

February 2011

The Quail



News from Lane County Audubon Society

From Our President



Looking to the sky

Maeve Sowles

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On those rare Oregon winter days when the sun shines, I find myself scanning the skies for birds. I'm anticipating spring, and although those sunny periods are brief this time of year, the resident Song Sparrows live up to their name and begin to practice their songs. Individuals will perch every 30 feet or so along our fence line, tuning up for the spring concert season. The Golden-crowned Sparrows can also be heard chiming in with their slow-speed three-note song, "Oh dear me." The wintering sparrows, which include Golden-crowned, Fox, Lincoln's, and White-throated Sparrows are birds we can enjoy seeing during the short winter days. They will leave for northern breeding grounds by May. Once a warm wind blows in from the south, they will be gone.

February offers a good chance to see wintering waterfowl and raptors. Any body of water now holds a variety of species, and many of them will fly north in the spring. It is an opportunity to identify many duck species such as Bufflehead, Ring-necked, Canvasback, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Scaup, and Common and Hooded Mergansers. The Oregon waterways and coast are also a haven for shorebirds and gulls in the winter. Although it might be cold and wet outside, the birding can be great!

It is easy to see raptors such as Bald Eagles in the Pacific Northwest since they gather here at their wintering grounds. The Klamath basin attracts a large winter concentration of Bald Eagles, and is worth a trip at this time of year. The only other place one can see so many Bald Eagles would be in Alaska or British Columbia. If you have never attended the Winter Wings Festival (formerly the Bald Eagle Conference) it is an added attraction. See www.winterwingsfest.org/ for more information about the activities the weekend of February 18–20.

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2010 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

Dick Lamster

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It was cold and a little foggy, but there wasn't any rain and very little wind for the 69th Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC). On January 2, 2011, 149 bird watchers took to the field to observe all the birds they could see in 24 hours. Twenty-seven teams, each led by an experienced birder, searched their assigned area within the traditional 15-mile diameter circle. Several teams started before sunup in an attempt to locate owls. Dan Gleason's report, following this article, presents the results of these efforts. The 27 teams in the field walked 125.5 miles for 198.5 hours and drove 627.3 miles over 60 hours in their search.

After the ECBC finished, 90 count participants gathered at the Eugene Garden Club to share the day's sightings and partake in the traditional chili feed sponsored by LCAS. They were treated to delicious homemade vegetarian chili prepared by Allison Mickel. Sandy Poinsett and Kathy Wilson organized the room, set up the tables, served the chili, and cleaned up afterwards. The 27 team leaders were recognized for their efforts, and the final activity to a long, but fun day was the traditional "countdown" of birds seen during the day.

Last year, the ECBC had the third largest number of participants of the 2,160 official National Audubon Society (NAS) Christmas Bird Counts across the United States, Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Pacific Islands. This year, we exceeded that number by a few more participants. We are fortunate to have so many excellent birders in this area willing to act as team leaders as well as all the birders eager to spend eight or more hours out looking for birds in the middle of the winter. I want to thank all the team leaders for doing such a good job of organizing and working with their teams. Many of these people have been team leaders for the ECBC for over 20 years!

I also want to thank the other members of the organizing committee for their hard work. Barbara Gleason and Becky Uhler matched callers interested in participating with teams needing more members. Barbara also prepared and updated some of the area maps. Dan Gleason prepared the bird checklist, compiled all the lists of birds seen by each team into one list, verified the unusual and rare bird sightings, and then submitted the results to NAS. Herb Wisner coordinated the record-setting number of feeder watchers and submitted their results to Dan Gleason.

Be sure to put Sunday, January 1, 2012 on your calendar for the 2011 ECBC. Please plan to join a team or watch birds in your yard and have a fun day of birding. Your results are entered into the 111-year record of all the Christmas Bird Counts around the country and are used by scientists for research on bird life. Thanks again to all of you who participated and helped to make the 2010 ECBC one of the best in the world!



American Widgeon

Photo by Cary Kerst

Results of the Eugene Christmas Bird Count

Dan Gleason

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Eugene's annual Christmas Bird Count took place on Sunday, January 2, and participants found themselves looking for birds on a generally clear, but very cold day. However, the cold does not deter the birds, so they were active and usually in good numbers throughout the day. Participants found 18 species in record high numbers and many more in much higher than average numbers. A few species were lower in number than expected, most notably, the complete absence of Cedar Waxwings for all of the field counters reporting. Fortunately, at least one of the home feeder watchers saw waxwings, bringing our total to 11 for that species, which is a very low number for waxwings but better than nothing.

There were 82,347 individual birds seen and the total number of species spotted during the day was 130 with an additional four species noted during "Count Week" (three days prior to and three days after official Count Day). Those four species seen during Count Week, but missed on Count Day are American Bittern, Barred Owl, Northern Mockingbird, and Hermit Warbler. The Northern Mockingbird is unusual for this area, and winter reports of Hermit Warblers are rare north of Central

Mexico—a very outstanding find. Of the 18 species found in record high numbers, notables include 52 Turkey Vultures (wintering vultures are scarce in most of Oregon), 76 Bald Eagles, 8 Peregrine Falcons, and 10 Black Phoebe—a species that seems to be continuing to spread across western Oregon. Numbers for some species, like Turkey Vulture, could have been higher, but I adjusted the numbers down in cases where sighting could have been duplicated by adjacent teams.

The entire list is included below, including record high numbers for species other than the ones mentioned above.

This is a fun event for all, and if you have not participated in a Christmas Bird Count before, consider joining us on next year's Count (January 1, 2012), either as a participant on one of the field teams or remain at home as one of the feeder watchers, keeping track of the birds that come to your yard.

Thank you to all participants and team leaders, each of whom gave me their results to compile as well as details for unusual species. A special thank you to Herb Wisner for tallying all of the results from the feeder watchers, of which there were 99.

2010 Eugene Christmas Bird Count totals

L = low RL = record low TRL = ties record low
TRH = ties record high CW = Count Week

H = High RH = record high
Total species: 130 plus four during Count Week

Species	Total	
Greater White-fronted Goose . . . . .	.106	H
Cackling Goose	25,836	H
Canada Goose . . . . .	.7,933	
Tundra Swan . . . . .	.811	
Wood Duck . . . . .	.159	H
Gadwall . . . . .	.730	RH
Eurasian Wigeon . . . . .	.3	
American Wigeon . . . . .	.1,093	
Mallard . . . . .	.1,452	
Northern Shoveler . . . . .	.306	H
Northern Pintail . . . . .	.1,246	
Green-winged Teal . . . . .	.1,236	
Canvasback . . . . .	.2	L

Species	Total	
Redhead . . . . .	.2	
Ring-necked Duck . . . . .	.242	H
Lesser Scaup . . . . .	.134	
Bufflehead . . . . .	.134	H
Common Goldeneye . . . . .	.4	
Hooded Merganser	57	H
Common Merganser	97	
Ruddy Duck . . . . .	.105	H
California Quail . . . . .	.152	
Ring-necked Pheasant	19	
Wild Turkey . . . . .	.252	RH
Pied-billed Grebe	93	H
Horned Grebe . . . . .	.8	H

2010 Eugene Christmas Bird Count totals, continued

Species	Total		Species	Total	
Western Grebe . . . . .	.7	. . . . . L	Spotted Sandpiper	25	. . . . . RH
Clark's Grebe . . . . .	.1		Greater Yellowlegs.	19	
Double-crested Cormorant . . . . .	.426		Western Sandpiper	50	
American White Pelican . . . . .	.1		Least Sandpiper	40	. . . . . L
American Bittern . . . . .		. . . . . CW	Dunlin . . . . .	.3,000	
Great Blue Heron	91		Long-billed Dowitcher. . . . .	.559	. . . . . RH
Great Egret	50		Wilson's Snipe . . . . .	.136	
Black-crowned Night Heron . . . . .	.1		Mew Gull	11	. . . . . L
Turkey Vulture.	54	. . . . . RH	Ring-billed Gull . . . . .	.1,758	
Osprey . . . . .	.1		Western Gull . . . . .	.3	
White-tailed Kite. . . . .	.6		California Gull	34	. . . . . L
Bald Eagle.	76	. . . . . RH	Thayer's Gull.	41	
Northern Harrier.	96	. . . . . H	Glaucous-winged Gull . . . . .	.156	
Sharp-shinned Hawk . . . . .	.7		(Gull spp.) . . . . .	.792	
Cooper's Hawk . . . . .	.8		Rock Pigeon. . . . .	.620	
Red-shouldered Hawk	19	. . . . . H	Eurasian Collared-Dove	10	
Red-tailed Hawk. . . . .	.151		Mourning Dove . . . . .	.430	
Rough-legged Hawk. . . . .	.1	. . . . . L	Barn Owl . . . . .	.1	. . . . . TRL
American Kestrel . . . . .	.120		Western Screech-Owl	11	
Merlin. . . . .	.6		Great Horned Owl	19	. . . . . H
Peregrine Falcon. . . . .	.8	. . . . . RH	Northern Pygmy-Owl . . . . .	.3	. . . . . TRH
Virginia Rail	11	. . . . . TRH	Barred Owl . . . . .		. . . . . CW
American Coot . . . . .	.741	. . . . . H	Short-eared Owl. . . . .	.3	
Killdeer . . . . .	.454	. . . . . L	Northern Saw-whet Owl . . . . .	.7	. . . . . H



Belted Kingfisher
Photo by Cary Kerst

Species	Total	
Anna's Hummingbird	143	H
Belted Kingfisher	33	H
Acorn Woodpecker	30	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	21	H
Downy Woodpecker	101	H
Hairy Woodpecker	19	H
Northern Flicker	439	H
Pileated Woodpecker	10	
Black Phoebe	10	RH
Northern Shrike	2	L
Hutton's Vireo	11	H
Steller's Jay	382	
Western Scrub-Jay	1,102	RH
American Crow	1,749	
Common Raven	93	
Tree Swallow	20	H
Black-capped Chickadee	1,164	RH
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	140	
Bushtit	1,093	RH
Red-breasted Nuthatch	173	H
White-breasted Nuthatch	29	
Brown Creeper	67	H
Bewick's Wren	97	
Pacific Wren	52	
Marsh Wren	23	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	632	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	446	
Wrentit	8	
Western Bluebird	83	
Hermit Thrush	32	H
American Robin	2,689	
Varied Thrush	377	H
Northern Mockingbird		CW
European Starling	6,343	
American Pipit	97	
Cedar Waxwing	11	L
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	505	RH
Townsend's Warbler	151	RH
Hermit Warbler		CW
Spotted Towhee	749	RH
Savannah Sparrow	15	L
Fox Sparrow	339	H
Song Sparrow	984	H

Species	Total	
Lincoln's Sparrow	55	
Swamp Sparrow	1	
White-throated Sparrow	27	H
White-crowned Sparrow	287	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1,163	
Dark-eyed Junco	4,567	RH
Red-winged Blackbird	996	L
Western Meadowlark	122	
Brewer's Blackbird	724	L
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	L
Purple Finch	56	
House Finch	698	
Pine Siskin	43	L
Lesser Goldfinch	131	H
American Goldfinch	110	
Evening Grosbeak	114	
House Sparrow	506	

Looking to the sky, *continued*

We have good raptor viewing throughout the area in winter, partly because they sit conspicuously on poles looking for rodents or other prey. One recent sunny afternoon, the pair of Red-tailed Hawks in our neighborhood flew together in the sky, talons dropped and slowly circled in tandem. It was obvious they had thoughts of spring activities. Keep watching the skies because soon the earliest Tree Swallows and Turkey Vultures will arrive, and we will know spring is approaching.



Marbled Murrelet
Photo by Cary Kerst



Ecosystem value: Can we afford not to protect the natural environment?

Debbie Schlenoff

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Conservationists are nervous. Funding for various projects is being cut and important protective regulations are being rejected because they are deemed too “expensive” to implement. In times of economic downturns, can we afford to protect the natural environment? In reality, the question should be can we afford not to?

All of us are dependent upon the benefits that healthy ecosystems provide. In the largest sense, the dollar value of these benefits is incalculable. Life on earth would not exist without such things as fertile soil, carbon cycles, the food web, fresh water, and breathable air. However, immediate cost-benefit analyses are the basis for many policy decisions. What is absent from the calculation is the real cost of a degraded environment. Although it is complicated and problematic to put a price tag on nature, a growing number of people are exploring and utilizing ecosystem valuation approaches.

Ecosystem valuation is based partly on direct use of the products that environments provide such as food, building materials, fuels, industrial products, and medicines. Often missing from analysis of various projects or regulations is the appraisal of services that ecosystems provide. Among the critical services identified are filtration of pollutants by wetlands, carbon storage, climate control, erosion control, nutrient cycling and soil fertility, protection from disasters such as flooding, pollination of plants and dispersal of seeds, local temperature regulation of streams and forests, control of agricultural pests, and control of disease. When people claim that setting aside wilderness areas or protecting natural resources is expensive or that development would provide financial gains, they rarely take into account the worth of the natural areas. A 1997 study¹ made estimations on a global scale and valued the services provided by various types of ecosystems, including total global wetlands at \$4.88 billion

per year, coastal estuaries at \$4.11 billion, and so on. The authors of the study came up with a total value of \$33 trillion per year, an inconceivably large number and about twice the global gross national product (GNP).

Economic decisions based on ecosystem service valuation can also be made on a case-by-case basis. For instance, plans for a development might compare the cost of conserving wetlands, which filter water, to the cost of building and managing water treatment facilities, or we could specifically consider the impact of the loss of coastal marshes on the damage to New Orleans caused by Hurricane Katrina. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report² found the non-market value of forests (carbon sequestration, watershed protection, recreation, and non-timber forest products) to be higher than the commercial value of forests in several places, including Italy and Portugal.

When will timber plans here in the Northwest fully explore the costs of losing habitat, numbers of species, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, temperature regulation of waterways, filtration of water, etc.? If the value of these services were considered rather than just the market value of board feet of timber, the result would be sustainable logging in young, homogenous, plantation-type forests instead of mature and old growth forest. A 2004 study³ in Costa Rica valued the pollination service alone provided by patches of forest adjacent to a coffee plantation to be worth \$62,000 per year—about 7% of the farm income. A model of development in the Philippines⁴ compared the option of intensive logging with that of no logging or sustainable logging. The first option produced numerous timber dollars in the short-term but over time, money from fisheries and tourism exceeded money from logging and created higher total revenues in the reduced logging scenarios.

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A Message from Lane Audubon Board of Directors

Maeve Sowles, President

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

Lane Audubon Membership Benefits



The Quail—
9 issues/year



Field trips
and bird walks



Program meetings



Educational
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Conservation issue
representation



Answers to
questions—
541.485.BIRD

Visit our web site:
www.laneaudubon.org



Lane Audubon welcomes you—join or renew today!

Lane County Audubon Society needs your local membership dues to keep our various programs alive! This means that your membership dues for National Audubon Society no longer support a membership in your local chapter. Become a member of Lane Audubon today to help us continue our educational programs and our work in protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats in Lane County. We appreciate your support.

Lane Audubon membership dues

- Individual \$20\$ _____
 - Students and seniors (65 and over) \$15\$ _____
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 - 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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- 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 Audubon communications.

Please contact me regarding

- Gift memberships
- Volunteering for Lane Audubon activities
- Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program
- I'd like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

Mail this form and your payment to:

Lane County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 5086
Eugene, OR 97405



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Thank you, Lane Audubon members!

The Board of Lane Audubon wants to thank the many members who have responded to our donation request with over \$4,000 to support our projects and activities. You help keep the educational, community, and conservation projects active.

Thank you, members!

Join us on Facebook

Visit Lane Audubon 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 at www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824.



The Quail

Deadlines

March issue: February 12

April issue: March 12

Submit material to
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rhoshaw@gmail.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 Audubon (see page 7).

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

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Conservation reports, *continued*

Ecotourism and outdoor recreation are growing businesses that need consideration when balancing costs and benefits. People in the U.S. spent over \$122 billion in 2006 engaging in outdoor recreation and contributed to millions of jobs in the industries and businesses that support it. In Oregon alone, wildlife-associated recreation expenditures for 2008 totaled over \$2.5 billion.

When development, resource extraction, or downgrading regulations is argued in terms of financial gain (usually for a limited number of people), it is important that we are able to counter with arguments that involve long-term benefits for the majority. The insights provided by a careful examination of the benefits of ecosystem services can significantly contribute to improved management and policy decisions. Moreover, most of us believe in the intrinsic value of nature and the benefits of experiencing it. Many studies have shown that being out in nature vitalizes people and improves their mood and self esteem. Whether we are hiking, birding, kayaking, or discouraging squirrels from sharing our picnic in a meadow, nature enriches us in ways that go beyond a dollar value.

For further reading:

1. Costanza et al. 1997. The value of the world's ecosystem services and natural capital. *Nature* 387: 253–260
2. Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005 Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis Report. www.ecosystemvaluation.org/
3. Ricketts et al. 2004. Economic value of tropical forest to coffee production. *PNAS*101(34): 12579–12582
4. Hodgson and Dixon 1988. *Logging Versus Fisheries and Tourism in Palawan*. East-West Environment and Policy Institute (EAPI) vol. 7, Hawaii, USA

Volunteers needed!

Bird Walk Coordinator

The Bird Walk Coordinator is responsible for setting up our Third Saturday Bird Walks, which includes contacting field trip leaders, sending out the publicity, and meeting the group of birders on the day of the walk to get things rolling. It is perhaps the most fun job in Lane Audubon if you want to be out birding, meeting new people, and learning from our bird walk leaders!

Does that sound like fun? For more information, contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.

Wings and Wine Festival Coordinator

We are seeking a volunteer to coordinate Lane Audubon's involvement with the annual Fern Ridge Wings and Wine Festival. You would attend the monthly planning meetings (which are often in Veneta), take meeting notes, and distribute these to the Steering Committee. We need someone to track timelines, action items, and coordinate our efforts. The next event is May 2011. Help us make it a reality!

For more information, contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.



Red-breasted Sapsucker

Photo by Cary Kerst

Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Wonderful Washington Butterflies and Where to Find Them

North American Butterfly Association

Idie Ulsh, naturalist and past president of the Washington Butterfly Association, will guide us through photos and stories of the Washington State butterflies she knows well, including many butterflies that are rare or not found in Oregon.

Monday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.
(7:00 p.m. refreshments)

*FREE! Meet in EWEB Training Center,
500 E. 4th Ave.*

FMI: woodnymph3000@gmail.com

Wetland Wander at Stewart Pond Natural Area Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)

Wetland Wanders are casual walks through various areas in the West Eugene Wetlands on the second Tuesday of every month. Stewart Pond is a 150-acre natural area located east of the intersection of Bertelsen and Steward Roads.

Tuesday, February 8, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Free! WREN will provide binoculars.

FMI: 541.338.7047 or info@wewetlands.org

Salamander Courtship Eugene Natural History Society

What could be better than studying the courtship of salamanders for a career? If that sounds intriguing, come enjoy a colorful, illustrated talk by Dr. Lynne Houck, OSU professor.

Friday, February 18, 7:30 p.m.

Room 100 Willamette Hall, UO campus

Free! FMI: jmclarkson@Q.com

Audubon Adventures

Wildlife on the move—animal migration

Debra Eichner 541.607.6123

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Audubon Adventures supplies everything needed to deliver an enriched environmental science and language arts curriculum using nature-based learning. 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.

This year's curriculum is entitled *Wildlife on the Move*, and focuses on three types of animal migration—birds, monarch butterflies and marine animals.

Thanks to the generous support of our members through a program called "Adopt a Classroom," our local teachers have been able to utilize this curriculum in their classrooms at no cost to the school system. This year, we have the privilege of having more sponsors than participating classrooms. We will look to find teachers who would still like to use the curriculum this year and update you as we find them. Please let me know via email or phone if you know of a teacher who would like to receive the kit: aceichner@msn.com or 541.607.6123.

Thank you sponsors!

School/Grade

Adams Elementary/4, 5
Arts and Technology/5
Camas Ridge Elementary/3
Charlemagne Elementary/3
Chavez Elementary/4
Fairfield Elementary/4
Gilham Elementary/3
McCornack Elementary/5
Meadowlark Elementary/3
River Road Elementary/3

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Sandra and Eugene Luks

Thanks also to Betsy Parry, Peter and Jo Von Hippel (two classes), and Henry Bumstead for sponsoring classrooms.

Field Notes: November/December 2010



- Ancient Murrelets at mouth of Siuslaw River
- Gyrfalcon at Green Island
- Nashville and Palm Warblers seen in Florence
- Lewis's Woodpecker appears at Willow Creek

Tom and Allison Mickel

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tamickel@rioussa.com

The weather was fairly typical for November and December. One of the highlights was a female or immature American Redstart that occasionally visited Brandon's backyard for about a month without any other birders ever seeing it. This was only the fourth record for Lane County. A Gyrfalcon found on Green Island was only the sixth Lane County record. There were three reports of Sandhill Cranes, which normally just migrate through in the

spring and fall, as well as three reports of Ancient Murrelets, a species that hasn't been easy to find in the county for a number of years. There was also the somewhat bizarre sighting of a Barred Owl being mobbed by American Crows in a backyard near the corner of Coburg and Cal Young Roads. Last, but not least, a few species of warblers popped up in Eugene, and it appears that more of these Neotropical migrants are attempting to winter here than in the past.

WATERBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Goose (50+)	Nov. 8	Oakridge	CF	Not normally found in the area
Snow Goose	Nov. 8	Oakridge	CF	One was spotted with the White-fronted Geese
Brant (5)	Nov. 27	No. coast	AC	Flying south—not common at this time
Canvasback (12)	Nov. 28	Dexter Reservoir	CF	A normal wintering location
Redhead	Nov. 28	LCC ponds	E&VT	They winter in small numbers some years
Redhead	Dec. 5	Dexter Reservoir	AC	They winter in small numbers some years
Hooded Merganser (12)	Nov. 28	LCC ponds	E&VT	A large number for any one location
Red-breasted Merganser (20)	Nov. 11	Siuslaw River mouth	AC	A large number for the Lane Co. coast
Northern Fulmar	Nov. 11	Kloutchman SW	AC	Around in small numbers during the winter
American White Pelican	Dec. 5	FRR	JS	One bird found through the month
Brown Pelican (40)	Nov. 11	Heceta Head	AC	Still around
Green Heron	Nov. 25	East Regional Park	MP	Small numbers winter some years
Green Heron	Dec. 22	Delta Ponds	LM,et.al.	Small numbers winter some years

VULTURES to ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture (2)	Nov. 15	Lorane area	DG	Late migrants or wintering?
Turkey Vulture (7)	Nov. 29	Willow Creek	CQ	First winter sighting for the preserve
Osprey	Nov. 20	FRR	JS	Last report from FRR.
Osprey	Last wk Nov.	Cottage Grove dam	LK	Not a normal wintering location
Gyrfalcon	Dec. 27	Green Island	RR	Sixth record for Lane Co.
Merlin	Nov.–Dec.	Eugene/Springfield	m.ob.	About normal numbers for time of year
Prairie Falcon	Nov. 21	Eugene airport area	JS	One or two winter most years
Sora (7)	Dec. 18	Florence CBC	fide RR	A large number for the ECBC
Sandhill Crane (9)	Nov. 3	Mt. Pisgah	LM,et.al.	A late report for the area
Sandhill Crane (9)	Nov. 17	Cloverdale Rd area	LM,et.al.	Same birds as above?
Sandhill Crane (39)	Nov. 22	River Bend Hospital	JH	A large number for winter in Lane County
Snowy Plover (10)	Nov. 26	Heceta Beach	RM	Not commonly found here
Red Phalarope (3)	Nov. 6	NJSR	DP	A normal time for their migration
Parasitic Jaeger	Nov. 6	NJSR	DP	Never common from land
Heermann's Gull	Nov. 7	SJSR	DF, LC	A few still around
Heermann's Gull	Nov. 11	No. coast	AC	Small numbers flying south

Field Notes: November/December 2010, *continued*

VULTURES to ALCIDS, *continued*

Glaucous Gull	Dec. 26	Florence	DF	They are around in small numbers most winters
Ancient Murrelet (2)	Nov. 6	NJSR	DP	Not commonly found in Lane County in the last few years, but maybe things are changing after the reports this year
Ancient Murrelet	Nov. 11	Klootchman SW	AC	
Ancient Murrelet	Nov. 27	Siuslaw River mouth	AC	
Rhinoceros Auklet	Nov. 11	Siuslaw River mouth	AC	Not commonly found in the river this time of year
Rhinoceros Auklet	Nov. 11	Klootchman SW	AC	A more normal winter location

PIGEONS to SPARROWS

Band-tailed Pigeon	Dec. 18	Florence CBC	fide RR	They don't normally winter in Lane County
Barred Owl	Dec. 12	No. Eugene	CT	In someone's backyard!
Belted Kingfisher	Dec. 5	Gold Lake	LG	The lake was frozen over, but it was fishing where Salt Creek flows out of the lake.
Lewis's Woodpecker	Nov. 12	Willow Creek	TM	First report for the preserve
Acorn Woodpecker	Dec. 6	So central Eugene	NN-P	Not a normal location for the species
Black Phoebe	Nov. 3	Mt. Pisgah	LM,et.al.	First report for this area?
Northern Shrike (2)	Nov. 11	Deflation Plain	AC	A normal wintering location
Tree Swallow	Nov. 11	Siuslaw River mouth	AC	They occasionally winter
Bushtit (100+)	Nov. 10	Millrace	AM	A very large flock
White-breasted Nuthatch	Nov. 14	Delta Ponds	SG	Not commonly found away from oaks
Varied Thrush	Nov./Dec.	Eugene/Springfield	m.ob.	Large numbers reported at feeders/yards
Northern Mockingbird	Nov. 11	Aubrey Lane	SH	Found in small numbers each winter
Northern Mockingbird	Dec. 17	Florence	KL	Not commonly found at the coast
Orange-crowned Warbler	Nov. 14	Valley River BB	SG	They winter in small numbers most winters
Orange-crowned Warbler	Dec. 11	FRR	JS	They winter in small numbers most winters.
Nashville Warbler	Dec. 30	Florence	TM	Very seldom found wintering in Lane Co.
Hermit Warbler	Dec. 20	East Eugene	LM	A species that doesn't winter here, but there have been a few reports over the last few years
Hermit Warbler	Dec. 27	Cottage Grove	MP	
Palm Warbler	Nov. 7	SJSR	DF, LC	Found in very small numbers some winters, so finding three is way above average for Lane County
Palm Warbler	Dec. 17	Florence	RH	
Palm Warbler	Dec. 18	Tiernan boat ramp	A&DH	
American Redstart	Nov. 6	No. Eugene	BG	Fourth record for Lane County
Swamp Sparrow (2)	Dec. 18	Tiernan boat ramp	A&DH	An area where they haven't been found before
White-throated Sparrow (6)	Dec. 28	River Road area	BC	A large number for anyone's backyard feeder!

Abbreviations

BB: Bike Bridge, FRR: Fern Ridge Reservoir, NJSR: North Jetty of the Siuslaw River, SJSR: South Jetty of the Siuslaw, SW: State Wayside

Thank you, contributors!

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Jabirus, Jaguars, and Plush-capped Jays: The Pantanal Wetlands and Iguazu Falls

by Bob Fleming

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For many, the term “wetlands” conjures up a vision of shallow water mostly covered in sedges, reeds, and water lilies. The Pantanal Wetlands certainly has these areas, but the landscape, covering an area somewhat smaller than Oregon, is a wonderful mosaic ranging from permanently flooded lowlands to higher humps that host grasses, bushes, and trees. Gallery forests crowding raised banks of water channels dissect this mosaic, and this variety provides a perfect habitat for many species including millions of Yacaré Caimans, a crocodilian that feeds primarily on fish. Jaguars also relish scavenged fish, but these cats mostly hunt caimans, deer, peccaries, and Capybaras—the world’s largest rodent which can reach 120 pounds. Many birds also depend on fish, including the Jabiru, one of the world’s tallest storks. Humans, too, catch fish, with the many-toothed Serrasalmus Piranha considered one of the best tasting.

The Pantanal is located in western Brazil just south of the Amazon Basin. Over 90% of the land is privately owned, often by large-scale cattle ranchers. Considering the amount of human activity, it is surprising that the region continues to host a bountiful number of birds and other wild creatures. Extensive seasonal flooding limits cattle density and draining the water for agriculture is too expensive, so conservation here might be termed “accidental.” However, Brazil is now moving into a planned conservation era, and in some areas, the value of wild lands is becoming apparent to its people. In the Pantanal, for example, ranchers such as Luis Vincente Campos, feel that the revenue from visitors, often birders, who come to enjoy the region’s diversity, offsets losing a few cattle to jaguars.

Iguazu Falls, shared between Brazil and Argentina, is a collection of impressive cataracts and lies to the southwest of the Pantanal. Here the Iguazu River spreads out over a basalt pan and then plunges in discrete channels over a lip that is some a 2.7 km (1.7 mi) wide. Due to local humidity, the

terrain surrounding the falls is covered in Atlantic temperate rainforest vegetation, which hosts special birds, butterflies and the inquisitive South American Coati.

Three Lane County Audubon members journeyed to this extraordinary part of the planet last June. Join naturalist Bob Fleming on February 22 as he takes us on a journey to Brazil’s Pantanal Wetlands and Iguazu Falls.

Program Meeting

***Jabirus, Jaguars, and Plush-capped Jays:
The Pantanal Wetlands and Iguazu Falls***
by Bob Fleming



Tuesday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street, Eugene

Upcoming Program Meetings

March: Bend Area Bird Projects and Vaux Swift Migration
by Nicole Nielson-Pincus

April: Kit Larsen

May: “The Colorful World of Birds” by Dan Gleason



Bird Walks and Events

Leila Snow

541.968.5533

leilas@ori.org

Monthly Bird Walk: Our monthly bird walks are usually held on the third Saturday of the month, but we often have additional walks or special trips. With knowledgeable leaders and many pairs of eyes to help spot birds, our trips are a great way to increase your birding skills

Third Saturday Bird Walk—Wintering raptors

**Saturday,
February 19**

Join Leila Snow to look for wintering raptors in the Fern Ridge and Eugene Airport areas. Watch for Northern Harriers gliding above the wetlands and American Kestrels perched on treetops and telephone wires. There is also the possibility of spotting the elegant White-tailed Kite, a Red-shouldered Hawk, or numerous other raptor species.

All levels of birders are welcome, from first timer to expert. We will meet at South Eugene High at 19th and Patterson, rain or shine, at 8:00 a.m. and return by 12 noon. A \$3 donation is suggested, as well as a share of gas costs for carpooling. Please note: As a precaution, do not leave valuables in your parked car.

Questions? Contact Leila at leilas@ori.org or 541.968.5533.

February Program Meeting

***Jabirus, Jaguars, and
Plush-capped Jays:
The Pantanal Wetlands
and Iguacu Falls***

by Bob Fleming



Tuesday, February 22

7:30 p.m.

**Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street,
Eugene**



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER

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