



The Quail

September 2012

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Water's Way

Maeve Sowles

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September is when our gardens bring on the harvest of vegetables and fruits. It is also the dry time of year, and watering the garden becomes a daily ritual. Our property is at 1,000-foot elevation in the southwest hills of Eugene, so our growing season starts a little later than in the Willamette Valley, but stretches into October and the first frost. We are on a hill so my husband set up nine catchment tanks that collect water off the roofs of the house and shop during the rainy season. The tanks hold 9,500 gallons of water. They are behind the buildings and uphill from the garden, so the flow is gravity-fed. This year we are using the tank water to irrigate the garden and orchard to save our well water for household uses. I'm very excited to have this bonus water supply.

Watering the garden is a great excuse to spend time outside each day checking out the birds on our property. In September the birds are often juvenile juncos, towhees, and sparrows (White-crowned and Song). They peruse my garden plot for insects. The juvenile goldfinches, House Finches, and Purple Finches come to the dried sunflower heads, but they will also "graze" the adjoining field for seeds in the tall grass. I hear small family flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Western Tanagers. Often the tanagers will come to our water course for a drink in the afternoon, which gives us a great look at these beautiful birds that are normally high up in the trees. While watering, I see mixed flocks of chickadees and warblers working through the oak and fir trees, foraging for insects. A few lingering Rufous Hummingbird juveniles will sometimes come down to my water hose for a refreshing shower, giving me up-close looks at these speedy rascals, who quickly fly off to chase another bird that comes too close to their patch of flowers.

Having a supply of water in the dry season is critical for the garden and the wildlife. The saved water source provides this basic need, giving us a new way to enhance the property for our bird neighbors.



Find the Kid Inside You

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There has been a recent spate of articles in the scientific literature about the benefits of experiencing nature and sharing that experience with children. Among the health benefits discussed are an increase in overall fitness, improvement in vision and physical skills, an increase in vitamin D levels, a reduction in stress levels, help for children with attention deficit disorders, and improvement of critical thinking skills and exam scores in general. Light is being shed on social benefits as well; a 2009 study asks “Can nature make us more caring?” Most of us don’t need to read the research to have an intrinsic understanding that it’s a good idea to have our children play outside, watch a bird splashing in a birdbath, follow a line of marching ants, walk through the woods, or dabble their toes in the water. The joy of sharing nature is good for children and good for you as well. And it goes further; an appreciation of nature fostered in children today could be what saves our planet in the future. Those people who have come to feel a connection with nature are most likely to value it and act to conserve it.

It is important to introduce children to the wonders of nature, but let’s not forget that we all retain some of the child within. We all take pleasure in observing wildlife, and we can gain additional satisfaction from the opportunity for our observations to contribute important information via citizen science. I’ve always thought that scientists are a lot like kids: both ask lots of questions, they both wonder what would happen if ... and then guess at the answers (scientists call them “hypotheses”), and, of course, they both like to play (scientists call that “experimenting”). There are many ways to tap into a scientifically based exploration of the world. Many birders already do so; they keep careful lists and often submit their checklists to an online database—*e-bird*. Participation in this reporting system is on the rise; as of this writing, *e-bird* is nearing its 100 millionth bird observation. The information that can be gleaned from this communal

effort is valuable; scientists are tracking abundance, distribution, population trends, and much more. If you haven’t already done so, check out the wealth of information to be found at the *e-bird* site and consider joining in at <http://ebird.org>

How to have fun while contributing important

scientific data? There are many other citizen science projects that are enjoyed by birders. The Christmas Bird Count has contributed priceless data for over a century (<http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>). Many have also participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count in February (<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>), Project FeederWatch (<http://birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>), and the North American Breeding Bird Survey (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/participate/>).

If you are interested in expanding your citizen science participation beyond birds, here are some other projects that you can contribute to:

- Nature’s Notebook (<http://www.usanpn.org/participate/observe>)
- FrogWatch (<http://www.aza.org/frogwatch/>)
- Monarch Watch (<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>)
- Project BudBurst (<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citcitoolkit/projects/ucar/budburst/>)
- Great WorldWide Star Count (http://www.windows2universe.org/citizen_science/starcount/index.html)
- Additional citizen science projects at (<http://www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-science/>)



Audubon Adventures 29th Edition: "Sharing Our Earth"

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Audubon Adventures is the award-winning environmental education program about the natural world and how to protect it. This science-based program helps our students form positive attitudes about nature and supports teachers with instructional content aligned with national standards for social studies, civics, science, and language arts.

Designed for students in grades 3-6, Audubon Adventures materials are easy to use in any classroom. The content and activities allow teachers to successfully adapt the materials to students' different skills and learning styles. Lane County's children will be inspired by this year's new edition of "Sharing Our Earth." Their adventures will include the following themes:

- Sharing Our Shores
- Caring For Our Planet—Be a Friend to Birds
- World of the Forest
- Grasslands: A Prairie Tale

Teachers receiving Audubon Adventures materials receive several supplemental resources, including student handouts, posters, brochures, a full-color teacher's manual with articles and worksheets to share with students, and a year's membership to National Audubon Society and Lane County Audubon Society.

Through the generous donations of LCAS members, Lane Audubon's Adopt-a-Classroom Program will offer free subscriptions to this outstanding educational program

again this year. Our goal is to raise a new generation of Oregonians with a greater appreciation and concern for their environment.

Below are several classrooms whose teachers would like to participate in the program for the upcoming school year. We expect the participation to increase as the school year gets underway. If you would like to sponsor a classroom, please mail a tax-deductible donation of \$45, payable to "LCAS, Audubon Adventures," to LCAS, PO Box 5086, Eugene OR 97405. You may request sponsorship of any of the schools and classes listed below, or contact Joyce Trawle at jtrawle@comcast.net or 541-515-6244 if you have another school or classroom you'd like to nominate for sponsorship.

Thank you so much for your support!

Classes Awaiting Sponsors for 2012-2013 School Year	
School	Grade
Riverbend Elementary.....	4
McCormack Elementary.....	2
Spring Creek Elementary.....	4, 5
Spring Creek Elementary.....	3
Adams Elementary	5
Veneta Elementary	3
Oakridge Elementary.....	3, 4
Bohemia Elementary	4
Howard Elementary	3
Laurel Elementary.....	3

Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

North America Wide Swift Night Out

September 7-9

Contribute your swift count to this national effort!
<http://www.chimneyswifts.org/page7.html>

Nearby Nature Fall New Volunteer Orientation

September 11, 6:30 p.m. (Tuesday)

Eugene Public Library, Tykeson Room
FMI: <http://www.nearbynature.org>

Nearby Nature Restoration Celebration Litter Patrol

September 23, 1- 4 p.m. (Saturday)

Alton Baker Park, Eugene. Registration and Fees Required
FMI: 541-687-9699, ext. 2, or www.nearbynature.org/programs

Cascades Raptor Center Family Nature Discovery Days

September 30, noon - 4:00 p.m.

Cascades Raptor Center, Eugene. "Migration Station"
Fee. FMI: www.eraptors.org

Field Notes: June-July 2012



- Nesting Black Swifts
- Acorn Woodpecker

- Spotted Redshank
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Tom and Allison Mickel

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The weather was a real mixed bag this season; a wet June and a mostly dry July with lots of morning clouds. From a birding standpoint, this season was amazing – just look at all the rare and unusual reports below. The highlight is a toss-up between Eric Horvath’s finding Black Swift nests at Salt Creek Falls and the breeding-plumage Spotted Redshank found by Becky Uhler at Fern Ridge Reservoir. After thirty years of watching Black Swifts at the falls, Eric found the first documented nests in Oregon! And of course a breeding-plumage Spotted Redshank is a spectacular bird, and to find one in Lane County is an amazing find! Unfortunately, it wasn’t very cooperative and was seen by only about a dozen people.

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

WATERBIRDS

Brant (11)	June 14	Siuslaw River	DP	Small numbers summer along the coast.
Snow Goose	June 22	Florence	DP	Rare summer record – injured wing.
Cackling Goose	July 20	FRR – Royal Ave	NS	Rare summer record – injured?
Blue-winged Teal (pair)	June 26	Siltcoos Estuary	DF	Rare on the outer coast.
Black Scoter (3)	July 19	NJSR	JW	Unusual during the summer.
Snowy Egret	June 24	Delta Ponds	TMe	First summer record, 15th for county.
Black-crowned Night-Heron	June 15	East Springfield	SMc	Unusual summer sighting away from FRR.
Black-crowned Night-Heron	June 18	Mt Pisgah area	MO	There aren’t any known Lane County nesting areas.
Black-crowned Night-Heron	June 29	Mt Pisgah area	AM	An immature calling and circling over the river.
Black-crowned Night-Heron (5)	July 25	FRR – Royal Ave	LM,et al.	A normal time and place for this species.

QUAIL to AUKLETS

Mountain Quail	June 2	Spencer Butte	TMe	An area where they were “common,” but haven’t been reported for a number of years.
Mountain Quail	June 20	Spencer Butte	E&VT	An area where they’ve bred in the past.
White-tailed Kite	June 9	Noti	VT	Found in the area for the last couple months.
Red-shouldered Hawk	July 26	Morse Ranch park	CQ	A pair fledged 3 young.
Peregrine Falcon	June 15	Coast Range	J&JD	Still headed north?
Black-bellied Plover (4)	June 4	Siltcoos Estuary	DF	An early date for their southern migration.
Semipalmated Plover	July 5	FRR – Royal Ave	LM,RR	First report since early spring this year.
Black-necked Stilt (3)	July 5	FRR – Royal Ave	NS	An almost annual migrant.
Pacific Golden-plover	July 13	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	A normal migration time.
Wandering Tattler (2)	July 29	SJSR	RR	Breeding plumage – headed south?
Greater Yellowlegs (4)	June 24	Siltcoos Estuary	DF	Second Oregon record.
Spotted Redshank	July 4	FRR – W Coyote	BU	A very unusual June record.
Willet	June 9	SJSR	LC	Their normal migration period.
Ruddy Turnstone	July 20	NJSR	DP	First record for inland Lane County.
Ruddy Turnstone	July 29	FRR – Royal Ave	NS	A little early for their southward migration.
Semipalmated Sandpiper	June 27	Siltcoos Estuary	DF	A normal time for migration.
Semipalmated Sandpiper	July 7	FRR – Royal Ave	AHi	Breeding plumage – headed south?
Western Sandpiper (3)	June 24	Siltcoos Estuary	DF	The fourth county record.
Red-necked Stint	July 23	SJSR crab dock	AC,LB,TMe	An early report for this species.
Baird’s Sandpiper	July 13	FRR – Royal Ave	BMc	An unusually early record for this almost annual migrant.
Ruff (Reeve)	July 10	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	The highest count at FRR.
Wilson’s Phalarope (21)	July 7	FRR – Royal Ave	AHi	About the end of their migration window.
Red-necked Phalarope	June 2	FRR – Royal Ave	DH	

Sabine's Gull	July 29	Heceta Beach	RR	The only summer record for the county.
Bonaparte's Gull	July 13	FRR – Royal Ave	BMc	A rare summer report.
Arctic Tern	June 26	Siltcoos River beach	DF	Rarely found during the summer.
Forster's Tern	July 5	FRR – Royal Ave	m.ob.	Not known to breed in the county.
Rhinoceros Auklet (18)	June 29	SJSR	S&SG	A good location this time of year.
Rhinoceros Auklet (61)	July 29	Siuslaw River mouth	WH	A very high number for Lane County.
OWLS to FINCHES				
Northern Pygmy-Owl	June 2	Spencer Butte	TMe	They've been quite common in the south hills this year.
Spotted Owl (2)	July 29	McKenzie River basin	JS,LJ	Always a special treat while hiking in the Cascades!
Common Nighthawk	June/July	Eugene/Springfield	m.ob.	Four reports for the season, about a normal number.
Black Swift (nests)	July 20	Salt Creek falls	EH	First documented nests in Oregon! First found at the falls in 1982 and assumed to be breeding there, but now there's proof.
Acorn Woodpecker	June 19	Goshen	NS	Not an area where they're reported regularly.
Acorn Woodpecker	June 20	Brays Point area	fide DP	A very rare coastal record.
Red-eyed Vireo	July 3	Clearwater Park	RR	Same area they were found in last year.
Horned Lark (singing)	July 31	FRR – E Coyote	LN	They've been reported from this area in the past during the breeding season.
Northern Mockingbird	July 1	Creswell	NS	One of about a half dozen summer records.
Townsend's Warbler	July 1	Creswell	NS	Rare Willamette Valley summer record.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	July 3	Eugene	JSi	First report for July – normally found in spring.
Indigo Bunting	June 2	Alton Baker Park	MP,RH,R&JB	About 15 records for the county.
Indigo X Lazuli Bunting	June 2	Alton Baker Park	MP,RH,R&JB	Hybrids have turned up with some regularity the last few years around Eugene/Springfield.
Vesper Sparrow	June 19	Goshen area	NS	An area where they've bred in the past.
Great-tailed Grackle	July 7	FRR – Fisher Butte	A&TM	About the eighth record for Lane County.
Red Crossbill	June 2+	Eugene south hills	TM	Large numbers seen in the area.
Red Crossbill	June 27	Delta Ponds	LM,et al.	Unusual away from conifer forests.
Red Crossbill (20)	July 20	Springfield	JS	Unusual away from conifer forests.
Pine Siskin (8)	June 16	S Eugene yard	SG	Later than normal.
Evening Grosbeak (pair)	June 20	S Eugene yard	SG	Later than normal.

R&JB Rob & Janet Barnes, LB Luke Bloch, AC Alan Contreras, LC Lydia Cruz, J&JD Jim & Jodi DeLapp, DF Daniel Farrar, S&SG Steve & Susie Gordon, RH Rosie Hammond, DH Dan Heyerly, AHi Adrian Hinkle, WH Wayne Hoffman, EH Eric Horvath, LJ Laura Johnson, BMc Barry McKenzie, LM Larry McQueen, SMc Steve McDonald, TMe Thomas Meinzen, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, LN Lars Norgren, MO Melissa Olsen, MP Magnus Persmark, DP Diane Pettey, CQ Charlie Quinn, RR Roger Robb, JSi Julia Siporin, NS Noah Strycker, JS John Sullivan, E&VT Eddie & Vjera Thompson, BU Becky Ulher, JW Jason Wilder.

Check us out on Facebook

Lane Audubon is now on Facebook! Please join our page and stay informed about events, bird walks, news, and conservation issues. Share bird sightings, photos, links, events, nature news and stories.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824>

Electronic version of *The Quail* available!

Help us save paper and postage! Lane County Audubon Society offers an electronic version of *The Quail*. It's easy to change your current membership to an electronic notification. Each month, LCAS will send a link to your email address that will take you to a pdf version of our newsletter. You'll receive the added benefit of viewing *The Quail's* photos in color, and families can sign up more than one email address to receive the newsletter under one membership. If at any time you decide you'd rather switch back to receiving your *Quail* in the mail, no problem! If you would like to begin receiving *The Quail* electronically or would like more information, please contact Tim Godsfil at tgodsil@gmail.com.

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



Deadlines:

October issue: Sept 1
November Issue: Oct 6

Submit material to Cheron Ferland
cheron.ferland@mac.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.

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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

Name _____

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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
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An All-Ages Program: An AITS “Birds and the EcoSystem” Presentation

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Each year LCAS volunteers visit schools throughout Lane County and share an exciting, truly unique educational opportunity with students via the Audubon in the Schools (AITS) program. The AITS curriculum, developed by Kris Kirkeby, is composed of five fun-filled lessons, combining bird biology and a basic art lesson. It is designed to provide elementary schools with a solid introduction to core aspects of bird biology, ranging from bird feather anatomy and function, to bird identification techniques, to bird field marks and habitat. The lessons are excellent examples of participatory education.

Barclay Browne, the new AITS coordinator for the 2012-13 school year, invites students of all ages, along with their friends, family members, parents, and grandparents, to join us at the September program meeting to be part of a presentation of one of the AITS lessons: “Birds and the EcoSystem.” In this lesson students (and everyone else) will get a chance to draw directly from a wide collection of taxidermied and museum-mounted birds. We’ll explore the essentials of bird plumage patterns, field marks, and bird anatomy and discuss how these features relate to each bird’s adaptation to a particular habitat. We’ll also discuss the concepts of bird conservation and ecosystems.

The lesson is one hour long and is fun for both kids and their family members of all ages. You’ll be surprised at how quickly you can draw an accurate picture of a bird by highlighting key field marks and using two simple techniques: building up a drawing of the bird shape using basic shapes and rendering accurate color with a layered color-pencil technique.

This is an “all-ages” program! Note our earlier start time—7 p.m.—so we can finish a little earlier than usual. All materials will be provided. Bring your kids, grandkids, and their friends for a fun evening of drawing and bird biology.

Sept. Program Meeting
An All-Ages Program:
An AITS “Birds and
the EcoSystem”
Presentation
with Barclay Browne



Tuesday, Sept. 25,
7:00 p.m.

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene

Thanks, Kris!

Kris Kirkeby has been a Lane Audubon board member since late 2003! Starting in 2004, she created Audubon in the Schools (AITS), a unique program teaching art in classrooms using bird specimens, feathers, bones, and nests. Kris crafted the teaching modules, trained many volunteers, networked with schools and teachers, prepared and organized the bird specimens, bought art supplies, and kept this program running for eight years. There have been thousands of third to fifth graders who have benefitted from Kris’ program that teaches observational skills, drawing techniques, and bird biology. (Fortunately we now have Barclay Browne to carry

on the Audubon in the Schools program with the help of her teaching team and scheduler for the next school year!) Kris’ many talents and commitment to education have given our Lane Audubon Chapter an educational program with a big community impact. We will miss Kris’ presence at our board meetings, her creativity for booth education, and articles for *The Quail*. She always came through with great ideas and great nurturing of the Audubon mission. We all wish Kris well pursuing her own art and having more time for family. Thank you, Kris!

**Sept. Program Meeting
An All-Ages Program:
An AITS "Birds and
the EcoSystem"
Presentation
with Barclay Browne**



**Tuesday, Sept. 25,
7:00 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



Maeve Sowles

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**SATURDAY
September 15**

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK

Alton Baker Park led by Verja Thompson

Meet at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson) for carpooling at 8:00 a.m. and plan to return by noon. All birders are welcome. A \$3 donation is suggested. As a precaution, please remember not to leave valuables in your car. Questions? Call Maeve Sowles at 541-343-8664 or email: president@laneaudubon.org

**FRIDAYS
September 21
September 28**

FALL VAUX'S SWIFT EVENTS

LCAS is holding its annual fall swift event outside Agate Hall on September 21 and 28 at sunset. The Vaux's swifts use the chimney to roost for the night as they gather prior to migration. Last year at this time we saw 7,000 birds using this location as a gathering place. It is a wonderful chance to observe and learn about the birds that will migrate to Central and South America at the end of their breeding season. Lane Audubon will have handouts with information about the birds. Look for the LCAS banner at 17th and Agate Street. Stop by and enjoy this annual natural phenomenon. It is free! Call 541-343-8664 for more information.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Distribute and Deliver The Quail in the Community

Our newsletter reaches a broad audience. Help us get printed newsletters out to the community by delivering them to the post office for delivery to our members. Also, distribute *The Quail* to high-visibility locations around the community in an effort to reach new members. Each of these tasks only require a couple of hours nine times per year, and it is a huge help! Contact Ron Renschler at 541-345-0834 or christyandron@qwest.net to find out more.