



The Quail

February 2012

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Good winter reading

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I asked several Audubon friends recently about books they would recommend. Happily, I got several responses to share with you. Some of the books are long-time favorites. Some are classics of environmental literature. Some are new publications, and one is a children’s book. Whether you read a new book off the bookstore shelf, the worn copy from a used bookstore, or use your Kindle or iPad to get your reading material in front of you, I hope you enjoy one or more of the suggestions below. It was fun to hear what people are reading, and in some cases re-reading, because books can be *that good!* Enjoy!



Barbara Butzer
One Day on Beetle Rock by Sally Carrighar. In Central California, seven different species inhabit the same rocky outcropping and meadow during the same short period. The same events unfold as seen through their disparate viewpoints.

Voyage of a Summer Sun by Robin Cody. A local author relates his journey in a canoe from the headwaters of the mighty Columbia in Canada to its confluence with the Pacific Ocean.

America’s Famous and Historic Trees by Jeffrey Meyer. Because I love majestic trees – they inspire humility in the same way the ocean does.

For women: **A Gift From the Sea** by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Finding one’s place in the busy world.

For men: **Out There: In the Wild in a Wired Age** by Ted Kerasote. Two men find a spiritual connection with nature as they float the Horton River in Canada’s Northwest Territory.

Kris Kirkeby
Strand by Bonnie Henderson. Although it is not new, this book by a local author is very good.

Feathers by Thor Hanson. This book gets great reviews, including one in *Audubon Magazine*. Feathers are an evolutionary marvel: aerodynamic,

(continued on page 2)

Good winter reading (continued from page 1)

insulating, beguiling. This book is a captivating and beautiful exploration of a most enchanting object.

Solitude by Kathleen Dean Moore. All of this author's books are great. *Solitude* is her most recent.

About Birds: A Guide for Children by Cathryn Sill and John Sill. For ages 4-6, this is mostly a picture book, but it's a good introduction for the very young.

Steve Gordon

North with the Spring by Edwin Way Teale. This is one of my all-time favorite nature books that I read again just before spring when I itch for migration to begin and the first swallow to arrive. It tells of a 17,000 mile trip taken by Teale and his wife from the tip of Florida northward during the spring season into southern Canada on the first day of summer. Teale followed this book up with a series chronicling each of the other seasons (*Journey Into Summer*, *Wandering Through Winter*, and *Autumn Across America*). All great reading.

Thunder Tree by Robert Michael Pyle. The author follows a stream from the Colorado mountains down into the prairie near his boyhood home near Denver. He tells of the importance of natural places to children and the value of small urban patches where we can still encounter nature and experience its healing values.

Ron Renschler

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson. My daughter recently sparked my interest in reading this book for the first time when she chose Rachel Carson for a school report on someone who displayed courage. The book lifts our spirits by reminding us that a single person can make a profound difference in combating the wanton destruction of the environment and the wildlife inhabiting it, but it also is dispiriting to realize that we still accept environmental destruction today from many of the same pollutants (as well as many new ones) that Rachel Carson wrote about fifty years ago.

Charlotte Bontrager

The Hearts of Horses by Molly Gloss. This is a great book, an easy read, and is set in the Pacific Northwest. It gives a good picture of the home front during World War I.

Emily Alone by Stewart O'Nan. This is perhaps the best character study I have ever read. It is about a recently widowed woman and how she gets on with her life. At the end you realize how much you know about—and how deeply you care about—this woman.

Jim Maloney

I am currently reading several books at a time, the usual way I do it. I don't finish them quickly, but I always find interesting cross currents among them.

Gathering Moss by Robin Wall Kimmerer. A natural and cultural history of mosses.

Faith of Cranes: Finding Hope and Family in Alaska by Hank Lentfer.

Animate Earth: Science, Intuition, and Gaia by Stephan Harding. Gaia theory proposes a solution toward healing a dying planet in a culture otherwise poised to fall into total ecological collapse. *Animate Earth* will inspire in readers a profound sense of the interconnectedness of life and help them discover what it means to live harmoniously as part of a sentient creature of planetary proportions.

Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology by David Abram. This is a startling exploration of our human entanglement with the rest of nature, drawing readers ever deeper into their animal senses in order to explore, from within, the elemental kinship between the body and the breathing Earth.

Lichens by William Purvis. This is a marvelous introduction to lichens. It includes a chapter on practical projects such as collecting, monitoring, and photographing lichens, which motivated me to order a magnifying glass.

Dave Bontrager

The Immense Journey by Loren Eiseley. All other titles by Eiseley are great reading.

A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold

The Voyage of the Beagle by Charles Darwin

Bernd Heinrich. Any and all titles by the renowned naturalist.

Maeve Sowles

Soul of Nowhere and **The Secret Knowledge of Water** by Craig Childs.

Barry Lopez. I buy this local author's books every time I find he has a new one on the shelf.

When Women Were Birds by Terry Tempest Williams. This title is scheduled to be released this spring. In the meantime, any of this author's works makes for good reading. Lane County Audubon Society and the Eugene Natural History Society plan to cosponsor a Eugene visit and presentation by Terry Tempest Williams in mid-June. Watch for more details!

The Fabulous Audubon in the Schools Volunteers

Kris Kirkeby

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Our Audubon in the Schools program is still going strong. We taught just over 1,300 kids last year, bringing the program's total outreach to around 8,200 students. We hope we have helped hatch large flock of future "bird people."

Over the years I have been very fortunate to work with a wonderful crew of caring, bright, and thoughtful volunteers. We hear only very positive remarks in our teacher evaluations about our "enthused" crew! And for the third year, Bonnie Lindberg is working with me as the AITS scheduling assistant, which is such a great help. In tribute to their hard work, please enjoy these photos of our most recent workers!

Based on our teacher evaluations and their requests for lessons they could use, I wrote two new curriculum units over the summer. Our skeleton lesson—drawing bird bones—wasn't always as exciting as it could have been. So thanks to the donation of X-rays from the Cascades Raptor Center, we now have a new lesson called "Bird Flight and Skeletal Function." Since flight remains the most wondrous characteristic of

birds, this lesson teaches students about aerodynamics, the bone structure in wings, and how bird anatomy contributes to flight. Working with photos of raptors in flight, they learn a basic drawing technique that enables them to make accurate drawings using simple graphite pencils. Next, using bird X-rays as a reference, they draw in the bones of the wing.

Teachers also requested a unit to help young people learn how to look at birds. Our new lesson is entitled "Go Birding! Learning How to Identify Birds." In this lesson, students start with a game called "Go Birding!," which is designed to help them visually observe and verbally describe bird field marks, given that the plumage differences are what we most often use to identify birds. Students also learn about bird habitats and niches within the ecosystem. Using bird photographs on the game cards, students learn to make an accurate graphite pencil drawings of birds common to our area.

So we are off to a fresh new year with the happy, awed faces of young students as they get to learn about and see birds in their classrooms. These wonderful volunteers make it all possible!



Anne Bonine



Bonnie Henderson



Bonnie Lindberg



Debra Eichner



Jenny Mullins



Kathy Wilson



Paul Haley



Barclay Brown

2011 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

Dick Lamster, Count Coordinator

Fog and cold weather met the 140 bird watchers on Sunday, January 1, 2012, as they began looking for birds on the 2011 Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC). This was the 70th ECBC and 112th National Audubon Society (NAS) Christmas Bird Count. Twenty-six teams, each led by an experienced birder, searched for birds from dawn to dusk in their assigned area within the traditional 15-mile diameter circle. Eight teams searched for owls before sun up, and a couple of teams even did some owling after the sun went down. The article below by Dan Gleason presents the results of these efforts. The 26 teams looked for birds for a combined total of 235 hours, walked 117 miles, and drove 491 miles. The weather did warm up by late morning and the sun even came out for a little while in the afternoon, so the birding just got better and better.

As the birdwatchers in the field were getting cold and trying to identify birds in the fog, 99 feeder watchers were counting birds in their backyards. Herb Wisner coordinated all these feeder watchers, sent them a checklist to help them keep track of the birds they were seeing, and then collected the results and sent the totals to Dan Gleason. Dan combined those totals with the results of the 26 teams in the field and submitted it to NAS. The results of our count and more than 2,200 other Christmas Bird Counts can be viewed at www.christmasbirdcount.org. Our count code is OREU.

At the end of the day, 88 birders who participated in the count gathered at the Eugene Garden Club for the traditional chili

feed sponsored by Lane County Audubon Society. They were treated to delicious homemade vegetarian chili prepared by Allison Mickel. Sandy Poinsett and Kathy Wilson assisted Allison and organized the room, set up tables and chairs, served the chili, and then cleaned up afterward. The 26 team leaders were recognized for their efforts, and the traditional “countdown” of the birds seen during the day was the final activity in a long but fun day.

I want to thank the team leaders who organized their teams and led them through their areas during the day. Several of these people have been team leaders for over 20 years. I also want to thank the other members of the Organizing Committee for their hard work: Barbara Gleason, who matched people who called and wanted to be on a team with a team that needed more members; Dan Gleason, who prepared the bird checklist, compiled all the lists of birds seen by the teams and feeder watchers, verified the unusual and rare bird sightings, and then submitted the totals to NAS; and Herb Wisner, who coordinated the feeder watchers.

Be sure to put Sunday, December 30, 2012, on your calendar for the 2012 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 112-year record of all the Christmas Bird Counts around the continent and are used by scientists for research on bird life. Thanks again to all of you who participated and helped to make the 2011 ECBC one of the best in the world!



Black Phoebe by Cary Kerst

Eugene Christmas Bird Count Summary

Dan Gleason

On count day we were fortunate to have no rain, but the weather remained cool and foggy much of the day. Several observers remarked about low numbers of birds, but when totals came in, many species had higher than average numbers.

Field participants recorded a total of 132 species on count day plus 2 additional species—Cinnamon Teal and Western Tanager, a very good find for this time of year—that were missed on count day but sighted during count week. Low numbers were mostly reported for species where fog made it difficult or impossible to see birds overhead or at a distance. Canada

Goose, gulls, American Pipits, and Red-winged Blackbirds are examples of such species that were probably present in greater numbers than could be observed. However, 44 species were in significantly higher numbers than average and of those, 14 were in record high numbers and 5 tied the previous record high. All in all, these are very good numbers, especially considering the weather many of us dealt with all day.

A Red-naped Sapsucker found and photographed by Thomas Meinzen and the group he was with was a new species for the Eugene count and a very good find for the Willamette Valley. The Western Tanager is also a bird far out of winter range and not to be expected. A few other unusual species found were: Golden Eagle (also seen on one previous count), Say's Phoebe (4 previous times), Tree Swallow (on 11 previous counts and becoming more regular), Northern Mockingbird (12 previous counts), Common Yellowthroat (8 previous counts), and Chipping Sparrow (11 previous counts).

Species in record high numbers were: Bufflehead (145), American White Pelican (5), White-tailed Kite (31), Red-shouldered Hawk (36), Golden Eagle (1, ties previous high), Prairie Falcon (1, ties previous high), Virginia Rail (12), Eurasian Collared-Dove (133), Barred Owl (2), Anna's Hummingbird (167), Red-naped Sapsucker (1, first appearance), Black Phoebe (22, more than double last year's high of 10), Bushtit (1,342), Wrentit (21, ties previous high), Western Bluebird (207), Northern Mockingbird (2, ties previous high), Orange-crowned Warbler (9), Common Yellowthroat (1, ties previous high), and American Goldfinch (343).

It is interesting to note the increase of some species in our area as they expand their range northward. This would include White-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Black Phoebe. Additionally, there are more sightings of species not usually present in winter. No one saw an Osprey, although a few observations are usually expected in recent years during the winter in western Oregon. Swallows are becoming more regular and Orange-crowned Warblers have come to be expected in small numbers during the winter. It will be interesting to see where this trend leads in the future.

The fog was problematic for some, but overall this was a very good Christmas Bird Count. My thanks to all who made it possible.

Eugene Christmas Bird Count Results

January 1, 2012

132 species, plus 2 on count week

66,760 individuals

L = Low numbers, H = High numbers, RH = Record high
TRH = Ties record high, CW = count week

1	Snow Goose	1	Prairie Falcon (TRH)
16,417	Cackling Goose	12	Virginia Rail (RH)
3,438	Canada Goose (L)	516	American Coot
520	Tundra Swan	202	Killdeer (L)
109	Wood Duck	6	Spotted Sandpiper
193	Gadwall	66	Greater Yellowlegs (H)
4	Eurasian Wigeon	50	Least Sandpiper
496	American Wigeon	5,950	Dunlin
1,289	Mallard	34	Long-billed Dowitcher
	Cinnamon Teal (CW)	78	Wilson's Snipe
283	Northern Shoveler	13	Mew Gull (L)
1,469	Northern Pintail	63	Ring-billed Gull (L)
1,327	Green-winged Teal	4	Western Gull
1	Canvasback (L)	15	California Gull (L)
1	Redhead	8	Herring Gull (L)
127	Ring-necked Duck	55	Thayer's Gull
74	Lesser Scaup (L)	181	Glaucous-winged Gull
145	Bufflehead (RH)	429	Rock Pigeon
3	Common Goldeneye	133	Eurasian Collared-Dove (RH)
49	Hooded Merganser (H)	502	Mourning Dove (H)
57	Common Merganser	2	Barn Owl
122	Ruddy Duck (H)	11	Western Screech-Owl
74	California Quail	18	Great Horned Owl
23	Ring-necked Pheasant	1	Northern Pygmy-Owl
171	Wild Turkey	2	Barred Owl (RH)
110	Pied-billed Grebe (H)	5	Short-eared Owl
1	Horned Grebe	4	Northern Saw-whet Owl
9	Western Grebe (L)	167	Anna's Hummingbird (RH)
253	Double-crested Cormorant	41	Belted Kingfisher (H)
5	American White Pelican (RH)	31	Acorn Woodpecker
783	Great Blue Heron	1	Red-naped Sapsucker (RH)
62	Great Egret	16	Red-breasted Sapsucker
9	Turkey Vulture	96	Downy Woodpecker (H)
31	White-tailed Kite (RH)	16	Hairy Woodpecker (H)
33	Bald Eagle	459	Northern Flicker (H)
87	Northern Harrier (H)	10	Pileated Woodpecker
8	Sharp-shinned Hawk	22	Black Phoebe (RH)
13	Cooper's Hawk	1	Say's Phoebe
36	Red-shouldered Hawk (RH)	4	Hutton's Vireo
171	Red-tailed Hawk (H)	282	Steller's Jay
2	Rough-legged Hawk (L)	619	Western Scrub-Jay
1	Golden Eagle (TRH)	1,830	American Crow
93	American Kestrel	102	Common Raven
7	Merlin	10	Tree Swallow
5	Peregrine Falcon		

(continued on page 6)

Eugene Christmas Bird Count Results (continued from page 5)

1,160 Black-capped Chickadee (H)	138 Varied Thrush	62 Lincoln's Sparrow (H)
182 Chestnut-backed Chickadee (H)	2 Northern Mockingbird (TRH)	29 White-throated Sparrow
1,342 Bushtit (RH)	7,169 European Starling	394 White-crowned Sparrow (H)
145 Red-breasted Nuthatch	47 American Pipit (L)	961 Golden-crowned Sparrow
33 White-breasted Nuthatch	149 Cedar Waxwing	2,835 Dark-eyed Junco
72 Brown Creeper (H)	9 Orange-crowned Warbler (RH)	1,485 Red-winged Blackbird (L)
89 Bewick's Wren	250 Yellow-rumped Warbler (H)	76 Western Meadowlark (L)
44 Pacific Wren	Western Tanager (CW)	783 Brewer's Blackbird (L)
52 Marsh Wren (H)	112 Townsend's Warbler (H)	5 Brown-headed Cowbird (L)
557 Golden-crowned Kinglet	1 Common Yellowthroat (TRH)	123 Purple Finch
333 Ruby-crowned Kinglet	548 Spotted Towhee (H)	575 House Finch
22 Wrentit (TRH)	1 Chipping Sparrow	345 Pine Siskin
207 Western Bluebird (RH)	24 Savannah Sparrow	121 Lesser Goldfinch (H)
16 Hermit Thrush (H)	294 Fox Sparrow (H)	343 American Goldfinch (RH)
4,829 American Robin (H)	751 Song Sparrow (H)	405 House Sparrow



The Quail

Deadlines:

March issue: February 4

April issue: March 10

Submit material to
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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 (see page 7).

Subscriptions: Contact Tim Godsfil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsfil@gmail.com.

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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 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

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)\$ _____

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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

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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



Field Notes: November-December 2011



- Snowy Owl sightings
- Flycatchers, warblers hang around
- Black Phoebes out in force
- Prairie Falcon numbers up

Tom and Allison Mickel

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The weather was mostly drier and warmer than normal, except for the last week of December. An irruption of Snowy Owls into the lower 48 states, including Oregon and Lane County was big news—we'll see if they stay around for the new year or not. A number of semihardy species (i.e., flycatchers, warblers, etc.) were found during the period, most likely because of the mild weather. Large numbers of Black Phoebes were found during the period around the Eugene/Springfield area. Larger than normal numbers of Prairie Falcons were found during the period in the outlying areas of Eugene/Springfield.

WATERBIRDS

Snow Goose (7)	Dec. 1	FRR	JS	Seen in small numbers during the winter
Ross's Goose	Dec. 2	FRR–Royal Ave	BMc	Individuals seen annually with small geese
Brant	Nov. 25	Siltcoos River	TR	First report for the winter season
Tundra Swan (6)	Nov. 3	FRR	JS	First report for the winter season
Cinnamon Teal	Dec. 10	Delta Ponds	JN	Unusual wintering bird
Harlequin Duck	Nov. 15	Siuslaw River	DP	More common along rocky coastline
Black Scoter	Nov. 15	Siuslaw River	DP	Not common at this location
Long-tailed Duck (2)	Nov. 15	Siuslaw River	DP	Almost annual at this location
Common Goldeneye (8)	Dec. 10	Dexter Reservoir	LJ	Found most winters at this location
Horned Grebe	Nov. 19	FRR	JS	A few winter in the Eugene/Springfield area
Eared Grebe	Dec. 4	FRR–Orchard Pt	JS	Occasionally found in the area
American White Pelican	Dec. 4	FRR	JS	Have wintered in small numbers
Brown Pelican (a few 100)	Nov. 25	Siltcoos River	TR	All headed south
Brown Pelican (3)	Dec. 17	Heceta Head	RR	A few still headed south
Green Heron	Nov. 2	Delta Ponds	LM et al.	Sporadically seen throughout period; they winter in small numbers most years
Plegadis Ibis	Nov. 1	FRR–Royal Ave	JS	A very late report; White-faced or Glossy?

VULTURES TO OWLS

Turkey Vulture (3)	Nov. 20	Meadowlark Prairie	E&VT	Small numbers winter each year.
Prairie Falcon	Nov. 13	Eugene Airport area	LG	Seen throughout the period.
Prairie Falcon	Dec. 3	Creswell area	NS	A normal wintering location.
Peregrine Falcon (3)	Dec. 10	Eugene Airport area	JS	Good numbers of wintering birds.
Virginia Rail (26)	Dec. 17	Duncan Island	E&VT	High numbers!
Sora (5)	Dec. 17	Duncan Island	E&VT	High numbers!
Black-bellied Plover (25)	Nov. 19	FRR	JS	A normal wintering flock.
Snowy Plover (14)	Nov. 25	Siltcoos River	TR	Annual wintering location.
Dunlin (1000s)	Nov. 19	FRR	JS	Large flocks winter at this location.

American Herring Gull	Nov. 11	Bob Creek	TMn	First report for the winter season.
Snowy Owl	Dec. 9	Siltcoos River	CB	A major irruption year! All except for the
Snowy Owl	Dec. 13	East Springfield	fide RA	FRR bird were “one day wonders”.
Snowy Owl	Dec. 16	FRR	JS	Seen until about Christmas.
Snowy Owl	Dec. 28	Awbrey Lane	fide DL	The FRR bird?
Short-eared Owl	Nov. 1	FRR–Royal Ave	JS	First report for the winter season.

WOODPECKERS TO SPARROWS

Red-naped Sapsucker	Nov. 28	Gimpl Hill area	JT	Rarely found on the west side of the Cascades
Red-naped Sapsucker	Dec. 17	Duncan Island	E&VT	May have been a hybrid with Red-breasted
Say’s Phoebe	Nov. 12	Eugene Airport area	SH	Seen throughout period, wintering?
Tropical Kingbird	Nov. 1	Florence	AD	Found almost annually along the coast
Northern Shrike	Nov. 12	FRR–Royal Ave	AH	First valley report for the winter season
Blue Jay	Nov. 2	East Springfield	fide DL	Seen for a day; rare in Lane County
Blue Jay	Nov. 4	Marcola	DSt	Occasionally seen or heard for the month
Tree Swallow (2)	Dec. 10	Washburn Lane	JS	Small numbers occasionally seen during the
Tree Swallow (10+/-)	Dec. 25	Eugene Airport area	A&DH	winter. Early spring migrants because of the
Tree Swallow (3)	Dec. 28	FRR	EC	mild weather?
Violet-green Swallow	Dec. 25	Eugene Airport area	A&DH	Very rarely seen during the winter
Barn Swallow	Dec. 25	Eugene Airport area	A&DH	Have occurred the last few years
White-breasted Nuthatch (2)	Nov. 24	Owosso Bike Bridge	TMe	They appear to be residents along the river in
White-breasted Nuthatch	Dec. 15	Delta Ponds	SG,CK	Black Cottonwood stands
Townsend’s Solitaire	Dec. 21	Springfield	LJ	Rarely seen in the winter
Northern Mockingbird	Dec. 5	Alvadore	DB	Seen throughout the period
Orange-crowned Warbler	Dec. 10	North Eugene	TMe	Overwinter in small numbers, but not
Orange-crowned Warbler	Dec. 16	Springfield	RR	normally at suet feeders
Townsend’s Warbler (13)	Nov. 5	North Eugene	TMe	A large flock for this time of year
Hermit Warbler	Dec. 21	North River Road	MRu	Rarely found after breeding season
Hermit Warbler	Dec. 22	Springfield	NS	Rarely found after breeding season
Wilson’s Warbler	Dec. 20	West-central Eugene	EC	Not a common overwintering bird
Chipping Sparrow (2)	Dec. 4	Creswell area	NS	A late report
Swamp Sparrow	Dec. 3	Kirk Pond	TMe	Always a “good” find

Abbreviations

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), mouth of the Siltcoos River (Siltcoos River), mouth of the Siuslaw River (Siuslaw River).

Thank you, contributors!

RA Rich Adney, **DB** Dave Brown, **CB** Cindy Burns, **EC** Ellen Canter, **AD** Adele Dawson, **LG** Linda Gilbert, **SG** Steve Gordon, **A&DH** Anne & Dan Heyerly, **SH** Sally Hill, **LJ** Laura Johnson, **CK** Cary Kerst, **DL** Dick Lamster, **BMc** Barry McKenzie, **LM** Larry McQueen, **TMe** Thomas Meinzen, **JN** Janet Naylor, **DP** Diane Pettey, **RR** Roger Robb, **MRu** Mark Rudolph, **DSt** Dianne Stewart, **NS** Noah Strycker, **JS** John Sullivan, **JT** Janie Thomas, **E&VT** Eddie & Vjera Thompson



Blue Grosbeak by Cary Kerst

Volunteer with Lane Audubon!

Lane 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.

Quail Editor: Lane Audubon is looking for someone who enjoys editing and has excellent proofreading skills to take on the role of editor for *The Quail*, the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society. Responsibilities include setting submissions deadlines and communicating with contributors; collecting, organizing, and proofreading submissions; selecting photos for print; communicating with the printer; and writing small articles as needed. This is an exciting opportunity to take responsibility for a newsletter that reaches nearly 1,500 members across Lane County! Contact Ron Renschler, 541-345-0834, christyandron@qwest.net.

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, emailing 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.

Booth Operations Coordinator: For more information, contact Ron Renschler, 541-345-0834, christyandron@qwest.net.

Publicity Volunteer: For more information, contact Maeve Sowles, 541-343-8664, president@laneaudubon.org.

Quail Layout and Graphics: For more information, contact Ron Renschler, 541-345-0834, christyandron@qwest.net.

LCAS Thanks You!



Lane County Audubon Society is grateful for the contributions and resources—both in time and money—that so many of you have given to help make our organization one of the most respected educational and conservation groups in our region. A hearty “thank you” goes to each of the following.

Rob Hoshaw, who has served as *Quail* editor since April 2010. Rob's excellent editorial skills helped us maintain the high quality you've come to expect in each issue of the *Quail*. He also added a fresh visual look by gathering many excellent bird photos from our members and including them in the publication. Thanks so much, Rob, for all your good work—and best wishes for the future.

Mary Anne Hamilton, a recently deceased member, left a generous monetary gift to Lane Audubon in her will. Her memory will be kept alive in the work we do.

Dick Lamster presented a talk entitled “Birds in Winter” at the Solstice Celebration on December 16 to about 50 people at the UO's Museum of Cultural and Natural History. Thanks, Dick, for sharing your knowledge of the birdlife in our midst.

All Lane Audubon members who contributed during our annual donation request. We have received close to \$4,000 since November. Thanks, too, for renewing your local memberships. All this help us further our mission of educating Lane County residents about the importance of conserving our natural environment, with a primary focus on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

Chile: Easter Island to Cape Horn via Patagonia

Herb Wisner

541.344.3634

hrwisner@comcast.net

Bob Fleming, traveler extraordinaire, will take us on a tour of Chile on February 28. We'll begin on Easter Island, a volcanic speck with surprisingly varied topography. We'll try to decipher the history of this Polynesian dot, where enigmatic stone statues (shown at right) may have a message for us. Then we'll continue to southern Patagonia, where the Torres del Paine National Park features one of the most impressive mountainscapes on the continent, and visit the lower slopes, home to Porcelain Orchids and Andean Condors. Then we'll move south to the glaciated Darwin Range, which rises to 10,000 feet on the island of Tierra Del Fuego, where Magellanic Penguins and the Lenga species of Southern Beech are found. In the Tierra del Fuego National Park we'll see the Magellanic Woodpecker and the Patagonian Swimming Fox.

While the Beagle Channel, with its Black-browed Albatrosses, marks the southern boundary of Tierra del Fuego, other islands, including the rather substantial Navarino, appear even farther south, with Cape Horn Island the last speck of land before the Drake Passage. Beyond the Cape, the infamous waves and incessant winds is habitat much favored by oceanic birds of the south.

Plan to join us on Tuesday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, for a look at the topography and natural history of continental America's Deep South.

February Program Meeting Chile: Easter Island to Cape Horn via Patagonia



by Bob Fleming

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene

Community Calendar, Events and Opportunities

Restoration Celebration

Nearby Nature
English ivy pull
Saturday, February 4; February 11
Free. Location: Wildflower Hollow of Alton Baker Park. FMI: <http://www.nearbynature.org/events/>

Birding Trip

Willamalane Adult Activity Center
Birding the Northern California Coast with Floyd Weitzel
February 7-9
Registration Fees. FMI: Floyd Weitzel, 541-344-8619

WREN Wanders

Willamette Resources and Educational Network
Tsanchiifin Trail, .5 mile walk views wildlife and restored wetlands.

Tuesday, February 14, 9 a.m.

Free. Location: Pull-off north of Barger Drive, at the intersection of Golden Gardens Street and Jessen Drive. FMI: <http://www.wewetlands.org/events.php>

Spider Venom

The Eugene Natural History Society
Greta Binford, assistant professor of biology at Lewis and Clark University, "The Evolution of Spider Venom."

Friday, February 17, 7:30 p.m.

Free. Location: Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO campus.
FMI: <http://biology.uoregon.edu/enhs/>

Winter Wings Festival, Klamath Falls

Featured speakers: Kenn Kaufman and Darrell Gulin
February 17-19

Registration required.

FMI: www.WinterWingsFest.org

River Rhythm and Rhyme

Nearby Nature
No School Day Program for kids
Monday, February 20

Registration fees. Location: Nearby Nature, Alton Baker Park. FMI: <http://www.nearbynature.org/events/>

Birding Class

Willamalane Adult Activity Center
Raptors and More with Floyd Weitzel
Wednesdays, Fridays, February 22-March 14
Registration Fees. FMI: Floyd Weitzel, 541-344-8619

Bird Walks and Events



Maeve Sowles

541.343.8664

president@laneaudubon.org

Bird Walk Coordinator needed

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, emailing the field trip publicity, and meeting the birding group on the day of the walk to get things started. Contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.

SATURDAY
February 18

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK Royal Avenue Area

Dennis Arendt will lead us in the Royal Avenue area, one of our local birding hot spots. If weather is challenging, we may go to a location in town; call 541-343-8664 to confirm the location. We will 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. Please remember not to leave valuables in your car.

February Program Meeting

Chile: Easter Island to Cape Horn via Patagonia

by Bob Fleming

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.



Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER




The Quail

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