franzen, JG Joshua Galpern, JH Jennifer Haynes, JL Joshua Little, JS John Sullivan, JW John Wahlund, KL Kit Larsen, LG Linda Gilbert, LJ Laura Johnson, MBP Mary Beth Pattyn, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, MP Margie Paris, MRu Mark Rudolph, NA Nathan Aragon, NC Nancy Clogston, NS Noah Strycker, PR Peter Ralph, RA Ramiro Aragon, RH Rich Hoyer, RR Roger Robb, RSe Ron Selfridge, RSi Randy Sinnott, SH Sally Hill, SJ Scott Johnson, SMc Steve McDonald, SM Sylvia Maulding, TG Tim Gardner, TG-T Torry Gage-Tomlinson, TD Terry Danforth, TJ Tye Jeske, TM Tom Mickel, TMe Thomas Meinzen, TMo Tori Morgan, VT Vjera Thompson. M.ob. signifies many observers.

Program Meeting

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

What Will Our Fall and Winter Program Meetings Look Like?

For many years, Lane County Audubon Society (LCAS) has put on monthly program meetings with very good speakers and interesting programs. Sandy Poinsett sets up chairs, Joyce Baker brings treats, and Ron Renschler greets each guest. Dick Lamster and Maeve Sowles make sure everything is ready. This team wants to continue bringing you enjoyable and educational meetings.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has put these meetings on pause. Janet Essley planned to talk about the amazing long-distance migrant, the Red Knot. Bill Sullivan was ready to tell us about his newest book, *New Trails in the Central Cascades*. Jim Regali and Kit Larsen planned to take us on a trip into central Colombia. But because we all want to stay safe and healthy, those meetings were cancelled.

So what will we do in the fall? More great speakers are already lined up. Can we safely have Audubon meetings before we have a vaccine? This question is hard to answer at this time. Perhaps a larger meeting room could be found, so that the attendees could maintain social distancing. Internet platforms for “live” meetings are another option, some of which can be viewed later online. One of our summer goals will be to find methods that will keep us safe while allowing us to stay connected through our monthly presentations.

Planned for fall and beyond are several speakers you all know, plus a couple of new ones. Ram Papish is returning for his third presentation

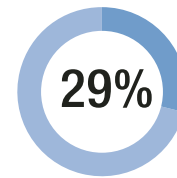
in as many years. Ram always brings great enthusiasm and theatrics to his presentations, along with great stories and fantastic photos. This year Ram is taking us to Tanzania and Uganda, where he traveled with his wife, Dawn, and his brother Uri.

Tyler Hallman is returning, too, to tell us about birding in Indonesia. He is a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University. Last year his program focused on changes in bird distribution and abundance in the Willamette Valley over the last forty years. A vicarious trip to Indonesia through Tyler’s eyes will bring the truly exotic to us. He is a very skillful presenter and this is a program that you won’t want to miss.

Jesse Laney will be presenting to us for the first time. Jesse is a Ph.D. student at Oregon State University in the Department of Integrative Biology. He gave several short programs at the 2020 Bird Symposium in January and is planning three short programs for us. One is about the Patagonia Picnic Table Effect, his second focuses on owl pellets, and the last is about Steens Mountain.

Janet Essley and Bill Sullivan are coming back after having their programs cancelled this spring. Rich Hoyer, a professional bird guide, will be the January presenter, and Bob Fleming, a regular favorite, will also be back.

LCAS will bring these presentations to you either in person or through some to-be-determined process. Check out the Lane County Audubon Society web page for details and updates.



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Contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com



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Compassion: The Ultimate Index

“The only index by which to judge a government or a way of life is by the quality of the people it acts upon. No matter how noble the objectives of a government, if it blurs decency and kindness, cheapens human life, and breeds ill will and suspicion – it is an evil government.”

“It is compassion rather than the principle of justice which can guard us against being unjust to our fellow men.”

Eric Hoffer in *The Passionate State of Mind*, 1954

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

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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

Lane County Audubon Society Yearly Membership

- Individual \$20.....\$ _____
- Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15.....\$ _____
- Family \$25.....\$ _____
- Lifetime Membership \$400.....\$ _____
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To pay by PayPal, go to laneaudubon.org/support/join

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I would like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

I would like to volunteer for Lane County Audubon activities.

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

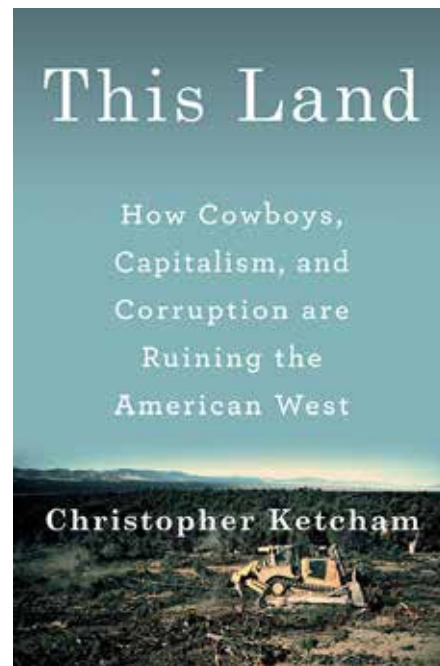
Book Review by Jim Maloney: “This Land – How Cowboys, Capitalism, and Corruption are Ruining the American West”

This capsule book review concerns a new book by Christopher Ketcham entitled “This Land – How Cowboys, Capitalism, and Corruption are Ruining the American West.” It’s a non-fiction book set in the West but with a broader scope.

The book concerns the exploitation of Western lands by livestock grazers, loggers, mining and fracking companies, and by the corporations that become rich by enabling them. It is an Ed Abbey-take-no-prisoners indictment of not only Cliven and Amon Bundy, the Mormon/Utah public lands grab, and the ultimate entitlement-demanding cattle grazers, loggers, and fossil fuel exploiters. It also manages to include the collusion, manipulation, control, and corporate

direction of so-called “public agencies” like Wildlife Services, the BLM, the Forest Service, and other government “protection” agencies under Bush, Clinton, Bush, Obama, and Trump.

While I was aware of some of this stuff, I previously had no idea of the depth of collusion and utter betrayal of things many of us believed in. I remember I was traveling to a meeting in The Dalles, Oregon, when Obama won his first election. The meeting included individual people, organizations, and agencies trying to protect wildlife, while developing renewable energy resources like wind, solar, and geothermal. At that meeting, the agency biologists felt elated that finally they were being heard. Years later I was told, off the record, that it made no difference.



Nothing had changed.

The book is a good read, based on in-person interviews with the complete spectrum of participants, darkly evil and less so. Ketcham is an engaging writer, but I was left more devastated than elated. Read at your own risk; have a stiff drink nearby.

LCAS Volunteers Are Essential and Much Appreciated

We are an all-volunteer organization and our activities occur due to the work of our volunteers!

In April, new volunteer Sarah Norton helped with several Vaux’s Swift counts at Agate Hall chimney. Sarah has done swift and other types of bird counts in the past, so we were fortunate to have her help at Agate Hall to document the large numbers of Vaux’s Swifts using the chimney during the spring migration this year.

Thanks so much to Sarah!

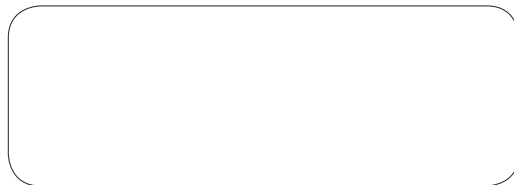


Bryan Ribelin donated several hundred post cards with his bird drawings on them for Lane Audubon to use as “Thank You” notes for donations we receive. His art is delightful and we truly appreciate him sharing his art and support for Lane Audubon.

Bryan, Thanks to YOU!!



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See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org

Third Saturday Bird Walks

In May, a small group of birders met for a Saturday Bird Walk, the first since February. We will continue to hold small walks, with some restrictions in place in order to adhere to local guidelines. (At this writing, the June walk had not yet taken place.) We will keep attendance very small—no more than 10 birders, and will not be announcing the location publicly. Rather, folks wishing to join in on a walk must email Bex at 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. Carpooling is not recommended with folks outside of your household. I will keep this in mind when choosing locations for walks. Our next walks, taking place on July 18 & August 15, will begin as usual at 8:30 am. Email Bex to sign up!

If you are unable to make it to a 3rd Saturday walk, or would be more comfortable in an even smaller group, please feel free to reach out to me. I have plenty of time on my hands and plenty of love for birding to share!

Canoe/kayak birding trip to Fern Ridge Lake

Dick Lamster and Maeve Sowles will lead a bird-watching-by-canoe/kayak trip to Fern Ridge Lake on Saturday, July 18. This is a unique way to get closer to birds for easier identification. Last year we identified 49 species of birds and have seen more than 50 species in some years. We expect to maintain social distancing during this event and will not share optics.

Participants need to furnish their own canoe or kayak and lifejackets (required). Each craft ten feet or longer will need a Waterway Access Permit (previously called an Aquatic Invasive Species Permit). FMI: boatoregon.com.

To reserve a spot on the trip and/or get more information, call Dick at 541.343.8664. If you don't have a canoe or kayak, call anyway. Other participants may have extra space in their craft. If we need to cancel for any reason, we will notify those who have signed up.



Photo: Rebecca Waterman

Yellow-breasted Chat



Photo: Rebecca Waterman

Red-winged blackbird