



The

May-June 2015

Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

From Our President



Nature Depends on Us

Maeve Sowles

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Contact Tim Godsil at
tgodsil@gmail.com

Last fall, a 25-acre piece of land across the street from us was clear-cut. It had been a second-growth stand of mixed forest for over 50 years. Some of the trees were very old, so we know that in the past the forest had been only selectively cut. The logging was impossible to ignore and painful to watch and hear. Some of our neighbors had tried to buy the land to preserve the forest, but they lost the bid to the logging company.



The parcel had provided habitat to many furred and feathered animals, as well as countless unseen insects, amphibians, and myriad other life forms that humans tend to ignore. These lives have been lost, if they could not get away, because they were dependent on the ecosystem around them. The watershed has been altered and depleted—the rain now washes down the steep roads cut into the hillside. A pair of Great-horned Owls used the old stand of trees as nest sites for the 20 years I've lived here. Recently, I heard the calls of an adult and a juvenile demanding food. At least they have survived—for now. The local pair of Pileated Woodpeckers is still searching the area for a nest site.

One afternoon my husband and I drove to the top of the clear-cut hillside. The destruction was heartbreaking. The forest was gone and the land was forever changed. We looked down at our piece of land, and it appeared so small and fragile. We have worked hard to optimize our property for birds, wildlife, and native species. We have invested in its future and try to protect it, but what happens when we are gone? How forgiving can the earth be? Humans are creating a wasteland in the name of economy and progress. I try to focus on the positives and beauty around me, but at times I become despondent.

(continued on page 4)



It's Time to Invest in the Future of the Earth

Debbie Schlenoff

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A recent article in *Current Biology* (Conde et al., 2015) examined the costs of preventing the extinction of about 900 vertebrate species (and their habitats) listed by the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE). They calculated the costs for conservation in the animal's natural habitats as well as for maintaining insurance populations in zoos. The total was about \$1.1 billion, with an average cost per species of \$1.3 million. Another report (McCarthy et al., 2012) concluded that about \$1 billion per year for a decade would reduce the extinction risk for all globally threatened bird species, and \$4 billion per year for a decade would downlist *all* threatened species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List. A total of \$76 billion per year for a decade would establish and protect habitats and ecosystems globally.

A billion! Seventy-six billion! These are incredibly large sums of money. Is it worth it? Calculations of the valuation of ecosystem services confirm without a doubt that the investment pays off. For instance, wildlife watching in the US is estimated to be worth \$85 billion. Natural pest control and pollination services by birds and other wildlife are worth \$60 billion in the US. Imagine that a waterway is developed and because of pollution and runoff, a water filtration plant for a large city has to be built—it would cost over \$6 billion plus maintenance and operating expenses. The total global value of the services that nature provides (as if you could put a dollar value on nature, considering the planet would be uninhabitable without it) is generally considered to be \$33 TRILLION per year.

A billion! Seventy-six billion! Still, incredibly large sums of money. Is it futile to think we could ever come up with and spend this amount of money, even to save the planet? Some numbers for your consideration:

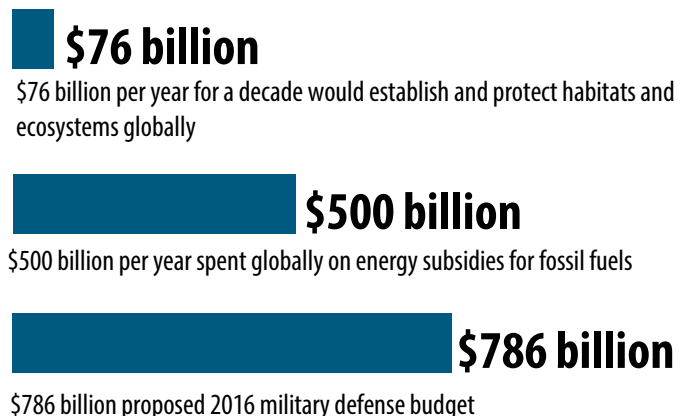
Take a dozen movies made by top-earning movie actors—you could come up with a billion dollars with those actors' salaries. Annual salaries for the top five athletes would get you there. People paid \$1.5 billion to see the movie *The Avengers*. (Wait, with that money, they actually *could* save the world!)

Americans spend \$2.8 billion on candy just for Halloween and \$1.7 billion on flowers for Valentine's Day. Each year, we spend about \$11 billion for coffee, \$65 billion for soft drinks, and over \$33 billion on cosmetics. Last year, over \$1.5 billion was spent on political lobbying. It's hard to raise money for habitat protection, but we spend \$40 billion per year on lawn care. (Most of these figures are from <http://mentalfloss.com/article/31222/numbers-how-americans-spend-their-money>.) The US government spent \$615 billion for defense in 2014; the proposed 2016 budget schedules \$786.6 billion in defense spending. The military budget is 700 times more than the AZE conservation opportunities we mentioned earlier. Energy subsidies for fossil fuels come to over \$500 billion globally (another estimate puts the figure at \$775 billion). Eliminate energy subsidies, spend that \$76 billion to protect the planet and its inhabitants, and you have over \$420 billion of fun money left over.

Let's do the math. An investment in the future of the earth: \$76 billion divided by the world population is about \$10 per person. We can do this.

McCarthy et al., 2012. "Financial Costs of Meeting Global Biodiversity Conservation Targets: Current Spending and Unmet Needs." *Science* 338 (6109):946–949.

Conde et al., 2015. "Opportunities and Costs for Preventing Vertebrate Extinctions." *Current Biology* 25 (6):219–221.



Field Notes: March 2015



- Red-naped Sapsucker
- Palm Warbler

- Tundra Swan
- Northern Shrike

Tom and Allison Mickel

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The month was a mixed bag, as is usual for March. With the warmer and dryer weather, a number of migrant species showed up earlier than normal. With the really early ones (i.e., Sora, House Wren, Black-headed Grosbeak), you have to wonder whether they wintered locally. Abbreviation: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

WATERBIRDS

Trumpeter Swan (14)	Feb 13	Eugene airport area	SH	Also reported in early March
Tundra Swan (300-600)	Mar 2	Eugene airport area	A&DH	A large number for Lane Co
Cinnamon Teal	Mar 11	FRR - Royal Ave	SH	A few days later than normal
Green-winged Teal (Common)	Mar 8	Swallow Pond	TMe	Found almost annually
Canvasback	Mar 21	FRR - Royal Ave	VB	Earlier than normal
Redhead (4)	Mar 22	Kirk Pond	BC	Earlier than normal
Virginia Rail	Mar	FRR area	m.ob.	They became quite vocal
Sora	Mar 13	FRR	DSt	About a month earlier than normal
Black-bellied Plover (27)	Mar 22	FRR - Royal Ave	A&TM	A normal wintering location
Semipalmated Plover	Mar 8	Meadowlark Prairie	RR	Earlier than normal migrant
Black-necked Stilt (3)	Mar 30	FRR - Fisher Butte	SM	Over two weeks earlier than normal
Western Sandpiper (3)	Mar 8	Meadowlark Prairie	RR	Small numbers have wintered this year

HAWKS & OWLS

Turkey Vulture (12)	Mar 5	Eugene	SMc	Headed north over town
White-tailed Kite	Mar 21	FRR - Royal Ave	VB, BC	Very few seen this winter
Bald Eagle (10)	Mar 29	Crow area	GC	A large number soaring in one place
Rough-legged Hawk	Mar 13	Alvadore Rd	SM	Last report for the winter
Snowy Owl	Feb 22	FRR - Royal Ave	A&GB	The last reported date for the owl
Merlin (2)	Mar 25	FRR - Royal Ave	DA et al.	Uncommon to find two together

WOODPECKERS to FINCHES

Red-naped Sapsucker	Mar 8	River Road area	TMe	Rarely found in the valley
Black Phoebe (singing)	Mar 10	Springfield	VT	Numbers are increasing again
Say's Phoebe	Mar 15	Maxwell/Prairie Rds	VT	Around a week later than normal
Say's Phoebe	Mar 25	Oakridge	MLS	Annual early spring migrant
Northern Shrike	Mar 11	Meadowlark Prairie	BC	Still at its wintering site
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Mar 19	Lane Co fairgrounds	SN	A couple weeks earlier than normal
Cliff Swallow	Mar 17	FRR - Royal Ave	SH	About a week earlier than normal
House Wren	Mar 28	SE Eugene	JG	About a month earlier than normal
Cedar Waxwing (15)	Mar 27	Lane Co fairgrounds	SN	Seems earlier than normal
Orange-crowned Warbler	Mar 19	North Eugene	BG	Right on time
Common Yellowthroat	Mar 22	FRR - E Coyote	SH	About a week earlier than normal
Palm Warbler	Mar 7	FRR - Royal Ave	JM	Rarely found away from the coast
Chipping Sparrow (2)	Mar 28	North Eugene	TMe	A few days earlier than normal
Vesper Sparrow	Mar 26	FRR - E Coyote	SH	About two weeks earlier than normal
Lark Sparrow	Mar 9	North Eugene	DS	Still in area
Swamp Sparrow	Mar 5	Waite Pasture	AC	Still at its wintering site
Swamp Sparrow	Mar 27	FRR - E Coyote	SH	Still at its wintering site
Black-headed Grosbeak	Mar 23	Willow Ck area	BB	About a month earlier than normal
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Mar 28	FRR - Perkins Penn.	BC	A few days earlier than normal
Brown-headed Cowbird	Mar 10	Junction City area	BC	About a month earlier than normal
Pine Grosbeak (possible)	Mar 4	Cloverpatch Butte	LG	This has been a very good year for them in the
Pine Grosbeak	Mar 7	Gold Lake	A&TM	Oregon Cascades, with many reports

A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, A&GB Aaron & Gloria Beerman, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, AC Alan Contreras, BB Brian Broderick, BC Barbara Combs, BG Brandon Green, DA Dennis Arendt, DS Don Schrouder, DSt Doug Stotz, GC Gaylene Carpenter, JG Joshua Galpern, JM Jeff Miller, LG Linda Gilbert, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, m.ob. many observers, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, SMC Steve McDonald, SN Stephan Nance, TMe Thomas Meinen, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson

Check Out the Bald Eagle Nest on Skinner Butte!

Have you been to the top of Skinner Butte to see the bald eagle nest? Yes? Great!

Haven't seen it because you couldn't find it?

Haven't seen it because you didn't know where to look?

Well, we can help:

Drive to the top of Skinner Butte, park at the overlook, and follow the paved trail, counterclockwise, to the opening in the trees. (See the arrow on the map.) Use the map to locate the nest tree.

Bring binoculars to get a good look. Bring a scope and get an even better look. Bring a good telephoto camera and a tripod and get a good photo!

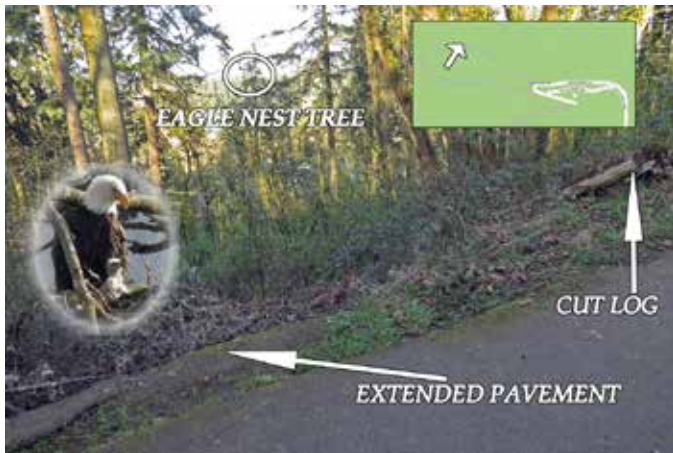


Photo: David Stone, Wildland Photography

From Our President (continued from page 1)

When you are a thoughtful observer of nature and humans, it is painful to watch the world change and do nothing. The only way to cope is to try to offset the destruction around us by making a positive difference. Those of us who care must be the ones to act to protect the beautiful natural world we love. Other lives are depending on us.

LCAS Offers Birding Resources and Apparel

Lane County Audubon has several items available for purchase to help you get ready for spring and summer birding. All proceeds help LCAS fund its educational, conservation, and outreach programs.

You can purchase these items at the LCAS program meetings on Tuesday, May 26.

High-quality, heavy canvas tote bags with Quail logo (\$12)

National Audubon hats, one-size-fits-all (\$10)

T-shirts—LCAS Quail logo and Swift Event theme (\$15)

52 Small Birds, by Richard Weeks (\$20)

Birds of Lane County (half-price sale, \$10)



Get Involved—Volunteer!

Lane County Audubon Society is an all-volunteer organization, and our members are very proud of the energy and diverse talents that volunteers bring to our cause—we couldn't do it without them. Volunteering with LCAS is a great way to meet new people, give back to the community, and—best of all—have fun! For more information, visit our Volunteer page online at www.laneaudubon.org/support/volunteer or contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.

Lane Audubon Community Outreach

Help introduce Lane Audubon to community members at local events and present talks on birding and the natural world

to small groups upon request. Help develop our “speaker bureau” materials and resources.

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

Program Committee

The Program Committee works as a team to develop ideas and recruit speakers for the chapter Program Meetings. Programs are scheduled eight times per year. The Program Committee is responsible for engaging speakers and organizing publicity and other logistics well in advance of each meeting. The Board will assist with ideas for Program speakers.

A Benchmark Survey of Oregon's Birds: The Oregon 2020 Project

Herb Wisner

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The May Program will be presented by W. Douglas Robinson, Professor of Wildlife Ecology in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University. The Oregon 2020 project is a legacy science project aimed at creating a high-quality benchmark measurement of the distribution and abundance of Oregon's birds. The project recognizes several important aspects of where and when we live. We are the first generation of humans to realize that we are partly responsible for climate change, to know that we are profoundly altering the habitat of Earth's biodiversity, and to have the technological capability to map, measure, instantly share, and electronically archive our observations of nature. The Oregon 2020 project aims to create a benchmark survey of Oregon's birds so that future generations can repeat the surveys and understand, with 20/20 hindsight, exactly how birds have responded to environmental change.

The 2020 project uses a combination of education, encouragement, and collaborative field excursions to generate bird-count data. Citizen scientists (birders) and the researchers count birds. All observations are entered into the public eBird database and are shared with everyone. Surveys are done in normal birding hotspots, but also (and more importantly) in a stratified random selection of one-square mile areas across the state, which they call Hotspot Squares. The Hotspot Squares are selected from each of the 2,800 townships/ranges from the Public Land Survey System. They can be reviewed at http://tools.oregonexplorer.info/oe_map_viewer_2_0/html5/?viewer=oregon2020.

The sampling design is easy to understand, easily viewed with their smartphone app (Oregon2020 Birds, free for iPhone and Android), and interfaces with eBird. The project end date is estimated to be in the year 2020; by then, they project that several million bird observations will have been generated across the state from the Hotspot Squares and other typical hotspots frequented by birders. The project website, oregon2020.com, keeps participants informed of project updates and progress.

Please note there's no Program Meeting in June. Happy birding!

May Program Meeting
A Benchmark Survey of Oregon's Birds: The Oregon 2020 Project



Tuesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m.
Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St., Eugene



 **Like us on Facebook!**
www.facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824?ref=hl

Lane County Audubon Society Board Election Notice

Lane County Audubon Society Board elections will be held at the May 26 Program Meeting. The following candidates are running for the Board: Jim Maloney, Ron Renchler, Debbie Schlenoff, Maeve Sowles, Caryn Stoess, and Herb Wisner.

Lane Audubon welcomes you—join or renew today!



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

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

Lane County Audubon Society Membership Benefits

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

Visit www.laneaudubon.org

Deadlines:

July–August Issue: June 6
September Issue: August 1

Submit material to
Paula Rich
richpaula@hotmail.com



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

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

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

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Lane Audubon Membership Dues

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

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

- Current National Audubon member Don't know

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

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

Please contact me regarding

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

Mail this form and your payment to:

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

Lane Audubon Officers & Board Members

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Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Pacific City Birding and Blues Festival

May 1–3, Pacific City, Oregon

Participate in guided birding hikes, live birds-of-prey talks, blues concerts, nature workshops, kayak trips, photography tips, and birding by ear walks.

FMI: www.BirdingandBlues.org

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Three Saturdays: May 9, May 23, and June 6, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Bird Songs and Calls Workshop

In this 3-part workshop led by Chris Roth and Julia Siporin, learn how to identify and better understand local birds by their songs and calls. They'll help participants recognize our common (and uncommon) avian friends' vocalizations—and share many tools for continuing to learn on your own.

Preregistration required. Call 541.747.3817. \$35 Members, \$40 Nonmembers.

Sunday, May 10, 8:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Spring Bird Walk

Join Nature Guides Chris Roth and Julia Siporin for a bird walk for people with all levels of birding experience. Please bring binoculars. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center.

\$5, members free. FMI: 541.747.1504, see www.MountPisgahArboretum.org for more information about these and other activities.

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club

Eugene Birders Night

Monday, May 11, 7:00 p.m.

Birds of Northern Peru, Part 2 with Dan and Anne Heyerly

Everyone is welcome to attend these monthly meetings. After initial introductions, we'll share recent sightings and discuss birding-connected topics. Then Dan and Anne Heyerly will present photos from their adventures in the

endemic-rich Marañon Valley of northern Peru and Plataforma, a remote cloud forest.

Monday, June 8, 7:00 p.m.

Birds and More of the Dominican Republic with John Sullivan

John will take us to the tropics and acquaint us with the ecosystems of this island nation. He always has a surprise up his sleeve, so come and see what it is!

SWOC meets 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 just north of the house.

Free. FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com

Friends of Hendricks Park

Sunday, May 17, 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Birding in Hendricks Park with Glenn Johnson

Sunday, June 7, 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Birding in Hendricks Park with Dan Gleason

Meet at the Wilkins Picnic Shelter, 2200 Summit Ave. A donation of \$3 is suggested to help support the Friends education programs.

FMI: www.friendsofhendrickspark.org/events.html, 541.607.4066

Mountain Bird Festival

May 29–31, 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, 541.201.0866

Cascades Raptor Center

Last Sunday of each month, May through September, 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Family Nature Discovery Days

Each Discovery Day features a different theme and activities for children ages 4–11 and families.

May 31: Birds in Springtime. Family activity: Build a nest and decorate eggs.

June 28: The Art of Nature. Family activity: Make a fairy cottage or other art from CRC's collection of rocks, shells, bark, leaves, flowers and more!

Regular admission fees plus \$2 activity fee if participating

FMI: 541.485.1320, www.eraptors.org

East Cascades Audubon Society

June 18–21, Sisters, Oregon

Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival

Festival participants have a choice of attending 14 different guided tours in search of 11 different species of woodpeckers and over 200 other types of birds that have made the forests and burn areas of Sisters and Central Oregon a birding hot spot. Space is limited! Register now!

FMI: www.ecaudubon.org or email dhwf15@gmail.com

North American Butterfly Association (NABA)

Several dates in June and July

Butterfly field trips/counts

See the NABA website for details on opportunities to participate in field trips as a citizen scientist. They also offer some family walks.

FMI: www.naba.org/chapters/nabaes

May Program Meeting

**A Benchmark Survey
of Oregon's Birds: The
Oregon 2020 Project**




**Tuesday, May 26
7:30 p.m.
Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene**



**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER**

*The
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Bird Walks and Events



Jim Maloney

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**Saturday
May 16**

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK

Oregon Country Fair site, led by Glenn Johnson

Join the Oregon Country Fair Wildlife Team and Lane County Audubon Society for a walk around the Oregon Country Fair's 450-acre site, led by wildlife biologist and expert birder Glenn Johnson. We'll bird diverse habitats, including upland conifer, the Long Tom River with riparian ash and oak forests, and wet meadows. We'll log our sightings on eBird and try to add to the Country Fair site's bird list (115 species and counting!). All ages and skill levels are welcome. This is a rain or shine event.

To carpool, meet at 8:00 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.

If you want to meet the group at the Country Fair site, travel west on Highway 126 to Veneta, then turn right (north) on Territorial Highway, left (west) on Suttle Road, and left (south) on Aero Road, which is gravel and part of the fair site. Take the first left (east) on Chickadee Lane and drive approximately 500 feet to an open, four-way intersection. Park in the parking area on the right. The address is 24550 Chickadee Lane, Veneta, 97487.

For more information, contact Jim Maloney at 541.968.9249 or jimgmal@comcast.net.

**Saturday
June 20**

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK

Site and leader to be determined

The Third Saturday Bird Walk on June 20 will be determined by interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL and other pertinent information available before the day of the walk. We will post the location on the LCAS Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824?ref=hl) and on the website (www.laneaudubon.org). We'll meet at Eugene South High School at 8:00 a.m. as usual for carpooling.