

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

Two by Two, It Begins Anew



March is when I notice that many of the birds coming to our feeder begin arriving in pairs. Earlier in the winter, the loose flocks of finches, juncos, and towhees do not show male/female pairings as they fly in for food. This month, though, I see male House Finches offering food to the females that are always nearby. Chickadees and Oregon Juncos begin engaging in territorial disputes that result in serious chases and sparring. Steller's Jays vocalize in softer, sweeter tones as two of them hop from branch to branch in the oak tree. Chickadees flutter their wings in a begging breeding display. Actually some of the early nesting birds have already begun to build nests, such as the pair of Black-

capped Chickadees that have filled one nest box with moss, and the Song Sparrows singing atop the brush pile where their nest is hidden.

I am excited about watching the skies for early spring bird migrants. Each morning I open my window and look out to see if a warm breeze has brought us any new bird arrivals. Soon Tree Swallows, Violet-green Swallows, and, hopefully, Western Bluebirds will move into the neighborhood. Their songs will fill the air. Until then, I listen to the songs of our resident birds as they begin tuning up for the breeding season.

This year, with the mild winter temperatures, I noticed the red-flowering currant was leafing out in early February, which is very early indeed. I hope the flowers bloom at the right time for the Rufous Hummingbirds to feast on their nectar.

These two species co-evolved to become dependent on one another as plant-pollinator pairs; they need each other to survive and thrive. If the plants bloom too early, they will not get pollinated by the Rufous Hummingbirds feeding on them. Conversely, if the Rufous arrive too late, this major food source will be unavailable to them. As much as we welcome early signs of spring, the timing of spring's arrival means much more to plants, birds, and pollinators who depend on this rhythm of the global climate cycles for survival.* The spring equinox in 2018 is March 20th, astronomically. This year it felt like spring weather in late January and early February, with record high temps and budding trees. Climate-wise, the last two winters have been opposites of each other, making generalizations difficult. Welcoming spring used to come with the month of March, but now we watch for the signs of spring whenever they arrive.

*FMI: *Conserving Migratory Pollinators and Nectar Corridors in Western North America*, edited by Gary Paul Nabhan, published 2004 by University of Arizona Press.

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Migratory Birds Need Our Help



Bar-Tailed Godwit

Many of us share an appreciation for migratory birds. One hundred years ago (that's 1918), people recognized the need to protect migratory and native species. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) that resulted is one of the finest and most far-reaching environmental laws ever passed in the United States. Now it's in trouble.

Many birders, anxious to see old friends return from their wintering grounds, venture out first thing in the morning to brave the unpredictable weather at this time of year. Not to be outdone by these intrepid folks, I too am prepared for sighting the winged harbingers of spring. I've taken the exciting step of placing binoculars right next to my bedside so I can watch the spring arrivals at the feeder outside my window.

I might not travel far but some of them do. Bar-tailed Godwits, for example, make a nine-day non-stop migratory flight of about 6,000 miles. Whether it's long or short hops along the way, all birds face many hazards on their migratory journey as well as when they reach their destinations. For a remarkably long time, a positive

effect of the landmark MBTA has been to hold companies accountable for development that would harm birds. Well, that's about to change.

The Trump administration has issued a legal ruling that undermines the MBTA by excluding industry from compliance with the law. In addition, the House of Representatives is considering a bill to gut the law. Reasonable people, regardless of political affiliation, are dismayed at the loss of protections for our birds. In January, Interior Secretary Zinke received a letter urging him to "suspend this ill-conceived opinion." The letter was penned by 17 former wildlife officials, all Senate-confirmed political appointees of both Republican and Democratic Presidents who served between 1971 to 2017.

Formerly, under the MBTA, companies worked with federal officials for guidance, received warnings to encourage better practices, and finally received fines for non-compliance, along with occasional prosecutions to keep them accountable for harm to wildlife. The MBTA incentivized best management practices through enforcement discretion, although egregious violations of the Act were sometimes prosecuted. For example, in 2013 Duke Energy pled guilty to charges that they failed to make reasonable efforts to reduce bird fatalities at commercial wind projects. In the plea agreement, they committed to compliance plans to minimize bird deaths at their facilities. Also in that year, BP oil pled guilty to violations of the MBTA resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Settlement

money helped restore critical bird habitat impacted in the Gulf Coast. It included payment to the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund for conservation of wetlands and migratory birds.

The MBTA fostered solutions and, fortunately, many bird deaths caused by industry are preventable. For instance, the toxic waste ponds at oil- and gas-processing facilities can be covered with netting to keep water-seeking birds from landing. Commercial fishing companies can prevent drowning of albatross and other pelagic birds by attaching weights to their lines so they descend into the water. At structures such as communications towers, bird collisions can be prevented by installing flashing lights instead of steady lights, which are known to fatally attract birds. Diverters, spacers, and markers prevent birds from electrocution on power lines. Under the administration's new ruling, companies will no longer have to implement these protections and they will not be held accountable for the results.

Help celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the MBTA by urging policy makers to keep the law strong.

To lend support, add your name to this petition: abcbirds.org/action/petition-mbta

Or email Secretary Ryan Zinke: exsec@ios.doi.gov

For more government contacts: doi.gov/contact-us

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Field Notes: January 2018

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

Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-tailed Duck, Swamp Sparrow, Prairie Falcon

You may notice a different order to the species listed this month - finches and sparrows before warblers, and falcons between woodpeckers and flycatchers. It's because the American Ornithological Society (formerly the American Ornithological Union - AOU) reorganized the official checklist for North American birds over a year ago and I'm just now catching up!

The month was pretty typical with some rain and some warm spring-like days.



Photo: Emily Willoughby, Wiki Commons

Long-tailed Duck

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR), Washington-Jefferson Street Bridge (WJSB)

WATERBIRDS & RAPTORS

Cinnamon Teal	Jan 11	South Canary Rd	SB	Normal wintering location
Eurasian Wigeon (3)	Jan 4	Kirk Pond	SM	Large number for one flock
Long-tailed Duck	Jan 2	Tokatee Klootchman	SH	There's normally one along the coast
Surfbird	Jan	Coast	m.ob.	Very small numbers this winter
Lesser Yellowlegs	Jan 26	Eugene airport area	JS	Rare in winter
Pigeon Guillemot (2)	Jan 3	SJSR	BC	Occasional along coast in the winter
Black-legged Kittiwake (2)	Jan 10	Big Creek	VB	Small numbers reported this winter
American Bittern	Jan 14	FRR - Royal Ave	SH	Small numbers winter at this location
Green Heron	Jan	Many locations	m.ob.	Quite a number reported during the month
Osprey	Jan 10	Delta Ponds	LM,et al.	A place they have wintered in the past
White-tailed Kite	Jan 24	Lorane valley	SH	Very few reports this winter
Bald Eagle (52)	Jan 7	Alvadore & Franklin	JS,TJ	Large roost site in the southern valley
Short-eared Owl (2)	Jan 13	FRR - Royal Ave	TJ	Large number of reports for the month
Short-eared Owl (2)	Jan 16	Meadowlark Prairie	AP	Large number of reports for the month
Short-eared Owl	Jan 20	Ricketts Rd	TGT	Large number of reports for the month

WOODPECKERS TO WABLERS

Lewis's Woodpecker	Jan 13	Mt. Pisgah	BN,PB	Large number of reports for the month
Lewis's Woodpecker	Jan 29	Mathews Rd	TGT	Large number of reports for the month
Lewis's Woodpecker	Jan 30	Franklin Rd	SH	Large number of reports for the month
Lewis's Woodpecker	Jan 23	Creswell area	SH	Large number of reports for the month
Prairie Falcon	Jan 15	Junction City area	CN	The only report this month
Say's Phoebe	Jan 9	N of Eugene airport	BC	Wintering birds or early migrants?
Say's Phoebe	Jan 20	Franklin Rd	SH	Wintering birds or early migrants?
Gray Jay	Jan 1	Spencer Butte	JG,TJ	Found in very small numbers here
Tree Swallow (6-8)	Jan 14	FRR - Royal Ave	SH	Wintering birds or early migrants?
Tree Swallow (4)	Jan 21	WFSB	JG	Wintering birds or early migrants?
Barn Swallow	Jan 1	SJSR	SH	Small numbers seen afterward
Barn Swallow	Jan 10	Delta Ponds	LM,et al.	Wintering birds or early migrants?
Northern Mockingbird	Jan 7	Seavey Loop	GP	Another location for this winter
Northern Mockingbird	Jan	SJSR	m.ob.	Seen throughout the month
Common Redpoll (2)	Jan 5	EWEB	CT,WW	The last report
Red Crossbill	Jan	Coast	m.ob.	Very large numbers in the Sitka spruce
White-winged Crossbill	Jan 28	SJSR pay station	MB	Last report for the month
Fox Sparrow - red form	Jan 24	FRR - Perkins	DS	Third sighting for this winter
Swamp Sparrow	Jan 4	FRR - Royal Ave	RS	The only report for the month
Townsend's Warbler (6)	Jan 7	North Eugene	BG	A large number for one flock
Hermit Warbler	Jan 18	Eugene South Hills	LMf	Very small numbers winter some years

AP Al Prigge, **BC** Barbara Combs, **BG** Brandon Green, **BN** Bruce Newhouse, **CN** Colby Neuman, **CT** Charlie Thomas, **DS** Doug Stotz, **GP** Gary Perless, **JG** Joshua Galpern, **JS** John Sullivan, **LM** Larry McQueen, **LMf** Lori Markoff, **MB** Mark Baldwin, **PB** Peg Boulay, **RS** Robert Snowden, **SB** Sean Burns, **SH** Sally Hill, **SM** Sylvia Maulding, **TGT** Torrey Gage-Tomlinson, **TJ** Tye Jeske, **VB** Vickie Buck, **WW** Will Wright.

Volunteer Needed! Quail Distributor

LCAS is in need of a volunteer who can distribute the *Quail* to a half dozen locations around town at the first of the month nine times each year. This volunteer position takes only a small amount of time but helps us get the word out about LCAS to those who don't routinely receive the *Quail* but might want to become members after reading it. Call Ron Renschler at 541.345.0834 if you would like to learn more about this volunteer position.

Our thanks go out to Jan Danforth, who has been our most recent *Quail* distributor. We appreciate your help, Jan!

Thanks and Farewell to Judy Brown

We want to thank Judy Brown for her work as Program Coordinator since fall of 2015. Since taking on this activity she has recruited a number of interesting speakers for our Program Meetings. Judy also attended Board meetings, has joined us on bird walks, and volunteered for other LCAS events. While she looks forward to living closer to her family, we will miss her volunteer efforts and companionship at our activities. Best of luck and thank you, Judy!

Thanks to Dick Lamster

Thank you to Dick Lamster for taking on two outreach speaking engagements in February.

On Saturday, February 10, he presented a Backyard Birding talk at the Down to Earth store in Eugene. Soon after, on February 13, he made a presentation on Cavity Nesting Birds for the Birds and Natural History Group at Lakeridge of Eugene, a senior retirement park.



Photo: Chris Donathue

Volunteers Needed! Audubon in the Schools (AITS)

This Lane Audubon program, which provides grade school visits with instructors and bird-related specimens, is making a comeback this spring!

Our small group of committed volunteers is planning to teach a few classroom groups, and hope by doing so to breathe new energy into this wonderful program.

We have two new volunteers and **are looking for more** who are interested in shadowing the well-seasoned teachers in order to get a feel for the experience. With further training and working together, we hope to offer more in-school programs going forward.

Please get in touch if you want to find out more, and/or if you think you'd like to help us engage classrooms of students with bird specimens and drawing exercises.

The kids love it, and you may too!

For more information, contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664, or maeveanddick@q.com

Booth Staffers Shine at Good Earth Show

by Ron Renschler

The turnout for the 13th annual Good Earth, Garden & Living Show in January was huge, and as usual a reliable group of dedicated LCAS booth staffers was there to handle the crowds, answering questions, handing out literature, and letting show-goers know about the great work LCAS does for birds, education, and conservation in the community.

A hearty "thank you" goes out to each and every volunteer: Theresa Burnett, Barbara Butzer, Hilary Dearborn, Margot Fetz, Barb Foreman, John LeMay, Dolly Marshall, Sally O'Donnell, John Polo, Nancy Radius, Bruce Stermer, Vjera Thompson, Janie Thomas, Susanne Twilight-Alexander, and Dan Willis.

A special thanks goes to Kris Kirkeby, who offered a workshop entitled "Drawing Perching Birds in Pencil" as part of the show's seminar series.

LCAS President Maeve Sowles notes: None of this would be possible without the efforts of Ron Renschler. Ron arranges with event organizers to have a booth presence, manages the supplies for the booth, and recruits and schedules volunteers for each community outreach we have! Thanks for all your efforts, Ron!

Program Meeting: Tuesday, March 27, 7:30 pm

Queensland, Australia, Fall 2017



Dennis Arendt, Roger Robb, Jim Regali, and Kit Larsen

In the late fall of 2017, longtime birders Dennis Arendt, Kit Larsen, Roger Robb, and Jim Regali traveled to Queensland, Australia. They are looking forward to sharing their adventures and misadventures with you.

Jim Regali has this to say about their presentation:

Australia's geographic isolation has resulted in the evolution of a large array of endemic birds. Of the 760 species recorded, at least 300 are found nowhere else in the world.

We started in Lamington National Park at the well-known O'Reilly's Guest House. One of Australia's premier birding hot spots, it is set in a wonderful cool upland forest. From there, we continued on to Cairns and the warm tropics of North Queensland. We covered a variety of habitats from the coastal Coral Sea to the rain forest of the Atherton Tablelands. During our journey, we recorded over 240 bird



Photo: Jim Regali

Black Swan



Photo: Jim Regali

Mistletoe Bird



Photo: Jim Regali

Australian King-Parrot



Photo: Jim Regali

Regent Bowerbird



Photo: Kit Larsen

Southern Cassowary

species, most of which were new for us, as well as a nice variety of marsupials, snakes and lizards. We look forward to sharing our photos and stories with you.

Program meetings are held at Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, Eugene.

Volunteer Needed! Program Committee Chair

The Program Committee is responsible for engaging speakers and organizing publicity announcements for the *Quail*, along with handling other logistics well in advance of each meeting. But the chair doesn't have to do it all alone. The Program Committee and LCAS Board collaborate to develop ideas and recruit speakers for the chapter Program Meetings, so communication with the Board is an integral part of the responsibilities. We all work together!

On the day of the Program, the chair organizes the take-out dinner with the speaker.

Programs occur eight times a year on the fourth Tuesday of the following months: January, February, March, April, May, September, October, and November.

For more information, contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664, or maeveanddick@q.com

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.

The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

April issue: March 3

May/June issue: April 7

Submit material to Karen Irmischer at quailkaren1@gmail.com

Nine issues published per year (Feb., Mar., Apr., May-June, July-Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec.-Jan.)

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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.....\$ _____
- I want to do more. Here's my tax-deductible contribution for
- Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society)

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E-mail _____

- To pay by PayPal, go to laneaudubon.org/support/join
- I am a Current National Audubon member Don't know
- Please contact me regarding
- Gift memberships Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

- I would prefer to receive the *e-Quail* newsletter by e-mail.
- 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

Community Calendar and Events

A service to Lane County Audubon Society members

3/3

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, March 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Flies and Flowers Walk

Join Arboretum Interpretation Coordinator August Jackson on a walk to explore the important role of flies in the pollination of our early wildflowers. Learn about the process of pollination, along with the names and ecology of some of our colorful native flies, and learn to identify our early spring wildflowers. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, members free.

FMI: for all Mt Pisgah events:

mountpisgaharboretum.org or 541.741.4110

3/10

Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m.-noon

Nature's Slimy Creatures Walk

Slugs, snails, worms and more! On this walk for families, learn about the lives of our slimy friends at the Arboretum with Education Manager Jenny Laxton. These greatly under-appreciated creatures are more fascinating than you've ever imagined. Finish the walk by creating some slime of your own to take home. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Members \$5 per family; non-members \$8 per family.

3/18

Sunday, March 18, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

Bird Walk

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning

for another monthly bird walk intended for people with all levels of birding experience. Participants will use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of the Arboretum's early spring and year-round residents. Come discover the Arboretum's avian diversity. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, members free.

3/19

Southern Willamette

Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, March 19, at 7 p.m.

Eugene Birders' Night

Attendees share recent bird sightings and birding-related topics, followed by "Birding Queensland," a presentation in the words and images of Jim Regali, Dennis Arendt, Roger Robb, and Kit Larsen. Accounts of their Australia birding trip last fall, will

include their encounters with a cassowary, visits to various bowerbird bowers, and their delight in figuring out some of the honeyeaters. They will share photographs of birds from Lamington National Park, the Atherton tablelands, the Daintree, and coastal marshes.

Location: Historic McNail-Riley house, 601 W 13th Ave, Eugene, at the NW corner of W. 13th and Jefferson by the former Lincoln School. Park in the five spaces closest to the M-R house, or across 13th in the fairgrounds parking lot. All are welcome to attend this free monthly event.

FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com

3/24

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, March 24, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Back to Basics Drawing Workshop

Drawing is a way to relax and enhance our experiences in nature. But many are frustrated with their results or just afraid to try to draw. According to Kris Kirkeby, it really doesn't need to be a stressful activity. With practice and a few pointers on observing, everyone can improve. Join Kris Kirkeby to

explore using a toolbox of basic drawing methods that can guide you to making more satisfactory images. Attendees will also work on using a little color to give objects form. Supplies to bring: 2H and HB graphic pencils, kneaded eraser, white vinyl eraser, pencil sharpener, sketchbook (no smaller than 5 x 7 with a hard backing), or bring a drawing board. A 12-color set of colored pencils - waxy preferred (Crayola sets are fine). Meet at the Visitor Center. Members \$25, non-members \$30. Pre-registration required. FMI or to register: 541-747-3817 or mountpisgaharboretum.com/workshop-registration



International Migratory Bird Day

Save the Date/Volunteers Needed: Saturday, May 12

Lane County Audubon Society is teaming up with Nearby Nature to celebration of International Migratory Bird Day with the community in a big way! The focus will be on kids' activities, games, and bird walks throughout the morning.

Bilingual (Spanish/English) activities will highlight the importance of recognizing the international lives of many of our seasonal birds, like the Osprey and Wilson's Warbler. While living in Lane County part of their year, these birds are truly international. Many

months of their lives are also spent north and south of our borders.

More details will come in the May/June *Quail* and on the LCAS Facebook page.

If you would like to volunteer to help or just come to enjoy the fun, please mark the date on your calendar. Help would be much appreciated, as would dry weather.

FMI: Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, or maeveanddick@q.com

2018

YEAR OF
THE BIRD



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your *Quail* subscription expired?
See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, rebecca.waterman@gmail.com

Third Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, March 17, 8 a.m.

Our walk leader is TBA. The location of the walk will be determined by interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL, along with other pertinent information available before the walk date. Details will be posted on the LCAS Facebook page: facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824, and on our website: laneaudubon.org.

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars, if you have them. To carpool, meet at 8 a.m. at the South Eugene High School parking lot, corner of 19th and Patterson. We plan to return by noon. Remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables or your vehicle registration in your car if you leave it at the lot. A \$3 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities.

FMI: Rebecca Waterman at 541.653.3354 or Rebecca.waterman@gmail.com

Audubon Action Alert: Stop Industries from Getting a Free Pass to Kill Birds

Tell Congress and the Department of the Interior to uphold America's most important bird protection law, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

Lane County Audubon, as an organization, has already urged continued protection. In early February, LCAS was one of 513 organizations from all around the country to sign a letter to legislators urging them to oppose any effort that would gut the MBTA.

Add your name to the petition at: abcbirds.org/action/petition-mbta

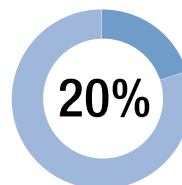


March Program Meeting

Queensland, Australia, Fall 2017

Tuesday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene



Join your fellow 20% of Lane County Audubon Society members who help save paper and postage by receiving *The Quail* electronically.

Contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com