

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, president@laneaudubon.org

Landscaping for the Birds



Rufous Hummingbird on Red Flowering Currant

It's the time of year when we have an opportunity to create bird-friendly yards! Get out in the garden to work some landscaping magic with the purpose of welcoming the migrating birds to nest and raise their young in our area. Birds have been using the Northern Hemisphere for nesting over thousands of years. In recent years, human impacts on the environment have drastically changed their world, as

well as ours. Actions we take today can help make our yards more welcoming to the birds and wildlife.

The goal is to provide native plants the birds can eat, the pollinators can get their sustenance from, and that are relatively easy to grow in our Pacific Northwest soils and climate. Overall it is a win-win-win for animals, plants and people. Native plants are habituated to our weather cycles, require less water in the summer, and can also survive the wet cold winters. They produce nectar for birds and insects in the spring, and fruits and nuts for birds and other wildlife in the autumn. These plant species are also fairly resistant to insect pests and diseases, so in general they do not require much human intervention.

The Lane Audubon website has a list of native plants we compiled with the help of the local Native Plant Society and Bruce

Newhouse. The list is at laneaudubon.org/conservation/issues/gardening.

There is also a new National Audubon Society web resource called "Plants for Birds" which includes a Native Plant Database with a photographic list of plants and birds attracted to them. This new plant database provides region-specific native plants, so when you enter your zip code, you will find the list specific to your area. It is fun to use, and the information is worthwhile. The plant photos give you a visual goal for the types of blooms you can expect to enjoy. To get started, go to: audubon.org/plantsforbirds

Working toward our native planting goal is invigorating and gives us a tangible product we can feel good about. We know, at least in our yards, we give back to nature and invite the natural world in to feel welcome through the seasons.

For another reminder to those of us who believe we can make some positive changes in our life that can affect the world around us, see the summary list on page 5, "Things You Can Do for the Environment," which was presented at our March Program meeting.

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

Celebrate and Help Migrating Birds



Birds do not recognize the man-made boundaries between countries, and yet they need to cross them to survive. Consequently, it's up to us to coordinate efforts to protect them as they move through their annual cycles. International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), officially designated in 1993, celebrates the migration of billions of birds each year between their breeding grounds in the United States and Canada, and their winter homes in Mexico, Central and South American, and the Caribbean. Events celebrating bird migration occur throughout the region, (for information on LCAS's IMBD event on May 13, see page 7), with the growth of IMBD prompting the creation of the nonprofit organization, Environment for the Americas, to provide educational materials and outreach. In fact, one of the first landmark conservation laws was the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of

1916, signed by Canada, U.S., Mexico, Japan, and Russia. The act grants full protection to over 800 species of birds, including their feathers, eggs, and nests.

Migration is an extraordinary feat. It's mind-boggling to imagine a Warbling Vireo, who weighs barely half an ounce, traveling several thousand miles from an over-wintering roost in Mexico to a nesting site in Oregon. Habitat at either end is critical to their survival, but so, too, are conditions along the way. They must stop to rest and refuel. This year, the Environment for the Americas has made the importance of stopover sites their IMBD theme. Scientific studies have confirmed that places such as city parks and even private backyards are important to the success of migrating birds. Depending on conditions such as weather, some birds may stay overnight while others linger for many days to replenish the calories expended on their migratory flights. They all have the same basic requirements: water, food, and shelter. We can help. Support efforts to create, restore, and preserve public green spaces. Make your own backyard a safe stopover refueling station. Here are a few ways you can help:

- Provide food and fresh water. Feeders and birdbaths are enjoyed by birds as well as by the people who get to watch them.
- Keep your bird feeders and water sources clean. (Immerse feeders for a couple of minutes in a solution of one part household chlorine bleach to nine parts water; then air dry.)

- Garden. Plant a diversity of native vegetation—flowers, shrubs, trees—for food and shelter. For a list of bird-friendly native plants: laneaudubon.org/conservation/issues/gardening
- Retain dead trees (snags). They are a great source of shelter.
- Don't poison the birds. Avoid the use of chemical pesticides, rodenticides, and herbicides.
- Birds don't see glass. Help prevent window collisions by placing a network of parallel, vertical strings, spaced four inches apart, on the outside of windows. For more ideas, see: laneaudubon.org/conservation/issues/bird-window
- Migrating birds are disoriented by artificial lighting. Shield outdoor lights and direct them downward. Close curtains and blinds.
- Keep cats indoors for their health as well as the safety of native wildlife. Outdoor cats kill billions of birds each year. Indoor cats live an average of three to seven times longer than outdoor cats.
- If you take your dog with you, especially to areas with ground-nesting birds, keep it on a leash.
- Don't feed waterfowl. Despite good intentions, it increases transmission of disease, conflict, stress, and malnourishment. Especially don't feed them bread.

Enjoy the color, sound, and splendor of birds!

Field Notes: March 2017

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



Gyrfalcon.

Gyrfalcon, Harris's Sparrow, Bank Swallow, Cassin's Vireo

We had wet, cool weather throughout the month. Early neo-tropical migrants began arriving, with many more due in the next couple months. Meanwhile, the wintering species have begun to head for their breeding grounds to the north. Enjoy this annual spectacle!

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

WATERBIRDS

Red-necked Grebe	Mar 11	Dexter Reservoir.....	FT	Usual location for this species
Brown Pelican (2)	Mar 23	Sea Lion Caves.....	SM.....	Very early report for Lane Co.

HAWKS TO GULLS

Bald Eagle (5)	Mar 19	west Eugene.....	VT.....	Soaring north - migrating?
Rough-legged Hawk	Mar 8	Franklin Rd.....	SH.....	Last report for the winter
Gyrfalcon	Mar 24	SJSR area.....	fide AC.....	Less than ten records for Lane Co.
Red-necked Phalarope	Mar 19	FRR - Fisher Butte	SH.....	Earlier than normal
Black-legged Kittiwake	Mar 11	NJSR.....	SH.....	Last report for the winter
Glaucous Gull	Mar 25	SJSR.....	SH.....	Few reports this winter

PIGEONS TO FINCHES

Rufous Hummingbird	Mar 1	S Eugene	EC.....	First report Eug / Spf-a week later than normal
Pileated Woodpecker (2).....	Mar 1	Maurie Jacobs Park.....	RW.....	An unusual place for this species
Cassin's Vireo	Mar 22	Delta Ponds	HW.....	About two weeks earlier than normal
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Mar 18	Springfield	VT.....	Over a week earlier than normal
Bank Swallow	Mar 25	Vaughn	BC.....	Rarely found in the spring in Lane Co.
Cliff Swallow	Mar 22	FRR	SH, LG	Right on time
Townsend's Solitaire	Mar 7	Oakridge.....	MLS.....	Earlier than normal
Northern Mockingbird	Mar 22	east Eugene.....	fide AC.....	Singing - lingering late for this species
Orange-crowned Warbler	Mar 22	Mt. Pisgah	DA, et.al.....	First spring migrant - right on time
Common Yellowthroat	Mar 27	Junction City area	BC.....	Right on time
Fox Sparrow - Red form	Mar 21	Eugene	JD.....	Last date seen
Harris's Sparrow	Mar 12	Alton Baker Park	VT.....	Only seen for two days

AC Alan Contreras, BC Barbara Combs, DA Dennis Arendt, EC Elizabeth Cookson, FT Forest Tomlinson, HW Henry Walters, JD Joni Dawning, LG Linda Gilbert, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, RW Rakar West, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, VT Vjera Thompson. **Fide** indicates a sighting that was reported to the listed observer.

Have Some Fun—Volunteer!

Lane County Audubon Society (LCAS) is an all-volunteer organization. Volunteering with LCAS is a great way to meet new people, give back to the community, and best of all, have fun! If you're interested in volunteering for one of the opportunities below, or if you have other ideas about ways you can help, contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or president@laneaudubon.org



Bike Path Cleanup Coordinator

Help us coordinate the twice-yearly cleanup of our stretch of the West Eugene bike path. LCAS adopted the west end (about five miles) of West Eugene's Fern Ridge Bike Path. The goal is to help keep Eugene's waterways an inviting habitat for wildlife and a safe and clean area for recreation. The coordinator will pick the dates and organize the day's activities.



Audubon in the Schools Instructor

The Audubon in the Schools program sends teams of volunteer instructors into the schools to teach third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students both science and art, using

bird specimens, feathers, bones, and nests. No teaching experience or artistic talent is required. All you need is an interest in teaching children and a few hours a month. You can check out the program by sitting in on a class. For more information, contact Caryn Stoess, Audubon in the Schools Coordinator, at 541.357.8739 or AITSEugene@gmail.com



Quail Distributor

Each month, we place *The Quail* in a half dozen locations around town, where it can be picked up by interested readers. Locations include our public libraries and local garden shops. This task is done around the first of each month. If you'd like to help with getting *The Quail* out into the community, please call or e-mail Ron Renschler, 541.345.0834, christyandron@qwest.net

Visit our Volunteer page online at laneaudubon.org/support/volunteer for more opportunities.



International Migratory Bird Day Event

Lane County Audubon Society is hosting a family-friendly Migratory Bird Day event on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Alton Baker Park and at the Nearby Nature facilities.

Primary activities and events will include bird walks, bird- and nature-related games and activities, awareness-raising about Migratory Bird Day, spotting-scope opportunities, and other educational opportunities for families and others who attend.

We are especially eager to have volunteers with Spanish-speaking skills, since we hope to have a strong bilingual (Spanish/English) component to the event. Help from non-bilingual volunteers would also be greatly appreciated.

This event will involve a range of volunteer possibilities:

- Publicity (strategize outreach plans, media coordination, posterage)
- Bird walks/nature guides. Some birding I.D. skills helpful but not necessary
- Activity leaders, to plan and carry out environmental education activities for kids K-6
- Spotting-scope attendants
- Day-of-event management and assistance
- Parking direction and greeting attendees
- Information booth staffing
- Set-up and take-down assistance

If you can help with this event, or if you have questions, call or email: Ron Renschler, 541.345.0834 or christyandron@qwest.net

Program Meeting: Tuesday, May 23, 7:30 pm

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

California Condor Recovery with Susan Haig

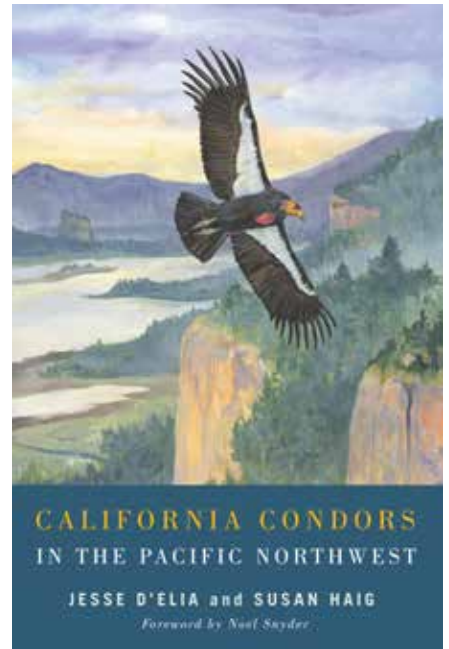


California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*).

Among the rarest and most imperiled birds in the world, the California Condor is the subject of our May program. Susan Haig, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Geological

Survey and a professor of wildlife ecology at OSU, will share some of her deep knowledge on Condors.

Susan is the coauthor, with Jesse D'Elia, of *California Condors in the Pacific Northwest*, which covers the history, cultural significance, probable causes of regional extinction, and challenges to reintroduction of this iconic bird. Susan has also served on a six-member Blue Ribbon Panel, sponsored by the American Ornithologists' Union and California Audubon, that evaluated the recovery program for California Condors. As a result of this two-year assignment, she launched a significant research effort to investigate the feasibility of reintroducing the birds to their former range in the Pacific Northwest. This could be very exciting!



Susan Haig pictured with coauthor Jesse D'Elia.



Things You Can Do for the Environment

Takeaways from our March Program on Birds and Bugs

- Drinking shade grown/organic coffee helps improve habitat for migratory birds
- Eating organic bananas and other tropical fruit supports the production of organic produce in the U.S.
- Keeping cats indoors will save the lives of billions of birds and mammals every year in the U.S.
- Avoiding the placement of feeders near reflecting windows and providing screen coverings for protection can prevent collisions that kill millions of birds every year
- Planting native plants, plus providing food and water in useful and appropriate ways, will make your yard more bird and insect friendly
- Using Integrated Pest Management is better for people, pets, and birds
- Remembering that the overall health of the environment begins with and depends upon your next meal choices



Barn Owl. Photo: Camilla Cerea/Audubon

Audubon Adventures Offers Thanks

Program Coordinator: Rachael Friese, audadventures@gmail.com

Thanks to generous donations from our members, Lane County Audubon Society offers Audubon Adventures to local teachers at no cost. Audubon Adventures is an environmental education curriculum package created by the National Audubon Society for grades 3 through 5. Participating teachers receive kits that contain 32 printed student magazines per each topic. Three or four topics are covered each year. Also included is a teacher's guide, a student certificate of participation, a letter for parents, and access to our companion website.

If you would like to adopt a classroom to receive Audubon Adventures for the 2017-2018 school year, please send a check for \$45 to Lane County Audubon Society, PO Box 5086, Eugene OR 97405. You can also sponsor a classroom online through the LCAS website: laneaudubon.org/education/audubon-adventures. Your contribution is tax deductible. A big thank you to our classroom sponsors for 2016-2017:

Sponsors	Grade	School
The Quail Mailers.....	3.....	Riverbend Elementary
Anne Bonine.....	3.....	Gilham Elementary
Beth Bridges		Charlemagne
Betsy Parry.....	4,5.....	London School
Camilla Pratt	5.....	Walterville Elementary
Charles & Reida Kimmel.....	3.....	Siuslaw Elementary
Christine & Russell Sampley	5.....	Mt. Vernon Elementary
Dave & Charlotte Bontrager.....	2/3.....	Family School
Debra Eichner.....	1/2/3	Ridgeline Montessori
Doris Wimber.....	2.....	Edgewood Community School
Elizabeth Hall.....		Lane Co. Audubon Society
Flo Alvergue.....	2.....	Edgewood Community School
Gaylene Carpenter	2.....	Edgewood Community School
Herbert Wisner	1	Adams Elementary
Jane Holloway.....	5.....	Thurston Elementary
Jim Mitchell & Cathy Irwin	4.....	Camas Ridge Elementary
Josephine & Peter von Hippel.....	3.....	Willagillespie Community School
In Memory of Joan Ericksen Cook	3.....	Centennial Elementary TBD
Julie Sasewich & David Sanchez.....	2.....	Edgewood Community School
Karen Svenson	4.....	Bohemia Elementary
Linda & Dennis Howard.....	3.....	Riverbend Elementary
Margot Fetz	2.....	Riverbend Elementary
Mary Beth Crawford	4.....	Riverbend Elementary
Michael Tanner.....	2,5.....	Riverbend Elementary
Mika Singer		School to be determined
Robin Gage.....	4/5.....	King's Valley Charter School
Sara Brownmiller	2,5.....	Riverbend Elementary
Sue Markley.....	3.....	Howard Elementary
Twinkle Morton	3.....	Veneta Elementary
Val & Dan Close	5.....	Riverbend Elementary
Janie Thomas & John Levi.....	4.....	Riverbend Elementary
Joy Thomas & Rob Castleberry	3.....	Centennial Elementary



2017 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY EVENT

Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
A Family Event at Alton Baker Park

Family bird walks and kid-friendly activities at Nearby Nature's Learnscape will provide outdoor learning experiences.

Activities and family events will include:

- Bird walks with nature guides to point out birds and flowers along the way
- Information booth on Birds Without Borders
- Bilingual guides for Spanish-speaking families
- Bird- and nature-related games and activities at Nearby Nature, staffed by Nearby Nature and Cascade Raptor Center instructors

Park in the parking lot at the main entrance to Alton Baker Park, off Club Road. The event begins at the covered picnic shelters. It is a short walk to Nearby Nature where the children's activities will take place. For a map, visit laneaudubon.org.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.
No dogs, please.



Bird species in the poster, top to bottom: Western Sandpiper, Green-winged Teal, Wilson's Warbler, Wood Thrush, Merlin, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Painted Bunting, Tree Swallow, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Lesser Yellowlegs, Bobolink

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

July/August issue: June 3

September: August 5

Submit material to Karen Irmischer at quailkaren@earthlink.net

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

5/14

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, May 14, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning

will lead a bird walk suitable for all levels of birding experience. Please bring binoculars. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, members free.

FMI: 541.741.4110 or mountpisgaharboretum.org

5/15

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, May 15, 7 p.m.

Jim Regali and Kit Larsen will share photographs and stories of tropical birds and animals seen on their recent trip to Costa Rica, where they visited five different lodges that cater to bird watchers and nature-lovers. Location: Mc-Nail-Riley house, 601 W 13th Ave, corner of W 13th and Jefferson. Five parking spaces by the house can be accessed via Jefferson St. More parking is available at the fairgrounds across 13th. Free and welcoming to all.

FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com



5/21

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Wildflower and Music Festival

Sunday, May 21, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Hundreds of local wildflower species on display, live music, nature walks, Art in Nature Trail, a plant sale, food booths, and local arts and craft vendors. Jointly sponsored with Lane Community College and the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Suggested donation \$8, Arboretum members free. 541.741.4110 or mtpisgaharboretum.org

5/28

Cascades Raptor Center

May 28, noon-4 p.m.

*Family Nature Discovery Days—
Birds in Springtime*

See the birds, plus fun activities for kids. Regular admission rates plus \$2 activity fee. Fee is waived for those who hike the Ridgeline Trail or ride a bike to the center.

FMI: CascadesRaptorCenter.org

6/3,10,17

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Bird Songs Workshop

Saturdays, June 3, 10, and 17, 8 a.m.-noon

In this three-part series led by Julia Siporin and Becky Uhler, you can learn how to identify and better understand local birds by their songs and calls. Each four-hour session will mix classroom time—in which they talk about bird sounds and play sample recordings—with time outdoors listening to the birds. Julia and Becky have studied bird vocalizations for about seven years, and have been bird watching for many more. Pre-registration required: 541.747.3817. \$40 members, \$50 non-members mtpisgaharboretum.org

6/19

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, June 19, 7 p.m.

This Eugene Birders' Night presentation focuses on the Southern Hemisphere. Randy Sinott will show photos of birds and the amazing landscapes they inhabit in Southern Chile. Then Scott McNeeley will share bird-related sights in New Zealand and Southern Africa. For location and parking information, see SWOC listing above.

6/25

Cascades Raptor Center

June 25, noon-4 p.m.

*Family Nature Discovery Days —
The Art of Nature*

See the birds, plus fun activities for kids. Regular admission rates plus \$2 activity fee. Fee is waived for those who hike the Ridgeline Trail or ride a bike to the center.

FMI: CascadesRaptorCenter.org

Lane County Audubon Society Board Election Notice

Lane County Audubon Society Board elections will be held at the May 23 Program Meeting.

The following incumbent candidates are running for the Board: Jim Maloney, Ron Renchler, Debbie Schlenoff, Maeve Sowles, Caryn Stoess, and Herb Wisner.

Thanks to Avid Gardeners

We are grateful for the surprise donation of \$750 we received from Avid Gardeners this month. The group is disbanding and decided to donate their remaining money to both LCAS and the Nature Conservancy.

We truly appreciate their generosity!

Give to LCAS When You Shop Online

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

amazon smile



Check your mailing label. Has
your *Quail* subscription expired?
See page 8 to renew!



Lane County Audubon Society Bird Walks & Events

Jim Maloney, 541.968.9249, jimgm@comcast.com

Third Saturday Bird Walk



Saturday, May 20

Wildlife biologist and field leader **Dave Bontrager** will lead a trip to the Kirk Park/Pond area, north of Fern Ridge Dam. We will meet to carpool at the usual location, the east parking lot at South Eugene High School. We leave at 8 a.m. If you prefer to join us at the walk location, arrive at the Kirk Pond parking area on Clear Lake Road by 8:30 a.m.

Birders at all levels of experience are welcome. We are friendly and helpful

to anyone who wants to explore the fun of appreciating birds.

A \$3 donation is requested to help support Lane County Audubon's education and outreach programs. If you need binoculars let us know ahead of time, as we have a few to lend.

Saturday, June 17

The site and leader have not yet been determined. Information will be posted to the Facebook page ([facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/](https://www.facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/)) and to the website (laneaudubon.org) when available. Check either of these sites for any updates a few days before the walk.

For questions or more information, contact Jim Maloney at jimgm@comcast.net or 541.968.9249.

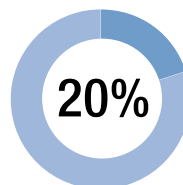


May Program Meeting

California Condor Recovery
with Susan Haig

Tuesday, May 23, 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 Godsfil at tgodsil@gmail.com