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The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

Water: Essential and Delightful



Photo: Karen Irmischer

Whittaker Creek

Along with many other critical environmental problems, water is becoming one of the most crucial and scarce resources we need for life on earth. September is typically the driest time of the year in Oregon, and water supplies had already been very low throughout the state. Having a supply of water in the dry season is critical for people, the garden, and wildlife. It is important to conserve water to stretch the supplies into

this hot-dry time of the year. Our property is at 1,000-foot elevation in the SW hills of Eugene, and we are on a well for water. Our growing season starts a little later than in the Willamette Valley, but stretches into October or until the first frost. Since we are on a hill, my husband set up catchment water tanks that hold water we collect off the roofs of the house and shop during the rainy season. The flow is gravity-fed. We are using the tank water to irrigate the garden and orchard in order to save our well water for household uses. I'm very excited to have this bonus water supply, and garden watering has become a daily ritual.

Watering the garden gives me a great excuse to spend time outside each day, checking out the birds on

our property. In September the birds are often juvenile juncos, towhees, and sparrows (both White-crowned and Song), using my garden plot to look for insects. The juvenile goldfinches, House Finches, and Purple Finches pick through the dried sunflower heads, but they also "graze" the adjoining field for seeds in the tall grass. I hear small family flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Western Tanagers. Often the tanagers will come to our water course for a drink in the afternoon, which gives us a great look at these beautiful birds that are normally high up in the trees. While watering, I see mixed flocks of chickadees and warblers working through the oak and fir trees,

continued on page 7



Photo: Karen Irmischer

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Marbled Murrelet News & Bird-Friendly Tips

We are pleased to share the news that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife voted to uplist the Marbled Murrelet from threatened to endangered status under the state Endangered Species Act. It is our hope that this results in state plans and actions that will make a difference for this iconic bird. Given that their habitat is threatened on land and at sea, we must take every available measure to prevent these birds from going extinct on our watch.



Photo: Brett Lovelace, OSU

Marbled Murrelet uplisted to Endangered

Fall migration is coming. Please remember to protect birds as they share Oregon's skies. Use downward facing and shielded lights outside and only when needed for security. Close the curtains-blinds-shades. Install bird protection devices on your windows.



Photo: Mike Fernández, Audubon

Window decals help prevent bird collisions

Birds don't see glass and up to one billion birds collide into our windows every year. For good resources on preventing bird collisions, see: birdfriendlyyards.net/protectbirds/ and abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/stop-birds-hitting-windows/



Leave end-of-season gardens messy

As we transition our gardens into fall, remember to leave it messy. Birds use leaf litter, dead snags and branches. They eat seed from old flowers. They seek cover in stalks and grasses. Take advantage of the season to plant native flowers and shrubs. Nature will keep them watered throughout our rainy season and the flowers, seeds, and fruits will be available to birds next spring and summer. Avoid the use of pesticides including herbicides, rodenticides, or insecticides, all of which directly or indirectly impact birds.

Thinking about what else you can do to help our feathered friends? Here are just a few: Drink shade-grown coffee and eat a more plant-based diet. For the health of cats and wildlife, keep cats safe indoors. (See: abcbirds.org/catio-solutions-cats/) Reduce your use of plastics. Reduce food waste. Support sustainable agriculture.



Support sustainable agriculture

Recognize that although we should all do our part, it will take meaningful policy and corporate changes to make significant progress. For some climate solutions, see: drawdown.org/solutions Educate yourself and your community of friends and



Keep cats indoors

family. Communicate with lawmakers and support businesses that are environmentally friendly. There is much work to be done and change isn't easy but watch a bird soaring in the sky or flitting in a bush, and you'll know it's worth it.



Support climate solutions

Field Notes: June/July 2021

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



Photo: ADJ82, wiki commons

Willet



Photo: Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren, wiki commons

Eastern Kingbird

Willet, Eastern Kingbird, Least Flycatcher, Red Phalarope

June and July were very hot and very dry, setting a new record high for Eugene of 110 degrees on June 27! A number of observers reported very low numbers of flycatchers and warblers during the period. We're not sure if it's related to the heat and drought or to other causes. Did the birds nest early and leave the area, or could they have abandoned nesting due to the lack of insects to feed their young?

Abbreviations:

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

WATERFOWL TO HERONS

Gadwall w/young.....	July 12.....	Meadowlark Prairie.....	VT.....	Occasional nester in the valley
Redhead (10).....	June 11.....	Kirk Pond.....	LM,et al.....	Surprising number for this late
Red-necked Grebe.....	July 1.....	Bray Point.....	VT.....	Late migrant or summering bird?
Red-necked Grebe.....	July 20.....	NJSR.....	RR, DA.....	Summering bird?
Common Nighthawk.....	June 2.....	Eugene.....	PR.....	First report for the season, right on time
Black Swift.....	June 19.....	Salt Creek Falls.....	DF.....	Appear to be breeding this year
Vaux's Swift.....	July 26.....	North River Road.....	MRu.....	Fledged from their chimney
Vaux's Swift (54).....	July 27.....	North River Road.....	MRu.....	Entered chimney for night roost
Sora.....	June/July.....	FRR.....	M.ob.....	No reports from the area; low water level
Black-necked Stilt (25).....	July 18.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	DA,et al.....	Very large numbers; drought related?
Black-bellied Plover.....	July 19.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	MP.....	The first for the fall migration
Black Turnstone (2).....	July 15.....	NJSR.....	DP,SH.....	The first for the fall migration
Least Sandpiper (dozens).....	June 30.....	Lane Beaches.....	DF.....	The start of the southward migration
Pectoral Sandpiper.....	July 20.....	FRR Royal Ave.....	JS.....	A very early sighting
Semipalmated Sandpiper.....	July 24.....	FRR Royal Ave.....	AC,VT.....	Normal time for southward migration
Western Sandpiper (100s).....	June 30.....	Lane Beaches.....	DF.....	The start of the southward migration
Wandering Tattler.....	June 5.....	NJSR.....	JE.....	A late/early migrant or summering?
Willet.....	July 1.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	AC, VT.....	Rarely found in Lane, especially inland
Red-necked Phalarope.....	July 14.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	M.ob.....	The first for the fall migration
Red Phalarope.....	July 19.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	MP.....	VERY early and rare inland sighting
Marbled Murrelet (34).....	June 1.....	Bray Point.....	VT.....	Large numbers continuing to be seen
Marbled Murrelet.....	July 21.....	Siuslaw River mouth.....	AC.....	Rarely found between the jetties
Franklin's Gull (4).....	June 1.....	Bray Point.....	VT.....	The last of the "spring" sightings
Heerman's Gull (200).....	July 20.....	NJSR.....	RR,DA.....	The first report for the fall
Sooty Shearwater (130).....	July 17.....	Siltcoos River mouth.....	JL.....	Large numbers for so early
Black-crowned Night-Heron.....	July 9.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	AC.....	Post-breeding day roost area

OWLS TO GROSBEAKS

Long-eared Owl (nestling).....	June.....	Creswell area.....	MRT.....	Returned to nest, rare nesting report
Long-eared Owl (dead).....	July 1.....	Creswell area.....	NS.....	Adult found on road, no brood patch
Lewis's Woodpecker.....	June 1.....	Heceta Head area.....	VT.....	A rare coastal sighting

Williamson's Sapsucker (female).....	July 18.....	Hand Lake area.....	KF.....	A rare breeder in the high Cascades
Am Three-toed Woodpecker.....	June 3.....	Gold Lake.....	AC,et al.....	Always a good place for this species
Am Three-toed Woodpecker.....	June 24.....	Old McKenzie Pass.....	AC,et al.....	Another good location
Black-backed Woodpecker.....	June 24.....	Old McKenzie Pass.....	AC,et al.....	Nest w/begging young
Least Flycatcher.....	June 12.....	Creswell area.....	NS.....	The fifth record for Lane Co
Ash-throated Flycatcher (pair).....	June 4.....	Mt Pisgah.....	LM,et al.....	Breeding?
Eastern Kingbird (photo).....	July 19.....	Oakridge area.....	RF,et al.....	A rare summer vagrant
Red-eyed Vireo.....	June 17.....	Elijah Bristow.....	HL.....	The only report for this breeding season
Lapland Longspur.....	June 22.....	SJSR.....	DF,DP.....	A very late migrant
Grasshopper Sparrow (4).....	July 12.....	Meadowlark Prairie.....	VT.....	Late singing birds
Grasshopper Sparrow.....	July 24.....	Willow Creek.....	TM.....	Another late singing bird; second brood?
Northern Waterthrush.....	June 4.....	Mule Prairie/Salt Ck.....	VB.....	First report; heard throughout season
Grosbeak hybrid.....	July 23.....	Coburg Road area.....	A&DH.....	Mostly Rose-breasted; some Black-headed

AC Alan Contreras, A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, DP Diane Pettey, HL Hydie Lown, JE Jacob Edmonds, JL Joshua Little, JS John Sullivan, KF Kai Frueh, LM Larry McQueen, MP Magnus Persmark, MRu Mark Rudolph, MRT McKenzie River Trust, NS Noah Strycker, PR Peter Ralph, RF Rachael Friese, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, TM Tom Mickel, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson. M.ob signifies many observers.

Future LCAS Program Meetings: Zoom and/or In Person

LCAS will follow CDC and local COVID guidelines when scheduling future events. Check our website or Facebook for up-to-date information.

When the COVID-19 virus completely shut down our in-person meetings in the spring of 2020, we turned to Zoom to get the programs out to you. What should we do moving forward? At the May LCAS Zoom meeting, a survey was taken and the results indicated that roughly half wanted to return to in-person meetings and the other half were hesitant about gathering in-person. The LCAS Board of Directors hopes to do both. We are hopeful that we can meet in person, but fall meetings may also be Zoomed for those who prefer attending from home, or if COVID guidelines for in-person meetings change.

What is planned for the Autumn Meetings?

On September 28, our first meeting this fall, Noah Strycker is returning to tell us about the Chinstrap Penguins on Elephant Island. (See page 5.)

The last time Noah was a presenter,

more than 200 people attended. So, like the last time, we are going to have the event at the University of Oregon in one of their lecture rooms. At this time, we do not have the room number, but we will get that information to you on our website, on Facebook, and through emails. As a warm-up, you can watch a short video about Noah's research on Elephant Island: [youtube.com/watch?v=ZTx3B6-CyxU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTx3B6-CyxU)

On October 26, Gina Roberti, geologist and educator for Mt. Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument, will tell us about the birds on the mountain. The 1980 eruption reshaped the landscape, creating a mosaic of habitat types that are now home to a diverse suite of birds.

On November 23, Ram Papish returns with another program. Ram said that he would like to do a program about his trip to Brazil's Pantanal. However, that plan may be scrapped because of the COVID-19 situation there. Ram is full of stories and great photographs, so we know whatever he chooses to present will be entertaining.



Gina Roberti



Ram Papish

Zoom and/or In-Person Program Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

Meeting may be both in-person and Zoom. Location TBD. CDC and local guidelines will be followed. Check the LCAS website and LCAS Facebook page for up-to-date information.



“the most charming penguin in the Antarctic.”

Noah grew up near Eugene and began his acclaimed birding career here. His name and accomplishments are now familiar to birders worldwide. He is associate editor of *Birding* magazine and a recent master's graduate in Marine Sciences from Stony Brook University. He frequently contributes to birding publications, and has authored five books—including *Birding Without Borders*, chronicling his 2015 record-breaking World Big Year. (Traveling to 41 countries on all seven continents, he found 6,042 species!) Between writing, birding, and research adventures, Noah has guided more than 50 expeditions to Antarctica and the Arctic, spreading the joy of birds from pole to pole. He has also worked on field research projects in Amazonian Ecuador, Costa Rica, Panama, the Australian Kimberley, the Farallon Islands, Hawaii, Michigan, Florida, and Maine. In the summer of 2011, Noah hiked the entire 2,665-mile Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada, averaging about 22 miles per day for four months!

The Chinstrap Penguins of Elephant Island: From Endurance to Esperanza



Photo: Noah Stryker

Noah Stryker

Antarctica's windswept Elephant Island may be best known as the bleak refuge of British explorer Ernest Shackleton and his crew after they lost their ship *Endurance* in 1916. Today, the island is a stronghold

for thousands of nesting Chinstrap Penguins. To find out how these penguins are faring, Noah Stryker traveled to the island in 2021 with a team of Stony Brook University researchers on the Greenpeace ship *Esperanza*. Their mission was to count the penguins breeding there—a feat that had been done only once before, 50 years earlier by a British Joint Services expedition. Noah will recount the adventures of life on the Southern Ocean—and follow the changing fortunes of the Chinstrap Penguins of Elephant Island. This presentation will give you an uncommon view of what he terms



Photo: Noah Stryker



Photo: Noah Stryker



Photo: Noah Stryker

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 Godsfil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com

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Lane County Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President	Maeve Sowles.....541.343.8664..... maeveanddick@q.com
Treasurer	Ron Renchler.....541.345.0834..... christyandron2@gmail.com
Members	Debbie Schlenoff.....541.685.0610..... dschlenoff@msn.com
	Ramiro Aragon..... aragon.nw@gmail.com
	Rachael Friese..... audadventures@gmail.com
	Jim Maloney.....541.968.9249..... jimgmal@comcast.net
	Rebecca Waterman.....541.653.3354..... fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org
	Herb Wisner (Emeritus) ... 541.344.3634 hrwisner@comcast.net

Lane County Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Audubon Phone.....	Dick Lamster.....	541.485.BIRD
Audubon Adventures.....	Volunteer Opportunity	
Audubon in the Schools.....	Barb Pope.....	aitsbirds@gmail.com
Booth.....	Ron Renchler.....	541.345.0834 christyandron2@gmail.com
Conservation.....	Debbie Schlenoff.....	541.685.0610..... dschlenoff@msn.com
Education.....	Volunteer Opportunity	
Field Notes.....	Allison & Tom Mickel.....	541.485.7112 tamickel@riouisa.com
Field Trips.....	Rebecca Waterman.....	541.653.3354 fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org
FRESH.....	Art Farley.....	541.683.1186 art@cs.uoregon.edu
Membership Data.....	Tim Godsfil.....	541.915.8852..... tgodsil@gmail.com
Program Coordinator.....	Dennis Arendt.....	541.221.3691..... dennisarendt@gmail.com
Quail Editor.....	Karen Irmscher.....	quailkaren1@gmail.com
Recording Secretary.....	Kathy Wilson.....	kfred1953@yahoo.com
Webmaster.....	Hilary Dearborn.....	hcdearborn@gmail.com

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

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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



The Grebes Are Coming

If you've ever watched (or wanted to watch) grebes enjoying their mating dance in Klamath Falls, you'll appreciate this news. The Klamath Basin Audubon Society has commissioned Stefan Savides, a world-class local sculptor, to create a bronze sculpture for installation at Putnam's Point, the site of many such dances. These things take time, so no dedication date has been set. September or October seem likely. The improved viewing area at Putnam's Point will showcase the work of art and include interpretive panels.

FMI: klamathaudubon.org/

Volunteer Needed: Administrative Assistant

Lane Audubon would like a volunteer who could serve as an administrative assistant for Board and Chapter responsibilities. Requisite skills include use of typical word processing, Excel spreadsheets, and PowerPoint. Since we do not have a physical office, working from a home computer would be required.

FMI: please contact Maeve Sowles at audubon@laneaudubon.org or 541.343.8664.

Pollinators Come in a Variety of Shapes and Sizes

Thanks to Cary Kerst for this smattering of close-up views!



Bombus, Steens Mountain



Lorquin's Admiral, Steens Mountain



Western White, Steens Mountain



Grasshopper nymph, Steens Mountain



Mormon Fritillary, Steens Mountain



Greenish Blue on Alsike Clover, Steens Mountain

From Our President *continued from page 1*

foraging for insects. A few lingering Rufous Hummingbird juveniles will sometimes come down to my water hose for a refreshing shower, giving me up-close looks at these speedy rascals, who quickly fly off to chase another bird that comes too close to their patch of flowers. We also put pans of water down, away from the house so shyer animals can find water here. We know fox and bobcat visit this small watering pool.

The precious saved water source provides this basic need and gives us a new way to enhance the property for our bird and wildlife neighbors. Individual efforts and choices can make a difference in the survival of our bird and wildlife neighbors. It is not hard to do these small things and the result is very rewarding and satisfying.

For more information on minimizing water waste, see: greenlivingpdx.com/8-ways-to-reduce-water-waste/



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See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org

September walks will continue with COVID safety precautions for the time being. Masks and distancing may still be required throughout walks, depending on evolving COVID-safety guidelines and the decisions of walk leaders. For the most current information on any of the Bird Walks listed below, visit the LCAS website the LCAS Facebook page, or email rebecca.waterman@gmail.com.

First Saturday Bird Walk, September 4

Our newish First Saturday bird walks are a celebration of the recently adopted Lane Audubon Inclusivity and Diversity Statement. We encourage women, members of the BIPOC and LGBTQIA communities (and their allies) to join these walks, particularly anyone who has felt intimidated at the thought of joining previously existing walks. Leaders and locations are to be determined.

Third Saturday Bird Walk, September 18

Leader and location to be determined. No interested birders will be excluded and new birders are always welcome.

New Birding Sits

Bex is making plans to start a regularly scheduled Birding Sit (an hour or so) for birders who have mobility challenges. If you're interested, or know someone who might be, email Bex at rebecca.waterman@gmail.com.

Bon Voyage to Vaux's Swifts at Agate Hall

Lane County Audubon Society will host two of its annual fall swift events outside Agate Hall at sunset on consecutive Fridays, **September 10th** and **17th**. We will be outdoors, of course, and spread out to maintain social distancing, so please be careful of your and other's safety!

Vaux's Swifts use the chimney to roost for the night as they gather prior to migration. We may see thousands of birds entering the chimney, but there is no guarantee. It is fun to observe the swifts before they fly off to Central and South America for the winter. Look for the LCAS banner at the south parking lot of Agate Hall. Stop by and enjoy this annual natural phenomenon. It is free! And conveniently close to Prince Puckler's Ice Cream, which is not free, but can be a low-cost addition to your evening's fun.

FMI see the Vaux's Swift page on the LCAS website: laneaudubon.org/docs or call 541.343.8664.