



# The Quail

April 2012

News from Lane County Audubon Society

## From Our President



## Unexpected Hazards

Maeve Sowles

541.343.8664

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Audubon Phone – 541.485.BIRD

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As April and warmer weather rolls in, many of us will be spending more time outside. The birds and other animals will be gearing up activity with the goal of finding nesting sites and good habitat for breeding. Springtime animal activities range from the wild abandon of hormonally induced reproductive behaviors to the trial and error experimentation of finding nesting sites and safe places to protect, feed, and rear their young. Both curious adults and naïve young animal adventurers can find themselves in untenable locations, either becoming victim to predators or to human-made traps with no chance of survival. This is the annual cycle, but at times human impacts cause unintended mortality. As part of the human equation, we need to be aware of how we can inadvertently cause harm and then find ways to prevent these situations.

A publication was released late last year called “Bird Death Pipes” with examples of hollow pipes outside that create an attraction for curious wildlife to explore, enter, but then become trapped and die. One standing pipe (6 inches wide by 10 feet tall) was found to have over 200 dead birds! An educational article was produced by Audubon California’s Kern River Preserve and Southern Sierra Research Station; you can see the article on our web page at: <http://laneaudubon.org> under the “Library” section. It includes good suggestions on how to evaluate pipes, remove them, or cap them so they do not create a trap for wildlife.

Once I became aware of this potential situation, I immediately walked our property to be sure we did not have any such pipes making a trap for birds, lizards or mammals. I know most of you will want to check your outdoor spaces for this same hazard, and we can all spread the word about this to prevent such unnecessary tragedies. Thanks to each of you who can act on this information, share the above article, and help educate others about ways to avoid bird casualties.

We want to welcome the migrating birds back in the spring, hear them singing, see them nesting, and have them successfully raise their young in our natural areas!



### Conservation Reserve Program Continues

Debbie Schlenoff

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**A**lthough I am perfectly capable of eating my vegetables while reading the newspaper, I'm generally skeptical when people brag to me of their ability to multi-task. However, when it comes to agricultural lands, multi-tasking is something we should encourage. It was with great relief that I read the early March announcement by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture that the 2012 Farm Bill would continue to support the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Although we rely on agricultural land to supply our food, it is well suited to also provide ecosystem services and habitat for wildlife. The CRP takes highly erodible and sensitive lands out of crop production and promotes the planting and management of vegetation important for habitat. Current plans are to expand the eight million acre program by one million acres. The breakdown would commit 100,000 acres to pollinator support; 200,000 acres to wetland restoration; 300,000 acres to duck nesting habitat and upland birds; and 400,000 acres to SAFE, a program that benefits high-priority species including those that are threatened or endangered. To encourage farmers to sign up, the Signing Incentive Payments would increase to \$150 per acre from the current \$100 per acre. The increase is vital to offset the temptation of higher crop prices for corn and soybeans. The USDA will also make the enrollment process easier in order to encourage further participation.

Analyses have shown that the investment in farm conservation programs is easily paid back in ecosystem services. Among the multiple beneficial tasks accomplished by the program:

- Reduction in soil erosion
- Reduction in water runoff and sedimentation
- Superior water filtering and improved water quality including a decrease in nutrient/fertilizer pollution in our waterways
- Cleaner air and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere
- Reduction in fuel, pesticide, and fertilizer use
- Flood control (especially flash flooding)

- Restoration of over two million acres of wetlands and two million acres of riparian buffers
- Critical habitat for insect and bird pollinators as well as fish and other wildlife
- Increased populations and nest success of pheasants, quail, ducks, sage grouse, the lesser prairie chicken, grassland songbird species, and others
- Dollars that make their way into the local economy directly through payment to farmers and indirectly through an increase in recreational opportunities including birding



Dave Stone

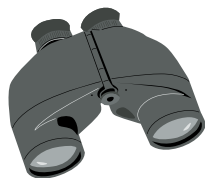
#### Waldo Lake Update *By Dave Stone*

Last month you read here about the attempt to reverse the ban on gasoline-powered motorboats on Waldo Lake. A small group of motorboat users and seaplane operators are threatening a lawsuit over the ban. The Oregon State Marine Board has scheduled a hearing on the issue at 6 p.m. on April 10 at the Willamalane Center, 250 S 32nd Street, in Springfield. They are also taking written comments between March 1 and April 10.

We worked for ten years to preserve the quiet experience and the purity of Waldo Lake. Please weigh in on this issue either in writing or by speaking at the hearing.

*(continued on page 8)*

## Field Notes: February 2012



- Swallows
- Sandhill Crane
- Wrentit
- Northern Mockingbird

Tom and Allison Mickel

541.485.7112

tamickel@rioussa.com

February's weather was a little more normal, except for the snow on February 29. It's not uncommon to get snow in February, but it always seems late. A few of the early migrants (swallows and cranes) have started to show up, but Rufous Hummingbird is still missing, later than normal again this year. Also, the resident birds are starting to tune-up for the upcoming breeding season, so this is a good time to learn or refresh your memory of their songs.

**Abbreviations:** Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

### WATERBIRDS

Red-throated Loon	Feb 5	N. Delta Highway	RR	Not commonly found inland.
American Bittern	Feb 25	FRR – Royal Ave	BB	Not often found during the winter.

### OSPREY to PLOVERS

Osprey	Feb 23	UO millrace	MS	A wintering bird?
Turkey Vulture	Feb 4	Sutton/Baker Beach	KC,DL	First report on the coast for the "spring".
Bald Eagle (pair)	Feb 5	Skinner Butte	AP	Will they be nesting again this year?
Bald Eagle (pair)	Feb 11	Springfield @ IP Mill	CT	Another breeding pair in the area?
Sandhill Crane (50)	Feb 23	Bloomberg Park	AP	A few days later than normal.
Snowy Plover (6)	Feb 4	Sutton Beach	KC,DL	Northernmost wintering location.
Snowy Plover (large flock)	Feb 5	Siltcoos River mouth	KC,DL	Always a good wintering location.

### SWALLOWS to SPARROWS

Tree Swallow	Feb 15	FRR – Royal Ave	LM, et al.	A little over a week later than normal.
Violet-green Swallow	Feb 15	FRR – Royal Ave	LM, et al.	About two weeks earlier than normal.
Barn Swallow (5)	Feb 19	FRR – Royal Ave	E&VT	Another rare winter sighting.
Wrentit (2)	Feb 29	Delta Ponds	DA, et al.	Not a normal location for this species.
Townsend's Solitaire	early Jan	N. River Road	MD	Occasionally found in the valley during the winter.
Northern Mockingbird	Feb	Alvadore	DB	Still being seen.
Hermit Warbler (2)	Feb	SW Eugene & Springfield		They were reported at the LCAS meeting. A rare wintering species, but a few have been reported the last few winters.
American Tree Sparrow	Feb 18	N. River Road	BL	Almost annual, but rarely found at feeders.

DA Dennis Arendt, DB Dave Brown, BB Ben Burnette, KC Kathy Castelein, MD Margie DeMoss, DL Dave Lauten, BL Bonnie Leathers, LM Larry McQueen, AP Al Prigge, RR Roger Robb, MS Maeve Sowles, E&VT Eddie & Vjera Thompson, CT Colette Trotter.

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## LCAS Welcomes New Quail Editor

**L**ane County Audubon welcomes Cheron Ferland as editor of the *Quail*. Cheron has been active with Lane County Audubon since moving to Oakridge four years ago. She has led bird walks and participated in Christmas Bird Counts in the Oakridge area.

Currently a wildlife biologist on the Willamette National Forest in Oakridge, Cheron has worked nearly 20 years for the U.S. Forest Service in South Carolina, Virginia, Colorado, and Oregon. She earned a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and master's degree in wildlife science from Oregon State University.

Her birding experience ranges from researching northern goshawks in Colorado to training non-releasable raptors to the glove. Some of her other interests include exploring, running, hiking, reading, and making art with glass.

You can submit items for the *Quail* by e-mailing them to Cheron at [cheron.ferland@mac.com](mailto:cheron.ferland@mac.com). We greatly appreciate Cheron's volunteer spirit and help in editing our membership newsletter.



Nick Hatch

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## Volunteer with Lane Audubon!

**L**ane County Audubon Society is an all-volunteer organization, and our members are very proud of the energy and diversity of talents volunteers bring—we couldn't do it without them! Volunteering with Lane Audubon is a great way to meet new people, give back to the community, and best of all, have fun! Currently, we are looking for volunteers to fill the following roles, but please feel welcome to contact us if you'd like to help in another capacity.

**Bird Walk Coordinator:** Lane Audubon is looking for a volunteer to plan the monthly third Saturday Bird Walks. This is a fun opportunity to meet and learn from birding experts; best of all, you get to pick the location and be out birding! Lane Audubon has all the dates set, a network of willing field trip leaders, and a list of past birding locations to choose from. Your responsibility would include deciding on a location, contacting field trip leaders, e-mailing the field trip publicity, and meeting the birding group on the day of the walk to get things started. Contact Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org).

### Distribute and Deliver *The Quail* in the Community:

Help us get *The Quail* mailed to our members by delivering them to the post office. We also need them distributed 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](mailto:christyandron@qwest.net) to find out more.



**Publicity Volunteer:** Help us get public notices to various media services and spread the word about upcoming Program Meetings, bird walks, and other activities. We also need to make sure we are ahead of publication deadlines. Other goals include developing new contacts with media and keeping contacts and deadlines organized. Contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org).



7TH ANNUAL FERN RIDGE  
**WINGS &  
WINE  
FESTIVAL**  
MAY 12, 2012

*Celebrating International Migratory Bird Day*

**Domaine Meriwether Winery  
and Perkins Peninsula Park,  
Fern Ridge Lake, Veneta, Oregon**

Nature Walks & Birding Stations, Sailing, Kayak, & Canoe Tours  
Children's Activities, Live Music, Wine Tasting with Artisan Wineries

The City of Veneta, Domaine Meriwether, Lane County Audubon Society, Travel Lane County, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lane County Parks  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, South Willamette Wineries Association, and City of Eugene Outdoor Program

**WingsandWineFestival.com**

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**Sanipac**  
Doing good is our community.

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## Lane County Audubon Society Board Election Notice

Lane County Audubon Society Board elections will be held at the May 22 Program Meeting. The following candidates are running for re-election: Jim Maloney, Ron Renschler, Debra Schlenoff, Maeve Sowles, and Herb Wisner.



### Deadlines:

May-June issue: April 7

July-August issue: June 2

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](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com).

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## Bike Path Clean-up April 14

The 2012 Spring Bike Path Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2012. We will meet at the end of Terry Street just north of W. 11th Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to keep Lane Audubon's portion of the West Eugene/Fern Ridge Bike Path free of litter. Bring walking shoes, a water bottle, and binoculars. The City of Eugene provides litter pickers, trash bags, gloves, and a sharps box. Bike Friday/Green Gear Cycling provides a dumpster for us to dispose of the collected waste. Please join us for a rewarding morning as we help clean the bike and pedestrian paths.

Contact Sandy and Hugh Larkin ([hdlarking2@clearwire.net](mailto:hdlarking2@clearwire.net)) for information. See you in April for the Spring Clean-up!

### Lane Audubon Officers & Board Members

President	Maeve Sowles	541.343.8664	<a href="mailto:president@laneaudubon.org">president@laneaudubon.org</a>
Treasurer	Ron Renschler	541.345.0834	<a href="mailto:christyandron@qwest.net">christyandron@qwest.net</a>
Members	Debbie Schlenoff	541.685.0610	<a href="mailto:dschlenoff@msn.com">dschlenoff@msn.com</a>
	Herb Wisner	541.344.3634	<a href="mailto:hrwisner@comcast.net">hrwisner@comcast.net</a>
	Kris Kirkeby	541.349.2439	<a href="mailto:k2kirk@comcast.net">k2kirk@comcast.net</a>
	Jim Maloney	541.968.9249	<a href="mailto:jimgmal@comcast.net">jimgmal@comcast.net</a>

### Lane Audubon Committee Chairs

Audubon Phone	Dick Lamster	541.485.BIRD	
Audubon Adventures	Joyce Trawle	541.515.6244	<a href="mailto:jtrawle@comcast.net">jtrawle@comcast.net</a>
Audubon in the Schools (AITS)	Kris Kirkeby	541.349.2439	<a href="mailto:k2kirk@comcast.net">k2kirk@comcast.net</a>
AITS Scheduling	Bonnie Lindberg		<a href="mailto:aitslc@gmail.com">aitslc@gmail.com</a>
Booth	Ron Renschler	541.345.0834	<a href="mailto:christyandron@qwest.net">christyandron@qwest.net</a>
Conservation	Debbie Schlenoff	541.685.0610	<a href="mailto:dschlenoff@msn.com">dschlenoff@msn.com</a>
Education	Kris Kirkeby	541.349.2439	<a href="mailto:k2kirk@comcast.net">k2kirk@comcast.net</a>
Field Notes	Allison & Tom Mickel	541.485.7112	<a href="mailto:tamickel@rioua.com">tamickel@rioua.com</a>
Field Trips	Volunteer Opportunity		
FRESH	Art Farley	541.683.1186	<a href="mailto:art@cs.uoregon.edu">art@cs.uoregon.edu</a>
Membership Data	Tim Godsil	541.915.8852	<a href="mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com">tgodsil@gmail.com</a>
Programs	Herb Wisner	541.344.3634	<a href="mailto:hrwisner@comcast.net">hrwisner@comcast.net</a>
Quail Editor	Cheron Ferland	541.654.1122	<a href="mailto:cheron.ferland@mac.com">cheron.ferland@mac.com</a>
Quail Design & Layout	Volunteer Opportunity		
Recording Secretary	Kathy Wilson		<a href="mailto:kfred1953@yahoo.com">kfred1953@yahoo.com</a>
Webmaster	Hugh Larkin	541.359.6473	<a href="mailto:hdlarking2@clearwire.net">hdlarking2@clearwire.net</a>

## A message from Lane Audubon Board of Directors

Maeve Sowles, President

541.343.8664

president@laneaudubon.org



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 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 our web site:  
[www.laneaudubon.org](http://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 County Audubon Society 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 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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  
P.O. Box 5086  
Eugene, OR 97405



## Community Calendar, Events and Opportunities

### Nearby Nature – No School Day Kids' Program

Fortis in the Forest

April 13, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Friday)

Registration, Fees. Alton Baker Park.

FMI: [www.nearbynature.org](http://www.nearbynature.org)

### WREN (Willamette Resources and Education Network) – Family Exploration Day

Golden Gardens Ponds.

April 14, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Saturday)

Free. FMI: [info@wewetlands.org](mailto:info@wewetlands.org)

### Native Plant Society of Oregon – Emerald Chapter Meeting

Icons of the Pacific Northwest Natural Environment, Tim Giraudier, nature photographer

April 16, 7:30 p.m. (Monday)

Free. EWEB Training Room, 500 E. 4th Ave., Eugene.

FMI: 541-345-5531

### Eugene Natural History Society – Chapter Meeting

How do we think about nature and our environment in the Willamette Valley today? Tina Schweickert, Oregon Heritage Fellow and environmental scientist

April 20, 7:30 p.m. (Friday)

Free. Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO Campus.

FMI: <http://biology.uoregon.edu/enhs/>

### Celebrate the Ridgeline – Second Annual Ridgeline Trail Day

Celebrate our local habitat

May 5, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m (Saturday)

Free. Ridgeline Trail, Eugene. FMI: [http://web.me.com/artfarley47/RidgelineFriends/Ridgeline\\_Day\\_2012.html](http://web.me.com/artfarley47/RidgelineFriends/Ridgeline_Day_2012.html)

### Museum of Cultural and Natural History Exhibit

Scientific illustrations by Becky Uhler

Runs through June 24

Admission. Museum of Cultural and Natural History, UO campus. FMI and hours: <http://natural-history.uoregon.edu/>

### Mt. Pisgah Nature Guides Wanted

Guides lead hikes for small groups of K-5 students

April 3, orientation. April 23-June 13, hikes

Training provided. FMI: 541-747-1504

## Welcome Back Vaux's Swifts at Agate Hall



Lane County Audubon Society (LCAS) is holding its annual spring swift event outside Agate Hall on the University

of Oregon campus on Friday, April 13, and Friday, April 27, at sunset.

The Vaux's Swifts use the chimney to roost for the night as they gather during spring migration. This is a wonderful chance to observe and learn about the birds returning from Central and South America for the breeding season.

This is our smallest swift in North America, named for William S. Vaux, a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, who first described the species. The name is pronounced "vawks," not "voh."

Lane County Audubon Society 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.

### Conservation Reserve Program Continues (continued from page 2)

#### To Do:

- Attend the hearing
- Submit comments via e-mail to [osmb.rulemaking@state.or.us](mailto:osmb.rulemaking@state.or.us), or send to P.O. Box 1414 or 5435 Commercial St. NE, No. 400, Salem, OR 97309-5065;
- Write a letter to the Register Guard by e-mail: [rgletters@registerguard.com](mailto:rgletters@registerguard.com); they have a 250 word maximum and require a home address and phone number (neither of which they publish) to confirm your letter.

For more information, go to <http://oregon.sierraclub.org/groups/juniper/waldo/keepwaldowild>.

## The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Oregon

Herb Wisner

541.344.3634

hrwisner@comcast.net

**Y**ou see them in yards, gardens, and on your butterfly walks – the dragonflies and damselflies. Discover insects in Oregon whose ancestors were here before the dinosaurs, live for 5 years, can fly 35 mph, and truly eat “on the fly.” At our next program meeting, learn about the life history, habitats, and behavior of these fascinating insects along with a photographic introduction to the Oregon species.

Cary Kerst is an aquatic entomologist retired from a career in environmental sciences, most recently working for the City of Eugene. He has conducted professional aquatic insect studies on local rivers and streams and authored scientific articles on Caddisflies, Dragonflies, Damselflies, and Stoneflies.

After retiring from thirty years as a planner for the Lane Council of Governments, longtime birder Steve Gordon became interested in Odonates. He was a contributing author to *Birds of Oregon: Status and Distribution* and *Birds of Lane County, Oregon*.

Cary and Steve began studying the local dragonflies and damselflies in 1999 and coauthored *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Willamette Valley, Oregon* in 2005 and *The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Oregon* in 2011. They have greatly enjoyed traveling around scenic Oregon studying Odonates in preparation of this guide. They enjoy teaching classes and leading field trips for environmental organizations, and they encourage all to recapture the wonder of the natural world.

Please join us for a presentation by Cary and Steve on Tuesday, April 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, Eugene.

### April Program Meeting

### The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Oregon

by Cary Kerst & Steve Gordon



Cary Kerst

**Tuesday,  
April 24, 7:30 p.m.**

**Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High St., Eugene**

### Upcoming Program Meetings

*May 22: Arch McCallum, Topic TBA*

### When Women Were Birds



Author Terry Tempest Williams will speak on her latest book —*When Women Were Birds*— at the University of Oregon, Columbia Room 150, on June 19, at 7:30 p.m. This event is cosponsored by Lane County Audubon Society, Eugene Natural History Society, Museum of Natural and Cultural History, UO Environmental Studies, and the UO Bookstore. Terry Tempest Williams is an American

author, conservationist, and activist. Her writing is rooted in the American West and ranges from issues of ecology and wilderness preservation to women’s health to exploring our relationship to culture and nature. Williams is the author of *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*; *An Unspoken Hunger: Stories from the Field*; *Desert Quartet*; and *The Open Space of Democracy*.

## Bird Walks and Events



Maeve Sowles

541.343.8664

[president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org)

### Bird Walk Coordinator needed

Lane Audubon is looking for a volunteer to plan the monthly third Saturday Bird Walks. See page 4 for more information.

**FRIDAY**  
**April 13 and 27**

### WELCOME BACK VAUX SWIFTS AT AGATE HALL

See page 8 for more information.

**SATURDAY**  
**April 21**

### THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK Location and Leader to Be Announced

Check the LCAS website at <http://www.laneaudubon.org/birdwalk.htm> to learn more about the leader, location, and start time. We will meet at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson) for carpooling. A \$3 donation is suggested. Please remember not to leave valuables in your car as a precaution.

**SATURDAY**  
**May 19**

### THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK

Jim Regali will lead us on a trip to Buford Park. Look for more information in the May-June *Quail*.

April Program Meeting

### The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Oregon

by Cary Kerst & Steve Gordon



**Tuesday,**  
**April 24, 7:30 p.m.**  
Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High St., Eugene

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER




*The*  
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