



The

September 2014

Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

From Our President



Audubon

Native Fruits Attract Many Birds

Maeve Sowles

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See page 8.

Throughout the summer and fall months, I watch birds use the berry-producing trees and shrubs on our property. The fruit is a magnet for many birds and gives them a wonderful diet supplement during the breeding season and migration. Many bird species have at least a partially frugivorous diet and will eat fruit regularly.



Several years ago, a volunteer Red Elderberry established itself in a small garden area off our porch. This “shrub” is now 20 feet tall and 10 feet wide, and each spring it bursts with creamy white flower bracts that develop into bright red berries in June. Many birds come to eat these berries—finches, grosbeaks, robins, jays, and towhees. This year, for the first time ever, a Swainson’s Thrush visited regularly to glean the elderberries! It is rare to see this species out in the open, so I happily watched from the kitchen window as the thrush ate enthusiastically. It was a treat for both of us!

Several small fruit-producing trees and shrubs grow beside a small stream that runs along the edge of our property. The fruits ripen at different times, giving the birds a long fruit-eating season. In June and July, the escaped domestic cherries and chokecherries host flocks of Cedar Waxwings, as well as robins, House Finches, Purple Finches, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Evening Grosbeaks, all feeding their young with the cherries. Nearby, a Cascara Buckthorn produces black berries that are also popular with the birds, including the Swainson’s Thrushes. I watched each of these bird species dive into the tree branches and later pop up with beaks and faces covered in red berry juices. It was fun to watch them feasting.

(continued on page 7)



Football Stadium Design Is Dangerous for Birds

Debbie Schlenoff

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Sports teams have often branded themselves with animal monikers (hello, Duck fans!). Football teams borrow from our feathered friends—the Arizona Cardinals, Atlanta Falcons, Baltimore Ravens, Philadelphia Eagles, Seattle Seahawks. So it is sadly ironic that the massive football stadium under construction in Minneapolis will result in a large and unnecessary number of bird deaths. The new Vikings stadium, located on a migratory flyway next to the Mississippi River, features large expanses of glass (200,000 square feet) and is expected to kill thousands of birds if built as originally designed. Birds don't see glass and will attempt to fly through the invisible barrier, only to be brought up short when they collide with the glass. The collisions are often fatal. Modifications to the building design can make a difference, however. Bird-friendly glass has low reflectivity on the outside and contains a "fritted" pattern of dots that is visible to the birds, but does not impede the view for people. When the Vikings stadium developers refused to modify the design to incorporate the bird-safe glass, the National Audubon Society, Minnesota Audubon Society, American Bird Conservancy, and others requested that the National Football League (NFL) alter the plans for the stadium. The new stadium, expected to open in two years, will cost close to \$1 billion. The recommended adjustments to decrease bird fatalities would cost about one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the stadium cost. Experts contend that the use of the bird-friendly glass will actually pay for itself in energy efficiency.

Just how bad is the bird-collision problem? A 2014 study by Loss, Will, Loss, and Marra found that bird collisions kill between 365 and 988 million birds every year in the United States. Some species are disproportionately represented in the body counts, including species of conservation concern such as Golden-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Wood Thrush. According to the quantitative analysis, building collisions rank second in sources of direct human-caused mortality (feral and free-ranging cats kill the most birds per year).



Over 200 species of birds are suffering significant population declines in this country, and it seems a travesty to contribute to their demise when it is preventable. The Minneapolis City Council passed a resolution on August 1 to support having the stadium fitted with bird-safe glass. They note that the city is contributing more than the cost of modification in local sales-tax revenue and that "the interests of the people of Minneapolis should be honored." Other voices are being heard. As of August 1, over 46,000 people have signed a petition. You too can sign by going to <https://secure.audubon.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1717>.

I hope in the future that "fourth down" will not mark the beginning of a long count of downed birds and that "end zone" will not be a reference to the significance of the Vikings stadium for migrating birds. "Dead ball" is OK; dead bird is not. As I write this in midsummer, I don't know the outcome of the various meetings with the NFL authorities. After the huddle, let's hope the NFL exhibits sportsmanlike behavior and we can update this story with a winning score for the birds.

For tips on reducing bird collisions with windows at home, see www.laneaudubon.org/conservation/issues/bird-window.

Reference:

Loss, Scott R., Tom Will, Sara S. Loss, and Peter P. Marra. 2014. Bird–Building Collisions in the United States: Estimates of Annual Mortality and Species Vulnerability. *The Condor* 116(1):8–23.

Field Notes: June–July 2014



Tom and Allison Mickel

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The weather was mostly sunny and warm to hot, with about a week of rain during the middle of June. There were a number of first and near first records for the county during the period. A number of fall migrants and postbreeding birds arrived earlier than normal. Fall is always an exciting time, with large numbers of birds moving from their breeding grounds to their wintering areas, with a few always getting lost or turned around in the process, so you never know what you might find.

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

WATERBIRDS

Canvasback (3)	June 14	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	They summered this year for the first year
Hawaiian Petrel	July 16	85 km off coast	PL	First Lane Co record if accepted by OBRC
American White Pelican (125)	July 10	FRR – Royal Ave	RR	Larger than normal numbers this year
Great Egret (4 nests w/young)	June 30	Cushman	SH, SM	The first known nesting in Lane Co
Great Egret (4)	July 10	FRR – Royal Ave	RR	A normal postbreeding arrival time
Black-crowned Night-Heron	June 1	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	Earlier than normal for their return to the area
Black-crowned Night-Heron	July 3	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	A more normal time for their return to the area
White-faced Ibis (20)	June 3	Creswell area	NS	Later than normal – is the drought & lack of
White-faced Ibis (24)	June 4	FRR – Royal Ave	DA, et al.	breeding habitat in CA & the Great Basin the cause?

SHOREBIRDS to ALCIDS

Pacific Golden-Plover	June 18	FRR – Royal Ave	LG	Found in small numbers most years during
Pacific Golden-Plover	July 16	FRR – Royal Ave	JD	their southward migration
Black-necked Stilt	July 2	FRR – Royal Ave	DS, et al.	A pair with young
Black-necked Stilt	July 10	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Two pairs w/young & possible pair w/eggs
American Avocet	June 14	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Nesting again this year
American Avocet	July 10	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Nesting failed
Solitary Sandpiper	July 16	FRR – Royal Ave	BU, TB	Becoming annual in the fall
Solitary Sandpiper (2)	July 31	FRR – Royal Ave	SH	Becoming annual in the fall
Wandering Tattler (3)	July 21	SJSR	BW	A normal time for their southward migration
Greater Yellowlegs (25)	July 1	FRR – Royal Ave	JS, BMC	A normal time for their southward migration
Lesser Yellowlegs (2)	July 1	FRR – Royal Ave	JS, BMC	A normal time for their southward migration
Marbled Godwit	July 24	SJSR – Dog Pond	KC	A normal time for their southward migration
Ruddy Turnstone (3)	July 25	Siltcoos River mouth	SB	A normal time for their southward migration
Semipalmated Sandpiper	July 15	SJSR – Crab Dock	AC, GF	A normal time for their southward migration
Semipalmated Sandpiper	July 25	Siltcoos River month	SB	A normal time for their southward migration
Baird's Sandpiper	July 30	FRR – Royal Ave	VB	Earlier than normal
Pectoral Sandpiper (3)	July 23	FRR – Royal Ave	JD	Earlier and higher numbers than normal
Pectoral Sandpiper (8)	July 29	FRR – Royal Ave	RR, DA	Earlier and higher numbers than normal
Stilt Sandpiper	July 25	FRR – Royal Ave	JB	Rare, but almost annual – earlier than normal
Short-billed Dowitcher (2)	July 29	FRR – Royal Ave	RR, DA	Normally found in small numbers here
Franklin's Gull	June 1	FRR – Royal Ave	SH	Earlier and larger numbers than normal—is the
Franklin's Gull (7)	June 2	FRR – Royal Ave	SH	drought in CA & the Great Basin the cause?
Bonaparte's Gull (3)	June 2	FRR – Royal Ave	SH	Earlier than normal
Forster's Tern	June 14	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Rarely found during migration
Forster's Tern (3 pairs)	June 22	FRR – Royal Ave	JS, LJ	Found nesting for the first time in Lane Co
South Polar Skua	July 16	85km off coast	PL	A normal time for their southward migration
Long-tailed Jaeger	July 16	85km off coast	PL	A normal time for their southward migration
Tufted Puffin	July 16	Heceta Head area	KC	Rarely found in the area any more

Field Notes (continued on page 4)

NIGHTHAWKS to SPARROWS

Common Nighthawk (2)	June 12	Eugene – Oakway area	AH	First report for the area this year
Black Swift (2 pair)	July 20/21	Salt Creek Falls	EH	Two nests found this year
Least Flycatcher	June 22	FRR – Coyote Ck	JS, LJ	Second record for Lane Co
Least Flycatcher	July 13	Veneta – Country Fair	MM	Third record for Lane Co?
Black Phoebe	June 29	EWEB – Roosevelt	VT	A recently fledged bird
Eastern Kingbird	June 11	Delta Ponds	SC	About the eleventh record for Lane Co
Horned Lark (Streaked)	June 4	Eugene airport area	JG, BA	Recently listed as a federal threatened species; all breeding season sightings should be reported
Bank Swallow	July 25	FRR – Royal Ave	SH	Small numbers are found in the fall
Vesper Sparrow	June 12	Creswell area	JG	One of very few reports this year
Grasshopper Sparrow (3)	June 12	Creswell area	JG	Good numbers were found singing this year
Grasshopper Sparrow	June 28	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	Still singing in the area

AC Alan Contreras, AH Anne Heyerly, BA Bob Altman, BMc Barry McKenzie, BU Becky Uhler, BW Bobby Wilcox, DA Dennis Arendt, DS Don Schrouder, EH Eric Horvath, GF Graham Floyd, JB Jim Buch, JD Joni Dawning, JG Joel Geier, JS John Sullivan, KC Ken Chamberlain, LG Linda Gilbert, LJ Laura Johnson, MM Mike Marshall, NS Noah Strycker, PL Paul Lehman, RR Roger Robb, SB Sean Burns, SC Scott Crable, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, TB Tom Bettman, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson

Get Involved—Volunteer!

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

Lane Audubon Community Outreach

Help introduce Lane Audubon to community members at local events and present talks on birding and the natural world to small groups upon request. Help develop our “speaker bureau” materials and resources.

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

Quail Distributor

Help us distribute *The Quail* to high-visibility locations in our community in an effort to recruit new members. This task requires only a couple of hours of your time nine times per year, and it is a huge help! Contact Ron Renchler at 541.345.0834 or christyandron@qwest.net for more information.

Booth Coordinator

Help with our booth appearances at local events and festivals. This opportunity involves setting up and taking down the booth four or five times a year and scheduling other volunteers to staff

the booth at events. One or two people could share or split these duties. We will provide orientation and training. If you enjoy coordinating activities and working with people, this could be the opportunity for you. For more information, contact Ron Renchler at 541.345.0834 or christyandron@qwest.net.

Audubon in the Schools Program Coordinator

The Audubon in the Schools (AITS) curriculum, developed by Kris Kirkeby, our former Education Chair, comprises five fun-filled lessons that combine bird biology and basic art techniques. It is designed to provide elementary students with a solid introduction to core aspects of bird biology, including feather anatomy and function, bird identification techniques, bird field marks, and habitat. The lessons are excellent examples of participatory education. The coordinator keeps all facets of the program going, including classroom scheduling and volunteer training, and also teaches lessons to students along with the other volunteers. We hope to find a new coordinator who can take this wonderful education program to new heights!

Program Chair

The Program Chair recruits speakers for the chapter Program Meetings that are scheduled eight times a year. This person seeks new programs that will enhance our members' awareness of birding, habitats, natural history, conservation, and other issues and must be able to engage speakers and organize publicity and other logistics well in advance of each meeting.

Birding in Bolivia: From Lowlands to Highlands



Four of our local birders, Dennis Arendt, Kit Larsen, Jim Regali and Roger Robb, traveled to Bolivia in November 2013. The intrepid four began their birding adventure in the eastern lowlands in the large city of Santa Cruz. They birded in and around the city, then traveled west over 15,000-foot passes, viewing alpacas and llamas grazing below them. They birded Cerro Tunari near Cochabamba, the flat Altiplano near Oruro, and tall peaks around La Paz and Lake Titicaca.

Bolivia is a poor, land-locked country, about the size of Texas and California combined. Named after legendary liberator Simon Bolivar, it is famous to most Americans as the land where Ché Guevara, Butch Cassidy, and the Sundance Kid were killed. The colorful and reserved indigenous people make up over 60% of the population and live mainly in rural areas, tending flocks of sheep, alpacas, and llamas and farming hand-planted fields.

The steep mountains and deep valleys of Bolivia form many isolated habitats for wildlife. Inconspicuous Gray-crested Finches inhabit a dry cactus desert, just a short drive from the cool, moist forests where Pearled Treerunners live. The tiny Berlepsch's Canastero lives in a remote valley between 20,000-foot peaks, and Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe blend into a peat bog at 15,700 feet. Bolivia is home to some amazing hummingbirds named Sunbeam, Starfrontlet, Sapphirewing and Comet, as well as tiny Tapaculos, giant Condors, beautiful Flamingoes and hook-billed Flowerpiercers.

In 2012, the four birders presented an LCAS program about their trip to Chile. They have also traveled together to Panama, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Jamaica, and locations in the United States. They are exceptional photographers of people, places, and especially birds. Join us for a spectacular program presented by Dennis Arendt on Tuesday, September 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Garden Club, 1655 High Street in Eugene.

**September Program Meeting
Birding in Bolivia: From
Lowlands to Highlands
with Dennis Arendt**



**Tuesday, September 23, 2014
7:30 p.m.**

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

Bon Voyage to Vaux's Swifts at Agate Hall

Lane County Audubon Society is holding its annual fall Swift Event outside Agate Hall on the University of Oregon campus on two Friday evenings, September 12th and 26th, at sunset.

The Vaux's Swifts roost in the chimney at Agate Hall as they gather before their fall migration to Central and South America. They begin migrating at the end of their breeding season. We may see thousands of birds enter the chimney. The LCAS Swift Event is a wonderful chance to observe and learn about the birds.

Lane Audubon will provide informative handouts about the birds. Look for the LCAS banner at 17th Avenue and Agate Street. Stop by and enjoy this annual natural phenomenon. It's free and open to the public! Call 541.343.8664 for more information.

Another good location to check out is the Smith Family Bookstore (5th and Willamette, downtown Eugene), where several thousand Vaux's Swifts have been observed.

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:

October Issue: Sept. 6

November Issue: Oct. 4

Submit material to
Paula Rich
richpaula@hotmail.com

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

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

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

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Lane Audubon Membership Dues

- Individual \$20 \$ _____
- Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15 \$ _____
- Family \$25 \$ _____
- Lifetime Membership \$400 \$ _____
- I want to do more. Here's my tax deductible contribution for \$ _____
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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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Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Oregon Shorebird Festival

September 5–7, Charleston, Oregon

The 28th Annual Oregon Shorebird Festival will include a full weekend of activities for birders of all skill levels. The festival is headquartered at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston. Activities include expertly guided land based field trips to Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, New River, and the Coos Bay area. There is a pelagic trip on Saturday for those who want to experience birding on the water.

FMI: www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/shorebirdfestival.htm

Nearby Nature

Wednesday, September 10, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Eugene Public Library, Tykeson Room

Fall New Volunteer Orientation

Learn all about leading fall school nature walks in Alton Baker Park, as well as Nearby Nature gardening and restoration opportunities. No experience needed; training provided in September.

Free. FMI: 541.687.9699, info@nearbynature.org, www.nearbynature.org

Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)

Tuesday, September 9, 9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

September Wetland Wander at Golden Gardens Ponds

Meet at the intersection of Jessen Dr. and Golden Gardens St.

Saturday, September 13, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

September Family Exploration Day at Meadowlark Prairie

Meet at the Meadowlark Prairie overlook at 88525 Green Hill Rd.

Saturday, September 27, Times to be Announced

National Public Lands Day at Stewart Pond

Meet at the Stewart Pond Overlook, the gravel parking area east of the intersection with Bertelsen Road on Stewart Road in Eugene.

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

Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, September 21, 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

Cascades Raptor Center

Sunday, September 28, 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Family Nature Discovery Day

Migration Station is the theme of September's Discovery Day. Kids can migrate around the CRC nature center and learn

about the amazing journeys made by migrating birds. Families can view over 50 resident raptors. Activities are recommended for children ages 4–12 and children must be accompanied by an adult.

General admission (members free) plus \$2 activity fee.

FMI: 541.485.1320, www.eraptors.org

Godwit Days Fall Preview

Saturday and Sunday, October 4–5, Humboldt County, CA
3rd Annual Fall Preview

Ten select birding trips are offered over the course of the weekend.

FMI: 707.826.7050, www.godwitdays.org, info@godwitdays.org

From Our President (continued from page 1)

I hope to provide more native species of fruit-producing plants for the birds. As fall approaches, seeds can be gathered and cuttings can be taken from existing shrubs and trees. If that approach is too time consuming or uncertain, several native-plant nurseries in our area have great choices in stock. If you too want to pursue this project, remember these tips:

Plant fruit trees and berry-producing bushes and shrubs to provide a natural, renewable source of food that birds can forage. Ideally, choose native varieties that will be more recognizable to local and regional birds.

As always, avoid or minimize pesticide and herbicide use near any fruit-producing plants to protect birds from unintended poisoning or toxic effects. If you must treat the plants, organic products are always an option.

In the fall, leave damaged and overripe fruit on trees and shrubs to provide an excellent natural energy source for migrating birds.

A list of plants that are beneficial to birds is available at www.laneaudubon.org/conservation/issues/gardening. The Native Plant Society of Oregon website has a lot of information about gardening with native plants and local native-plant nurseries at <http://emerald.npsoregon.org>. For DIY folks, I recommend *Propagation of Pacific Northwest Native Plants* by Robin Rose, Caryn E. C. Chachulski and Diane L. Haase, published by OSU Press (<http://osupress.oregonstate.edu/book/propagation-of-pacific-northwest-native-plants>).

September Program Meeting

Birding in Bolivia: From Lowlands to Highlands with Dennis Arendt



**Tuesday, Sept. 23, 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

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Friday, September 12 and Friday, September 26

Bon Voyage to Vaux's Swifts at Agate Hall

The LCAS Swift Events are wonderful opportunities to observe Vaux's Swifts as they enter the Agate hall chimney to roost for the night. Join LCAS at sunset at 17th Avenue and Agate Street. See the LCAS website or call 541.343.8664 for more information.

Saturday, September 20

Third Saturday Bird Walk

Site and leader to be determined

The destination for February's Third Saturday Bird Walk will be determined by interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL and other pertinent information available prior to the day. If a location is identified before September 20, we will post it on the LCAS Facebook page and on the LCAS website (www.laneaudubon.org).

We 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 car pooling, and we plan to return by noon. Please remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables in your vehicle if it's parked in the high school lot. Folks who wish to meet at the actual walk location can check the website or Facebook page. All levels of birders are welcome. 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.



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