

# The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

Please consider receiving The Quail electronically



## From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

## Search Outside for the Calm in Nature



Photo: Karen Imscher

*Calm in nature*

As I write this piece in early April, our future activities for the next two months are completely up in the air. We know that in May we will not have a Bird Walk and that cancellation of the Program Meeting is a strong possibility. Theoretically, at this point, June will be planned as the time gets closer and we know our ability to gather safely for community activities.

One thing we do know is that we are in the most unique and terrible of times right now. The human population of the world is struggling to survive both the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic/societal collapse due to repercussions of this illness. It is overwhelming, really. Our past experiences have not prepared us for the type of news we hear and see each day. Present day humans have never before been thrown into this global pot of pandemic risk. The stay-at-home orders are universal in population centers. All those millions of people are responding to the need to shelter in place. To NOT spread the disease, we need to protect others, our loved ones, and ourselves!

I have always felt that humanity can come together with resolve if the need is great enough. Even

though the COVID-19 death and illness toll is mind-boggling, can we learn that this is a new world order? Our world is one place that we all share, and we all share the desire to survive and thrive. We also share this with our fellow inhabitants. The plants we depend upon for oxygen and food, and the animals that we co-habit the earth with. Pollinators, beneficial bacteria, fungi, everything has a purpose and a role in this world. Keeping humans safe from harm includes protecting other forms of life as well. The original source of this novel, deadly, virus was a wild meat market in Wuhan where animals were thrown together in adjacent cages in a stew of viral, fungal, and bacterial hot pot. Can we remember how this started and change the formula for that behavior? Can we learn new behaviors based on the risks we now all have learned to fear? In spite of that fear, can we help to reshape our future? Can we learn how to be kinder, gentler stewards of this beautiful earth we inhabit?

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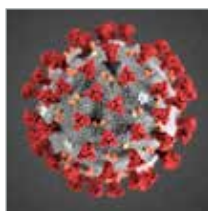
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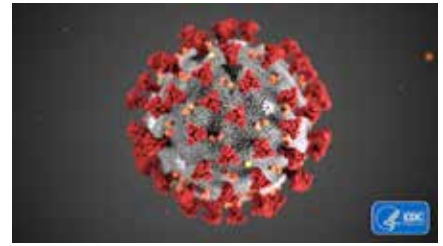
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## Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com



# Diseases Respect No Boundaries

I hope that everybody is safe and well as we deal with this devastating pandemic. Turns out that many of the conservation issues that have been on our radar for years are associated with pandemics. Zoonotic (zōe'nātik) diseases are caused by pathogens that jump from other species to us. They can be particularly problematic because we have no previous immunity. Hence the term “novel” with this coronavirus. The Wildlife Conservation Society estimates that about one billion cases of human illness and millions of deaths occur every year from zoonotic diseases, and that 60 percent of known infectious diseases in people were transmitted from animals.

Zoonotic diseases are more likely to spread and to jump species when animals are crowded together and when they come into close contact with other species. The tremendous numbers of people (more than seven and a half billion) living on the earth need food and places to live resulting in extensive habitat conversion. As animals lose habitat, their remnants live in higher densities and become less able to stay clear of people. Logging, mining, road building through remote places, expanded agriculture, and rapid urbanization all bring humans into closer contact with animals that typically live apart. Human encroachment into previously undisturbed habitat not only leads to biodiversity loss, it increases the risk of transmitted diseases. Combine this with wildlife trade (both legal and illegal) and you have the current recipe for disaster.

Some evidence suggests that this new coronavirus originated in bats. But are bats to blame? When a bat is stressed due to being hunted and having its habitat damaged by deforestation, her immune system is challenged making it harder to cope with pathogens that would otherwise be quickly suppressed. Now crowd that bat in with another animals (there may have been an intermediate host) and with humans, and the situation creates an increased likelihood of a pathogen jumping species. The jump for COVID-19 putatively occurred in what is termed a “wet” market meaning that live animals that typically have little contact are crowded together under unsanitary and stressful conditions. Conditions in

these markets are ideal for incubating new diseases and boosting their transmission. Due to the devastation of the virus, China has made eating wild animals illegal. However, there are wet markets all over the world and, even in China, enforcement will be difficult. We need to focus on wildlife trade in a determined manner and on a much broader scale, to reduce disease risk and save animals from overexploitation.

But it is not just wet markets that foster epidemics. Concentrated animal feeding operations and factory farms that produce meat have been the source of several disease outbreaks, including the many strains of swine flu and avian flu. For example, H1N1 swine flu was an outbreak from a pig confinement operation in North Carolina. China and India's bird flu outbreaks began among their chicken factories. Not to mention the antibiotic resistant bacterial diseases such as methicillin-resistant *Styphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and salmonella that propagate there.

In addition to habitat destruction, wildlife trade, and the meat industry, we are grappling with another environmental issue that has devastating potential to increase diseases worldwide. A number of diseases that are climate-sensitive, such as malaria, dengue fever, West Nile virus, cholera, and Lyme disease, are expected to worsen with climate change. One mechanism is by expanding the range of many vector-borne diseases, particularly mosquitoes that carry diseases, such as malaria or Zika. Further, an increase in sudden and extreme weather events may change food availability causing animals to gather together and transmit disease, as is suspected in the recent Ebola outbreak. These phenomena may also directly affect people's ability to fight infection. For instance, droughts and floods affect crop yield, while malnutrition and stress make people more vulnerable to disease.

Deforestation and burning fossil fuels are linked to increased emissions and air pollution. Pollution exacerbates a number of health issues, including respiratory diseases such as asthma. People with these diseases are particularly

*continued on page 7*

## Field Notes: March 2020

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



Photo: Russ, Wiki Commons

*Marbled Godwit*



Photo: VJAnderson, Wiki Commons

*Willow Flycatcher*

## Golden Eagle, Marbled Godwit, Willow Flycatcher, Black-legged Kittiwake

This month, like the last, was drier than normal. I think it's a trend, given that Eugene is at about half-normal rainfall for this water year, which started on October 1st. Bird-wise, we noted a couple very early arrivals and large numbers for several other species. You can check out the details below.

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

### WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

Brant (15)	Mar 22	Bray Point	SH	Headed north in two flocks
Cinnamon Teal	Mar 12	Stewart Pond area	CM	A few days later than normal
Eurasian Wigeon (4)	Mar 16	LCC	JG,et al	A large number for Lane
Eurasian Wigeon (5)	Mar 29	LCC	JL	An even larger number for Lane
Long-tailed Duck	Mar 17	Tokatee-Klootchman	JS	Later than normal - flying north
Common Goldeneye (38)	Mar 16	Lookout Pt Reservoir	JG,et al	A very large number for Lane
Anna's Hummingbird	Mar 13	W Eugene	Fide AC	Female feeding young in nest
Sora	Mar 5	Mill Race Path	VB	A few days earlier than normal
Marbled Godwit	Mar 22	NJSR	SH,DP	The first spring migrant
Black Tern	Mar 28	EWEB - Roosevelt	BC	More than a month early!
Common Loon	Mar 22	Dexter Reservoir	NS	Never common inland in Lane
American Bittern	Mar 2	Mill Race Path	VT	Wintered at this location?
Green Heron	Mar 1	West D Greenway	JS	Normal time for their arrival
Black-crowned Night-Heron (4)	Mar 2	W Eugene	VT	Flying over at dusk - roosts in area
Black-legged Kittiwake (10+)	Mar 8	SJSR	TJ	Good numbers
Black-legged Kittiwake (100+)	Mar 17	Lane coast	JS,FT	High numbers - why so many close in?
Osprey	3rd week	Eugene/Springfield	M. ob.	They arrived en masse
Rough-legged Hawk	Mar 13	Meadowview Rd	VT,AC	Last report for the winter
Northern Goshawk	Mar 17	Lowell Butte	VB	Rare away from the high Cascades
Golden Eagle	Mar 10	Mohawk Valley	CT,DA	Rare in Lane
Peregrine Falcon	Mar 23	Heceta Head	DT,EM	Good location during migration

### FLYCATCHERS TO GROSBEAKS

Willow Flycatcher	Mar 27	River Rd area	BC	Almost two months earlier than normal!
Vermillion Flycatcher	Mar 6	Alton Baker Park	JS	Last date reported
Northern Shrike	Mar 21	FRR area	SH,CM	Last report for the winter
Purple Martin	Mar 27	FRR - Royal Ave	FT,TG-T	About two weeks earlier than normal
No. Rough-winged Swallow	Mar 16	Oakridge	JG,et al	About two weeks earlier than normal
Cliff Swallow	Mar 15	FRR - Royal Ave	FT,JC,LH	More than a week earlier than normal
Vesper Sparrow	Mar 27	Delta Ponds	FT,TG-T	About two weeks earlier than normal
White-crowned Sparrow	Mar 28	Near U of O	LM	Gambell's - they're starting to move
Orange-crowned Warbler	Mid-Mar	Eugene/Springfield	M.ob.	Right on time
Common Yellowthroat	Mar 12	Mill Race Path	VT	About two weeks earlier than normal
Black-headed Grosbeak	Mar 21	Mt Pisgah area	FT	About a month earlier than normal

AC Alan Contreras, BC Barbara Combs, CM Collin McElroy, CT Charlie Thomas, DA Donna Albino, DP Diane Pettey, DT Donna Taggart, EM Ed Murphy, FT Forest Tomlinson, JC Jon Cox, JG Joshua Galpern, JL Joshua Little, JS John Sullivan, LH Leela Hickman, LM Larry McQueen, NS Noah Strycker, SH Sally Hill, TG-T Torry Gage-Tomlinson, TJ Tye Jeske, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson Fide references a sighting reported to the listed observer. M.ob. signifies many observers.

# Armchair Birding

By Ron Renchler

Although we all may wish otherwise, it's quite possible that the statewide stay-at-home order issued due to the COVID-19 pandemic will still be in effect by the time you receive this issue of *The Quail*. The pandemic has all of us in an unfamiliar spot—staying at home as much as possible and keeping a distance of at least six feet between friends and strangers alike. Although bird watching, especially backyard birding, is still possible as an outdoor activity, we are all probably spending more time indoors than we'd like.

But indoor time is great for armchair birding, especially given all the helpful online resources made possible by current technologies. If you have access to a mobile phone or computer and wi-fi, you can use some of your indoor time to explore and learn more about our fine feathered friends.



*Short-eared Owl*

Photo: Dave Stone, Wildland Photography

Lane County Audubon's website has a Resources tab ([laneaudubon.org/resources](http://laneaudubon.org/resources)) where you can start your adventure. This page has links on a variety of topics, including Field Notes (monthly, going back to 2001), Christmas Bird Count Reports (annually, also going back to 2001), Vaux's Swift Information, Birding Eugene (links to several birding locations in our area), Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Bird List, LCAS Informational Handouts (handouts produced by LCAS over the years), and Web Links.

Most of the resources on the Web Links page, [laneaudubon.org/resources/links](http://laneaudubon.org/resources/links), are self-explanatory and well worth exploring. The page is conveniently organized into several topics, ranging from bird-related teaching materials to bird photography.

One particularly useful resource under the Birding in Oregon heading is Oregon Birders Online (OBOL, also known as Birding News), which tracks daily listings of birds seen in various locations around Oregon, including Lane County: [birding.aba.org/maillist/OR-7](http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OR-7). The listings for early dates in April mention many sightings of backyard birds—a sign that people are heeding the stay-at-home orders that, for better or worse, help us learn more about the birds that show up in our own yards and neighborhoods.

Listed in the For Kids and Teachers section, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology – Bird Guide: [allaboutbirds.org/news/](http://allaboutbirds.org/news/) is a wonderful resource where you can get lost for hours exploring links to all sorts of bird-related material,



Photo: Dave Stone, Wildland Photography

*American Bittern*

including a bird ID database that lets you search for and ID birds that you may or may not be familiar with. The All About Birds site has a lot of other informative material, too—live Webcams for several species of nesting birds, free and fee-based online classes, and more.

If you want to dig a little deeper into birding, check out eBird: [ebird.org/home](http://ebird.org/home). Many of you already know about this tool for reporting your sightings and maintaining personal bird lists, but if you're not familiar with it yet, this is a good time. It encourages citizen science and has become the go-to database for many ornithologists, climate change scientists, and others who track bird populations and other bird-related phenomena.

The Web Links page has information on many other topics such as: how to choose binoculars for birding, contact information for public officials, wildlife and conservation links, and more. The thumbnail sketches above barely begin to scratch the surface of the wealth of bird knowledge that is now at your fingertips. Happy armchair birding!

Events may be cancelled. Check before you go.

## Program Meeting, Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

# The Ups and Downs of Four Amigos Birding in the Colombian Andes



Photo: Dennis Arendt

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

Colombia is a dream destination for birders. Its avifaunal richness is partly due to the branching of the imposing Andes into three mountain ranges: the Eastern, Central and Western Andes. Two rivers, the Magdalena and Cauca, create the great valleys between these mountains. The altitude ranges from a few hundred feet to over 18,000. Altitude differences and the isolation of these valleys have resulted in unique biomes and species. With nearly 2,000 species of birds, Colombia boasts the most bird species of any country in the world. Dennis Arendt, Kit Larsen, Roger Robb, and Jim Regali explored these varied habitats in late February, 2019. (The Four Amigos have traveled to South America, Australia, Central America, and the Caribbean.) Come to see some of what they saw as they birded their way up and down the mountain ranges of Colombia.

Two of the four, Jim Regali and Kit Larsen, will share their Columbia adventure at our May Program

Meeting, held at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St., Eugene. Using their own photographs, they will take us into the mountains from 13,000 feet near Bogota and down to the lowlands of the Paujil Preserve in the Magdalena Valley. Finding more than 50 species of hummingbirds, many colorful tanagers, giant guans, and secretive antpittas, they will bring you along on their Colombian adventure.

Jim Regali is a retired physician, a board member of the McKenzie River Trust, an avid photographer and birder. He has presented many programs for the Lane County Audubon Society as well as other local groups, and is a regular with the Wednesday Birding Group.

Kit Larsen, who retired from the University of Oregon, is also an avid birder and photographer. He is still active with the McKenzie River Trust and the Wednesday Birding Group. He is a masterful photographer and has also been a frequent presenter for the Audubon Society and other local groups.



Photo: Dennis Arendt

*Chestnut-crowned Antpitta*



Photo: Jim Regali

*Northern Screamer*



Photo: Kit Larsen

*Purplish-mantled Tanager*



Photo: Dennis Arendt

*Jim Regali and Kit Larsen*

# Lane County Audubon Society



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

### The Quail Subscriptions

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

### The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

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Submit material to Karen Irmscher at [quailkaren1@gmail.com](mailto:quailkaren1@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](http://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).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

To pay by PayPal, go to [laneaudubon.org/support/join](http://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

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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

Events may be cancelled. Check before you go.



Photo: Karen Irmischer

enjoy. Visit the blog to access the 12-mile, self-guided, interpretive bicycle tour. Enjoy the adventure!

### Sensory Scavenger Hunt:

Spend an afternoon outdoors exploring the sites, sounds, and smells of nature in a Sensory Scavenger Hunt designed especially for younger children and families.

### Dragonfly Learning Activities:

Dragonflies are engineering marvels! Learn about the dragonfly life-cycle, dragonfly flight, and design your own dragonfly in learning activities suitable for upper elementary and middle school-age students. Bonus dragonfly mask craft! You can access the learning materials, craft templates, and activity instructions through the blog.

5/30

### Coast Fork Birders

Saturday, May 30, 8 am-11 am  
*Native Oaks Ridge Bird Walk*

Join the Coast Fork Birders for a bird walk at the Native Oaks Ridge property. The land features unique oak habitat and the walk will provide a snapshot of bird species post-implementation of the oak release restoration project. Will likely also include opportunities to observe butterflies and flowering plants. The path covers uneven rolling hill terrain. Bring weather-appropriate clothing and footwear, binoculars, and bird identification book if you have them, (we have some spares in case you don't), and your own snacks and water. Please RSVP to the Coast Fork Office 541.767.0717 or email [maggie@coastfork.org](mailto:maggie@coastfork.org).

FMI: [coastfork.org](http://coastfork.org) or CFWWC Facebook page

### Willamette Resource Education Network (WREN)

Visit WREN's blog for self-guided activities and resources: [www.wild@blogspot.com](http://www.wild@blogspot.com)

Offerings include:

#### Self-guided Bike Tour of the West Eugene Wetlands:

In celebration of springtime and in the spirit of health and modified community involvement, a mapped out bicycle adventure through the West Eugene Wetlands, highlights some signs of spring for you and your families to



Photo: Rebecca Waterman

### LCAS Board Elections Notice

Lane County Audubon Society Board elections will be held at the May 26th program meeting.

The slate of candidates are all incumbents: Ramiro Aragon, Rachael Friese, Jim Maloney, Ron Renschler, Debra Schlenoff, Maeve Sowles, and Rebecca Waterman.

### From Our President *continued from page 1*

If not now...when? When my mind feels like it is ready to explode with questions, I search outside for the calming sound of birds and the wafting scents of grass and flowers blooming. I still find my peace and calm in nature. Time spent in my veggie garden and walking the dogs each day, keeps me going. The renewal of the growing season of the earth seems to sweep away the fear for a while. I still hope for the successful nesting of swallows and bluebirds in our nest boxes. What can we do but live the life we are given? Sharing with and caring for others, including our non-human neighbors, keeps the meaning and preciousness of life intact. In this COVID-19 backlash, I'm thankful for my family, friends and fellow inhabitants, each one of them...and each one of you!

### Conservation *continued from page 2*

susceptible to corona viruses, including the COVID-19 outbreak. Ironically, the shelter-in-place policies are reducing pollution in a number of places worldwide, including India, China, and Los Angeles. However, the current administration has relaxed all enforcement by the EPA of pollution regulations and has rolled back America's Clean Car Standards. This is the very opposite of their stated mission to protect human health and the environment. We must implore government to address the environmental issues that threaten our health. I like the idea of "One Health," an approach being embraced by the CDC to advance the knowledge that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment. We are all in this together.



Check your mailing label. Has  
your *Quail* subscription expired?  
See page 6 to renew!



## LCAS Bird Walks & Events

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

### Birding in the Time of Corona

Many of us look forward to our monthly walks for a multitude of reasons. Personally, I enjoy the social aspect of gathering with other birders. I do quite a bit of solo birding, but I always look forward to every 3rd Saturday of the month, knowing I will be with like-minded folks for a few hours, finding mutual enjoyment in the natural world around us. Unfortunately, the March and April walks have been canceled, with only uncertainty as to when we will be able to safely congregate around our scopes and field guides again.

I have kept a yard list for years, but I had never done a Big Day from home. For those unfamiliar with the concept of a Big Day, the goal is simply to identify as many species as possible. Folks who are able and willing spend a whole day,

beginning before dawn in hopes of finding owls, to well after dusk, traveling from hotspot to hotspot keeping a list along the way. In the past, LCAS birders have recorded over 150 species on Global Big Day!

An Instagram friend of mine suggested folks participate in a Backyard Big Day on April 1st. Photos can be seen by searching #BACKYARDBIGDAY. With little else to occupy my time, I happily joined in. With typical April Oregon weather—chilly and rainy—my count did not reach above 20. But limiting my attention to just the birds in my yard gave me the opportunity to really focus on behavior, plumage, and different calls. My feeder (see page 7) was full of finches all day, with the House and American Goldfinches seeming to take turns. A pair of Scrub-Jays spent most of the day sorting through sticks and flying off with their preferred branches, presumably for a nest nearby. It was a lovely day spent with no TV or podcasts to distract me. I just may make this the start of a Big Quarantine list.

### Third Saturday Bird Walks: Canceled Until Further Notice

For updates, check these websites: [LaneAudubon.org](http://LaneAudubon.org) and/or [facebook.com/LaneAudubon](https://facebook.com/LaneAudubon)

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



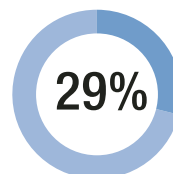
#### May Program Meeting

The Ups and Downs of Four Amigos  
Birding in the Colombian Andes

Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 pm

Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High St., Eugene

New  
7pm Start  
Time!



Join your fellow 29% of Lane County Audubon Society members who help save paper and postage by receiving *The Quail* electronically.

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