



The

October 2015

# Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

## From Our President



### Volunteers Drive LCAS

Maeve Sowles

541-343-8664

[president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org)

Audubon Phone – 541.485.BIRD

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Volunteers are the “green energy” that drives the activities of the Lane County Audubon Society. The only way we keep our projects running is with the help of folks who have some time, talent, and initiative to help. We have a small and committed Board that steers our various projects and lends a hand when needed. The Board helps new volunteers with advice, support, and experience. We want to see everyone succeed in forwarding our mission. We care about wildlife and their habitats and we also care about people.



Lane Audubon accomplishes its mission because of our wonderful volunteers. We have openings for some specific positions that are critical to our functioning. At this time we are looking for a new Webmaster, Audubon Adventures Coordinator, and Program Committee Chair. For more information, see the job descriptions on page 5 of this issue of *The Quail*.

#### Save paper and postage!

Get *The Quail* electronically.  
 Contact Tim Godsil at  
[tgodsil@gmail.com](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com)

Most of you know that we are an all-volunteer group. Some chapters have paid staff, but that is not the case with us. We do need help. Spend some time with us—come to a Board meeting, a Program Meeting, and please, get involved. Lane Audubon’s work is important to the community. We advocate for environmental education and conservation programs throughout Lane County. If you have an interest in joining other Lane Audubon volunteers or have skills you would like to put to work in support of our goals, we would like to hear from you! Call 541.485.2473. Be part of the Lane Audubon volunteer team! Please step up to help us keep our energy and forward momentum going!



## Environmental Issues Update

Debbie Schlenoff

541.685.0610

[dschlenoff@msn.com](mailto:dschlenoff@msn.com)

Members of Lane County Audubon Society care about birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. We strive to keep up with environmental issues and take action when possible to promote conservation and enjoyment of wild places. We submit comments on environmental impact statements and management proposals. We write letters or sign on to letters with other organizations concerning projects and proposed legislation. In this month's column, I'd like to update you on some of the issues we've taken action on.

### Forest Management

A record of decision was filed on the Goose Timber Project near McKenzie Bridge. Unfortunately, the decision selected an alternative that allows commercial logging on nearly 2,500 acres of Willamette National Forest. In other forest management news, we await the selection of an alternative on proposed changes for about 2.5 million BLM acres in western Oregon.

### East Sand Island Cormorants

Many of you are aware of a US Army Corps of Engineers plan to slaughter cormorants in a misguided attempt to help salmon recovery in the Columbia River. The corps has proceeded with its plan to kill nearly 11,000 Double-crested Cormorants and destroy more than 26,000 of their nests on East Sand Island. Several organizations have been calling for a halt to the destruction, especially after evidence emerged recently that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff analysis indicated that this action would *not*, in fact, help the recovery of federally listed salmon. More information is available at <http://audubonportland.org/news/cormorant-update-august12-2015>.

### Wind Turbines and Eagles

Despite the potential benefits of generating energy from wind, wind turbines can cause the death of many birds and bats, especially if sited inappropriately and improperly assessed. The USFWS grants eagle "take" permits to wind energy companies ("take" allows the birds to be harmed or killed)



East Sand Island

and had recently increased the duration of the permits sixfold (from five to thirty years). Good news on this front—a federal court in California ruled that this increase violates the law by not allowing for assessment of the cumulative harm that could be caused to the eagles, which often collide with wind turbines.

### Gray Wolf Recovery

Scientific research on wolf population recovery has demonstrated restoration of ecosystems with some benefits extending to songbird populations. Sadly, the removal of the Gray Wolf from the endangered species list has led to the killing of thousands of wolves in states such as Idaho. Wolves continue to be protected in Oregon, but there have been some recent proposals to remove protections and allow wolves to be more easily killed in our state. Numerous people are actively opposing these proposals in the wake of good news on regional wolf recovery: Many ranchers in the northeast section of the state have implemented proactive measures to reduce harm to livestock. New wolf pups have been born in the Cascades, the first in many decades, and for the first time in a century a wolf pack has been observed in California. We hope to continue to get positive news about wildlife population recovery.

*(continued on page 4)*

## Field Notes: August 2015



- **Flesh-footed Shearwater**
- **Mountain Quail**

- **Arctic Tern**
- **Long-billed Murrelet**

*Tom and Allison Mickel*

541.485.7112

*tamickel@rioussa.com*

**A**ugust was another warm, dry month, except for a little precipitation the last few days, but we were grateful for any rain we could get! The dry conditions seemed to have changed some species' postbreeding dispersal patterns (Franklin's Gull and Long-billed Curlew, for example). Some of the Arctic breeders appear to be migrating south earlier than normal (Sabine's Gull, Herring Gull, and "peeps," for example). Migration is in full swing, so now's the time to get out and enjoy it!

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR), Oregon Bird Records Committee (OBRC), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR)

### WATERBIRDS

<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>	Aug 11	Sea Lion Caves	SM	An early fall report
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>	Aug 21	Brays Point	AC, JL	An early fall report
<b>Flesh-footed Shearwater</b>	Aug 9	45 mi off coast	PL, BR	Very few records for the county
<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron (3)</b>	Aug 22	FRR - Royal Ave	JL	A normal time for their appearance

### "CHICKENS" to AUKS

<b>Mountain Quail</b>	Aug 27	Masonic Cemetery	BN	Repeatedly calling
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>	Aug 19	FRR - Royal Ave.	LM, et al.	Very rare time of year for the valley
<b>American Golden-Plover</b>	Aug 30	SJSR	RR, DA	Found most years in small numbers
<b>Pacific Golden-Plover</b>	Aug 7	SJSR - Crab Pier/Dock	DP	Found most years in small numbers
<b>Pacific Golden-Plover</b>	Aug 19	SJSR - Crab Pier/Dock	LG	Same bird as above?
<b>American Avocet</b>	Aug 17	FRR - Royal Ave.	BG	Found in small numbers in the fall
<b>Wandering Tattler (2)</b>	Aug 9	SJSR	SB	First report for the fall migration
<b>Long-billed Curlew (3)</b>	Aug	FRR & coast (2)	m.ob.	More reports than normal
<b>Marbled Godwit (7)</b>	Aug 18	SJSR - Crab Pier/Dock	LG	A normal migrant along coast
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>	Aug 30	Heceta Beach	RR, DA	Found most years in small numbers
<b>Black Turnstone (2)</b>	Aug 11	Sutton Beach	DF	The first report for the winter
<b>Surfbird (3)</b>	Aug 19	SJSR - Crab Pier/Dock	LG	The first report for the winter
<b>Red Knot</b>	Aug 17	NJSR mudflats	SH	Seen in small numbers during migration
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>	Aug	FRR & coast	m.ob.	Higher than normal numbers
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper (5)</b>	Aug 5	FRR - Royal Ave.	LM, et al.	The first report for the fall migration
<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>	Aug 3	FRR - Royal Ave.	SH	The first report for the fall migration
<b>Sabine's Gull</b>	Aug 7	FRR	JL	About three weeks earlier than normal
<b>Franklin's Gull</b>	Aug 5	FRR - Royal Ave.	LM, et al.	Same bird as June/July?
<b>Herring Gull</b>	Aug 23	Heceta Beach	A&CH	Earlier than normal
<b>Elegant Tern</b>	Aug	along coast	m.ob.	Fluctuating numbers throughout month
<b>Black Tern</b>	Aug 16	FRR - Royal Ave	SR, DB	The last report for the nesting season
<b>Common Tern</b>	Aug 8	FRR - Shore Ln	JS	Normal in small numbers in the fall
<b>Arctic Tern</b>	Aug 23	Heceta Beach	A&CH	Rarely found on the beach
<b>Long-billed Murrelet</b>	Aug 23	NJSR	NB	A first Lane Co record if approved by OBRC

### PASSERINES

<b>Western Kingbird</b>	Aug 22	FRR - E Coyote	JL	The last report for the nesting season
<b>American Pipit</b>	Aug 21	SJSR - Crab Pier/Dock	AC, JL	First report for the fall
<b>Brewer's Sparrow (3)</b>	Aug 12	FRR - Royal Ave	TMe, et al.	Found at this location in small numbers during fall migration

**A&CH** Adrian & Christopher Hinkle, **AC** Alan Contreras, **BG** Brandon Green, **BN** Bruce Newhouse, **BR** Bruce Rideout, **DA** Dennis Arendt, **DB** Darlene Betat, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **DP** Diane Pettey, **JL** Joshua Little, **JS** John Sullivan, **LG** Linda Gilbert, **LM** Larry McQueen, **m.ob.** many observers, **NB** Neil Bjorkland, **PL** Paul Lehman, **RR** Roger Robb, **SB** Sean Burns, **SH** Sally Hill, **SM** Sylvia Maulding, **SR** Skip Russell, **TMe** Thomas Meinzen

## Highlights from a Life List in Photos with Dave Stone

Herb Wisner

541.344.3634

hrwisner@comcast.net

Dave provided this inimitable description of his October program: “When I started seriously birding 10 years ago, people asked me if I was keeping a ‘list.’ ‘My photos are my list!’ I declared. Well, a couple of years ago I said to myself ‘OK, buddy, how many birds are on your list?’ At last count, I have good photos of over 250 species. Not too shabby if you know how hard it is to get a good photo of a bird in flight or in the brush. Don’t worry, I’m not going to show 250 bird photos during my presentation. How many will I be showing? You’re just going to have to come and count them! If you’re the type who keeps a list of birds you’ve seen on TV, for instance, you can start a list of birds you’ve seen at an Audubon Program Meeting.”

Join us on October 27 for another wonderfully entertaining and informative presentation by Dave Stone. Refreshments are at 7:00; the program begins at 7:30 at the Eugene Garden Club.

### October Program Meeting Highlights from a Life List in Photos with Dave Stone



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

Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High St., Eugene

### Conservation Column *(continued from page 2)*

#### Bird Collisions with Windows

People in Minnesota continue to request that bird-friendly measures be taken to reduce collisions that will result when the expansive glass Vikings stadium is built on the Mississippi flyway. Although the Vikings organization and the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority did not agree to purchase and install bird-safe glass, they say that they will consider working with 3M to find a product they could apply to the glass to reduce collisions.

We are in the midst of fall migration. Enjoy the birds! Do what you can to reduce window and building collisions during this season. Close the curtains or place bird deterrents on the windows. Reduce unnecessary lighting at home and spread the word—educate people at your workplace too. For further tips, see <http://www.laneaudubon.org/conservation/issues/bird-window>.

#### Threats to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

We continue to fight for legislation that protects birds and other wildlife. Recently the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Endangered Species Act have been threatened in Congress. For more information, see <http://blog.aba.org/2015/06/what-birders-should-know-about-the-migratory-bird-treaty-act-threat.html>.



photo credit: Dave Stone



## 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](http://www.laneaudubon.org/support/volunteer) or contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org).

### Webmaster

We are currently seeking a Webmaster Committee Chair. Help us maintain and develop the Lane County Audubon Society website ([www.laneaudubon.org](http://www.laneaudubon.org)). Primary responsibilities include updating the website with current information and software, performing routine data backups, monitoring and reporting on web analytics, and providing suggestions for improved layout and functionality. All skill levels are welcome, although familiarity with basic HTML and CSS, Drupal CMS, and Google Analytics will be especially helpful. Develop your web skills with Lane Audubon!

### Program Committee Chair

We're seeking a volunteer to serve as Chair of the Program Committee. This 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.



### Audubon Adventures Coordinator

Audubon Adventures is National Audubon Society's (NAS) award-winning environmental education program. Audubon Adventures was designed by the environmental experts at NAS and boasts top-quality educational materials. Through our Adopt-a-Classroom Program, Lane County Audubon offers teachers in grades 3–5 an opportunity to participate at no cost to their schools.

LCAS is looking for someone who can link the participating teachers with the generous sponsors of this program. If you have a computer and a little time, this might be the volunteer opportunity you've been looking for! It takes flexibility, organization, and a sense of timing to make things work well for the teachers and sponsors.

Outreach to schools and sponsors begins in September. Orders for the kits are placed with NAS in October so that teachers receive their kits as soon as they are available for shipping. Maintaining contact with the teachers throughout the school year is crucial. You'll want to make sure they've received their kits, see if they need any additional help, and check in with them at the end of the school year.

Potential sponsors find out about teachers who would like to participate through *The Quail*, at program meetings, and through an annual mailing. Please contact Maeve Sowles ([maeveanddick@q.com](mailto:maeveanddick@q.com)) if this rewarding position sounds interesting to you. We'll be happy to provide you with all the information and training you need to manage the program.



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## 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](http://www.laneaudubon.org)



### Deadlines:

November Issue: October 3  
Dec./Jan. Issue: Nov. 7

Submit material to  
Paula Rich  
[richpaula@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.laneaudubon.org/support/join)

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*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

President.....Maeve Sowles..... 541.343.8664 ..... [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org)  
Treasurer .....Ron Renchler..... 541.345.0834..... [christyandron@qwest.net](mailto:christyandron@qwest.net)  
Members.....Debbie Schlenoff ..... 541.685.0610 ..... [dschlenoff@msn.com](mailto:dschlenoff@msn.com)  
Herb Wisner.....541.344.3634..... [hrwisner@comcast.net](mailto:hrwisner@comcast.net)  
Jim Maloney..... 541.968.9249 ..... [jimgmal@comcast.net](mailto:jimgmal@comcast.net)  
Caryn Stoess..... 541.513.2280 ..... [caryn.stoess@gmail.com](mailto:caryn.stoess@gmail.com)

### Lane Audubon Committee Chairs

Audubon Phone .....Dick Lamster ..... 541.485.BIRD  
Audubon Adventures.....Joyce Trawle ..... 541.515.6244 ..... [jtrawle@comcast.net](mailto:jtrawle@comcast.net)  
Audubon in the Schools..Caryn Stoess..... 541.513.2280 ..... [caryn.stoess@gmail.com](mailto:caryn.stoess@gmail.com)  
Booth.....Ron Renchler..... 541.345.0834..... [christyandron@qwest.net](mailto:christyandron@qwest.net)  
Conservation.....Debbie Schlenoff ..... 541.685.0610 ..... [dschlenoff@msn.com](mailto:dschlenoff@msn.com)  
Education..... Volunteer Opportunity  
Field Notes .....Allison & Tom Mickel... 541.485.7112..... [tamickel@riouisa.com](mailto:tamickel@riouisa.com)  
Field Trips.....Jim Maloney ..... 541.968.9249 ..... [jimgmal@comcast.com](mailto:jimgmal@comcast.com)  
FRESH .....Art Farley ..... 541.683.1186 ..... [art@cs.uoregon.edu](mailto:art@cs.uoregon.edu)  
Membership Data .....Tim Godsil ..... 541.915.8852 ..... [tgodsil@gmail.com](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com)  
Programs..... Volunteer Opportunity  
Quail Editor .....Paula Rich ..... [richpaula@hotmail.com](mailto:richpaula@hotmail.com)  
Quail Design & Layout..... Volunteer Opportunity  
Recording Secretary .....Kathy Wilson ..... [kfred1953@yahoo.com](mailto:kfred1953@yahoo.com)  
Webmaster.....Sara Lee Higgins..... [sara.lee.higgins@gmail.com](mailto:sara.lee.higgins@gmail.com)

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## Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

*A service to Lane Audubon members*

### **Cascades Raptor Center**

**Week of October 6–11 (Tuesday through Sunday)**

*25th Anniversary Celebration*

Cascades Raptor Center is celebrating its 25th anniversary! To thank this amazing community for its support over the years, CRC is welcoming visitors for FREE from Tuesday, October 6 through Sunday, October 11, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

FMI: 541.485.1320, [www.eRaptors.org](http://www.eRaptors.org)

### **Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)**

**Saturday, October 10, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.**

*Family Exploration Day at Meadowlark Prairie*

Meet at the Meadowlark Prairie Overlook, 88525 Greenhill Road.

**Tuesday, October 13, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

*Wetland Wander at Wild Iris Ridge*

Meet at the end of the cul-de-sac on Bailey View.

All WREN events are free. FMI: 541.338.7047, [info@wewetlands.org](mailto:info@wewetlands.org)

### **North American Butterfly Association**

**Monday, October 12, 7:30 p.m.**

Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St., Eugene

*Biology and Conservation of Monarch Butterflies in the Pacific Northwest*

David James, Associate Professor of Entomology at Washington State University, Prosser, will discuss current research being conducted on Monarch butterflies in the Pacific Northwest. This will include recent findings on summer-breeding populations and migration routes to and from the Pacific Northwest. He will also highlight the West Coast Monarch-tagging program supported by Washington State Penitentiary and citizen-scientists throughout the region.

Free. FMI: 541.344.7630

### **Mount Pisgah Arboretum**

**Sunday, October 18, 8:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.**

*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. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center.

\$5, members free. FMI: 541.747.1504, [www.MountPisgahArboretum.org](http://www.MountPisgahArboretum.org)

### **Southern Willamette Ornithological Club**

*Eugene Birders Night*

**Monday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.**

*Galapagos Islands with Dennis Arendt*

Everyone is welcome to attend these free monthly meetings. After initial introductions, attendees share recent sightings and discuss birding-connected topics. Then Dennis will present photos that he and Roger Robb took last May during their 11-day cruise in the Galapagos archipelago.

Meet 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](mailto:ellencantor@gmail.com)

### **Mt. Pisgah Arboretum**

**Sunday, October 25, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.**

*Mushroom Festival*

Huge mushroom exhibit, live music, scarecrow contest, apple pressing, kids' activities, food vendors, plants and art for sale. Guided nature walks.

Suggested donation \$8, kids under 12 free. FMI: 541.747.3817, [office@mountpisgaharboretum.org](mailto:office@mountpisgaharboretum.org)

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## Save the Date! Bike Path Cleanup on Nov. 14



In 1998, Lane County Audubon made a commitment to the city of Eugene to adopt the west end (about five miles) of West Eugene's Fern Ridge Bike Path. This decision expresses LCAS's dedication to keeping Eugene's waterways an inviting habitat for wildlife and a safe and clean area for recreation.

Save the date—Saturday, November 14—to join other volunteers in cleaning up the bike path. Watch for more information on our website and Facebook page, or contact Kat Beal at [Jkbeal@comcast.net](mailto:Jkbeal@comcast.net) or 541.517.0284. All levels of effort are welcome!

**October  
Program Meeting  
Highlights from a  
Life List in Photos  
with Dave Stone**



**Tuesday, October 27  
7:30 p.m.  
Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High St., Eugene**




**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER**



*The  
Quail*

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## Bird Walks and Events



*Jim Maloney*

541.968.9249

*jimgmal@comcast.com*

**Saturday,  
October 17**

**THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK  
Site and leader to be determined**

The Third Saturday Bird Walk on October 17 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](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824?ref=hl)) and on the website ([www.laneaudubon.org](http://www.laneaudubon.org)).

All ages and skill levels are welcome. 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.

For more information, contact Jim Maloney at 541.968.9249 or [jimgmal@comcast.net](mailto:jimgmal@comcast.net).