

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

Please consider receiving The Quail electronically



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

Fall Brings Migrations and a New Season of LCAS Programs



Photo: John Benson, wikki commons

September is the month for Vaux's Swift migration! These small birds will be gathering in large flocks to roost for the night at the Agate Hall chimney on the UO campus, along with other locations. We will have our "Bon Voyage to the Swifts" gathering on Friday, September 13th, this year. Please come out to join us in watching and marveling at these interesting little birds. Their migration dates begin with sightings as early

as late August and continue on into October. You can look for them any evening throughout this time span. Migration depends on the wind and the weather, food availability for the insect-eating swifts, and whether drought or fires are occurring. We never can predict exactly when they will arrive or when they will all move on to the south. These cigar-shaped birds rest at night in chimneys throughout their migratory route along and near the West Coast. They travel as far north as British Columbia and return south to San Diego and on into Central America. The *Vaux's Happening* project maintains a database tracking the various count results for the birds as they move along their migration route. To see

the results, go to: vauxhappening.org/index.html

Lane Audubon's program meetings start up again this month too, and we have a variety of topics to inform, entertain, and educate, all presented by speakers with interesting backgrounds. Program meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from September through November, and January through May. Details about our September presentation are on page 5.

Lane Audubon educational programs will also resume after the summer break. This year's *Audubon Adventures* topic is the National-Audubon-produced "Sharing Our World with Birds," exploring seabirds, shorebirds, and birds of prey. The learning kit for grades three and up comes with printed and online guides for students and teachers. LCAS' own *Audubon in the Schools* will be offered to local schools from grades second through fifth. This hands-on program combines science and art in lessons using bird specimens and drawing

continued on page 4

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

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[facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/](https://www.facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/)



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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Glass and Lighting Are Hazardous for Birds

It's summer and I delight in the antics of fledgling birds. They land on our feeders, but despite the proximity and abundance of food, they beg from their parents, mouths open and wings fluttering. Soon they will be ready for autumn activities, which for many birds involve a migratory journey. Let's do what we can to keep birds safe along their passage.

The buildings where we live and work create hazards for birds, mainly due to glass and lighting. Birds, whether residential or migratory, don't see glass as a solid object. They strike the glass when attracted by reflections of vegetation or when trying to fly through to something on the other side. A 2014 study estimated close to a billion bird deaths from window strikes *every year*. Many birds, even those who are usually active during the day, migrate at night. Artificial lighting can disorient birds or draw them into areas where they are in danger of collisions with obstacles.

Community Information Request

Lane County Audubon comments on proposed building projects (for example, the new Knight Campus at the UO and the proposed Eugene City Hall) to request that designers incorporate bird-friendly features. Several helpful products include windows with UV designs that are more visible to birds. Fritted glass and overhangs may help alleviate the hazards. And many cities have instituted "Lights Out" programs to

reduce lighting at night during the migratory seasons.

As a community, we can help to identify problematic buildings so that we can provide information to owners and residents. Finding birds after window strikes is unlikely. In most cases, scavengers will have removed the carcasses by dawn. However, careful monitoring programs in several localities have provided important data. We would like to try to identify local areas for monitoring. If you are out early in the day and notice a dead bird, please report the location to dschlenoff@msn.com. Please let us know the location: building address and, if possible, whether the bird was found on the north, south, east, or west side of the building. If you can, although not necessary, identify the species of bird or take a picture. Generally, we encourage people to enjoy watching live birds but, in this case, reporting the location of dead birds is one way that you can contribute.

What We Can Do Where We Work or Live

Bird migration periods are in the fall: mid-August through early November; and in spring: early April through late May. Here are some tips for protecting birds.

- Reduce the use of outdoor lighting except for security reasons. Consider motion-activated lights so they are turned on only when needed.
- Shield outdoor lights and direct them downward. If you have LED



Photo: <https://www.conveniencegroup.com/featherfriendly>

exterior lamps, use a warm light LED (under 3,000 Kelvins).

- Close curtains, shades, and blinds when the lights are on inside the house.
- Bird feeders are generally best placed far away from (>30 feet) or close to (<3 feet) windows.
- Slatted blinds that can be partially open during the day will let in light while breaking up the expanse of the window.
- Try not to have uncovered windows visible on both sides of your dwelling, as birds may think they can fly through. Close at least one of the window coverings or a door between them.
- Move large house plants away from the windows so the birds don't try to fly through the glass to land on them.
- Use screens, window film, or taut netting to cover windows. Apply window decals in a very dense manner: no more than four inches vertically and two inches horizontally apart.
- You can hang strings or utility cord in front of windows, four inches apart, knotted and hung through holes in a piece of one- by two-inch cedar. Overhangs and awnings can help. Check out some of these products at abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-smart-glass/

Field Notes: June/July 2019

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



Photo: nicrophlee, wiki commons

Tufted Puffin



Photo: Ken Billington, wiki commons

Curlew Sandpiper

Tufted Puffin, Willet, Williamson's Sapsucker, Curlew Sandpiper

It's been a fairly normal season, maybe a little cooler and wetter than usual. A few unexpected birds are always found during the breeding season and this season wasn't any different. Fall migration has already started with some of the northern breeding species and will continue for the next few months.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

WATERFOWL TO ALCIDS

Greater White-fronted Goose	June 11	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	Later than normal
Brant (3)	June 29	Siuslaw River mouth	KL	Summering birds?
Harlequin Duck (♀ w/2 young)	July 10	Salmon Creek	CO, et al.	Rare in the Lane Cascades recently
Harlequin Duck (5 young)	July 13	Coal Creek	NB	Rare in the Lane Cascades recently
Red-necked Grebe	July 29	Sea Lion Caves	EL-H	Rare breeding season report
Common Nighthawk	June 2	River Rd area	BC	Normal arrival time
Black-bellied Plover	July 18	FRR	AC, et al.	First fall migrant
Pacific Golden-Plover	July 12	FRR - Fisher Butte	MP,DM	Uncommon inland sighting
Semipalmated Plover	June 21	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	First fall migrants
Long-billed Curlew	June 28	FRR - Fisher Butte	JS	Rarely found during breeding season
Marbled Godwit (2)	July 29	Danebo Pond	SH	Rarely found during breeding season
Curlew Sandpiper	July 22	FRR - Royal Ave	A&DH	Rare in Lane Co and inland
Semipalmated Sandpiper (2)	July 4	FRR - Fisher Butte	JS	Normal arrival time
Baird's Sandpiper	July 18	Heceta Beach	DF	First report for the fall migration
Western Sandpiper	June 21	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	First fall migrants
Wandering Tattler	July 28	Siuslaw River jetties	M.ob.	A little earlier than normal
Lesser Yellowlegs	June 28	FRR - Fisher Butte	JS	Normal time for post-breeding birds
Willet (2) (photos)	July 15	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	Rarely found in the county
Willet	July 28	Danebo Pond	BC	Rarely found in county
Wilson's Phalarope	July 22	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	Uncommon along the coast
Red-necked Phalarope	June 28	FRR	VT	Early fall migrants?
Marbled Murrelet (27)	June 27	Kloutchman	AC	Very large number for Lane Co
Tufted Puffin	July 27	Siltcoos River beach	DP, JD	Rarely seen in Lane Co anymore

GULLS TO SPARROWS

Mew Gull	July 1	Florence docks	DF	Summering bird
Snowy Egret	July 29	Florence	DS	Rare in Lane Co, esp. in breeding season
Black-crowned Night-Heron	July 21	FRR - Royal Ave	VT	Normal time and location
Golden Eagle	July 26	Diamond Peak	TG-T	Uncommon during breeding season
Williamson's Sapsucker ♀	July 26	Willamette Pass area	NS	Rarely found in Lane Co
Say's Phoebe	June 16	Jasper Park	BC	Not a normal summer bird
Ash-throated Flycatcher	July 21	Mt Pisgah	PO	Did they breed on the south side?
Red-eyed Vireo	June 5	Springfield Mill Race	DA, et al.	Normal arrival time
Red-eyed Vireo	June 30	Finn Rock Reach	RR	Never found so far up McKenzie River
House Wren	June	Eugene/Springfield	M.ob.	Higher numbers than normal
Northern Mockingbird	July 10	Mt Pisgah	LM, SM	Rare breeding season sighting

GULLS TO SWALLOWS CONT.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.....	July 23.....	Diamond Peak.....	NS.....	Normal location for this species
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (6).....	July 26.....	Diamond Peak.....	TG-T.....	Normal location for this species
Red Crossbill.....	June 11.....	Siltcoos River mouth.....	DF.....	They haven't been around until now
Green-tailed Towhee.....	June 8.....	Blair Lake area.....	FT.....	Quite rare in Lane Co in breeding season
Grasshopper Sparrow (2-3).....	June 29.....	Meadowlark Prairie.....	VT.....	First time heard this year at this location
Grasshopper Sparrow.....	July 7.....	FRR - Fisher Butte.....	TJ.....	New breeding location?
White-throated Sparrow.....	June 27.....	Berggren Watershed.....	RR.....	Rarely found singing in the breeding season

AC Alan Contreras, A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, BC Barbara Combs, CO Cathy Olson, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, DM Dale Morse, DP Diane Pettey, DS Dave Sandahl, EL-H Elizabeth Laver-Holencik, FT Forest Tomlinson, JD Jim Danzenbaker, JS John Sullivan, KL Kit Larsen, LM Larry McQueen, MP Margie Paris, NB Neil Bjorklund, NS Noah Strycker, PO Pam Otley, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, TG-T Torrey Gage-Tomlinson, TJ Tye Jeske, VT Vjera Thompson. *M.ob.* signifies many observers.



Photos: Karen Irmischer

a fun day for all! We saw 49 species of birds, but not a lot of individual birds. If you're interested in the bird list, you can find it on the Facebook page. It was sunny and warming up quickly as we made our way back to the dock along Cantrell Road four hours later. —Maeve Sowles

Paddle-powered Birding

On July 20th, participants in the Lane Audubon canoe/kayak Third Saturday bird trip paddled north on Coyote Creek to Fern Ridge Reservoir, departing from the Cantrell Road put-in at 8 am. We

had a good morning of birding with really nice weather except for a little head wind early on. Our 9 watercraft (3 canoes and 6 kayaks) held 14 people. The participants' ages ranged from 4 years to mid-70s, and it was



Photos: Karen Irmischer

From Our President *cont. from page 1*

supplies. It gives students a chance to learn about birds through discussion, observation, and drawing.

We are an all-volunteer organization. We depend on the energy and commitment of our wonderful members and volunteers to make our activities a success and to have an impact on environmental and educational issues in our community. Please join in! Become a volunteer and help us advocate for the birds and for habitats we all need to thrive.



Bullock's Oriole, Grants Pass



photos: Cary Kerst

Mountain Bluebird, Cabin Lake

Program Meeting, Tuesday, September 24, 7:30 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

Climate with Tyler Hallman



Tyler spots some ptarmigans

We live in a rapidly changing world. As landscapes transform, so too do the patterns of distribution and abundance of the species that inhabit them. Human-assisted dispersal and changes in climate contribute to combinations of species that have never before had to share the same territory. At the same time, some birds that were once common in the Willamette

Valley are now rarely found. Through range expansion, others that were rare vagrants have now become commonplace.

As an ornithologist from Oregon State University, Tyler Hallman, Ph.D, is uniquely well-equipped to share data illustrative of these changes. While an undergraduate at Pitzer College, he helped design a course on how to survey bird populations. Then in 2012 Tyler moved to Oregon to begin his Ph.D. as a part of the Oregon 2020 project, in which his participation and contributions have become essential. His research focuses on how to map the distributions and abundances of birds, how these distributions and abundances have changed through time, and how to use citizen science data to address these questions.

Tyler was introduced to birding at a young age by his father, the then-president of the Pasadena Audubon Society. Tyler received his undergraduate degree in Organismal Biology from Pitzer College, his M.S. in Zoology from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and his Ph.D. from Oregon State University in 2018. He has designed and taught classes about birds since his senior year at Pitzer College, including Systematics of Birds at Oregon State. He has also worked as a field technician, nest searching for grassland species in Nebraska, hawk-watching in the Grand Canyon National Park, and monitoring swallow breeding biology in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.



Photo: Tyler Hallman

Slender-billed White-breasted Nuthatch



Photo: wiki commons

Bon Voyage to Vaux's Swifts at Agate Hall

Lane County Audubon Society will put on its annual fall swift event outside Agate Hall, 1787 Agate St, Eugene, on Friday September 13th at sunset. The Vaux's Swifts use the chimney to roost for the night as they gather prior to migration. We could possibly see thousands of birds entering the chimney, but we make no guarantee! It is fun to observe the swifts before they fly off to Central and South America for the winter. Lane Audubon will have handouts with information about the Vaux's Swifts. Look for the LCAS banner at the South parking lot of Agate Hall, by the playground. Stop by to enjoy this annual natural phenomenon. It is free!

For more information, call 541.343.8664 or see the Vaux's Swift page on the LCAS website at: laneaudubon.org/docs/vauxs-swift

Lane County Audubon Society



The Quail is the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society, a chartered chapter of National Audubon Society. Local members of National Audubon Society receive a free subscription to *The Quail* but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane County Audubon Society.

The Quail Subscriptions

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

The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

October issue: September 1
November issue: October 1

Submit material to Karen Irmscher at quailkaren1@gmail.com

Nine issues published per year (Feb., Mar., Apr., May-June, July-Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec.-Jan.)

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Lane County Audubon Society Welcomes You—Join or Renew Today!

We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. Your membership dues for National Audubon Society no longer fully cover the costs of a membership in your local chapter. Your local dues stay here to help us work on local education projects and conservation issues related to birds and their habitats. With your support, we will continue to do the things you expect from us. We welcome your suggestions—this is your Audubon! We appreciate your support. — *Maeve Sowles, President*

Lane Audubon Membership Benefits

- *The Quail*—9 issues/yr.
- Field trips and bird walks
- Program meetings
- Educational publications
- Conservation issue representation
- Answers to questions: 541.485.BIRD
- Website: laneaudubon.org

Lane County Audubon Society Yearly Membership

- Individual \$20.....\$ _____
- Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15.....\$ _____
- Family \$25.....\$ _____
- Lifetime Membership \$400.....\$ _____
- I want to do more. Here's my tax-deductible contribution for\$ _____
- Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society).....\$ _____

To pay by PayPal, go to laneaudubon.org/support/join

I am a Current National Audubon member Don't know

Please contact me regarding

Gift memberships Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I would prefer to receive the e-Quail newsletter by e-mail.

I would like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

I would like to volunteer for Lane County Audubon activities.

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

Mail this form and your payment to: Lane County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

Community Calendar and Events

A service to Lane County Audubon Society members

9/7

Cascades Raptor Center

Saturday, September 7, 11 am-3 pm

*Family Nature Discovery Day:
International Vulture Awareness Day*

Come meet resident Turkey Vultures and enjoy activities highlighting the special Way of the Vulture!. \$2 activity fee plus general admission.

FMI: CascadesRaptorCenter.org or 541.485.1320

9/8

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, September 8, 8 am-11 am

Bird Walk

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for their monthly bird walk intended for people at all levels of birding experience. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who wish to. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

FMI for all walks: mountpisgaharboretum.org or 541.741.4110

9/10

Nearby Nature

Tuesday, September 10,
10 am-1:30 pm

Green Start Play Day: Slime Time!

Kids 5 and under only, with an adult, enjoy outdoor nature play in our toddler and pre-school activities focused on slimy critters! Rain or shine! Members free, non-members \$5/family.

FMI or to preregister: info@nearbynature.org or 541.687.9699, ext 2.

9/13

Cascades Raptor Center

Friday, September 13,
6 pm-8:30 pm

Night at the Raptor Center

Come find out what it's like at Cascades Raptor Center after hours with Kit Lacy, Bird Curator, as she leads you through a fun night of hoots and calls from the Center's owls. Snacks and drinks provided. \$60 per person/\$50 for members. Proceeds go directly to care of the birds.

FMI or to register: 541.485.1320 or online: Cascadesraptorcenter.org/events

9/15

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, September 15,
10 am-noon

Late Summer Wildflowers Walk

Join Arboretum Interpretation Coordinator August Jackson for a tour of the diverse wildflowers which wait to bloom until the end of summer. The walk will go along a wet prairie and down to the river, while checking out the insects pollinating these late-season flowers. Meet at the Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

9/16

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, September 16, 7 pm

Eugene Birders' Night

Ellen Cantor presents "Birding the Inland Northwest: an Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, and British Columbia Road Trip," sharing photos from her recent month-long journey. Attendees will discover birding hotspots throughout the areas.

Location: Historic McNail-Riley house, 601 W 13th Ave, Eugene, at the NW corner of W. 13th and Jefferson St., by the former Lincoln School. Park in the five spaces closest to the McNail-Riley house, or across 13th in the fairgrounds parking lot.

FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com

9/28-29

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum and Creature Conserve

Saturday, September 28 &
Sunday, 29, 10 am-2 pm

The Art and Science of Field Sketchbooks

Local illustrator and Creature Conserve art instructor Emily Poole will teach the basics of field sketching and keeping a sketchbook that suits your interests. Mount Pisgah Arboretum Interpretation Coordinator August Jackson will lead an ecological sketching tour of the Arboretum. This two-day workshop is for artists of all levels. Meet at the Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. Members \$60, non-members \$70. Pre-registration required. To register call 541.747.3817 or go to: mountpisgaharboretum.com/workshop-registration

FMI: mountpisgaharboretum.com/learn/walks

10/5

Friends of Buford Park & The Nature Conservancy

Saturday, October 5, 9 am-noon

Walking Tour of the Willamette Confluence Preserve

During this 4-mile mostly flat walking tour, volunteer docents will lead you around the preserve, highlighting the conservation efforts, human history, and natural features.

FMI and registration link: bufordpark.org/tours/



10/5

Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

October 5

BirdFest & Bluegrass Festival

The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is a hidden gem located just 20 minutes north of the greater Portland-metro area, hosting hundreds of species of birds and other wildlife. This year's festival marks the 20th Anniversary of the event!

FMI and event schedule: ridgefieldfriends.org/

10/6

Friends of Buford Park

Sunday, October 6, 1-5 pm &
Thursday October 10, 6-8 pm

10/10

Photographing Birds Workshop

Dave Stone teaches this two-session bird-photography workshop. In session one, classroom time is followed by two hours of photographing birds at nearby Turtle Flats. Thursday's session focuses on reviewing student photos, troubleshooting problems, and getting answers to questions. \$20 Friends members/\$30 non-members.

FMI details and registration: bufordpark.org/tours/



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See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org

Third Saturday Bird Walks

Saturday, September 21, 8 am

Chad Hoffman or his coworker, Jock Beall, will lead a walk at the Quamash Prairie wetland mitigation site, located approximately 5 miles south of Eugene/Springfield metro area, south of Camas Swale Creek. Details will be posted on the LCAS Facebook page: facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824, and on the website: laneaudubon.org.



Bertelson Nature Park

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars, if you have them. To carpool, meet at 8 am at the South Eugene High School parking lot, corner of 19th and Patterson. We plan to return by noon. Remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables or your vehicle registration in your car if you leave it at the lot. A \$3 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities.

FMI: Rebecca Waterman at 541.653.3354 or Rebecca.waterman@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 19, 8 am

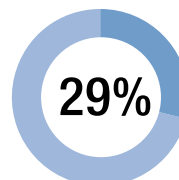
Nick Paget will lead a walk at the Bertelson Nature Park, near Wallis and 5th Avenue. To get there, take 1st Ave. to Wallis. Take Wallis to 5th, and park near that intersection. Do not park near Euphoria Chocolate as that is too far from our starting point.



September Program Meeting
Climate with Tyler Hallman

Tuesday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene



Join your fellow 29% of Lane County Audubon Society members who help save paper and postage by receiving *The Quail* electronically.

Contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com