

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, president@laneaudubon.org

LCAS Thrives on Volunteers, New and Well-seasoned



We are happy to announce that Ramiro Aragon has agreed to be an LCAS Board member. He has attended Board meetings, co-led our Latino Outreach programs, assisted with bird walks for more than two years, and recently graduated from OSU with a Master's of Natural Resources. He is also a dedicated advocate for birds and wildlife and teaching people to enjoy the experience

of the natural world. We appreciate the time and talents he brings to Lane Audubon.

Ramiro is but one shining example of our dedicated volunteers. Building our core group of volunteers is our most powerful means for reaching out to the community and engaging the public with our goals of education and conservation. It is through volunteers that ALL of our work gets done! Lane Audubon members participate in many community events to share their interest in birds and nature.

Outreach activities are many and varied, including:

- Program meetings eight times a year, beginning again in September.
- Audubon Adventures educational kits for school classrooms.

- Audubon in the Schools, our own drawing instruction modules that use bird specimens to teach children both art technique and natural history.
- Monthly bird walks. Anyone can join in the outdoor birding fun with our group. We usually have a Spanish interpreter along for outreach with our Latino population.
- Swift events at Agate Hall chimney twice a year, during spring and fall migration.
- Christmas Bird Count annually, at the end of the year (12/31/17).
- Community booth events where we interact with the community, answer questions and provide bird and natural history handouts.
- Conservation activism activities focused on preserving habitat diversity. Our efforts to protect habitat can make a difference in the long-term survival of the birds we enjoy watching
- Our Lane Audubon phone, 541.485. BIRD, is answered by volunteers who give birding advice and help people with bird ID or other questions.

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Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

[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

How Many “Dees” Are We Up To?



Photo: Alain Wolf, Wiki Commons

Black-capped Chickadee

Did you know that the higher the threat level, the more “dees” chickadees add to their alarm call? A red-tailed hawk, not much of a threat to chickadees, will elicit a relatively short alarm call but the presence of a Northern Pygmy-Owl (which specializes in hunting small birds) will bring forth a long alarm call, with as many as 12 “dees” strung together.

Between the new administration and this year’s Congress, many of our country’s environmental regulations are under threat. For example: The Clean Water Act and the Clean Power Plan are being eroded. No more must federal officials consider climate change impacts when making decisions. The administration revoked a rule that prevented coal mining companies from dumping debris into local streams and lifted a freeze on new coal leases on public lands. They proposed that environmental laws be waived when constructing a wall along the US-Mexico border. They chucked a new rule that would have kept endangered whales and sea turtles from getting caught in fishing nets off the West Coast. They are reviewing

national monuments (including Oregon’s Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument) to limit requirements for protection. In Congress, they have introduced no less than 25 proposals intended to weaken and eliminate key protections of the Endangered Species Act (including defunding the program and waiving ESA protections in the logging of national forests in the Pacific Northwest and in oil and gas projects.) Chick-a dee-dee-dee-dee-dee...

A less familiar series of regulations that has a similarly huge impact on conservation is currently being debated in Congress. The Farm Bill covers everything from commodities, trade, and loans to nutrition, sustainability, and conservation programs. In fact, it is the largest source of funding in the country for conservation on private lands, which constitute about 1.5 billion acres or two-thirds of the land area in the contiguous United States. The farm bill expires every five years and the next iteration must be determined now in order for it to take effect in 2018.

The 2017 State of the Birds Farm Bill Special Report was released recently by the North America Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), a coalition of 28 federal and state agencies, and nonprofit organizations. The Report calls for adequate funding for Farm Bill conservation programs and highlights some of the successes of these programs. Programs with irresistible names like “Sodsaver” and “Swampbuster” work

with farmers to incentivize protecting areas of native grassland, wetlands, and riparian vegetation. The program is essential to grassland birds, which are suffering some of the highest rates of population loss. The report showed, for instance, that a strong correlation exists between areas where the farm bill programs are in effect and areas where meadowlark populations are holding their own. Farm bill conservation programs helped to increase populations of several ducks and other wildfowl populations. They allow California’s rice fields to be flooded after harvest to provide habitat for thousands of migratory shorebirds. They reduce soil erosion, water runoff, sedimentation, and nutrient/fertilizer pollution in our waterways. They provide flood protection, riparian buffers, and living corridors for several species. Critical habitat for beneficial insects and birds help farmers with pollination and pest control.

Our entire national economy benefits from more productive farms. The dollars they generate make their way into the local market, directly through payment to farmers and indirectly through an increase in recreational opportunities, including birding. *Please urge your representatives to support Farm Bill conservation programs and other regulations that protect our environment.*

Citation: North American Bird Conservation Initiative, U. S. Committee. 2017. The State of the Birds 2017: A Farm Bill Special Report. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY

Field Notes: June/July 2017

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



Photo: CheepShot, Wiki Commons

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-faced Ibis, Sage Thrasher

For the most part it's been a warm, dry couple months. Good numbers of unusual birds were found, plus the first successful breeding record of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in Lane County. Greater populations of shorebirds are starting to use Fern Ridge Reservoir during their southward migration, and we expect that trend to continue into October.

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

WATERBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Goose	June/July	FRR–Royal Ave.....	m.ob.....	Small numbers throughout period
Brant (3)	July 15	Siuslaw R crab dock.....	SH,SM.....	Summering birds?
White-winged Scoter (12)	July 21	Siltcoos River mouth.....	JS,JL.....	A large number for summer
Black Scoter (3)	July 6.....	Heceta Head.....	JGh,GL.....	Rare during the summer
Black Scoter	July 28.....	Tokatee Klootchman.....	SM.....	Rare during the summer
Brown Pelican	June/July.....	Along coast.....	m.ob.....	Small numbers during period
Black-crowned Night-Heron	July 13.....	FRR–Royal Ave.....	SH.....	A good post-breeding location
White-faced Ibis	June 23.....	Kirk Pond.....	FH.....	Rare in the summer
Sandhill Crane (pair)	July 21	Goose Lake.....	CKJ.....	Small numbers breed in high Cascades

SHOREBIRDS TO GULLS

Black-necked Stilt	July 26.....	FRR–Royal Ave.....	CS.....	Rare in summer except when breeding
Black-bellied Plover	July 13.....	FRR–Royal Ave.....	RR.....	Start of fall migration
Semipalmated Plover (4)	July 13.....	FRR–Royal Ave.....	RR.....	Start of fall migration
Solitary Sandpiper	July 21	FRR–Royal Ave.....	JW.....	Rare in the fall
Greater Yellowlegs	July 1	FRR–Royal Ave.....	J&SF.....	The first southbound bird?
Greater Yellowlegs (45)	July 6.....	FRR–Royal Ave.....	RR.....	The “flood gates” have opened
Lesser Yellowlegs (1)	July 6.....	FRR–Royal Ave.....	RR.....	Always an early migrant
Whimbrel	June 2.....	FRR–Royal Ave.....	JL,JS.....	A late report for spring migration
Whimbrel	July 7.....	FRR–Royal Ave.....	JS.....	The start of their fall migration?
Long-billed Curlew	July 21	FRR–Royal Ave.....	JS,VB.....	Unusual in the county
Marbled Godwit	June 1	FRR–Royal Ave.....	FT.....	A late report for spring migration
Marbled Godwit	July 7	FRR–Royal Ave.....	JS.....	The start of their fall migration?
Ruddy Turnstone	July 21	SJSR.....	JW.....	Normal time for their fall migration
Red Knot	July 21	FRR–Royal Ave.....	A&TM.....	Rarely found inland
Sanderling	July 21	FRR–Royal Ave.....	JS.....	Rarely found inland
Semipalmated Sandpiper	July 13.....	Driftwood Shores.....	DF.....	The first report for fall migration
Western Sandpiper (12)	June 17	Siltcoos River mouth.....	DF.....	Late north bound or early south bound?
Baird’s Sandpiper	July 21	FRR–Royal Ave.....	JG.....	First of the south bound migrants
Dunlin	July 28.....	FRR–Royal Ave.....	SH.....	A very early sighting
Long-billed Dowitcher (25)	July 6.....	FRR–Royal Ave.....	RR.....	A normal time for their fall migration
Wilson’s Phalarope	July 7	FRR–Royal Ave.....	SJ.....	Young of the year
Red-necked Phalarope	July 11	Siltcoos River mouth.....	DF,EK.....	Earlier than normal
Forster’s Tern (pair)	June 18.....	FRR–Coyote Ck.....	TJ.....	Nested in the area a couple years ago

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Cassin's Auklet (40)	July 21	Siltcoos River beach	JS,JL	Very high number to be seen from shore
Bonaparte's Gull	July 28	FRR	LS	An early sighting
Heermann's Gull	July 4	Heceta Beach	GB	The first sighting for the fall

GOATSUCKERS TO BLACKBIRDS

Common Nighthawk	June/July	Eugene/Springfield	m.ob.	Higher than normal number of sightings
Black Swift (5)	July 12	Salt Ck Falls	EH	Didn't find any nesting birds
Ash-throated Flycatcher (2)	June 7	Mt Pisgah	LM,et.al.	Appeared to be a pair on territory
Eastern Kingbird	June 14	Mt Pisgah	RF	About the twelfth record for Lane Co
Red-eyed Vireo	June 5	Clearwater Park	SH	A couple days earlier than normal
Red-eyed Vireo	June 26	Amazon Ck @ fair	JM	A rare "in town" sighting
Bank Swallow	July 18	FRR—Royal Ave	BMc	Found in small numbers post-breeding
Blue Jay	June 8	Carl Washburne SP	fide BG	Reported in the campground
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (pair)	June 7	Mt Pisgah	LM,et.al.	Pair attempted to breed here in 1997
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	July 28	Mt Pisgah	NS	Pair w/ juvenile - first successful breeding
Northern Mockingbird	July 14	Big Creek	KN,WW	Reports along the coast last summer
Sage Thrasher	June 9	Cleawox Lake	BP	Rarely found in Lane Co
Yellow-rumped Warbler (juv)	July 9	near FRR	MN	Rarely breed in the valley
Lark Sparrow	June 4	Siltcoos River mouth	ACk	Later than normal for spring migrants
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (♂)	June 18	Mt Pisgah	JH	Rarely found in Lane Co
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (♂)	June 29	SW Eugene	AC	Could it have been the same bird at all
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (♂)	July 5	SE Eugene	LMa	three locations?
Bobolink (♂)	June 2	FRR—Royal Ave	JS,et.al.	Seventh record for Lane Co
Grasshopper Sparrow (2♂, 1♀)	June 14	Camas Swale	JG	A normal breeding location
Great-tailed Grackle (pair)	June 4	FRR—Royal Ave	fide SM	A woman reported seeing a male & female
Great-tailed Grackle (2 ♂)	June 4	FRR—Royal Ave	VT	Seen quite a distance apart in short time

ACk Alexander Clark, AC Alan Contreras, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, BG Barbara Gleason, BMc Barry McKenzie, BP Ben Phalan, CKJ Courtney Kelly Jett, CS Cody Smith, DF Daniel Farrar, EH Eric Horvath, EK Erica Krygsman, FH Frank Hall, FT Forest Tomlinson, GB Gloria Beerman, GL Glen Linderman, J&SF Judy & Stephen Franzen, JG Joel Geier, JGh Jean Greenhaigh, JH Jennifer Haynes, JL Joshua Little, JM Jerry Morsello, JS John Sullivan, JW Jason Wilder, KN Kim Nelson, LM Larry McQueen, LMa Lori Markoff, LS Lorelle Sherman, MN Mark Nikas, m.ob many observers, NS Noah Strycker, RF Rachael Friese, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, TJ Tye Jeske, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson, WW Will Wright. Fide indicates a sighting reported to the listed observer.

Bon Voyage to Vaux's Swifts at Agate Hall

Friday, September 8, nearing sunset



Photo: Kat-Sam, Wiki Commons

Lane County Audubon Society hosts this annual fall swift event outside Agate Hall. Thousands of Vaux's Swifts use Agate Hall's big chimney roost for the night as they gather prior to migration.

Last year the birds moved through in a big group early in the month, before we could celebrate their journey. This spring we were more fortunate. We were able to enjoy watching 2,500 birds disappear down the chimney the night of our swift event. So we may see several thousand 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. Lane Audubon will provide handouts with information about the Vaux's Swifts.

Look for the LCAS banner at 17th and Agate Street. Stop by and enjoy this annual natural phenomenon. It's free, and Prince Puckler's is just around the corner!

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 birds have also been observed.
- FMI see the Vaux's Swift page on the LCAS website at: laneaudubon.org/docs/vauxs-swift

Program Meeting: Tuesday, September 26, 7:30 pm

Program Coordinator: Judy Brown, 541.344.4023, towhee@centurylink.net



Black-and-Yellow Broadbills in Borneo (*Eurylaimus ochromalus*).

Birding Without Borders: An Epic World Big Year with Noah Strycker



Noah Strycker, La Brujita, Colombia.

In 2015, bird nerd Noah Strycker of Oregon became the first human to see more than half of the planet's bird species in a single, yearlong, round-the-world birding trip. Anything could have happened, and a lot did. He was scourged by blood-sucking leeches, suffered fevers and sleep deprivation, survived airline snafus, car breakdowns, mudslides and torrential floods, skirted war zones, and had the time of his life. Birding on seven continents and

carrying only a pack on his back, Noah enlisted the enthusiastic support of local birders to tick off more than 6,000 species, including Adelie Penguins in Antarctica, a Harpy Eagle in Brazil, a Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Thailand, and a Green-breasted Pitta in Uganda. He shared the adventure in real time on his daily blog (audubon.org/noah), and now he reveals the inside story in talks and slide shows. This humorous and inspiring presentation about Noah's epic World Big Year will leave you with a new appreciation for the birds and birders of the world.

Noah Strycker, 31, is Associate Editor of *Birding* magazine, the author of two well-regarded books about birds, and a regular contributor of photography and articles to all major bird magazines as well as other media. He also blogs regularly for the American Birding Association. Noah set a world Big Year record in 2015, and his book about the experience, *Birding Without Borders*, will be released in October 2017. He has studied birds

on six continents with field seasons in Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Australia, Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands, and the Farallon Islands. He also works as a naturalist guide on expedition cruises to Antarctica and Norway's Svalbard archipelago, literally spreading the inspiration of birds from pole to pole. His first book, *Among Penguins*, chronicles a field season working with Adelie Penguins in Antarctica (Oregon State University Press, 2011) and his second, *The Thing with Feathers*, celebrates the fascinating behaviors of birds and human parallels (Riverhead Books, 2014). Noah is also a competitive tennis player, has run five marathons, and hiked the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada. He is based in Oregon, where his backyard has hosted more than 100 species of birds. Visit his website at noahstrycker.com

From the President continued from page 1

- Our monthly newsletter, *The Quail*, provides Field Note reports of interesting bird sightings, conservation reports on issues that need attention, announcements of Lane Audubon activities, and a community calendar that includes other groups' activities.
- Both the LCAS Facebook page and the LCAS website help us reach

out to the online community with current topics and events.

- Monthly Board meetings are a great way to learn about all of these activities and get to know us. If you are interested in attending a Board meeting, just ask!
- Last May we held our first international Migratory Bird Day event together with Nearby Nature.

We offered children's activities, Spanish-speaking bird walk leaders, and bird lists.

If you have an interest in being involved with one or more of these activities, get in touch with us!

We are an all-volunteer group and have no paid staff. We welcome your involvement in helping us advocate for the birds.

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: August 28

November issue: October 7

Submit material to Karen Irmischer 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



Photo: Mike's Birds, Wiki Commons

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

9/9

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, September 9,
10 a.m.-noon

Late Summer Wildflower Walk

Wildflowers in September?! Join Arboretum Interpretation Coordinator August Jackson for a tour of the amazing diversity of late summer wildflowers. Walking along a wet prairie and down to the river, we will also look at which insects pollinate these late-season flowers. Meet at the Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

FMI for all Mt Pisgah events:
mountpisgaharboretum.org or 541.741.4110

9/9

Western Environmental Law Center

Saturday, September 9, 2-4 p.m.

Garden Party Benefit

The Western Environmental Law Center uses the power of the law to safeguard wildlife, wild lands, and communities of the American West. Event includes local wine, delicate foods, craft beers, and live music. Northwest Garden Nursery, 86813 Central Road, Eugene.

FMI or to register: 541.359.3250 or
loth@westernlaw.org

9/17

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, September 17,
8-11 a.m.

Bird Walk

People with all levels of birding experience are invited to join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for this month's bird walk. Vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues will be used for identification of summer and year-round residents. Please bring binoculars. Those who wish to can continue the walk until noon. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, members free.

9/18

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, September 18, 7 p.m.

The Eugene Birders Night meeting will be held at the McNail-Riley house, 601 W 13th Ave, Eugene. All are welcome to attend this free monthly event. We'll share recent sightings and discuss birding-connected topics. The program that follows is TBA. See OBOL the week before the meeting date and/or check out the Lane County Audubon Facebook page for further details. Location: McNail-Riley House at the NW corner of W. 13th Ave. and Jefferson St., by the old Lincoln School. Park in the five spaces closest to the house, or across 13th Ave. in the Fairgrounds parking lot.

FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com

9/30

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, September 30,
10 a.m.-noon

Tree Walk

Are you interested in gaining a greater appreciation and understanding of our region's trees? Join Rich Kelly, retired forester with the Bureau of Land Management, for a guided walk on trees and forest ecology. Learn to identify 12 common trees (using foliage, cones/seeds, wood, and bark) and develop an understanding of the important ecological relationships of trees growing in communities. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, members free.

Have fun! Get involved! Volunteer! We need your help!

Audubon in the Schools Program Coordinator

The Audubon in the Schools (AITS) curriculum comprises five fun-filled lessons that combine bird biology and basic art techniques. Originally developed by artist Kris Kirkeby, our former Education Chair, the lessons are excellent examples of participatory education. The program 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 coordinator oversees all facets of the program. This includes classroom scheduling

and volunteer training, plus teaching lessons to students along with the other volunteers. Help us take this wonderful education program to new heights!

For more information, visit our Volunteer page online at laneaudubon.org/support/volunteer, or contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664, or president@laneaudubon.org.

Compiler wanted for Florence Christmas Bird Count

The Florence Christmas Bird Count (CBC) has been an annual December event for 34 years. The data from that count, which averages about 130 species, provides local birders and counters an invigorating early winter challenge away from the preparations

for the holidays. The Florence count folds into the greater LCAS CBC.

Kit Larsen has been organizing the count for the last 10 years and is ready to pass this task on to someone else. It involves lining up participants, producing packet materials, collecting and compiling the data, submitting to Audubon, and summarizing the count for newsletters. It takes some organization and attention to the calendar. It is a good way of getting to know the Florence area, connect to a local facet of an international project, and become better acquainted with the birds and birders in the Florence area.

FMI: Please contact Kit at kit@uoregon.edu or 541.344.9574.



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See page 6 to renew!



Lane County Audubon Society Bird Walks & Events

Jim Maloney, 541.968.9249, jimgm@comcast.net

Third Saturday Bird Walk



Photo: Walton LaVonda, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Saturday, September 16, 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 and on the 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 jimgm@comcast.net.



Audubon in the Schools Program Coordinator Needed!

See article on page 7.

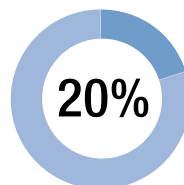
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Go to smile.amazon.com
and select Lane County
Audubon Society



September Program Meeting

Birding Without Borders: An Epic
World Big Year with Noah Stryker
Tuesday, September 26, 7:30 p.m.
Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene



Join your fellow 20% of Lane County
Audubon Society members who help save
paper and postage by receiving *The Quail*
electronically.

Contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com