

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

Wetlands Nourish Both Wildlife and Human Observers



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

My first encounter with a wetland ecosystem was in the springtime, on a vacant lot where the frogs' chorus drew me like a magnet to the ponds in the flooded field. The hidden frogs lured me with their songs, compelling me to explore the elusive source of the sound. I was a young girl then, and I have been searching the water's edge ever since. Many towns' sewage ponds are their only marshy area and are frequently the local birding hot spot. The combination of water,

abundant organic material, and few people lets the wildness spill into these unique areas.

Wetland habitats teem with life. Water and the underlying sediments, rich in nutrients, support diverse life forms, from bacteria and algae through every classification of organism. The productiveness of the wetland habitat provides a banquet for birds, who feast on life in the mud and water. The calm water of wetlands is a primordial soup, with frog eggs, water striders,

crustaceans, marsh beetle nymphs, mayflies, and dragonflies all feeding in this richness.

Shorebirds use wetlands for resting and foraging during migration. Each type of bird has a niche, and the shape and length of its bill is designed to probe for food in a specific microhabitat. Ducks and geese depend on watery places for food as well as breeding sites. Rails, blackbirds, wrens, and herons also can be found in wetlands, eating, nesting, and trying to survive.

When I visit the West Eugene Wetlands or Fern Ridge Reservoir, I like to watch the reddish sun rise over the misty valley. Water droplets on the marsh grass glisten in the first weak rays of the sun. I notice a slight movement at the water's edge. A Great Blue Heron, standing motionless, blends into the grey of a spring morning. He seems like a dinosaur remnant, stoically poised, ever watchful, staring at the water. Interrupted from his dream of fish, he squawks and with slow deep wingbeats lifts into the mists above the water.

Wetlands are a place where time seems to stand still. If we preserve them.

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Help Stop the Cormorant Killings



Cormorants nesting

From Portland Audubon: East Sand Island was once the largest Double-crested Cormorant colony in the world, home to more than 28,000 cormorants representing 40 percent of the entire population west of the Rocky Mountains. However, for the past three years, federal agencies have been waging a relentless and inhumane war on Double-crested Cormorants, shooting thousands of the birds out of the sky with shotguns and destroying their active nests. More than 5,000 cormorants have been shot, and more than 6,000 nests have been destroyed. Because of this, the world's largest colony of Double-crested Cormorants has collapsed. The birds abandoned the colony at the peak of nesting season in 2016, and only a couple hundred birds returned to nest in 2017.

The collapse of the entire colony went far beyond what was allowed under the Corps permits and puts the entire western population of Double-crested Cormorants at risk. Yet, the US Army Corps has applied for permits to continue destroying cormorant nests on East Sand Island if the birds return in 2018, and has plans to modify their habitat to limit nesting in the future.

This kind of activity could precipitate another colony collapse in 2018.

The agencies claim that the killing is necessary to protect federally listed salmon. However, killing of cormorants is nothing more than a diversion from the real cause of salmon decline, the federal hydropower system. In fact, US Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Biologists produced a secret report which concluded that killing cormorants at East Sand Island will do nothing to help recover salmon. From the report: "The data indicate that efforts to reduce predation by Double-crested cormorants are expected to result in no changes or benefits to these fish populations in terms of increasing adult return or abundance."

Five times in the last twenty years, Federal Courts have rejected US Army Corps Columbia River Salmon Plans due to the fact that they have inadequately addressed the impacts from the dams.

Take Action

Urge the US Army Corps of Engineers and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to stop the scapegoating of cormorants on East Sand Island. The agencies should instead focus on the real causes of salmon decline, the federal hydropower system, by increasing flows over dams on the Columbia River and removing four obsolete dams on the Snake River. Sign on to a letter to agency officials and your legislators: portlandaudubon.salsalabs.org/dccovideo/index.html

Check out this video on the issue: youtube.com/watch?v=qL4xecmq1kg&feature=youtu.be

Species information

Double-crested cormorants are gregarious birds that nest in colonies in the spring. After the male attracts a female by showing off bright colors around the neck and eyes, the pair works together to build the nest. The male gathers most of the nesting material, and the female builds the nest. Both parents bring food to the nestlings. You may see cormorants "wing-spreading" while perched on a log or rock. This is thought to help dry out their feathers. Cormorants have less preen oil than ducks, so they take on more water. Scientists hypothesize that this is to help the birds ride low in the water and forage under water. The birds catch a wide variety of different prey species.

Audubon in the Schools (AITS) Needs Volunteers and a Leader

This Lane Audubon program is in high demand by grade school teachers. Teachers and their students love this program!

Our volunteer instructors and five new people brought the program to several classrooms this spring.

We hope to continue to build our volunteer pool, and more importantly, we need a leader to organize the teaching materials and set up classroom visits.

We hope to offer more in-school programs going forward.

Please help us provide the kids with these art and biology lessons!

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

Field Notes: March 2018

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

Green Heron, Rufous Hummingbird, Say's Phoebe, Black-throated Gray Warbler

We were out of town for most of the month, but heard the weather was fairly typical. As is normal, there were a few early Neotropical migrants and a few late ones. The vast majority of migrants arrive during April and the first part of May, so now is the time to get out and enjoy them!

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)



Green Heron

Photo: Eric Sonstroem, Wiki Commons



Rufous Hummingbird

Photo: National Audubon Society

HUMMINGBIRDS TO FLYCATCHERS

Rufous Hummingbird	March 10	28th Ave & Onyx.....	JG.....	First of this season's arrival wave
Virginia Rail	March 4	FRR - Royal Ave.....	SG,CK	They winter most years
Lesser Yellowlegs (3).....	March 29	Meadowlark Prairie.....	AC,et al.....	Wintered in the area
Green Heron	March 28	Mill Race, Springfield.....	DA,et al.....	Normal arrival date; small numbers overwinter
Lewis's Woodpecker	March 17	Creswell area.....	BC.....	A bird that spent the winter
Say's Phoebe	March 1	Westfir	MLS.....	An unusual location
Say's Phoebe (2).....	March 9	Alton Baker Park.....	E&VT.....	Several have been seen during past migrations

SHRIKES TO WARBLERS

Northern Shrike (photos).....	March 29	FRR - Royal Ave.....	NS	Getting late for this wintering species
No. Rough-winged Swallow	March 28	Hills Creek pond.....	VB.....	A few days earlier than normal
Cliff Swallow	March 29	Ada Grange	AC,et al.....	A few days later than normal
Barn Swallow	March 30	FRR	m.ob.....	A few days later than normal
House Wren	March 14	Oak Hill cemetery.....	BC.....	More than a month early; overwintering?
Chipping Sparrow	March 29	FRR - Royal Ave.....	JH,JP.....	A couple days earlier than normal
Swamp Sparrow	March 31	FRR - Fisher Butte	VB,SH.....	Getting late for this wintering species
Common Yellowthroat	March 20	FRR - Jeans Rd.....	BC.....	About a week earlier than normal
Black-throated Gray Warbler	March 19	Delta Ponds	VB.....	About three weeks earlier than normal

AC Alan Contreras, BC Barbara Combs, CK Cary Kerst, DA Dennis Arendt, E&VT Eddie & Vjera Thompson, JG Joshua Galpern, JH Jeff Harding, JP John Polo, SG Steve Gordon, SH Sally Hill, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, m.ob many observers, NS Nancy Stotz, VB Vickie Buck.

LCAS Board Elections Notice

Lane County Audubon Society Board elections will be held at the May 22nd Program meeting.

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

Thank you to volunteer LaRue Rodgers for her help as "Quail Distributor."

She has stepped up to help us with this outreach effort nine times a year when *The Quail* newsletter is published.



Give to LCAS When You Shop Online

Go to smile.amazon.com and select Lane County Audubon Society

Program Meeting: Tuesday, May 22, 7:30 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

Exploring Oregon's Ancient Forests



Chandra LeGue

Ancient forests have been a great source of inspiration for Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild's Western Oregon Field Coordinator. For many years she has worked to protect and restore these natural treasures. When an opportunity arose to revise and republish her late colleague Wendell Wood's 1991 book, *A Walking Guide to Oregon's Ancient Forests*, she seized

it. Over the last year, she has spent six months traveling across Oregon seeking out some of the finest examples of these forests to share with others in the new version of the guide. Publication by Mountaineers Books is set for 2019. With only 10 percent of Oregon's historic ancient forests remaining, it is imperative that people understand their importance to our state's future, for clean water, climate change, wildlife, recreation, and so much more.

Chandra LeGue originally came to Oregon from the Midwest in 1999 with a degree in biology and a deep love of nature. She earned a Masters in Environmental Studies and a graduate certificate in Non-profit Management from the University of Oregon, and has worked for Oregon Wild since 2003. In her role as Western Oregon Field Coordinator, she works to promote

policies and law that protect and restore Oregon's forests and watersheds, focused primarily on federal public lands. Public engagement, outreach, and collaboration are key facets of her job. She participates in forest collaborative and stewardship groups, leads hikes, and works at giving the public a voice in policies that impact public lands. In addition to her work at Oregon Wild, Chandra has been involved with other non-profit groups, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council.



We are happy to announce that Dennis Arendt has taken on the role of LCAS Program Coordinator!

Thank you to Dennis for your willingness to bring your talents to Lane Audubon Programs!

Welcome Dennis—we look forward to working with you!

Welcome New LCAS Board Member, Rebecca Waterman!

Rebecca has been involved with our organization as the Bird Walk coordinator since fall of 2017.

She has attended board meetings, as well as helped with bird walks and outreach events since first becoming involved. She is excited about birding and cares deeply about sharing the excitement and wonderment of birding.

Thanks Rebecca, for your help!!

—Maeve



I am so excited to be the newest board member of the Lane County Audubon Society! I grew up knowing what my backyard birds were, and particularly loved American Goldfinches and Red-winged Blackbirds. However, it was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet that sparked a serious interest in birding back in 2013. Since then, birding has become one of my greatest passions. I have enjoyed attending, and now coordinating, nearly every Third Saturday Bird Walk for the past several years. In joining the members of the LCAS board, I hope to help encourage the next generation to explore their interest in birding. I appreciate this opportunity to help share the joy that birds add to my life! —Rebecca Waterman

Birds Without Borders

2018 World Migratory Bird Day

May 12, 2018 | 9AM - 1PM

Early-bird Bird Walk | 7:30 AM

Alton Baker Park

Nearby Nature's Learnscape (follow the signs)

Park in the main parking lot or boat ramp parking lot at Alton Baker Park, Country Club Road.

For a map, visit laneaudubon.org.

Family Event | Free Admission

Admission fees waived thanks to grant support from the National Audubon Society.

Family bird walks & kid-friendly activities

(Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

- Spotting scopes and information stations
- Bird- & nature-related games and activities
- Information booth on World Migratory Bird Day

Bilingual guides (Spanish)

For more information, visit laneaudubon.org

We look forward to seeing you there!

 No dogs, please.



Art & Design - Bryan Ribelin

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

July-Aug issue: June 2; sooner if you can
September issue: August 4

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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	Rachael Friese..... audadventures@gmail.com
	Jim Maloney.....541.968.9249..... jimgmal@comcast.net
	Rebecca Waterman.....541.653.3354..... rebecca.waterman@gmail.com
	Herb Wisner (Emeritus) ... 541.344.3634..... hrwisner@comcast.net

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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).....\$ _____

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

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

5/12

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Reptiles and Amphibians Walk

Saturday, May 12, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Join Tom Titus, local biologist and author, on an exploration of the reptiles and amphibians that make their home on Mount Pisgah. From oak savanna to wetlands, Tom will open your eyes to these amazing creatures and hopefully capture a few to look at more closely. Ages 8 and up. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$8 per family, \$5 individual, members free.

FMI: for all Mt Pisgah listings: mountpisgaharboretum.org, 541.741.4110

5/13

Bird Walk

Sunday, May 13, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for the monthly bird walk. It can be enjoyed by people at all levels of birding experience. They will use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of spring migrants 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.



5/20

Wildflower and Music Festival

Sunday, May 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Co-sponsored by Lane Community College and the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Hundreds of local wildflower species on display, live music, hourly nature walks, Art in Nature Trail, a plant sale, food booths, and local arts and craft vendors. Suggested donation \$8, Arboretum members free.

5/21

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Eugene Birders' Night

Monday, May 21, at 7 p.m.

Attendees share recent bird sightings and birding-related topics, followed by a

presentation TBA. 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

6/10

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Bird Walk

Sunday, June 10, 8am-11am

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for another monthly bird walk intended for people with all levels of birding experience. We'll use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of our breeding 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.

6/18

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Eugene Birders' Night

Monday, June 18, at 7 p.m.

Attendees share recent bird sightings and birding-related topics, followed by a presentation TBA. 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

6/30

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Dragonflies and Damselflies Walk

Saturday, June 30, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join local expert and author Cary Kerst on a search for some of the many dragonflies and damselflies which call Mount Pisgah home. Explore varied habitats in search of different species, and learn about the ecology of these skilled hunters. Rain or Shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, members free.

Volunteers Needed for World Migratory Bird Day Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

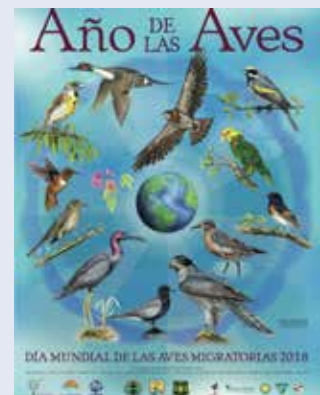
Lane County Audubon Society is again teaming up with Nearby Nature to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day (formerly International Migratory Bird Day) with the community in a big way!

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 global 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 be posted on the LCAS Facebook page, including a map of Alton Baker Park.

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 and/or to volunteer: Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, or maeveanddick@q.com; Ron Renchler, 541.345.0834, or christyandron2@gmail.com





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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 Walks

Saturday, May 19, 8 a.m.

Our May walk leader is Kit Larsen. 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

Saturday, June 16, 8 a.m.

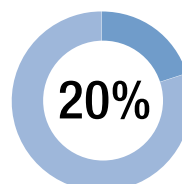
Our June walk leader is John DeLuca. The location of the walk will be determined by interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL, along with other pertinent information available before the walk date. Details will be posted on the LCAS Facebook page: facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824,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



May Program Meeting
Exploring Oregon's Ancient Forests
with Chandra LeGue
Tuesday, May 22, 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 Godsfil at tgodsil@gmail.com