



The

October 2016

Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Autumn Treasures, Past and Present

Maeve Sowles

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Contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com

October brings back memories of walks with my mother through the crunchy autumn leaves in the fall. We would have a great time, talking and walking through the park or neighborhood where I grew up. Times walking with her made me appreciate autumn's beauty. Our annual fall walks gave us a chance to reconnect and reflect on our shared experiences. I feel very fortunate to have had a parent who gave me a sense of nature's gifts at an early age.



There is a book I often purchase for first-time parents. It is *The Sense of Wonder*, by Rachel Carson. The current edition is published by Harper Collins and contains wonderful photographs by Nick Kelsh. Rachel Carson, of course, was a visionary whose message has not lost its meaning over five decades. In *The Sense of Wonder* she describes adventures with her grandnephew at the coast, in the woods, in a field of grass. She takes him for early morning or late night walks. They listen, touch, smell and let nature inside all of their senses. Her approach does not need to be limited to a child. Each of us can find joy and awe in nature's beauty. Carson leads us to realize that not just knowing but feeling the world around us gives the richest experience.

Many things can spark a person's interest in nature. Bird watching is one, but skiing, rafting, hiking, gardening, and many other ways can be found to appreciate nature's beauty in Lane County. Even a walk in the park on a beautiful autumn afternoon.



Which Words Will Prevail?

Debbie Schlenoff

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“Words are the bricks of our world and they have the power to change it.”

—Enock Maregesi, “East Africa: Writing for Kiswahili Language Revolution,” *The Citizen* (2016)

So far it’s just words, but for those who favor more protective conservation measures, the new forest management plan looks like a giant step backwards. In August, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved a new Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Western Oregon. Unfortunately, the approved plan will replace the carefully considered, science-based 1994 Northwest Forest Plan on millions of acres. It reduces streamside protective buffers by half or more, a loss of 300,000 acres of streamside reserves and a threat to the clean, cool water needed by salmon and other fish and wildlife. An increase in road construction and off-road vehicle access will further fragment and degrade habitat. Logging levels will increase by 37 percent. In the nearly half a million acres managed for timber, logging will be of the more destructive clear-cut variety.

The proposed plan includes 2.6 million acres of federally managed public forests. The recreational opportunities of this public land; the essential habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife; and the many ecosystem services such as clean water, clean air, climate change mitigation, and landslide and erosion control, should not be traded away for short-term profit. Many people in federal agencies have worked for years to find programs that balance the demand for logging with environmental values. The direction of the new proposal puts that strategy and our forests at risk.

Words do matter, and many people have spoken out. An impressively large number of environmental groups and private citizens provided comments about the proposed plan. They expressed concern about the resiliency of the forests to the increased logging, the loss of habitat, the effects of climate change, and the pollution of the waters. Although a few aspects of the varied concerns were incorporated into the proposal, most of the many well-reasoned comments submitted in response to the proposal were barely addressed. The official

BLM protest resolution report did little to address the merits or substance of the ideas. For example, after several organizations raised concerns about the consequences of removal from management under the Northwest Forest Plan (such as the loss of protection for streamside riparian reserves), the wording of the response was not an explanation about how these areas will be protected from harm (a response one would logically expect.) Instead it reads: “The Northwest Forest Plan itself is not a statute or regulation to which the BLM must comply.”

Another example: The federal government has published several documents outlining strategies to deal with climate change. Here are some directives from the Department of the Interior Climate Change Adaptation Plan:

- Consider climate change when developing or revising management plans
- Maintain key ecosystem services
- Reduce non-climate stressors that interact with climate change impacts (e.g., pollution, invasive species, habitat fragmentation, and human activities contributing to resource scarcity or degradation of natural resources)
- Develop management-level decision tools to incorporate carbon management and carbon accounting into routine resource management actions
- Protect diversity of habitat, communities, and species

These words sound pretty good to me. Yet, when it comes to incorporating these ideas into the BLM management plan, this reply from the protest resolution report is fairly typical: “Managing for climate change and maximizing carbon storage are not part of the purpose and need for this RMP revision.”

So I ask: which words matter? Perhaps words will have their day in court (literally.) Soon after the announcement of the BLM decision, a coalition of organizations (including Earth Justice, Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild, Pacific Rivers, Wilderness Society, Western Environmental Law Center, American Bird Conservancy, and Portland Audubon) filed a lawsuit to challenge the management plan in the U.S. District Court in Oregon. We hope that the words of passionate conservationists will get a fair hearing.

Field Notes: August 2016



• Sanderling
• Williamson's Sapsucker

• Wrentit
• Snowy Egret

Tom and Allison Mickel

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The month was warm and dry as is usual. Numbers were larger than normal for far northern breeding shorebirds (i.e., Baird's, Pectoral, and Buff-breasted Sandpipers). The cause is unknown.

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

WATERBIRDS to TERNS

Greater White-fronted Goose	August 20	FRR	AC	Small flock that was earlier than normal
Red-throated Loon	August 29	Siltcoos River beach	GR	First report for fall migration
Snowy Egret	August 31	FRR	LM et al.	Not annual in Lane Co
Black-crowned Night-Heron	August 20	FRR	SH	First report for the post-breeding season
Merlin	August 4	River Bend Hospital	PSo	Early sighting for this wintering species
Golden-Plover sp.	August 9	FRR	JL	Another one this fall - good numbers so far
Prairie Falcon	August 26	Linton Meadows	CKJ	Breeding, or post-breeding, movements?
Solitary Sandpiper	August 20	FRR	AC	Annual in small numbers during migration
Wandering Tattler	August 5	NJSR	JL	First report for the fall migration
Long-billed Curlew (2)	August 14	FRR	EC	Annual in small numbers during migration
Long-billed Curlew	August 23	FRR	DR	Annual in small numbers during migration
Marbled Godwit	August 15	FRR	SH	Annual in small numbers during migration
Ruddy Turnstone	August 17	SJSR- Crab Pier/Dock	SH	First report for the fall migration
Sanderling (5)	August 25	FRR	AC	Never common inland
Baird's Sandpiper (8)	August 26	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	A large flock for the Lane Co coast
Baird's Sandpiper (30)	August 29	FRR	PSu	An amazing number for Lane Co!
Pectoral Sandpiper (11)	August 30	FRR	RR	Large numbers for Lane Co
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	August 19	FRR	JS	Earlier than normal for this rare migrant
Buff-breasted Sandpiper (3)	August 27	FRR	TJ	A more normal time, but not normal number!
Short-billed Dowitcher	August 9	FRR	JL	First report for the fall migration
Red-necked Phalarope	August 2	FRR	SH	First report for the fall migration
Black Tern	August 14	FRR	VB	Last report for the breeding season

WOODPECKERS to SPARROWS

Williamson's Sapsucker	August 27	Oakridge	MLS	Normally only found in the high Cascades
Western Kingbird (3)	August 10	Cantrell Rd	LM et al.	Last sighting for the breeding season
Purple Martin (6)	August 4	Springfield	VT	Breeding in a cell tower
Purple Martin (2)	August 26	FRR	JS	Last report for the breeding season
Bank Swallow (2)	August 21	FRR	SR	Annual in very small numbers during fall
House Wren	August 25	Rock Creek, Hwy 101	MP	Never common along the coast
Wrentit (2)	August 21	Craig Lake	JJ	Very unusual location for this species!
Northern Mockingbird	August 11	Bob Creek	MP	Another unusual breeding season report
American Pipit	August 19	FRR	JS	Earlier than normal
Chipping Sparrow	August 28	FRR	NS	Last report for the breeding season
Brewer's Sparrow	August 13	FRR	CB	Annual in small numbers this time of year
Vesper Sparrow	August 31	FRR	SH	Late report for this species
Grasshopper Sparrow	August 10	Cantrell Rd	LM et al.	Later than normal
Lincoln's Sparrow	August 21	FRR	SF et al.	First sightings in the valley for the winter

AC Alan Contreras, CB Camden Bruner, CKJ Courtney Kelly Jett, DF Daniel Farrar, DR Doug Robinson, EC Ellen Cantor, GR Glenn Reubon, JJ Jim Johnson, JL Joshua Little, JS John Sullivan, LM Larry McQueen, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, MP Mike Patterson, NS Noah Strycker, PSo Priscilla Sokolowski, PSu Paul Sullivan, RR Roger Robb, SF Shawneen Finnegan, SH Sally Hill, SR Skip Russell, TJ Tye Jeske, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson.

Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls with Paul Bannick

Judy Brown

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Award-winning photographer Paul Bannick will present a new program featuring video, sound, stories from the field, and several dozen new images from his brand-new book *Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls*. Paul uses intimate yet dramatic images to follow owls through the course of one year and in their distinct habitats.

We will witness the four seasons as each stage in an owl's life is chronicled through rare images: courtship, mating, and nesting in spring; fledging and feeding of young in summer; dispersal and gaining independence in fall; and, finally, winter's migrations and competitions for food. His program will show how owls use the unique resources available to them in each habitat to face those challenges. All 19 species found in Canada and the United States are featured in photos and narrative throughout the book, with a special focus on the Northern Pygmy-Owl, Great Gray Owl, Burrowing Owl, and Snowy Owl.

Owl is a stunning follow-up to Bannick's bestselling title, *The Owl and the Woodpecker*, giving bird lovers yet another gorgeous photographic tribute, engaging natural history, and compelling call to preserve the habitats that sustain these most iconic of birds.

The Program Meeting on October 25 at 7:30 p.m. is a special book release event co-hosted by Cascades Raptor Center, Lane County Audubon Society, UO's Environmental Studies Program, and the Environmental & Natural Resources Center at UO School of Law. Location is TBA at UO campus. Check the LCAS web page (laneaudubon.org) and the LCAS Facebook page.

October Program Meeting

Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls with Paul Bannick



copyright by Paul Bannick

Tuesday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.
Location to be announced



Burrowing Owls, photo by Paul Bannick

Late Summer Birding at Fern Ridge

By Rebecca Waterman



photo credit: unknown

For the August third Saturday Bird Walk, about a dozen folks decided to meet at 7 a.m. rather than the usual 8:30 a.m., due to high temperatures

in the forecast. We walked out onto the mudflats and met several other birders in pursuit of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, which was found! This, in addition to Baird's Sandpiper, about 16 Caspian Terns, Marbled Godwit, and several other species of shorebird made for a satisfying morning.

Mornings such as this are not hard to come by at Fern Ridge, even in the slower birding months such as July, August, and early September.

Fern Ridge is the favored spot of many local birders due to its varying habitat, which provides views of common, uncommon, and rare species. Late summer walks show such varied species as Song Sparrow, Willow Flycatcher, American White Pelican, Black Tern, Bonaparte's Gull, Virginia Rail, Cinnamon Teal, Pectoral Sandpiper, and even the occasional Rough-legged Hawk, Common Grackle, and Ruff!

The land, owned by the Corps of Engineers and managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, boasts a species total of well over 250. In my few years of birding, I have identified at least 137 of those. If Fern Ridge isn't yet one of your go-to spots, it ought to be.

For the complete species list for this walk, see the Lane Audubon Facebook posting on August 20 at facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824



Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs



Pectoral Sandpiper



Western Sandpiper



Great Blue Heron

photos: Jim Maloney



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Next time you shop online at amazon.com, first go to smile.amazon.com, search for and select Lane County Audubon Society as your chosen nonprofit, and then make your purchase. By doing so, 0.5 percent of the amount of your Amazon purchases will automatically be deposited in LCAS's checking account each quarter at no additional cost to you.

It's that easy. All your other Amazon account settings and shopping preferences will remain the same, but you'll seamlessly be donating to LCAS as you shop! You'll need to begin your shopping each time at the smile.amazon.com URL, but otherwise Amazon's site will look the same.

Thanks to Amazon—and to you—for supporting LCAS in this way.

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 laneaudubon.org



Deadlines:

November Issue: Oct. 1
Dec./Jan. Issue: Nov. 5

Submit material to
Karen Irmscher
quailkaren@earthlink.net

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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Layout by Kerry Lutz



Lane Audubon Membership Dues

- Individual \$20\$ _____
 - Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15\$ _____
 - Family \$25\$ _____
 - Lifetime Membership \$400\$ _____
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To pay by PayPal, go to 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

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Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, October 1, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Field-sketching Trees Workshop

We see trees every day, but do we really look at trees? Natural science illustrator Kris Kirkeby will offer field-sketching tips for drawing trees emphasizing shape, texture, and light. We'll spend the majority of our time drawing. Bring a sketchbook, 2H and HB pencils, kneaded and white vinyl erasers, sketching stool or bucket, water bottles, and warm clothing as needed. Pre-registration required. Members \$25, non-members \$30.

FMI: 541.747.3817, mountpisgaharboretum.com/workshop-registration

Sunday, October 16, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

Fall Bird Walk

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for a bird walk intended for people with any level of birding experience. We'll use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of our fall migrant 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. \$5, members free.

FMI: MountPisgahArboretum.org

Sunday, October 16, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Mushroom Harvesting Workshop

Join mushroom enthusiast Lehi Shultz on a search for local mushrooms. After a short walkabout to go over mushroom basics, the group will carpool to a mushrooming location about 45 minutes away. You'll learn how to identify edible, poisonous and medicinal mushrooms so you can find and safely harvest them on your own. Registration required. Members \$20, non-members, \$30.

All events start at the Arboretum Visitor Center.

FMI: 541.747.3817, mountpisgaharboretum.com/workshop-registration/

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Eugene Birders' Night

October 17, 7 p.m.

How To Do A Big Year, with Scott McNeeley

To begin, attendees will share recent sightings and discuss birding-connected topics. Then Scott McNeeley will show more than 200 of his photos, focusing on distinctive markings for identifying the birds of Oregon. Scott's photos are divided into five categories: birds from his backyard (a birder's mini-paradise by a backwater of the Willamette River), the coast, the I-5 corridor, central Oregon, and eastern Oregon. Scott had only been a serious birder for several years before he decided to do an Oregon Big Year. His presentation will illustrate how a thoughtful approach, the support of fellow birders, and the focusing and

impetus that a goal provides will increase one's birding skills. It will also serve to make the considerable undertaking of a Big Year accessible to all who commit themselves to the experience. Free. All are welcome!

Location: The McNail-Riley House at the northwest corner of W. 13th Ave. and Jefferson St.

FYI: ellencantor@gmail.com

Long Tom Watershed Council

Thursday, October 20, 5:30 p.m.

LTWC Nineteenth Annual Meeting and Celebration

Come together for an evening of great food, amazing company, and the best in watershed community. If you only come to one meeting a year, this is it! The program will include dinner, Ninkasi beer, a guest speaker, watershed awards, and election of new board members. \$25.

Location: Ninkasi Brewing's new administration and events building, 155 Blair Blvd., Eugene.

FMI: 541.654.8965, clinton@longtom.org, longtom.org.

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, October 22, 10 a.m.-noon

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. From our oak savannah to our conifer and incense-cedar forests, the interrelationships are fascinating and complex. Come away with a clearer understanding of the importance of these forests to us and the organisms that live there. Rain or shine. \$5, members free. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center.

FMI: 541.747.1504 or MountPisgahArboretum.org

Sunday, October 23, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Scarecrow Making and Pumpkin Carving Workshop

Fall is coming, and Halloween is just around the corner! Get ready for the Mushroom Festival's Scarecrow Contest at this fun, family-oriented event. The Arboretum staff provides inspiration and know-how for creative pumpkin carving. You can design your own unique scarecrow to enter for free in the Mushroom Festival's Scarecrow contest or display on your lawn. Pants, shirts, straw, and pumpkins provided, but please bring your own used clothes too! No registration required. \$5 per pumpkin or scarecrow. Meet at the White Oak Pavilion.

FMI: 541.747.3817 or MountPisgahArboretum.org

Sunday, October 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mushroom and Music Festival

The West Coast's largest mushroom exhibit, live music, hay ride, scarecrow contest, apple pressing, kids' activities, food vendors, arts, crafts, and book vendors. Free parking and shuttle.

Suggested donation: \$8 per person, children under 12 free. No dogs.

FMI: 541.741.4110, mountpisgaharboretum.org

Oct. Program Meeting

Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls with Paul Bannick



**Tuesday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.
Location to be announced**



**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER**

The Quail

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Bird Walks and Events

Jim Maloney

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Third Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, October 15, 8 a.m.

Site and leader will be determined by interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL and other pertinent information available before the day of the walk. Details will be posted on the LCAS Facebook page (facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824?ref=hl) and on the LCAS website (laneaudubon.org).

All ages and skill levels are welcome. 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: Jim Maloney at 541.968.9249 or jimgmal@comcast.net.



Like us on Facebook!

facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-AudubonSociety/330177413824?ref=hl

Bike Path Cleanup on Sunday, Oct. 16, 9 a.m.-Noon



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.

Bring: Gloves, water, and snacks, and wear weather-appropriate clothing. Meet near Euphoria Chocolate near the intersection of Bertelsen Road and Stewart Road in Eugene. Trash pickers and bags will be provided.

FMI, or to confirm that you plan to help: Kat Beal at 541.517.0284 or jkbeal@comcast.net