



# The Quail

March 2014

News from Lane County Audubon Society



## From Our President

### Birding: A Wonderful Obsession

Maeve Sowles

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**B**ird-watchers are a unique group of people. We share an obsession, yet each of us reaches that point in a different way. Outsiders might not always understand what makes us the way we are, but if they watch, listen, and learn more about birds, eventually they might share our quirkiness. As a child, I watched yard birds with my mother from the kitchen window. Backyard birding is still a great joy in my daily life. I know many of you enjoy this aspect of bird-watching as well!



Conversations with people in the birding community can often be difficult for nonbirders to understand, especially when we are describing the color of lores or primaries or undertail coverts. We tend to be so absorbed in our bird descriptions that we forget how we must sound and appear to a nonbirder.

One of the first bird walks I attended was led by an older gentleman, who led the group of novices like an amiable pied piper. We followed him far off the beaten path into the thickets of a field on the island of Oahu and waited while he whistled and called to the birds. Miraculously to us, a beautiful shama thrush appeared, and then another! The birds flitted from bush to bush, checking us out and searching for the interloper to their territory. One voiced displeasure at the interruption, and then they both flew back into the dense thicket. Our leader explained that the birds had a nest and we should move along. He truly gave us a gift of seeing these beautiful birds. We were amazed, astounded, and yes, “hooked” on the treasure hunt of birding.

(continued on page 4)



## Government Now Accepting Comments on Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

Debbie Schlenoff

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A heron's slender body elongates as it stretches its neck to spear a fish; a chunky Marbled Murrelet beats her wings rapidly as she carries a breakfast of fish for her young from the ocean to the forest; small shorebirds scurry like wind-up toys through the ebb and flow of the ocean tidewater. One-quarter of all bird species in North America use coastal habitats for some part of their annual cycle. Coastal watersheds are home to a plethora of birds and other wildlife, plants, and fish. All rely on unpolluted waters, which is why the federal Clean Water Act is important in maintaining their habitat. However, the act only regulates pollution that discharges from a pipe; all other sources of runoff pollution—that is, nonpoint source pollution—are not covered. In order to encourage states to reduce nonpoint source pollution, Congress passed the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) in 1990. CZARA required states to get approval from the federal government for their Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs (CNPCP) by 1996—but here we are in 2014, and Oregon has never gained full approval.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), states are required “to develop a CNPCP that describes the programs and enforceable mechanisms to be used to implement management measures to prevent and control polluted runoff in coastal waters.” Waters are at risk from pesticides and other toxic chemicals, oil and grease, sediment, salts, as well as excess bacteria and nutrients released from agricultural and timber lands, roads and urban areas, construction and mining areas, eroding stream banks, livestock, and faulty septic systems. “Nonpoint source pollution is the most significant remaining water quality issue in the state and the nation,” said Dennis McLerran, the Environment Protection Agency's (EPA) regional administrator for the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

The federal government, specifically NOAA and EPA, is now taking public comment until March 20 on Oregon's CNPCP. A proposal to disapprove the program is on the table, and the government will come to a final decision in May. So far Oregon's program has been found lacking in those areas that were reviewed. Suggested improvements include controlling impacts from timber harvesting, such as ways to protect small and medium sized streams; addressing landslide hazards; and dealing with runoff from forest roads. Federal agencies have frequently noted that our neighbor states, Washington and California, employ far more protective logging practices. Further provisions must require that septic systems be inspected and properly maintained. The program must also address protection for rivers and streams from sediment runoff resulting from new development, especially in urban areas.

It is important that the agencies hear that we, the people, hold the state accountable for developing an effective plan. NOAA and EPA also have concerns about nonpoint source impacts from agricultural activities, and they are inviting comments from the public on the state's agricultural program as well. Pesticides and herbicides from both agricultural and timber activities run off into the watershed and negatively affect plants, animals, and drinking water quality. Although there are buffers currently in place along fish-bearing streams (there is much disagreement about their adequacy, however), EPA and NOAA have also invited comments about non-fish-bearing streams, which would also greatly benefit from buffer zones where pesticide use is not permitted.

It is important that the state produces more than a plan on paper. State agencies must implement specific and enforceable actions with measurable outcomes that result in water quality improvements.

*(continued on page 5)*

## Field Notes: January 2014



- Nighthawk
- Barn Swallow

- Green-winged Teal (Common)
- Barrow's Goldeneye

*Tom and Allison Mickel*

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January was another dry, cool month with lots of fog, which may have contributed to the lack of reports for the month! No one wanted to go out into the cold fog to look for birds, or if they did, they couldn't find any because of it.

The nighthawk report is very interesting, given that this group of birds normally winters south of the US, but the description sounds correct. Barn Swallow reports during the winter have occurred sporadically over the last five or so years. One theory is that they breed in southern South America and are migrating north for the winter, but continue flying too far north.

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

### WATERBIRDS

<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	Jan 12	Kirk Pond	BC	Only report for the month
<b>Cinnamon Teal (2)</b>	Jan 6	Cottage Grove area	LFr	A second location for this winter
<b>Green-winged Teal (Common)</b>	Jan 9	Stewart Pond	AP	The rare Eurasian subspecies
<b>Canvasback</b>	Jan 20	Delta Ponds	A&TM	May be a bird from the N Delta Rd pond?
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>	Jan 4	Willamette River	TMe	An unusual location for this species
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye (20)</b>	Jan 25	McKenzie River	BP	Only seen one day at Greenwood Dr
<b>Hooded Merganser (12)</b>	Jan 28	Leaburg Lake	BP	Always a good area for this species
<b>Eared Grebe</b>	Jan 12	Florence – Old Town	AC	An area where they winter occasionally

### VULTURES to FALCONS

<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	Jan 23	Sutton Lake	SB	Not a normal wintering species on the coast
<b>Turkey Vulture (5)</b>	Jan 24	Clear Lake Rd	LF	A normal number for winter in the area
<b>Northern Harrier</b>	Jan 23	FRR – Royal Ave	AC	Higher numbers of males than usual
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	Jan 18	Coburg area	BC	Unusual in the valley
<b>Merlin</b>	Jan 21	Alvadore	OH, et al.	Normally around in small numbers
<b>Great Horned Owl (pair)</b>	Jan 15	Mt. Pisgah	DA, et al.	Being harassed by a Red-tailed Hawk

### WOODPECKERS to FINCHES

<b>Nighthawk species</b>	Jan 4	Mt. Pisgah	JK	A very rare winter report of a nighthawk (long, pointed wings with white stripe) flushing from the ground during the day!
<b>Tree Swallow (3)</b>	Jan 6	FRR – Royal Ave	KL, DA	A very early return for this early migrant
<b>Tree Swallow (30)</b>	Jan 20	FRR – Royal Ave	AJ	A very early return for this early migrant
<b>Tree Swallow (20)</b>	Jan 23	FRR – Royal Ave	AC	A very early return for this early migrant
<b>Barn Swallow (4)</b>	Jan 1	SJSR	DP	Another mid-winter record
<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>	Jan 21	Alvadore	OH, et al.	Still being seen in its holly tree
<b>Western Tanager</b>	Jan 11	River Rd area	BC	Returned to her feeder
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>	Jan 24	South Eugene area	LMa	Very few have been reported this winter

A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, AC Alan Contreras, AJ August Jackson, AP Al Prigge, BC Barbara Combs, BP Bob Pickard, DA Dennis Arendt, DP Diane Pettey, JK John Koenig, KL Kit Larsen, LF Luke Ferrenburg, LFr Linda Franklin, LMa Lori Marloff, OH Oscar Harper, SB Sean Burns, TMe Thomas Meinzen

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## Booth Volunteers Shine at Good Earth Show

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**H**undreds of people stopped by Lane Audubon's booth at the Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show during the weekend of January 24–26. The sustainability-themed trade show is held in the Lane Events Center at the fairgrounds each year, and it is invariably crowded with birders of all levels—from novice to advanced. They love to visit the booth to ask questions and share their bird sightings and stories with our enthusiastic group of booth volunteers.

This year's volunteers included Flo Alvergue, Connie Berglund, Anne Bonine, Teresa Burnett, Margot Fetz, Hugh Larkin, Diane McInnes, Thomas Meinzer, Sally O'Donnell, Nancy Radius, Debbie Schlenoff, Phil Smyser, Dave Stone, Joyce Trawle, and Susanne Twight-Alexander.

Thanks to all of them for helping spread the word about Lane County Audubon's strong commitment to birding and conservation in our region.

An extra-special thanks goes to Kris Kirkeby, who offered a seminar entitled "Backyard Birdfeeders—The Perfect Stage for Observing Birds and Their Behavior." About 45 people filled the room during her talk on Friday night. Thanks, Kris!



Connie Berglund assists a booth visitor at the Good Earth Show, Jan. 24-26.

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### We'll Miss You, Doris!

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One of our long-time members and volunteers, Doris Bakshi, is moving to Florida to enjoy its sunnier weather and excellent birding. Doris helped our organization for several years by mailing out reminder postcards to folks whose memberships had lapsed. She also assisted with scheduling our Audubon in the Schools program.

Thanks, Doris, for helping to keep our membership numbers steady over the years, and enjoy the warmer climes!

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### Thank You, Dick Lamster

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Thank you to Dick Lamster, who gave a presentation on enhancing backyard habitat for local birds at the January monthly meeting of the Cottage Grove Garden Club. About 50 people attended the presentation.

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### Thank You, Eugene Natural History Society!

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Thank you to the Eugene Natural History Society for their generous donation to the Audubon in the Schools program! Our two organizations share an appreciation for the value of education about the natural environment.

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### Marbled Murrelet Gains More Protection

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The Oregon Department of Forestry has entered an agreement with Audubon Society of Portland, Cascadia Wildlands, and the Center for Biological Diversity to cancel 28 timber sales in Marbled Murrelet habitat in Elliott State Forest (outside of Coos Bay) and other state forests. The logging would have left only small patches of trees around murrelet nests, leaving them vulnerable to jays, crows, and ravens that eat murrelet chicks. See the July-August 2013 issue of *The Quail* for more information.

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#### From Our President *(continued from page 1)*

I often think back to that bird walk because it gave me a sense of discovery and exploration, and I yearned to know more about the birds we had seen. How do they survive in this changing world, on a planet molded by human needs? The questions linger, and have made my love of birding more than just a joyful pastime—it has fueled a commitment to help all wild things survive.

Join us for a bird walk this spring—we all have stories to share about our birding obsessions!

## Klamath Basin: Where a Refuge isn't a Refuge

Herb Wisner

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Last year's punishing drought has thrown the Klamath Basin's water woes into stark relief—and this year is shaping up to be even worse. There is simply not enough water to go around. It's a system under tremendous strain, with too much water promised to too many interests.

The region's National Wildlife Refuges—and the birds, fish, and amphibians that call them home—have been particularly hard hit. In Klamath Marsh, over 2,000 cows were let out to graze without any public notice or comment. Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge went completely dry, and this area should sustain over 31,000 acres of wetland habitat. On nearby Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the shortage of wetlands forced birds into crowded conditions and spawned a virulent outbreak of avian botulism. The deadly disease took the lives of over 7,000 waterfowl.

In this intriguing program by Quinn Read, you'll learn about the complex system of water rights in the Klamath Basin and how it affects the region's marshes, refuges, lakes, water sources and wildlife. Quinn, a Pacific Northwest native, is Klamath Wildlife Advocate for Oregon Wild. She has also practiced environmental law and worked in business development.

### March Program Meeting Klamath Basin: Where a Refuge isn't a Refuge



Photo: Oregon Wild

Tuesday, March 25, 2014  
7:30 p.m.

Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High St., Eugene

### Conservation Column (continued from page 2)

Full approval of Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program is required for the state to continue to receive federal grant funds; much of this money pays for technical assistance to reduce coastal pollution.

Please consider letting the federal agencies know that protection of our watersheds is important to Oregonians and that you demand a better program for our state. Public comments should be sent to:

Joelle Gore, Acting Chief, Coastal Programs Division  
(N/ORM3)  
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management,  
NOS, NOAA  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD, 20910

Telephone 301.713.3155, x 177  
Email: joelle.gore@noaa.gov

Remember, comments are due by March 20, 2014.

See the following webpages for more information and suggestions for commenting:

- [northwestenvironmentaladvocates.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/How-to-Comment-on-CZARA-4-pages1.pdf](http://northwestenvironmentaladvocates.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/How-to-Comment-on-CZARA-4-pages1.pdf)
- <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/pollution/012chemicals.html>

*Filthy water cannot be washed.* (West African Proverb)

# Lane Audubon welcomes you—join or renew today!



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

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

### Lane County Audubon Society Membership Benefits

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

Visit [www.laneaudubon.org](http://www.laneaudubon.org)



### Deadlines:

April Issue: March 1

May-June Issue: April 5

Submit material to  
Paula Rich  
[richpaula@hotmail.com](mailto:richpaula@hotmail.com)

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

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

**Subscriptions:** Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or [tgodsil@gmail.com](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com).

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## Lane Audubon Membership Dues

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

- Current National Audubon member       Don't know

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### 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

## Lane Audubon Officers & Board Members

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## Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

*A service to Lane Audubon members*

### **Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah**

Saturday, March 2, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

#### *Tour: Breaking Trail—The Art and Science of Building Trails*

Ever considered volunteering to help build and maintain the miles of wonderful trails that crisscross Mt. Pisgah? If so, join Jim Nelson, former USFS hydrologist and chair of FBP's trail committee, on a tour to explore the art and science of trail construction. You might even be tempted to pick up a shovel or swing a pick ax! Even if you're not interested in volunteering, walk with us on newly rerouted Trails 3 and 4 up and around Swing Hill.

*Friends tours are limited to 20 people; registration is required and opens 30 days before the tour.*

*Free. FMI: 541.344.8350, [www.bufordpark.org/tours](http://www.bufordpark.org/tours)*

### **Mount Pisgah Arboretum**

Sunday, March 23, 8-10 a.m.

#### *Spring Birds of Mount Pisgah Arboretum*

Join Nature Guides Julia Siporin and Chris Roth for another monthly bird walk for people with all levels of birding experience, beginner to advanced. Vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues will be used for identification of spring and year-round residents. Be prepared for potentially inclement weather, and please bring binoculars! Meet at the Arboretum Visitor's Center.

*\$5, members free. FMI: 541.747.1504, [www.MountPisgahArboretum.org](http://www.MountPisgahArboretum.org)*

### **Olympic Peninsula BirdFest**

April 4–6, 2014

Visit the rain shadow of the Olympic Peninsula to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest. Participate in guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, a silent auction, and a gala banquet. The featured speaker is Noah Strycker, author of *Bird World: The Fascinating Parallels between Bird and Human Behavior*.

*FMI: [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org), [opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com](mailto:opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com), Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society at 360.681.4076*

### **Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival**

April 16–22, 2014

Arcata, California

Registration is open! Celebrate the Marbled Godwit and explore the lush Redwood Coast. Observe many bird species and wildlife through field trips, lectures, workshops, and boat excursions led by experienced local guides. Tour the expansive mudflats, the wild river valleys and the rocky ocean coast of the Klamath bioregion in northwest California.

*FMI: [www.godwitdays.org](http://www.godwitdays.org)*

### **Paraguay birding trip**

Late April/early May, 2014

Paul Anderson is planning a 10-day birding trip to Paraguay next spring. Exact dates are still to be determined. The bird guide will be Paul Smith, author of the book *Birds of Paraguay*.

*FMI: Jack at [jackkathy\\_anderson@yahoo.com](mailto:jackkathy_anderson@yahoo.com)*

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## Get Involved—Volunteer!

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

### **Booth Coordinator**

Lane County Audubon is looking for one or two volunteers to help with our booth appearances at local events and festivals. This opportunity involves setting up and taking down the booth four or five times a year and scheduling other volunteers

to staff the booth at events. One or two people could share or split these duties. We will provide orientation and training. If you enjoy coordinating activities and working with people, this could be the opportunity for you. For more information, call Ron Renschler at 541.345.0834, or email [christyandron@qwest.net](mailto:christyandron@qwest.net).

### **Membership Renewal**

Prepare mailings to Lane County Audubon members whose local memberships have expired. You can do this from home; no technology needed! This opportunity requires a couple of hours four or five times per year. Contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org).

**March Program Meeting**

**Klamath Basin:  
Where a Refuge  
isn't a Refuge**



Photo: Oregon Wild

**Tuesday, March 25, 2014  
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*

541.968.9249

*jimgmal@comcast.com*

**Saturday,  
March 15**

**THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK**

*Delta Ponds, led by Jim Regali*

Expert birder Jim Regali will lead March's Third Saturday Bird Walk to the Delta Ponds area. Mid-March may be a tad early for the bulk of spring migration, but the weather has been unusual this year so let's see who's at the ponds. We were there in November, so it will be interesting to see what changes have taken place.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson), rain or shine, for greetings and car pooling, and we plan to return by noon. You can also meet the group at the northwest corner of the Valley River Center rear parking lot, near the river. Remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables in your vehicle if you leave it at the high school lot or parked near Valley River Center. All levels of birders are welcome and a \$3 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities.

For more information, contact Jim Maloney at 541.968.9249 or [jimgmal@comcast.net](mailto:jimgmal@comcast.net).



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