



The

March 2016

# Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

## From Our President



### Thank You, Herb Wisner

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Audubon Phone – 541.485.BIRD

| Inside The Quail  |   |
|---|---|
| From Our President .....  | 1 |
| • <i>Thank You, Herb Wisner</i>                                 |   |
| Public Lands Belong to Everyone....                             | 2 |
| Field Notes .....   | 3 |
| Program Meeting .....   | 5 |
| Report from Program Meeting,<br>January 26, 2016 .....          | 5 |
| Board and Committees .....                                      | 6 |
| Community Calendar .....  | 7 |
| Bird Walks & Events .....                                       | 8 |
| • <i>Third Saturday Bird Walk</i>                               |   |
| Experience Malheur National<br>Wildlife Refuge with LCAS! ..... | 8 |

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Get *The Quail* electronically.

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

**H**erb Wisner has volunteered and been on the Board of Lane County Audubon for decades. He maintains his Board position, but two years ago he asked to give up the Program Chair. It took some time to find a new volunteer, and we did the job by committee for the last year. Herb still helps find speakers, and his efforts and methods to find new program material reflect his eclectic interests. I have seen Herb working the crowd at concerts and birthday parties to see if a prospective speaker could fit into the program schedule. His untiring efforts on behalf of Audubon span his lifetime.



Herb's father and uncle were naturalists and fostered his interest in the study of nature while he was growing up in New York State. Birds were a big passion for Herb. As a young man he worked at the National Audubon Hog Island Nature Camp in Maine. Herb and Ruth came to Eugene in 1966, and Herb was a UO biology lecturer for much of his career. I have been told his classes and field trips were fun and exciting and that he inspired many students to pursue more courses in biology. His classes were packed full of challenging information that made his students realize they needed to work harder. He took students on camping trips in the mountains so they could awaken to the dawn chorus of forest birds. His strong interest in birds sparked their desire to know much more. Dan Gleason said, "After just a few trips with him, I was hooked."

Herb's interest in the natural world and appetite for learning are difficult to keep up with. He still attends classes and lectures so that he is continuously learning.

*(continued on page 4)*



## Public Lands Belong to Everyone

Debbie Schlenoff

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I write this at the end of January when the volatile situation at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is just winding down. I feel sorrow that the illegal actions of the occupiers led to a life lost. I feel optimistic that this land which belongs to the public will once again be available for all to enjoy. I feel grateful that the people of Harney County will be free from the distress caused by the occupation and will again be able to interact with their many supporters as people flock to the refuge this spring. I feel comforted that the skies and waterways around the refuge will soon be filled with the graceful swoop of thousands of migratory birds despite the many (often foolish) activities of us human animals.

I cringed when I heard this fringe group say they were going to “take back” the land for the people, because it turns out that the people already have it. Each year, the refuge is visited and enjoyed by thousands who bring tourist dollars into the area. Management at the refuge is based on a plan resulting from the collaboration of members of the native Paiute tribe, ranchers and other community members, government workers, and scientists, among others. Some of the restoration projects are lauded for their potential to not only improve habitat, but also support the local community.

At January’s standing-room-only Program Meeting, we had the opportunity to enjoy mingling with the many people who attended. It was uplifting to listen to the many supporters who spoke eloquently about what the Malheur NWR means to them. It had seemed for a while that the “loud” voices of a few outsiders using intimidating tactics were the only ones being heard. But throughout the state and, indeed, the country, voices were raised at rallies and in social and news media of all kinds. It was gratifying to hear that public lands are valued by, well . . . the public.

A recent poll conducted by Colorado College State of the Rockies Project revealed that 72% of people surveyed believe that public lands in the west help our economy, while only 6% believe they hurt it. When queried about federal vs. state control, a solid majority are against turning public lands over to state control. Yet an alarming number of legislative



proposals suggest doing just that. For example, a bill proposed in the 2015 Oregon State Legislature “requires United States to extinguish title to public lands and transfer title to public lands to state on or before December 13, 2018.” Unfortunately, the illegal public-land grab at the Malheur NWR was not an isolated incident. It is a symptom of a wider campaign to take public lands away from the people and privatize them. Several organizations such as the American Legislative Exchange Council (with much funding from the Koch brothers) are working to restrict public access on public lands and turn them over to extractive industries. This is why it is so important that we do not grow complacent, even while breathing our collective sigh of relief at the apparent return to normalcy at Malheur. Now, more than ever, it is important that our legislators know how much we value public lands. To protect our legacy, preserve native heritage, conserve a major stopover for tens of thousands of birds representing 320 species, benefit from ecosystem services provided (such as clean water and air), allow continued scientific monitoring and restoration, and ensure that natural wonder persists for us and for our children—here’s what you can do:

**Visit public lands:** Enjoy our public lands. Go birding. Attend the Harney County Migratory Bird Festival. Hike. Watch wildlife. Commune with nature. Be inspired. Make reservations for an overnight stay. Spark your creativity—write poetry, paint pictures, craft photographs. Marvel. As you shop, eat, or stay overnight, let the good people of Harney County know that you are there to enjoy your public lands.

*(continued on page 4)*

## Field Notes: January 2015



- Trumpeter Swan
- Prairie Falcon
- Wandering Tattler
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Purple Martin
- Bullock's Oriole

Tom and Allison Mickel

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January was a more or less normal month weather-wise, with some nice sunny days late in the month—which got some of the resident species to begin singing. As you'll read below, some interesting birds were found during the month.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

### WATERBIRDS

|                               |        |                     |        |  |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|--|
| Trumpeter Swan (2)            | Jan 3  | Alvadore area       | SH     | Unusual this far south in the valley   |
| Cinnamon Teal (2)             | Jan 22 | Fiddle Creek        | NSt    | They have wintered in this area        |
| Long-tailed Duck              | Jan 1  | Florence docks      | DP     | Seen throughout month                  |
| Common Goldeneye (2)          | Jan 6  | Ferry St Bridge     | SH     | Not a common location for this species |
| Green Heron                   | Jan 6  | Springfield         | SMc    | They occasionally winter               |
| American White Pelican (6+/-) | Jan    | FRR - dam           | m.ob.  | Wintering again this year              |
| Brown Pelican                 | Jan 7  | Sea Lion Caves area | SH, VB | Wintering in the area?                 |

### QUAIL to OWLS

|                    |         |                      |        |  |
|--------------------|---------|----------------------|--------|--|
| Mountain Quail (6) | Jan 15  | Upper Camp Ck Rd     | SH     | A good area for the species                    |
| Osprey             | Jan     | Florence             | m.ob.  | Seen throughout the month                      |
| Osprey             | Jan 4   | Mt Pisgah            | AJ     | Seen at least twice during the month           |
| Osprey (3)         | Jan 15  | Cottage Grove res.   | TMo    | Still fishing at the reservoir                 |
| Osprey             | Jan 26  | Siltcoos River mouth | KC, DL | A first winter report from this location       |
| Rough-legged Hawk  | Jan 2   | Emerald Park         | VT     | An unusual location for this species           |
| Rough-legged Hawk  | Jan     | FRR - Meadowlark     | m.ob.  | Seen in high numbers during the month          |
| Golden Eagle       | Jan 1   | Marcola area         | SH     | They nest in the area                          |
| Prairie Falcon     | Jan     | W Junction City area | m.ob.  | At least two birds wintering in the area       |
| Snowy Plover (90)  | Jan 26  | Siltcoos River mouth | DL, KC | A record high number for this location         |
| Wandering Tattler  | Jan 7   | Bob Creek            | RR     | Second winter record for Lane Co               |
| Barred Owl         | mid-Dec | W of downtown Eug    | M&MD   | Likely sub-adult birds looking for a territory |
| Barred Owl         | Jan 8   | River Rd area        | TMe    | Both only seen the one late afternoon/evening  |

### WOODPECKERS to ORIOLES

|                           |        |                  |         |   |
|---------------------------|--------|------------------|---------|---|
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  | Jan 5  | Celeste Campbell | JC      | Seventh record for Lane Co  |
| Purple Martin             | Jan 20 | FRR              | CS      | The first winter record for a martin species in Oregon. It could have been one of the Central or South American migratory species |
| Mountain Chickadee        | Jan 4  | Creswell         | SN      | The only report this month  |
| Northern Mockingbird      | Jan 26 | south Eugene     | fide KL | It's been in the area for about three weeks   |
| Common Yellowthroat       | Jan 9  | west Eugene      | BC      | They occasionally winter  |
| Swamp Sparrow             | Jan 5  | FRR - E Coyote   | SH      | A normal wintering location   |
| Bullock's Oriole (male)   | Nov 27 | Florence         | SK      | Last seen Dec 12  |
| Bullock's Oriole (female) | Dec 29 | Florence         | fide SK | Very rare wintering species   |

AJ August Jackson, BC Barbara Combs, CS Cody Smith, DL Dave Lauten, DP Diane Pettey, JC Jim Carlson, KC Kathy Castelein, KL Kit Larsen, M&MD Mari & Mark Dembrow, m.ob. many observers, NSt Nancy Stotz, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, SK Sara Kaul, SMc Scott McNeeley, SN Sally Nelson, TMe Thomas Meinzen, TMo Tori Morgan, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson. Fide indicates a sighting that was reported to the listed observer.

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## From our President *(continued from page 1)*

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He exercises regularly and enjoys working in his garden. His pocket calendar is full each month. Herb organizes the LCAS Home Counters for the Eugene Christmas Bird Count each year. He is also active with the Eugene Natural History Society, for which he was treasurer for many years,

Herb has created a legacy of work inspiring others to learn about and respect the wonders of the natural world. “He possesses a lifelong deep curiosity of the natural world,” says Herb’s son Darryl. “He instilled that trait in his family, his students, and most likely anyone who has ever known him.” I’ve worked with Herb for decades now, and the one thing that always strikes me is his unending good humor and wit. He invariably makes us laugh and guides us to strive to learn more. Herb’s fascination by all aspects of nature is an inspiration. Thank you, Herb, for your long-term and continuing work on behalf of Lane County Audubon!

Herb will be 94 years old this month.

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## Conservation Column *(continued from page 2)*

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### Donate:

Malheur Field Station: [www.malheurfieldstation.com/](http://www.malheurfieldstation.com/)

Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge: [www.malheurfriends.org/donate.html](http://www.malheurfriends.org/donate.html)

National Wildlife Refuge Association: <http://refugeassociation.org/>

Buy a migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp: [www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php](http://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php)

### Speak out:

Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper:

Register Guard: [rgletters@registerguard.com](mailto:rgletters@registerguard.com)

Eugene Weekly: [editor@eugeneweekly.com](mailto:editor@eugeneweekly.com)

**Write your legislators!** On the OBOL list devoted to Malheur, there’s a list of officials you can contact: [www.freelists.org/post/boo/please-write-all-your-representatives,4](http://www.freelists.org/post/boo/please-write-all-your-representatives,4)

And see: [www.laneaudubon.org/resources/links](http://www.laneaudubon.org/resources/links)

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## LCAS Booth Staffers Shine at Good Earth Show

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A hearty “thank you” goes out to all the enthusiastic volunteers who helped staff the LCAS booth at the Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show at the Lane County Fairgrounds on January 22–24. Hundreds of show-goers stopped by to say hello and learn more about LCAS’s birding activities and educational outreach programs.

Having our booth at the annual show would not be possible without the help of our dedicated volunteers. Thanks to Flo Alvergue, Connie Berglund, Pat Bitner, Judy Brown, Teresa Burnett, Hilary Dearborn, Margot Fetz, Barb Foreman, Gary Hersh, Dolly Marshall, Diane McInnes, Sally O’Donnell, Debbie Schlenoff, Phil Smyser, Bruce Stermer, Caryn Stoess, Dave Stone, Janie Thomas, Vjera Thompson, Joyce Trawle, and Susanne Twight-Alexander.

Special thanks go to Kris Kirkeby, who offered a workshop at the show entitled “The Amazing World of Birds: Drawing and Coloring Their Feathers,” and to Nancy Radius, who took on extra staffing duty in addition to helping take down the booth.

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## Volunteer Opportunities Available

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LCAS is seeking volunteers for two rewarding positions. The Audubon Adventures Coordinator helps teachers add the Audubon Adventures curriculum to their classroom. Contact Maeve Sowles at [maeveanddick@q.com](mailto:maeveanddick@q.com) to learn more about this position. Audubon in the Schools Instructors teach third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students about birds. Contact Caryn Stoess at 541.357.8739 or [AITSEugene@gmail.com](mailto:AITSEugene@gmail.com) for more information. Training is provided.



## Wildlife of the Land Down Under

Judy Brown

[towhee@centurylink.net](mailto:towhee@centurylink.net)

John Sullivan and Laura Johnson will share photos from their 2013 adventure in Australia. They explored four distinct areas of the country: southeast Queensland, far north Queensland, Western Australia, and Northern Territory. Amazing birds, bizarre mammals, exotic reptiles and other fascinating critters made for an incredible journey across the spectacular landscapes of the Land Down Under.



**March Program Meeting**  
**Wildlife of the**  
**Land Down Under**  
**Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Eugene Garden Club**  
**1645 High St., Eugene**

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## Report from Program Meeting, January 26, 2016

Maeve Sowles

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The LCAS Board was notified the morning of January 25 that our Program speaker, Tim Blount, Director of Friends of Malheur, had been snowed in on the East Coast and would not make it to Eugene for the next night's Program Meeting. We decided we should stick with the topic of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge since it had become such a hot news item, even though last fall when we scheduled the Program we of course did not know that an armed occupation of the refuge would occur. The Board worked together to come up with a plan to provide the audience a perspective on "What Is Special about Malheur."

As we were about to start the Program, someone coming in the door told us of the breaking news about the occupier's arrests, so we changed the game plan to include an announcement of that situation.

Jim Maloney introduced his slide show—a collection spanning 15 years of Malheur visits. The slide show ran throughout the evening, creating a backdrop of lovely Malheur scenery, birds, animals, and buildings, silently creating the mood.

Caryn Stoess read the report from the Harney County Sheriff about the arrests. Some had already heard about it so there was a lot of buzz, and we thought everyone in the room would want to know of this development.

Alan Contreras read a letter from Tim Blount explaining his absence and summarizing the situation at Malheur and his

hopes for a resolution. Alan also told us that fundraising for Friends of Malheur has been fantastic (tens of thousands of dollars) as a result of the Bundy's occupation. We laughed when Alan was talking and one of the slides behind him showed a grebe with chicks on its back—the audience oohed and aahed and Alan said that was tough competition, but he enjoyed the photos too.

Caryn again spoke about the Friends of Malheur group and the Malheur Field Station and described the work that each group does. Jim and Caryn both discussed the plans for an LCAS field trip to Malheur in April.

Debbie Schlenoff discussed the Malheur action items and what each of us can do to help the conservation effort. We created a "to-do list" card that lists the action items for everyone to take home. (The card will be posted on the LCAS website.)

During the last part of the program, we asked folks to speak to the group about what was special to *them* about Malheur. Twelve to 15 people spoke of their memories and experiences at Malheur. The evening became a celebration of Malheur with folks sharing their love for this special place. Many people thanked us for the inspiring evening and one told me it was a night to remember. We were brave to forge ahead with the Malheur topic, but we had a wonderful show of support from our audience—about 180 people attended!

## Lane Audubon welcomes you—join or renew today!



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

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

### Lane County Audubon Society Membership Benefits

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

Visit [www.laneaudubon.org](http://www.laneaudubon.org)

### Deadlines:

April issue: March 5  
May-June issue: April 2

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



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

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

**Subscriptions:** Contact Tim Godsfil at 541.915.8852 or [tgodsil@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.laneaudubon.org/support/join)

- Current National Audubon member  Don't know

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

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

#### Please contact me regarding

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

#### Mail this form and your payment to:

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

### Lane Audubon Officers & Board Members

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## Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

*A service to Lane Audubon members*

### Nearby Nature

#### *Spring New Volunteer Orientation*

Eugene Public Library, Tykeson Room

**Wednesday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.**

Want to help connect kids and nearby nature? Learn all about leading school nature walks in Alton Baker Park, restoration projects, summer daycamp assisting, and other Nearby Nature volunteer opportunities. No experience needed. Training is provided in April.

FMI: 541.687.9699, [info@nearbynature.org](mailto:info@nearbynature.org), [www.nearbynature.org/volunteer](http://www.nearbynature.org/volunteer)

### Southern Willamette Ornithological Club

#### *Eugene Birders Night*

**Monday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.**

*South African Birds + with Tom and Allison Mickel*

Everyone is welcome to attend these monthly meetings. After initial introductions, recent sightings and birding-connected topics will be discussed. Then Tom and Allison Mickel will share photos and tales from their five-week trip through South Africa in October 2015. They'll show images of birds, mammals, herps, flowers, and landscapes taken in a range of locations (sometimes in 110-degree heat), including Kruger National Park, Cape Town, Little Karoo, West Coast National Park, the eastern coast, and the Drakensberg Mountains.

Meet at the McNail-Riley house, 601 West 13th Avenue, Eugene (NW corner of 13th and Jefferson). The parking area, located immediately west of the house, can be accessed from Jefferson via the driveway located immediately north of the house.

Free. FMI: [ellencantor@gmail.com](mailto:ellencantor@gmail.com)

### Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

**Sunday, March 27, 8:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.**

#### *Early Spring Bird Walk*

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

vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of winter and year-round residents. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Please bring binoculars. Rain or shine.

\$5, Members free. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center.

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

### Harney County Migratory Bird Festival

**April 8–10, 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](http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com), 855.438.8625

### Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival

**April 13–19, Arcata, CA**

Registration is open! Observe the bird species and wildlife of the Redwood Coast through field trips, lectures, workshops, and boat excursions led by experienced local guides.

The keynote speaker is David Sibley.

FMI: [www.godwitdays.org](http://www.godwitdays.org)

### LCAS trip to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

**April 15–18**

See page 8 for details.

### Pacific City Birding and Blues Festival

**April 29–May 1, Pacific City, OR**

Top birding experts will lead field trips to popular locations including Neskowin Marsh and will teach birders who are just getting started at identification. The 2016 Festival will bring fresh topics such as Behind the Scenes Nature Walk, Seabird Watch, Feeders & Birding, and the incredibly exciting Evening Owl Search.

John Marzluff is the keynote speaker. At night, the town comes alive with blues concerts on both Friday and Saturday evenings.

FMI: [www.BirdingandBlues.org](http://www.BirdingandBlues.org)

### Mountain Bird Festival

**May 20–22, Ashland, OR**

This event is hosted by the Klamath Bird Observatory in partnership with several Ashland-area organizations. Participate in guided bird walks, attend keynote presentations, a fine-art auction, cocktail parties, and enjoy live music, local foods, and a feel-good community atmosphere. Registration required.

FMI: [www.klamathbird.org](http://www.klamathbird.org), 541.201.0866

### Wings Across the Big Sky Festival

**June 3–5, Missoula, MT**

Registration begins in March. Choose from more than 20 field trips to a variety of habitats, including wetlands, uplands, mountain forests, sagebrush shrub-steppe, and large rivers. Postfestival day-long field trips for serious birders are also available.

FMI: <http://mtaudubon.org/birding/montana-bird-festival/>



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**March Program Meeting**

**Wildlife of the  
Land Down Under**




**Tuesday, March 22,  
7:30 p.m.  
Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High St., Eugene**



**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER**

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**Bird Walks and Events**

*Jim Maloney*

541.968.9249

*jimgmal@comcast.com*

**THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK  
Saturday, March 19**

The Third Saturday Bird Walk on March 19 will be at the Royal Avenue section of Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. Our leader for the morning will be John Sullivan, who has led a number of fun and successful walks there in the past.

We will meet to carpool at the usual South Eugene High School east parking lot and plan to leave for Fern Ridge at about 8:00 a.m. Those who wish to meet the group at the end of Royal Avenue should expect us at about 8:30-ish. Remember that parking in the gravel lot requires a permit

from ODFW. Permits help raise money for wildlife protection and management on public lands. Parking on Royal Avenue is possible, but enforcement of limitations has been unclear.

All levels of birders are welcome, and we have a couple of pairs of binoculars to loan, if needed. We plan to return by noon. Remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables in your vehicle if you leave it at either parking lot. A \$3 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities.

**Experience Malheur National Wildlife Refuge with LCAS!**

Join LCAS on a field trip to Oregon's bird-watching mecca, Malheur NWR. The refuge is a crucial stop along the Pacific Flyway and offers resting, breeding, and nesting habitat for hundreds of species of migratory birds as well as other wildlife.

We'll be visiting from April 15 to 18. We plan to drive to Malheur on Friday, spend two days birding, and drive back Monday. Of course, you can stay longer if you wish. Although every year is different, in April you're likely to see Sandhill Cranes, huge flocks of Ross's Geese, and several species of raptors. The big mystery is always which uncommon birds will be around. We'll stay at the Malheur Field Station, bird one morning with Duncan Evered (codirector of the

field station), and bird at other times in small groups or individually. The refuge is large enough that we can bird a different area each day, although you don't have to go on every birding expedition! If you like, you can stay in to read or nap. Perhaps you want to scout for scenic panoramas or explore the interesting plants and rocks.

This trip is open to birders of all levels. Space is limited, so sign up soon if you're interested. See the LCAS website for detailed information and the registration form. For more information, contact Charlotte Maloney (charm71@comcast.net or 514.953.0148) or Caryn Stoess (carynbirds@gmail.com or 541.357.8739).