



The

September 2016

Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

The Many Opportunities of LCAS

Maeve Sowles

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Audubon Phone – 541.485.BIRD

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Save paper and postage and view the photos in color!

Get *The Quail* electronically.

Contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com

The arrival of September means back to school for some, planning for fall activities, and refocusing energies after the summer fun. I invite you to start here. Read through this newsletter, look on our website (laneaudubon.org), and check out our Facebook page (facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-AudubonSociety/330177413824?ref=hl) to see what we are all about. We offer so many opportunities to get involved, and hopefully enjoy yourself at the same time!



Looking through the pages of *The Quail*, you will notice that Lane Audubon members are involved in a variety of activities with varying levels of responsibility and expertise. Audubon, as a group, includes many types of people. Our functions bring beginning and expert birders together. Through participation in community events we find ways to share our interest in birds and nature. And we also present educational programs and talks at schools and for other community groups.

The opportunity to network and share the outdoors is a big appeal for many members. I always enjoy meeting new and old friends at Audubon events. Some are not expert birders, but love birding. We also have members that are among the best birders in the state. Many are happy to offer birding tips and advice, share stories, give encouragement and listen attentively to bird sightings. That's one of the most fun parts for me—getting together with others who are involved and excited, not just about bird watching, but about nature and life in general!

Some of our activities include:

- Program meetings eight times a year
- Audubon Adventures educational kits for school classrooms

continued on page 4



Communications between Humans and Wild Species—It's Essential

Debbie Schlenoff

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I wish more people talked to animals. Communing with nature has been shown to improve both our mental health and physical well being. I wish more people listened to nature. Paying attention to wild animals is a window to both the endless wonders of nature and to the quality of the job we are doing at protecting it. With so many birds and other wildlife in such steep decline, it is a thundering wake-up call to change business as usual. A connection with nature helps us all to appreciate long-term values rather than just concentrating on short-term profits.

In a fascinating example of cooperation between free-living wild animals and human animals, the African Greater Honeyguide cooperates with people to find bee nests and share the spoils. The birds guide people to the location of a bee nest (hence the name) and the people secure the nest. They then share the food without competition; the birds are wax eaters and the people are honey eaters. This mutual cooperation requires two-way communication. Honeyguides call in a particular way to get people's attention and then guide them to the food source by flitting from tree to tree. A study by Spottiswoode et al. published this summer explored the human side of the conversation. Scientists found that a special vocal call made by Mozambican honey-hunters notably increased the probability of mutualistic success. When compared to neutral sounds played for the birds, the specialized attraction-calls of the honey hunters tripled the chance of a productive interaction. Intriguingly, people in different parts of Africa use different calls and it will be interesting to study how the birds learn to recognize the different local calls.

Reading about this study reminded me of an old favorite quote: from A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* "Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem."

I also wish that more people had the opportunity to enjoy nature's conversation, yet another argument for the importance of conserving our public lands. On the local front, the State Land Board is proposing that we privatize some of our public lands, specifically the Elliott State Forest. This

beautiful 93,000-acre forest in the Oregon Coast Range boasts mature and old-growth forest that provides essential habitat for the endangered Marbled Murrelet. It also supports salmon and a host of other animals, while providing cold clean water, carbon storage, and clean air. At this point, it is still available to the public, all of us. It is shared and valued by tourists and locals who engage in birding, photography, camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, mushroom hunting, and nature study.



In 2012, the state was found to be in violation of the Endangered Species Act when it acted to increase logging, especially clear cutting, in the Elliott State Forest. Although the court case canceled 28 old-growth timber sales, the state continued to sell off timber parcels and now proposes that they dispose of the entire area. Selling off the forest would relieve them of the responsibility of managing it.

Fortunately, it is currently illegal. Oregon Revised Statute 530.450 prohibits the sale of most of the Elliott State Forest. The state has argued against the statute saying that it "unduly burdens" its ability to manage the Elliott. Clearly this is another failure of communication.

We must urge the state land board to develop a management plan that supports environmental and recreational values beneficial to all Oregonians. And we must insist that they not privatize any more of our public lands! We hope that the state does not adopt a plan where the main forms of communication are "No trespassing" signs.

Communicate your opinion with the State Land Board at oregon.gov/dsl/SLB/Pages/contact_us.aspx

A petition is available at: tinyurl.com/jcorwcl

Reference: Spottiswoode, C., Begg, K., Begg C. (2016). Reciprocal signaling in honeyguide-human mutualism. *Science* 22: 387-389

Field Notes: June 2016



- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Rock Wren

- White-winged and Black Scoter
- Bank Swallow

Tom and Allison Mickel

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The weather was quite variable with some cooler, wet days and some sunny, hot days. As for birds, we had a couple rare species, and some summering species that we don't normally get, or in higher numbers than normal. Black Swifts were confirmed breeding for the third year in a row, and nighthawks showed up in unusual parts of town.

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

WATERBIRDS to AUKLETS

Canvasback	July 23	FRR - Royal Ave	CC,et al.	Summering again this year?
White-winged Scoter (50)	June 21	Bob Creek	B&RR	Not normally found during the breeding season
Black Scoter (3)	June 21	Bob Creek	B&RR	Normal post-breeding birds
Black-crowned Night-Heron	June 8	FRR - Royal Ave	SH	Nesting in the area?
White-tailed Kite	June 30	Waite Ranch	SB	An early fall migrant or summering?
Black-bellied Plover	July 8	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	Almost annual during fall migration
Pacific Golden-Plover	July 19	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	Almost annual during fall migration
Pacific Golden-Plover (2)	July 29	FRR - Royal Ave	JL,et al.	First report for their fall migration
Black Turnstone	July 16	Devils Elbow SP	VS	A very early report for fall migration
Sanderling	July 2	NJSR	AD,KI	A normal time for their fall migration
Semipalmated Sandpiper	July 19	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	A normal time for their fall migration
Semipalmated Sandpiper	July 21	FRR - Royal Ave	AC,et al.	First report for their fall migration
Western Sandpiper	June 22	FRR - Royal Ave	DA,et al.	First report for their fall migration
Baird's Sandpiper	July 24	FRR - Royal Ave	RR	First report for their fall migration
Pectoral Sandpiper	July 21	FRR - Royal Ave	AC,et al.	First report for their fall migration
Bonaparte's Gull	July 8	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	A non-breeding, summering bird?
Heermann's Gull	June 15	Devils Elbow SP	LMa	Earlier than normal
Elegant Tern (3)	June 21	Bob Creek	B&RR	They bred 2 years ago
Forster's Tern (2)	June 15	FRR - Royal Ave	SH,DP	Typically seen here this time of year
Rhinoceros Auklet (20)	July 8	Siuslaw River mouth	DP	

GOATSUCKERS to FINCHES

Common Nighthawk	June 4	Cottage Grove area	TMo	First report for the breeding season
Common Nighthawk	June 26	SE Eugene	TMi	Second sighting at our house in 27 yrs
Common Nighthawk	July 12	SW Eugene	AC	First sighting for his house in 2.5 yrs
Black Swift (3)	July 18	Salt Creek falls	EHo	Breeding again this year
Black-backed Woodpecker	June 29	Waldo Lake area	BG	Always a good area for them
Red-eyed Vireo	June 8	Clearwater Park	VB,SH	First report for the breeding season
Red-eyed Vireo	June 8	Alton Baker Park	LMc,et al.	Right on schedule.
Purple Martin	June 6	Springfield	VT	Investigating cell tower - nesting?
Bank Swallow	July 21	FRR - Royal Ave	AC,et al.	Very early report - normally later in fall
Rock Wren	June 21	SE Eugene	fide FR	An unusually late report for the valley
Mountain Bluebird	June 29	Waldo Lake area	BG	Always a good area for them
Northern Mockingbird	June 26	Siltcoos River mouth	GR	Much later than normal
American Redstart	June 3	Alton Baker Park	EHy	Fifth record for Lane Co.
Green-tailed Towhee	July 22	Spirit Lake	HH,OH	Immature - post breeding dispersal?
Brewer's Sparrow	July 23	FRR - Royal Ave	CC,et al.	Normally found a little later in the fall
Grasshopper Sparrow	June 11	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	Singing - recent breeding location
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	July 4	FRR area	MN	An unusual breeding season report
Great-tailed Grackle	June 22	FRR - Royal Ave	DA,et al.	Found almost annually at this location
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (2)	July 23	South Sister	JL	Normally found near the top

AC Alan Contreras, **AD** Amelina Dawning, **BG** Brandon Green, **B&RR** Betty & Roger Robb, **CC** Caleb Centanni, **DA** Dennis Arendt, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **DP** Diane Pettey, **EHo** Eric Horvath, **EHy** Eric Hynes, **FR** Fred Ramsey, **GR** Glenn Reubon, **HH** Hendrick Herlyn, **JL** Joshua Little, **JS** John Sullivan, **KI** Kemal Ishaq, **LMa** Larry Mays, **LMc** Larry McQueen, **MN** Mark Nikas, **OH** Oscar Harper, **SB** Sean Burns, **SH** Sally Hill, **TMi** Tom Mickel, **TMo** Tori Morgan, **VB** Vickie Buck, **VS** Vicki Sandage, **VT** Vjera Thompson.

How Woodpeckers Can Save the World (or at Least Your Local Woodland!) with Steve Shunk

Judy Brown

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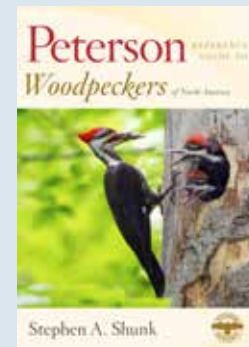
North America's woodpeckers play keystone roles in our continent's forests and woodlands. In fact, nowhere else on earth are woodpeckers such important contributors to forest ecology. Join local naturalist and woodpecker specialist Steve Shunk for an exciting journey into the lives and

habits of North America's woodpeckers. He will take listeners inside the woodpecker anatomy and translate anatomical adaptation into the fascinating behaviors birders love to watch. Prepare to be entertained, educated, and inspired to become ambassadors for woodpecker and woodland conservation.

Steve Shunk started birding in the San Francisco Bay area in 1989. He moved to central Oregon's "Woodpecker Wonderland" in 1997, where 11 woodpecker species breed annually. For the last 18 years, Steve has studied the woodpeckers of North America. Recently, he spent three seasons as a field biologist for the Institute for Bird Populations studying the Black-backed Woodpeckers of California's Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains. He now lectures and leads birding tours across North America and beyond, and is the associate editor for the online Nature Travel Network. Steve's long-awaited Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America was released in May 2016, and he will have books available for signing.

September Program Meeting

How Woodpeckers Can Save the World (or at Least Your Local Woodland!) with Steve Shunk



Tuesday, September 27, 7:30 p.m.

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene

From the President (continued from page 1)

- Audubon in the Schools: our own drawing instruction modules using bird specimens to teach children both art technique and natural history
 - Monthly bird walks offer opportunities to share the fun of outdoor birding with others
 - Swift events at Agate Hall chimney twice a year during spring and fall migration
 - Christmas Bird Count annually at year's end
 - Booth events where we interact with the community, answer questions, and provide bird and natural history handouts
 - On-going conservation activism focused on preserving habitat diversity, efforts that can make a difference in the long-term survival of the birds we enjoy watching
 - Our Lane Audubon phone (541-485-BIRD), answered by volunteers who can give birding advice and help people with bird ID and other questions
 - Our monthly newsletter, *The Quail*, provides the Field Notes report of interesting bird sightings in Lane County, announcements of Lane Audubon activities, and a community calendar announcing other groups' activities
- If you are interested in getting involved with one or more of these activities, do get in touch with us! As an all-volunteer group with no paid staff, we always welcome newcomers. The more people who join our efforts, the more powerful we become as advocates for birds. Assuring future habitats for wild birds benefits us humans as well!

Audubon Adventures: Classrooms Seek Sponsors

by Racheal Friese



“Go Wild for Birds” is the theme of the Audubon Adventures classroom materials set for the 2016/2017 school year. This award-winning environmental educational program introduces students to the fundamental principles by which the natural world functions. Interest is stimulated and reinforced through a combination of fascinating printed newsletters and exciting online components.

This year’s materials include three complete learning modules:

Wild About Birds This printed magazine introduces students to the astounding diversity of birds, from body type and color to habitat. They discover the behaviors that help a particular species survive in a specific place. Students are introduced to John James Audubon, the 19th-century naturalist whose paintings of birds are now considered to be national treasures, both as works of art and as works of scientific accuracy.

Owl Prowl A second printed magazine focuses on the mysterious and endearing world of owls. When it comes to adaptation, these big-eyed raptors are equipped with the tools

of the hunter: keen eyesight, powerful feet with sharp talons, a ripping hooked beak, and special feathers that allow silent flight on their (mostly) nocturnal forays for food.

Waterbirds A third printed magazine takes a close look at waterbirds. It details the physical and behavioral characteristics that help them survive in water habitats. Students discover the role waterbirds play in a healthy ecosystem, and why their survival hinges on the continuation of their ecosystem’s health.

Developed by professional educators, the Audubon Adventures materials are designed for students in grades 3 through 6. Lessons can be integrated easily into the existing curriculum areas of science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, and creative arts. Check out the website at audubonadventures.org.

Through the generous support of LCAS members, Lane Audubon’s Adopt-a-Classroom Program offers free subscriptions to local classrooms for this outstanding educational program. If you would like to sponsor a classroom, please mail a tax-deductible donation of \$45, payable to LCAS, to Audubon Adventures, PO Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405. You can also sponsor a classroom online through the LCAS website: laneaudubon.org/education/audubon-adventures.

FMI: Racheal Friese at audadventures@gmail.com



AmazonSmile—Give to LCAS When You Shop Online

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

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

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

Lane Audubon welcomes you—join or renew today!



We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. Your membership dues

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

Lane County Audubon Society Membership Benefits

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

Visit laneaudubon.org



Deadlines:

October Issue: Sept. 3
November Issue: Oct. 1

Submit material to
Karen Irmscher
quailkaren@earthlink.net

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

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

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

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Layout by Kerry Lutz



Lane Audubon Membership Dues

- Individual \$20\$ _____
- Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15\$ _____
- Family \$25\$ _____
- Lifetime Membership \$400\$ _____
- 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

- Current National Audubon member Don't know

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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

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Late Summer Wildflower Walk

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

Wildflowers in September? Join Arboretum Interpretation Coordinator August Jackson for a tour of the amazing diversity of wildflowers that wait to bloom until the end of summer. He'll guide a walk along a wet prairie and down to the river to see what's blooming. Observe which insects pollinate these late-season flowers. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, Members free.

Nearby Nature New Volunteer Orientation

Tuesday, September 13, 6:30-8 p.m.

Love nature? Enjoy kids? Learn about volunteer opportunities at Nearby Nature, such as leading school nature walks in Alton Baker Park, gardening, restoration work, special events, and school classroom assisting. No experience needed. Training is provided. Meet at Eugene Public Library, Tykeson Room.

FMI: 541.687.9699, info@nearbynature.org, nearbynature.org/volunteer

Oregon Shorebird Festival

September 16-18, Charleston, Oregon

Tens of thousands of shorebirds migrate along the Oregon coast in the fall, using beaches and estuaries as stopover habitat to feed and rest during their journey south. Weekend activities at the 30th Annual Shorebird Festival include a range of opportunities for birders of all skill levels to appreciate these birds. The festival is headquartered at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, Oregon.

FMI: fws.gov/refuge/Bandon_Marsh/visit/visitor_activities/shorebird_festival.html; Visitor Center Manager Dawn Harris, 541.867.4550



Illustration by Ram Papish

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Late Summer Bird Walk

Sunday, September 18, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

Discover the Arboretum's avian diversity by joining Julia Siporin and co-leaders for another monthly bird walk. Individuals with all levels of birding experience are welcome. Vocalizations, habitat, and behavior provide clues for identification of summer and year-round residents. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Please bring binoculars. Rain or shine. \$5, Members free. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center.

FMI: 541.747.1504, MountPisgahArboretum.org

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC), Eugene Birders' Night

Monday, September 19, 7 p.m.

Birding Trinidad and Tobago with Jim Regali

This month's meeting offers an ideal introduction to tropical birding. After recent local sightings and birding-connected topics are discussed, Jim Regali will show photos from a trip in January 2016 to Trinidad and Tobago, located a short distance off the coast of Venezuela. Numerous species of hummingbirds, trogons, honeycreepers and tanagers dwell in these tropical habitats, as do the Scarlet Ibis and the unusual Oilbird. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Meet at the McNail-Riley house, 601 West 13th Avenue, Eugene (NW corner of 13th and Jefferson). The parking area, located immediately to the west, can be accessed from Jefferson St. via a driveway immediately to the north of the house. Free.

FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com

Cascades Raptor Center

Sunday, September 25, Noon-4 p.m.

Family Nature Discovery Day

Migration Station: kids can migrate around the nature center while learning about the amazing trips made by migrating birds! They can play Migration Bingo and see some of the obstacles birds face on their journeys, put on raptor wings and hunt faux mice, and make raptor silhouettes for a window. General admission to the Center plus an activity fee of \$2 for participants.

FMI: 541.485.1320, CascadesRaptorCenter.org

Friends of Douglas-fir National Monument

Saturday, October 1, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Join this all-day tour of the proposed Douglas-fir National Monument, east of Sweet Home. The auto tour will take you into the heart of the area on the Quartzville National Backcountry Byway along the Quartzville Creek Wild and Scenic River. Bring your camera, a lunch and good walking shoes. Meet at 8 a.m. at South Eugene High School parking lot, 19th & Patterson. Free.

FMI: Dave Stone at 541.729.8787, dns@efn.org

Long Tom Watershed Council

Second Annual Community Apple Drive

Now through the end of apple season

WildCraft Cider Works has kicked off its second annual apple drive in support of the LTWC and community. It's an invitation to share and enjoy the bounty of the watershed. WildCraft generously donates 10 percent of the proceeds from cider made from this apple drive to local organizations including LTWC. The Council then receives 10 percent of proceeds from apple-made cider. Please consider donating apples from your property.

FMI and drop locations: 541.735.3506, ext. 4; [Facebook.com/WildcraftCiderworks](https://www.facebook.com/WildcraftCiderworks); info@wildcraftciderworks.com

Sept. Program Meeting

**How Woodpeckers
Can Save the World
(or at Least Your
Local Woodland!)
with Steve Shunk**



Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.

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



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER

*The
Quail*

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Bird Walks and Events

Jim Maloney

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jimgmal@comcast.com

Third Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, September 17

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

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

FMI: Jim Maloney at 541.968.9249 or jimgmal@comcast.net.

Lane County Audubon Society wants to thank Bill and Carolyn Forrester of Seattle for donating three boxes of bird books. The books had belonged to his aunt, Margaret Markley, a long-time LCAS member. Margaret was an avid birder, enjoyed learning about natural history and loved travel. Her books reflect these adventures. We hope to share them at upcoming Program meetings, with members who may be interested. Thanks to the Forrester's for their gift of books!

Bon Voyage to Vaux's Swifts at Agate Hall

Friday, September 9, at sunset

LCAS hosts this annual event. Vaux's Swifts use the chimney to roost for the night as they gather during their migration stopover. Last year a big group of the birds came through earlier than usual, in late August and early September, so many people missed them. We may see several thousand birds entering the chimney, but nothing is guaranteed! It's entertaining to observe the swifts swirl down the chimney at night, before they continue on their journey 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 17th and Agate Street. Stop by and enjoy this annual natural phenomenon. Free.

FMI: 541.343.8664, laneaudubon.org/docs/vauxs-swift

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



Like us on Facebook!

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