



The

November 2014

Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

Audubon Phone – 541.485.BIRD

From Our Treasurer



Birding, Technology, and the Ways We Give

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Like birders everywhere, members of Lane County Audubon Society are a varied lot, especially when it comes to technology use. The proliferation of technologies that make bird-watching easier, more rewarding, and more satisfying corresponds directly to the introduction of new technologies into every aspect of our lives. Depending on how quickly we accept and use these new advances, each of us fits into one of the standard categories for technology adoption—innovators, early adopters, early majority, late majority, or laggards.

Despite being surrounded by technology both at home and at work, I often feel like I fall into the laggard category. Take optical technology, or binoculars, for example. In an entertaining chapter called “Bins and Scopes” in *Birders: Tales of a Tribe*, Mark Cocker recounts his own personal history of owning binoculars and describes the extremes to which some birders go to make sure they are never without a pair in close proximity. Many birders, Cocker writes, “have the equivalent of an optical harem: pairs for the car, for work, a pair downstairs and maybe one in the bedroom, a little pocketable set for non-birding situations, and several others just in case.” I’m guilty of owning multiple pairs of bins, but technologically I’m still living in the past—none of mine have the state-of-the-art optics that early adopters make a point of owning.

Smartphones and the many handy apps that now exist for identifying birds in the field offer another example. Those of us who don’t yet own smartphones are left paging through our printed field guides or, if we’re a little more advanced, looking up our sightings after the fact using online tools such as Cornell Ornithology Lab’s All About Birds website (www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search).

(continued on page 3)



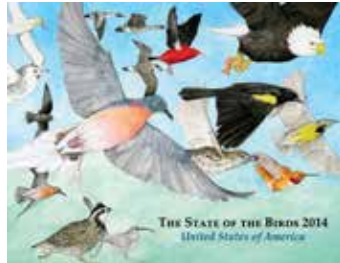
Reports Published on Climate Change and Birds

Debbie Schlenoff

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As described in the president's column last month, the National Audubon Society recently released a report indicating that over half of North American bird species are threatened by climate change. (See the report at <http://climate.audubon.org/>.) The geographical ranges in the report are based on physical parameters such as temperature and precipitation, so they do not always exactly match actual field sightings of all the different species of birds. However, the data are clear; large portions of ranges will be lost or shifted due to climatic changes, and in many cases, there will be insufficient habitat to support the birds in their modified ranges. In Oregon, we will see the loss of more than 90% of the summer range of species such as the Northern Pygmy Owl, Merlin, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Townsend's Solitaire. You can find more information specific to Oregon at <http://climate.audubon.org/geographical-search/oregon>.



Audubon's *Birds and Climate Change Report* made the news concurrent with the publication of *The State of the Birds Report 2014*, which was compiled by a consortium of 23 organizations, including the National Audubon Society, American Bird Conservancy, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the Smithsonian Institution. Included in the report is a Watch List of 228 species of high concern (<http://www.stateofthebirds.org/extinctions/watchlist.pdf>) and 33 common species (for example, Northern Pintail, Horned Lark, Varied Thrush, Wilson's Warbler, Pine Siskin) that are in steep decline (www.stateofthebirds.org/habitats/2014%20SotB%20CBinSD_FINAL.pdf).

Both reports mark the 100th anniversary of the death of the last known Passenger Pigeon, a once common species that filled the skies with flocks numbering in the billions, yet was driven to extinction in less than half a human lifetime.

The State of the Birds Report 2014 (www.stateofthebirds.org/), which evaluates the current status of bird populations,

provides an opportunity to compare data to the first report published five years ago. Hardest hit over these five years have been aridland birds and eastern and western forest-bird populations. All Hawaiian forest birds are listed. The good news is that many coastal and wetlands species populations have increased because of dedicated conservation efforts. An example of a successful conservation partnership consisting of both private and public entities is found in the Klamath-Siskiyou Oak Network, which has restored 6,000 acres on federal, state, and private lands in southern Oregon, action that has benefitted birds such as the Oak Titmouse. Many seabird populations have benefited from changes to commercial fishing operations. Streamers on long-line fishing vessels deter birds, resulting in a 50% reduction in incidental bycatch in Alaskan waters between 2007 and 2012. Some waterfowl such as Wood Ducks are doing better thanks to restoration and protection of wetland habitat. Fees from hunting licensing have contributed a great deal to conservation efforts in wetlands.

We are fortunate to have the tools to monitor populations and assess threats. We have the know-how to develop effective conservation plans. The question remains: Do we have the foresight to invest in conservation protections before other bird populations suffer the irreversible fate of the Passenger Pigeon?



Wetlands are one of the habitats to benefit most from conservation, according to The State of the Birds Report 2014. For many species in protected wetlands, population declines have been reversed. Some species, however, such as the Northern Pintail, are still declining and require stronger conservation efforts.

Audubon Adventures: Birds, Bees, and Neighborhood Biomes

Joyce Trawle

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Audubon Adventures kicked off a new season this September with more choices than ever before, including the new Digital Plus option.

Developed by professional environmental educators, this award-winning environmental program presents standards-based science content about birds, wildlife, and their habitats for grades 3–5. The content-rich website (www.audubonadventures.org) provides interactive games, puzzles, and quizzes, as well as additional topic-related resources for both teachers and students.

Several new topics for 2014–2015 are presented in the Digital Plus option:

- **Wild about Birds** focuses on the science of birds, including their characteristics and adaptations, habitat needs, migration, and life cycles.
- **The Buzz about Native Bees** highlights the natural history of native bees and their vital role in ecosystems as pollinators of native plants.
- **Neighborhood Biomes** features familiar urban and suburban birds and other wildlife and explores how they interact with the built environment, the resources they

need for survival, and ways in which kids can help their wild neighbors.

“Birds on the Move,” a large, content-rich classroom poster about bird migration, is also available, and all teachers receive six monthly eNewsletters that provide ideas for implementing Audubon Adventures in the classroom. Teachers also receive a one-year subscription to Audubon magazine.

Through the generous support of LCAS members, Lane Audubon’s Adopt-a-Classroom Program offers free subscriptions to this outstanding educational program.

Stay tuned for more information about how you can support this exciting new program in our schools throughout Lane County.



From Our Treasurer (continued from page 1)

But regardless of the technologies we use or don't use, all LCAS members are united in one way: our love of birds. We have in common the desire to learn more about them and to protect their habitats so that they can thrive. This has been the mission of LCAS since its inception, and each year at this time we ask for your help and support in achieving our goals through membership renewal and a tax-deductible donation.

The LCAS board recognizes that many of our members routinely use online systems to carry out their transactions. We have created a page on our website where you can renew your membership (or join LCAS) and make your payment online. The web page is at <http://laneaudubon.org/support/join>. For donations, a separate page is at <http://laneaudubon.org/support/donate>.

For those who wish to continue using the mail-in process, a pre-addressed envelope is included in this issue of *The Quail* for your convenience.

Whatever method you choose, your membership and donation will help us continue our work in raising awareness about birds and the value of preserving their habitat. We thank you in advance for your support.



Like us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824?ref=hl

Field Notes: September 2014



- White-faced Ibis
- Lark Bunting

- Chimney Swift
- Lapland Longspur

- White-throated Swift
- Tricolored Blackbird

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September was mostly sunny and warm, with a little much-needed rain toward the end of the month. A number of unusual species were seen this month, which is normal for the height of migration. Fall migration continues into November, so be sure to let us know what you're seeing.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR).

WATERBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Goose	23 Sept	Eugene area	m.ob.	Many large flocks flying overhead
Horned Grebe	21 Sept	FRR	NS	Occur in small numbers during migration
Eared Grebe (5)	14 Sept	FRR	JS, LJ	Larger numbers than normal
Buller's Shearwater	12 Sept	Heceta Beach	DP	Not commonly seen from shore
Sooty Shearwater (1,000s)	12 Sept	Heceta Beach	DP	Large numbers being seen this fall
White-faced Ibis (2)	20 Sept	FRR	MB	A rare fall report

RAPTORS to TERNS

Northern Goshawk	1 Sept	Bobby Lake	J&SW	A normal breeding location
Northern Goshawk (3)	2 Sept	Gold Lake	J&SW	A normal breeding location
Red-shouldered Hawk	2 Sept	Gold Lake	J&SW	Becoming common in the high Cascades around water during the breeding season
Merlin	Sept	throughout county	m.ob.	More numerous than normal
Pacific Golden-Plover	1 Sept	FRR	NS	Almost annual during fall migration
Pacific Golden-Plover	27 Sept	FRR	LN	Most likely a second bird
American Avocet (9)	8 Sept	FRR	RR	Around all month—a very high count!
Solitary Sandpiper (2)	1 Sept	FRR	NS	Becoming more common in the fall
Wandering Tattler	28 Sept	SJSR	AC	The last report and a little later than normal
Marbled Godwit (3)	1 Sept	FRR	NS	Always a "good" bird away from the coast
Sanderling	1 Sept	FRR	NS	Never common inland
Baird's Sandpiper	28 Sept	Siltcoos River mouth	AC	Getting late for this species
Ruff	8 Sept	FRR	SH	Almost annual during fall migration
Ruff	27 Sept	FRR	LN	Most likely a second bird
Red-necked Phalarope (2)	8 Sept	FRR	RR	First fall migration report
Sabine's Gull	21 Sept	FRR	NS	They occur in small numbers in the fall
Sabine's Gull (2)	23 Sept	FRR	JS	They occur in small numbers in the fall
Sabine's Gull	26 Sept	SJSR	AC	They occur in small numbers in the fall
Franklin's Gull	19 Sept	FRR	JS, BMc	A second bird, or lingering from last month?
Elegant Tern (2)	28 Sept	SJSR	JW	Getting late for this species
Common Tern	8 Sept	SJSR	m.ob.	More common than normal this fall
Common Tern	14 Sept	FRR	JS, LJ	A total of 29 small terns seen while canoeing the reservoir—larger than normal numbers
Forster's Tern	14 Sept	FRR	JS, LJ	

SWIFTS to BLACKBIRDS

Chimney Swift	21 Sept	Agate Hall, U of O	BC	Second record for Lane Co; first was this spring
White-throated Swift (8)	4 Sept	McKenzie Bridge	TC	Fourth Lane County record

Lewis's Woodpecker	23 Sept	Skinner Butte	SH	An unusual location for this species
Acorn Woodpecker	1 Sept	Mt. Pisgah	GT	All found in areas where they aren't normally
Acorn Woodpecker	11 Sept	Creswell area	SNe	found. Are these postbreeding birds moving
Acorn Woodpecker	15 Sept	Creswell area	NS	around or young looking for a territory?
Acorn Woodpecker	26 Sept	Dillard Road area	BU	A small colony storing acorns for the winter
Black-backed Woodpecker	1 Sept	Gold & Marilyn Lakes	J&SW	A normal breeding location
Say's Phoebe	6 Sept	FRR	SNa	An unusual fall report
Varied Thrush	15 Sept	Creswell area	NS	First report for the winter season
American Pipit	6 Sept	FRR	AC	First report for the winter season
Lapland Longspur	21 Sept	Baker Beach	SB	A casual migrant in Lane County
Clay-colored Sparrow	24 Sept	FRR	SH	The same bird found last month?
Lark Bunting	9 Sept	FRR	SH, et al.	Third record for Lane County
Fox Sparrow	4 Sept	Creswell area	NS	First report for the winter season
Lincoln's Sparrow	10 Sept	FRR	LM, et al.	First report for the winter season
Golden-crowned Sparrow	3 Sept	Eugene	LM	First report for the winter season
Black-headed Grosbeak	17 Sept	River Road area	BC	A late report for this species
Tricolored Blackbird	8 Sept	FRR	SH	Fewer than ten records for the county
Yellow-headed Blackbird	28 Sept	Dog Pond, SJSR	AC	Rarely found on the coast

AC Alan Contreras, BC Barbara Combs, BMC Barry McKenzie, BU Becky Uhler, DP Diane Pettey, GT Gary Tepfer, J&SW Jay & Susan Withgott, JS John Sullivan, LJ Laura Johnson, LM Larry McQueen, LN Lars Norgren, m.ob. many observers, MB Mike Bressler, NS Noah Strycker, RR Roger Robb, SB Sean Burns, SH Sally Hill, SNa Stephan Nance, SNe Sally Nelson, TC Thomas Cramer

Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, November 2, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Mushroom Walk

Join experienced mycologists Chris Melotti and Molly Widmer for a walk to learn about mushroom identification, habitat, characteristics, natural history, and their role in an ecosystem.

Sunday, November 16, 8:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Late Fall Bird Walk

Join Nature Guides Chris Roth and Julia Siporin for a bird walk for people with all levels of birding experience, beginner to advanced. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested.

Saturday, November 29, 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Forest Ecology Walk

Explore the plants and animals of the Arboretum and their place in our native ecosystems with ecologist and LCC instructor Pat Boleyn.

Arboretum events are \$5, members free. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. FMI: 541.747.1504, www.MountPisgahArboretum.org

Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)

Saturday, November 8, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Youth in Nature Partnership's Play in the Rain Day

Local outdoor recreation and education organizations will come together to provide fun activities outdoors for you and your family. Free parking courtesy of Lane County Parks. Event takes place at Mt. Pisgah's White Oak Pavilion.

Tuesday, November 11, 9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Wetland Wander at Meadowlark Prairie

Meet at the Meadowlark Prairie Overlook, 88525 Greenhill Road.

All WREN events are free. FMI: 541.338.7047, info@wewetlands.org

Central Valley Birding Symposium

November 20–23, Stockton, CA

The 18th annual CVBS will feature well-known speakers, multiple field trips, artists' displays, and vendors.

FMI: www.2013cvbs.org

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 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:

Dec.–Jan. Issue: Nov. 1
February Issue: January 3

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 Godsfil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com.

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Layout by Kerry Lutz



Lane Audubon Membership Dues

- Individual \$20\$ _____
- Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15\$ _____
- Family \$25\$ _____
- Lifetime Membership \$400\$ _____
- I want to do more. Here's my tax deductible contribution for.....\$ _____
- Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society)\$ _____
- To pay by PayPal, go to www.laneaudubon.org/support/join

- Current National Audubon member Don't know

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Mailing Address _____

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

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

Please contact me regarding

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

Mail this form and your payment to:

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

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New and Endangered Oregon Wilderness Hikes

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Join author William L. Sullivan for a slide show celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. We'll visit hiking trails in spectacular areas protected during each decade from the 1960s to the present. But more than half of Oregon's roadless land is still unprotected, so Sullivan will also tell us about interesting hikes in endangered areas—from the desert to the rainforest. Expect tales of history, geology, and wildlife along the way.

Sullivan has hiked every trail he could find in the state for his popular *100 Hikes* guidebooks, a series he updates continually. His latest book, *The Oregon Variations*, is a collection of short stories, with one story set in every county in the state. He has also written four novels and many nonfiction books about Oregon, including *Hiking Oregon's History* and *The Case of D. B. Cooper's Parachute*. His journal of a 1,000-mile hike across Oregon, *Listening for Coyote*, was chosen by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission as one of Oregon's "100 Books," the 100 most significant books in the state's history.

**November Program Meeting
New & Endangered Oregon
Wilderness Hikes
with William L. Sullivan**



**Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014
7:30 p.m.**

**Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene**

Fern Ridge Bike Path Cleanup Set for Nov. 2, 9:00 a.m.

Almost 45 years ago, city of Eugene staffers and a few dedicated citizens formed the first Eugene Bicycle Committee. By 1972, they had established the city's first budget for bikeways—a whopping \$30,000, used mostly to match state and federal transportation grants.

By the end of the decade, the city had built miles of trails and bike lanes and worked with partners to construct four of the five pedestrian/bike bridges that now cross the Willamette River, providing critical connections to paths on both sides of the river.

Today, the city's bike network includes 41 miles of bike paths, 81 miles of on-street paths, 35 miles of dedicated bikeways, and a fifth pedestrian/bike bridge across the Willamette.

In 1998, Lane Audubon adopted a section of the Fern Ridge bike path between Stewart Pond (and Euphoria Chocolate!)

and Terry Drive and committed to cleaning it every six months or so.

Please join us in this volunteer effort to uphold Eugene's vision of a citizen-supported bike path, help beautify the Fern Ridge path, and have some fun!

When: Sunday, November 2, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Where: Meet at the Stewart Pond Overlook, the gravel parking area east of the intersection with Bertelsen Road on Stewart Road in Eugene. We'll look for waterfowl before we head out.

What to bring: Gloves, water, and snacks, and wear weather-appropriate clothing.

What's provided: Trash pickers and bags

For more information and to confirm that you will be helping, please contact Kat Beal at 541-517-0284 or jkbeal@comcast.net.

Nov. Program Meeting
New & Endangered
Oregon Wilderness Hikes
with William L. Sullivan




Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014
7:30 p.m.
Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER

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Bird Walks and Events



Jim Maloney

541.968.9249

jimgmal@comcast.com

Saturday,
November 15

Third Saturday Bird Walk *Site and leader to be determined*

The Third Saturday Bird Walk on November 15 will be determined by interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL and other pertinent information available before the day of the walk. If a location is determined before the third Saturday, we will post it on the LCAS Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824?ref=hl) and on the website (www.laneaudubon.org).

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson), rain or shine, for greetings and carpooling. We plan to return by noon. Remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables in your vehicle if it's parked at the high school. All levels of birders are welcome. A \$3 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities.

Contact Jim Maloney at 541-968-9249 or jimgmal@comcast.net for more information.

Save the Date: Christmas Bird Count Set for Dec. 28

Mark your calendars! Sunday, December 28, is the date for the 2014 Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC). This will be the 73rd ECBC and the 115th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. Dick Lamster is the Coordinator again this year, supported by the Steering Committee of Allison Mickel, Herb Wisner, Dan Gleason, and Barbara Gleason; 27 great birdwatchers as Team Leaders; and—we hope—you! Watch for more information in the December-January issue of *The Quail*, or contact Dick Lamster at 541-343-8664 or maveanddick@q.com.

The ECBC is a fun and exciting event open to anyone interested in birds. If you are just starting to get interested and want to learn more, this is a great opportunity to learn about birds and birding from experienced birders. We have space for everyone.