

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, president@laneaudubon.org

Savoring an Autumn Sunset



One corner of our land, on the far northeast slope, is tucked under the overhanging branches of the big firs. It is a peaceful hill where we have buried our pets, and where the previous owner had buried his old dog. My husband has made grave markers for each of them. I have many memories here. In the spring, this corner has the first Red Currant blossoms and

a spreading patch of fragrant Lady-slipper Orchids. A patch of Pacific Hounds-tongue blue flowers lights up the area when they bloom. It is the spot where one of our dogs cornered a porcupine against the fence, giving us a chance to see the little animal at close range, before we helped it find an opening to get away. Here we have seen bobcat and coyote scat along a deer trail that continues over the old fence into the woods to the north. Many days I will glimpse the tail of a deer as it leaps this fence and moves out of view.

This corner of our land always feels like a secret spot, and when the sun is low and continuing its journey to the southwest, as it does this time of year, I like to sit up on this little rise and look out over the small valley.

The angled rays of the sun bring light into the shadows under the big trees. In the trees here I have seen Brown Creepers, dropping down to the base of the trunk foraging for insects, and then climbing systematically up until out of sight. I often hear the pair of Pileated Woodpeckers calling from up the hill and hear a Downy Woodpecker tapping lightly on a trunk nearby. I've seen a Winter Wren pop out of the underbrush to investigate my presence.

On this day, I decide to watch the sun set, and to listen for owls as it grows dark. The light dims as the sun moves below the fringing firs on the ridge across the valley. Suddenly, diffuse clouds catch the final rays of the sun and the whole valley lights up, bathed in the warm golden light. This afterglow gradually fades, but it seemed like a special show just for me. The clouds turn from yellow to gold, then orange to pink, and finally to grey as the light dims. All is quiet in the valley, but in the woods I hear a faint Saw-whet Owl call. The night begins, and fall is in the air.

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

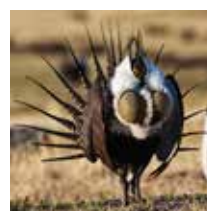
[facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/](https://www.facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/)



Conservation 2



Field Notes 3



Program Meeting 4



Bird Walks 8

Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Ravens or Humans—Which Plan Better for the Future?



Photo: David Hoffman

Raven

In a research study published in July, ravens learned how to get food out of a puzzle box using a stone tool. The next day, when the ravens were given a choice of items to collect, they preferentially selected the stone tools, even when the puzzle box was nowhere in sight. The stones might come in handy later on, when the puzzle box was around. They also learned to trade bottle caps for food. Later, when given a choice between bottle caps and other items (even small food treats), they choose the bottle caps—a fun demonstration that birds are good at planning for the future.

Like ravens, humans also need to plan for the future. National monuments protect species, biodiversity, and important habitat. But the effectiveness of the protected areas decreases over time, due to encroaching development and shifts in species' ranges due to climate change. How to plan for the future?

One way is to expand existing national monuments. This is just what was done with Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, first

designated in 2000. This area is part of the Pacific Flyway, a migratory corridor essential to birds. At the crossroads of four distinct eco-regions, it was created to protect the area's unique biodiversity. Scientists expressed concerns that the original boundaries were not large enough to preserve the connectivity between species, and that an increase in area development threatened habitat. These concerns, plus evidence indicating that the area was not large enough for species to withstand range shifts due to climate change, prompted an expansion of the monument in 2016. Good planning for the future.

This year, the Trump administration ordered a review of our national monuments. A summary of the review recently released to the public contained no details. But the Washington Post reported unreleased documents indicating that the expansion of three monuments, including the Cascade-Siskiyou, would be reversed. Whatever the specifics, there is reason for concern, especially when combined with attempts to weaken protections on other fronts, such as clean water and air rules, and endangered species safeguards. Not planning for the future.

Some myths around the national monuments should be dispelled. No private property was affected by the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Monument land is composed of public lands. The designation of national monuments does not cut off public access for fishing, hunting, hiking, birding, kayaking,

and other outdoor activities. Increasing the size of the monument has not increased unemployment. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation generates billions in wages and consumer spending, and provides almost three times more jobs in Oregon than are provided by the timber industry.

Most people recognize the importance of protecting natural areas: they clean the air and protect watersheds, protect pollinators, encourage healthy recreation, mitigate storm damage, sequester carbon, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. By the government's own admission, the vast majority of public comments submitted during this national monument review process were "in favor of maintaining existing monuments." Most people want to protect our natural areas, for themselves and for their children. That's good planning for the future. Can we follow through?



Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

Field Notes: August 2017

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



Steve Berardi, Wiki Commons

Snowy Plover



Clinton & Charles Robertson, Wiki Commons

Cattle Egret

Willet, Cattle Egret, Northern Goshawk, Snowy Plover

It was a hot and dry month with numerous fires in the Cascades making for smoky skies in the valley. As is normal for the “dog days” of summer, birding was quiet, but more migrants will be on the move in the next couple of months.

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

WATERBIRDS

Harlequin Duck (10)	Aug 10	Bob Creek	VB	Back at its wintering grounds
Red-breasted Merganser	Aug 9	NJSR	BC	First report for the “winter”
Red-necked Grebe	Aug 11	Brays Point	SR	First report for the “winter”
Snowy Egret	Aug 24	N Fork Siuslaw River	RR,DA	Rare, but a normal time for it

SHOREBIRDS TO GULLS

Northern Goshawk (photos)	Aug 6	FRR - Royal Ave	KL	A very unusual place for this species
Pacific Golden-Plover	Aug 14	Berry Creek	DF	Found in small numbers most falls
Snowy Plover	Aug 16	FRR - Royal Ave	AC,et al.	A very unusual place for this species
Solitary Sandpiper	Aug 1	FRR	CS	A normal time for their fall migration
Wandering Tattler	Aug 5	Strawberry Hill	DP	First report for the fall migration
Willet	Aug 18	NJSR	JL	Rare in Lane Co.
Ruddy Turnstone (5)	Aug 14	Berry Creek	DF	Normal time of year for their migration
Surfbird (6)	Aug 12	NJSR	DF	First report for fall migration
Red Knot (2)	Aug 24	SJSR crab dock/pier	RR,DA	Seen in small numbers during migration
Pectoral Sandpiper	Aug 26	FRR - Royal Ave	JL	First report for the fall migration
Franklin's Gull	Aug 15	SJSR	SR	Rare, but regular migrant in the county
Black Tern	Aug 23	FRR - Royal Ave	SM	Last report for the breeding season
Cassin's Auklet (8)	Aug 12	NJSR	DF	A large number from shore

GOATSUCKERS TO BLACKBIRDS

Vaux's Swift (216)	Aug 12	Agate Hall - UO	BC	Starting to use the chimney to roost
Western Kingbird	Aug 8	FRR - Royal Ave	TJ	Last report for the breeding season
Yellow-breasted Chat	Aug 23	FRR - Royal Ave	SH	Last report for the breeding season
Brewer's Sparrow	Aug 16	FRR - Royal Ave	AC,et al.	Found in very small numbers in the fall

Late Report

Cattle Egret (photos)mid-winter Canary Rdfide DP Rare in Lane County

AC Alan Contreras, BC Barbara Combs, CS Cody Smith, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, DP Diane Pettey, JL Joshua Little, KL Kit Larsen, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, SR Stephan Rossiter, TJ Tim Johnson, VB Vickie Buck. Fide indicates a sighting reported to the listed observer.

Program Meeting: Tuesday, October 24, 7:30 pm

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

Upland Game Birds and the Greater Sage-Grouse Monitoring and Mitigation Program at ODFW with Dave Budeau and Pete Baki



Photo: BLM

Greater Sage-Grouse

Dave Budeau and Pete Baki, biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, will give an overview of Oregon's upland game birds, with special attention on the Greater Sage-Grouse projects at ODFW.

For the last 14 years, Dave Budeau has had the opportunity to work with

Oregon's 12 upland game bird species while serving as ODFW's Upland Game Bird Coordinator. He will talk about Greater Sage-Grouse population monitoring, as well as projects with a couple other species, including Mountain Quail.

Pete Baki has served as the ODFW's Greater Sage-Grouse Mitigation Coordinator for the last year and a half. He has focused on refining the policy outlined in the Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan, developed through the SageCon collaborative effort. He will discuss the program and the tools set up to ensure that a net conservation benefit is achieved for construction projects that will have an unavoidable impact on Sage-Grouse habitat.



Dave Budeau



Pete Baki

Audubon in the Schools Program Coordinator Needed!

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.





Maeve Sowles



Debbie Schlenoff



Louise Shimmel

Photo: Jan Green/Williamette Valley Vineyards

Rachel Carson Award Winners

Our LCAS president, Maeve Sowles, and our conservation chair, Debbie Schlenoff, along with Louise Shimmel of Cascades Raptor Center, are soon to be honored for receiving the Rachel Carson Award. This award highlights efforts to reduce and eliminate pesticides in ways that protect community and environmental health.

The three women worked as a team and partnered with NCAP, publishing an op-ed piece about Rozol and other rodenticides. They shared that using rodenticides for home, farm, or forest

management does not justify the danger to our pets; the harm done to raptors, native fish, and other wildlife; or the long-term risk to our valued waterways and ecosystems. They helped inform the public and policy makers about alternatives and pushed for policy change.

They will be honored at NCAP's 40th Anniversary/Healthy Harvest Celebration October 7, at the Vet's Club. See the community calendar for details. To buy tickets: pesticide.org/events.



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 it 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.

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

November issue: October 7
Dec.-Jan. issue: November 4

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.)

Printed on 100% postconsumer recycled paper with soy-based ink. Layout by Kerry Lutz.

©2017 Lane County Audubon Society. All rights reserved.

Lane County Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President.....	Maeve Sowles.....	541.343.8664	president@laneaudubon.org
Treasurer.....	Ron Renchler.....	541.345.0834	christyandron2@gmail.com
Members.....	Debbie Schlenoff.....	541.685.0610.....	dschlenoff@msn.com
	Herb Wisner	541.344.3634	hrwisner@comcast.net
	Jim Maloney	541.968.9249	jimgmal@comcast.net
	Caryn Stoess.....	541.357.8739.....	carynbirds@gmail.com
	Ramiro Aragon.....		aragon.nw@gmail.com

Lane County Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Audubon Phone.....	Dick Lamster.....	541.485.BIRD	
Audubon Adventures.....	Rachael Friese		audadventures@gmail.com
Audubon in the Schools	Caryn Stoess.....	541.357.8739.....	carynbirds@gmail.com
Booth	Ron Renchler.....	541.345.0834	christyandron2@gmail.com
Conservation.....	Debbie Schlenoff.....	541.685.0610.....	dschlenoff@msn.com
Education.....	Volunteer Opportunity		
Field Notes.....	Allison & Tom Mickel.....	541.485.7112	tamickel@riouisa.com
Field Trips	Jim Maloney	541.968.9249	jimgmal@comcast.net
FRESH.....	Art Farley	541.683.1186	art@cs.uoregon.edu
Membership Data	Tim Godsil.....	541.915.8852.....	tgodsil@gmail.com
Program Coordinator.....	Judy Brown.....	541.344.4023	towhee@centurylink.net
Quail Editor	Karen Irmischer		quailkaren1@gmail.com
Quail Design & Layout.....	Volunteer Opportunity		
Recording Secretary	Kathy Wilson		kfred1953@yahoo.com
Webmaster.....	Hilary Dearborn.....		hcdearborn@gmail.com

Lane County Audubon Society welcomes you—join or renew today!

We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. Your membership dues for National Audubon Society no longer fully cover the costs of a membership in your local chapter. Your local dues stay here to help us work on local education projects and conservation issues related to birds and their habitats. With your support, we will continue to do the things you expect from us. We welcome your suggestions—this is your Audubon! We appreciate your support.

—Maeve Sowles, President

Lane Audubon Membership Benefits

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

Lane County Audubon Society Yearly Membership

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

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- 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

- 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



Healthy Harvest Celebration
2017
VET'S CLUB BALLROOM - EUGENE
OCTOBER 7 - 5PM
Dinner & Auction

10/7

Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)

Saturday, October 7, 5 p.m.

Healthy Harvest Celebration and NCAP 40th Anniversary

Enjoy an evening of organic food, drink, live music, silent auction, community awards, and more. Two of the awardees are LCAS stalwarts: Conservation Chair, Debbie Schlenoff and President, Maeve Sowles. Another is Louise Shimmel, who heads Cascades Raptor Center. Together, the three have won the Rachel Carson Award for their efforts to reduce and eliminate pesticides in ways that protect community and environmental health.

Vet's Club Ballroom, 1626 Willamette St., Eugene, \$30.

FMI or to buy tickets: pesticide.org/events.

10/15

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, October 15, 8 a.m.-11a.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 help participants identify our fall migrants and year-round residents. Come discover the Arboretum's avian diversity. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, members free.

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

10/16

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, October 16, 7 p.m.

Eugene Birders Night

Participants 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. All are welcome to attend this free monthly event.

Location: The historic 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

10/21

Nearby Nature

Saturday, October 21, 5:30-9 p.m.
21st Annual Haunted Hike

Celebrate night creatures! Enjoy a pumpkin-lit hike in Alton Baker Park and meet an entertaining costumed bat, frog, spider, owl, and more. Enjoy fun crafts, snacks, games, and a raffle as well. Rain or moonshine, members free, non-members \$5 per person. Pre-registration required.

FMI or to register: 541.687.9699, or nearbynature.org/pre-registration.

10/29

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, October 29, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Mushroom Festival

Cosponsored with Lane Community College and the Cascade Mycological Society. Hundreds of local mushroom species will be on display, along with live music, hay rides, kids' booth with face painting, nature walks, a Scarecrow Contest, a plant sale, fresh-pressed apple cider, food booths, and local arts and craft vendors. You can take the free shuttle from the old Civic Stadium location. Suggested donation \$8; children under 12 and Arboretum members free. Sorry, no dogs.

FMI: mountpisgaharboretum.com/festivals-events/2017-mushroom-festival, or 541.747.3817



Phil Johnson to Lead Bike Path Clean Up

We are happy to welcome new Bike Path Clean Up Volunteer Coordinator, Phil Johnson. Phil is a long-time Audubon member and has stepped into this position to lend a hand to Lane Audubon and the local community. We are happy to have Phil's help! See below for details of the LCAS fall bike path cleanup, set for October 14.



Bike Path Clean Up—Volunteers Needed

**Sunday, October 14,
9 a.m.-noon**

In 1998 Lane County Audubon made a commitment to the city of Eugene by "adopting" the westerly end (about 5 miles) of West Eugene's Fern Ridge Bike Path. Audubon's decision expresses our dedication to keeping Eugene's waterways as an inviting habitat for wildlife and a safe and clean area for recreation. Please consider joining this volunteer effort. All levels of effort are welcome. FMI call Phil Johnson at 541.731.7439.



Check your mailing label. Has
your *Quail* subscription expired?
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: Richter Maganhiidi

Saturday, October 15, 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. Bring binoculars, if you have them. 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 4.

Give to LCAS When You Shop Online

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

amazon smile

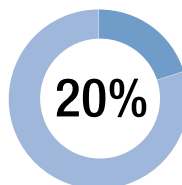


October Program Meeting

Upland Game Birds and the Greater Sage-Grouse Monitoring and Mitigation Program at ODFW

Tuesday, October 24, 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