



The

October 2012

# Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

## From Our President



## Stockpiling

Maeve Sowles

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See page 5.

October moves us closer to winter every passing day. I watch the sun set farther south on the horizon and drop earlier each evening. Nighttime temperatures are lower and cool winds from the north have begun to blow. These autumnal shifts in daylight and temperature signal to wildlife an urgent sense of change. This motivates them to stock up for the winter or to move on to warmer habitats. The urge to migrate is strong, although the year-round inhabitants have adapted to our winters. Stockpiling available food is one way birds and other animals cope with winters in Lane County.



Outside my house, I hear acorns dropping from the Oregon white oaks as Steller's Jays and Grey Squirrels gather them for storage. The jays hide the acorns all around my garden, which will be evident when they sprout in the spring. We have a Dusky-footed Woodrat that builds food caches under our barn. The outer layer is a pile of blackberry vine sticks. Under that are blackberry leaves and inside are dried blackberries, safely stored for the winter. The bundle of fruit is off the ground so it will not get wet in winter rain.

I watch Red-breasted Nuthatches repeatedly fly to our bird feeder to pick out a single sunflower seed, then leave immediately to store the seed in cracks of tree bark. Two Red-breasted Nuthatches move together to the feeder each time. It is easy to hear them coming, because they continuously vocalize. They work together as

*(continued on page 7)*



### Refuge

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A recent study has added to the growing body of evidence that birds can benefit from the decisions we make about our yards and gardens. The study shows that birds are using gardens as “mini-refuges,” and those yards that contained more native vegetation are better at supporting birds. Planting native vegetation has several benefits: native plants support native wildlife species and increase local biodiversity, including birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects. It cuts down on applications of chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides. Native plants need less watering once established and tend to be less prone to diseases and pests than non-natives. Fall is a great time to plant in the garden. Consider putting in a few natives this month and let nature water them through the fall, winter, and spring to help grow a healthy root system. Also, when planting, think vertical: Garden in layers and provide trees, shrubs, native grasses, and ground cover. For information on native plants that are good for birds, see <http://www.laneaudubon.org/library-sub/native-food-plant-sp.htm>.

Many people will tidy up their gardens this fall, but it turns out it's good for the birds to leave things a little messy. I gladly welcome any excuse to reduce clean-up time. Unfortunately, despite spending lots of time on the computer as a way to avoid cleaning up, I cannot find anything that argues that less mopping is good for the birds. Birds will make use of brush piles, grass clippings, leaf piles, and downed branches and snags. Birds will find seeds in dried out annual flowers. When dead flower heads drop into the garden, they continue to be a potential source of food for birds and also act as mulch and a habitat for the insects that some birds feed upon.

We can also influence distant plantings with our consumer choices. Farms that leave strips of native vegetation, hedgerows, and riparian habitat support more birds, both residential and migratory. Several studies have shown that



shaded farmland or agro forests support greater bird diversity. It turns out to be a win-win situation. When crops are grown under trees, the greater number of birds results in greater payback for people because the birds eat insect pests, spread seeds, and pollinate crops. Consider buying shade-grown coffee and cacao as well as the spice cardamom and yerba mate tea.

For further reading: Susannah B. Lerman, Paige S. Warren, Hilary Gan, Eyal Shochat. Linking Foraging Decisions to Residential Yard Bird Composition. *PLoS ONE*, 2012; 7 (8): e43497 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0043497

#### Agate Hall Swift Report

Sept 7, 2012 — Vaux's Swifts began entering the chimney about 8 p.m. and it took them only 7 minutes to all go in. Maeve Sowles and Dick Lamster counted 4,000 swifts plus two hungry Cooper's Hawks.

## Travel to Chile with Four Local Birders

Herb Wisner

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Chile is a country of great contrasts. The highest mountain in the Americas, 23,000-foot tall Aconcagua, is sixty miles from Santiago, Chile's capital, and the Pacific Ocean is an hour's drive away. The driest desert in the world, the Atacama, is in northern Chile, and in southern



Andean Condor

Chile there are snow-covered volcanoes, majestic rock spires, wild lakes, and rich, thick forests. Tierra del Fuego is the southern tip of South America where Magellan's ships charted a passage to the Pacific.

In November 2011, Dennis Arendt, Kit Larsen, Jim Regali, and Roger Robb traveled to Chile to see the country and its birds. These four friends have traveled together to Panama, Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador, as well as several locations in the United States. They will show photos of their Chilean adventures.

Their travels took them into the high Andes to El Yeso and Farellones to see Ground-Tyrants, Crag Chilians, and the strange Moustached Turca. They went west through Chile's central valley where palm trees and cacti abound. The old port city of Valparaíso with its colorful murals and fishing fleet was the source of a great ocean trip to see albatrosses, giant petrels, and swimming penguins. From Santiago they flew to Punta Arenas, an old seafarer's town on the Magellan Strait. Here, they joined a guide who led them into the famous Torres del Paine National Park and across the water to Tierra del Fuego, where an elusive plover nests on a rocky-shored saline lake. They went to Bahía Inútil, or Useless Bay, named by Magellan because its huge size misled them to think they had found a way to the Pacific. Here they saw the "wow" bird of the trip.

They will present many amazing photographs of exotic birds, such as Andean Condors, Royal Albatrosses, Magellanic Penguins, and little-known birds like Rufous-tailed Plantcutters and Many-colored Rush-Tyrants.

Plan to join us on Tuesday, October 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, for a look at the birds and places of a very thin country.

### Oct. Program Meeting Travel to Chile with Four Local Birders

with Dennis Arendt,  
Kit Larsen, Jim Regali,  
and Roger Robb



Many-colored Rush-Tyrants

**Tuesday, Oct. 23,  
7:30 p.m.**

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

## Field Notes: August 2012



- Black Swift
- Eastern Kingbird

- Piping Plover
- Whimbrel

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The weather for the month was pretty normal – sunny and warm. Fern Ridge Reservoir again produced great habitat for migrant shorebirds, but the best birds of the month were found at the coast. At the South Jetty of the Siuslaw River, two first county records were found, one of which was the second record for the state.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), Oregon Bird Records Committee (OBRC), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR).

### WATERBIRDS to FALCONS

Northern Pintail	Aug 29	Baker Beach area	DF	Flocks migrating south.
Green-winged Teal	Aug 27	Baker Beach area	DF	Flocks migrating south.
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Aug 1	LCC area	LM et al.	Uncommon breeding species in the area.
Peregrine Falcon	Aug 1	Beltline & Will. River	ATn	Hunting Rock Pigeons, of which there are many.
Prairie Falcon	Aug 24	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	A very early report for the area.

### SHOREBIRDS to TERNS

Black-necked Stilt (2 juv)	Aug 29	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Migrants, given that no birds nested here.
Semipalmated Plover (6)	Aug 2	FRR – Royal Ave	A&TM	A normal time for their migration south.
Semipalmated Plover (70)	Aug 24	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	A very large number for the location.
Piping Plover	Aug 20	SJSR – Fishing Pier	B,Z&DS	Second Oregon record if accepted by the OBRC.
Solitary Sandpiper (2)	Aug 18	FRR – Royal Ave	RR et al.	Becoming as common in the fall as the spring.
Upland Sandpiper	Aug 24	SJSR Deflation Plain	A&CH	First Lane Co. record.
Whimbrel	Aug 8	FRR – Royal Ave	JS,LJ	Uncommon in the valley.
Ruddy Turnstone	Aug 2	FRR – Royal Ave	NS	First inland Lane Co record.
Ruddy Turnstone	Aug 18	FRR – Royal Ave	RR et al.	The same bird?
Ruddy Turnstone	Aug 29	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	The same bird?
Red Knot	Aug 14	Heceta Beach	A&TM	Regular migrant in small numbers.
Baird's Sandpiper (6)	Aug 5	Heceta Beach	DI	A normal time for their migration south.
Baird's Sandpiper	Aug 16	South Sister	AF	A high-elevation migrant as well.
Baird's Sandpiper	Aug	FRR	m.ob.	Numerous reports throughout the month.
Pectoral Sandpiper	Aug 8	FRR – Royal Ave	NS	A normal time for their migration south.
Pectoral Sandpiper	Aug 31	Delta Ponds	SH	An unusual location.
Stilt Sandpiper	Aug 12	FRR – Royal Ave	DS,DA,NS	Becoming almost annual at this location.
Stilt Sandpiper	Aug 18	FRR – Royal Ave	DS et al.	The same bird?
Stilt Sandpiper	Aug 24	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	The same bird?
Short-billed Dowitcher	Aug 8	FRR – Royal Ave	LM et al.	A normal time for their migration south.
Red-necked Phalarope (5)	Aug 6	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	A normal time for their migration south.
Sabine's Gull	Aug 31	FRR – Shore Lane	SM	Annual in small numbers during migration – earlier than normal.
Black Tern (2 – juv. & adult)	Aug 2	FRR – Royal Ave	PO	Last report for the breeding season.



<b>Common Tern</b>	Aug 15	FRR – Royal Ave	JS,LJ	Found in small numbers most falls.
<b>Common Tern (9)</b>	Aug 26	FRR – Royal Ave	JS,LJ	Found in small numbers most falls.
<b>Forster's Tern</b>	Aug 2	FRR – Royal Ave	PO	Second report for the “summer.”

## OWLS to FINCHES

<b>Barred Owl</b>	Aug 29	Skinner Butte	LM et al.	First report for “downtown” Eugene.
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>	Aug 16	Cheshire area	MF	The second year in a row for this large flock.
<b>Black Swift</b>	Aug 6	Salt Creek Falls	CF, MS	Nest with a nestling.
<b>Black Swift</b>	Aug 27	Salt Creek Falls	EH	Nests were empty – assumed they had fledged.
<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>	Aug 1	LCC area	LM et al.	Nest with 2 young.
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>	Aug 31	SJSR	DBI	About the ninth record for Lane Co.
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>	Aug 8	Alton Baker Park	NS	Did it nest? It was singing for most of month.
<b>Purple Martin</b>	Aug 12	N. Fork Siuslaw River	A&TM	Using nest boxes on piling in the river at about MP 2 and calling in the area of “The Portage” (first bridge along North Fork road).
<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>	Aug 29	Skinner Butte	LM et al.	Rarely found this time of the year.

**DA** Dennis Arendt, **DBI** Doug Beall, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **CF** Cheron Ferland, **AF** Andy Frank, **SH** Sally Hill, **A&CH** Adrian & Christopher Hinkle, **EH** Eric Horvath, **DI** Dave Irons, **LJ** Laura Johnson, **SM** Sylvia Maulding, **LM** Larry McQueen, **A&TM** Allison & Tom Mickel, **PO** Pam Otley, **RR** Roger Robb, **DS** Don Schrouder, **B,Z&DS** Bill, Zannah & Doug Stotz, **NS** Noah Strycker, **JS** John Sullivan, **ATn** Alby Thoumsin, **MF** Mike Fix, **MS** Marylee Sayre



Peregrin Falcon, Cabin Lake, by Cary Kerst



Northern Mockingbird, Davis, California, by Cary Kerst

### Check us out on Facebook

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

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

### Electronic version of *The Quail* available!

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

# Lane Audubon welcomes you—join or renew today!



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

for National Audubon Society no longer support a membership in your local chapter. Your local dues stay here to help us work on local education projects and conservation issues related to birds and their habitats. With your support, we will continue to do the things you expect from us. We welcome your suggestions—this is your Audubon! We appreciate your support. —Maeve Sowles, President

## Lane County Audubon Society Membership Benefits

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

Visit [www.laneaudubon.org](http://www.laneaudubon.org)



## Deadlines:

**November Issue: Oct 6**  
**Dec./Jan. Issue: Nov 3**

Submit material to Cheron Ferland  
[cheron.ferland@mac.com](mailto: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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## 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

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- ☐ Check here if you prefer to receive your newsletter by e-mail.

*Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organizations. We will use it only for Lane County Audubon Society communications.*

## Please contact me regarding

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

## Mail this form and your payment to:

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

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## Many Thanks to Hugh Larkin!

**W**e need to replace our webmaster, Hugh Larkin, who is planning some bicycle adventures that will take him away from his computer in the upcoming year. Hugh has been a great volunteer webmaster keeping our web site updated, even when exploring wild places by bicycle with his wife, Sandy. Hugh has been doing this work for us for five years, and we have depended on him for last-minute changes and updating content each month as the new publication becomes available for the web page. Hugh, we will miss you and wish you the best in your upcoming plans.

### From Our President: Stockpiling (*continued from page 1*)

they approach, either traveling down tree trunks searching for insects or making one of their hundreds of visits to the cylinder feeders. They fly in fast. If another bird is at the feeder, the nuthatch might land upside down, then right itself, get its seed, and fly to the birch tree to eat it. Then the nuthatch, facing downward, pokes its seed into a crack in the bark and breaks the seed open by pounding on the shell with its up-turned beak. They are efficient foragers. They find food overlooked by other forest birds because of their ability to climb down a tree trunk or hang upside down on a limb. They do not let anything slow them down in pursuit of food to store for the coming winter. These short-tailed, industrious birds make me smile as I hear them calling from the tops of trees. I know the nuthatches will stay around all winter and give me birding pleasure even when it is cold outside.

## Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

*A service to Lane Audubon members*

### Native Plant Society

October 15, 7:30 p.m. (Monday)

Owyhee Canyonlands, Chris Hansen, Oregon Natural Desert Association

EWEB Training Room, 500 E. 4th, Eugene

FMI: 541.345.5531

### Eugene Natural History Society

October 19, 7:30 p.m. (Friday)

Deep Ocean Exploration, Dr. Craig Young, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology

University of Oregon campus, 100 Willamette Hall

### Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Mushroom Festival

October 28, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sunday)

\$5 Fee; FMI, or to volunteer:

<http://www.mountpisgaharboretum.com/festivals-events/mushroom-festival/>, 541.747.3817

### OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program (Lane County)

December 5, Orientation

Fees; FMI: 541.344.5859

**Mission:** Lane County Audubon Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of and education about our natural environment, with a primary focus on birds and other wildlife and their habitats.



Cedar Waxwing, Grants Pass, by Cary Kerst

**Oct. Program Meeting**

**Travel to Chile with  
Four Local Birders  
with Dennis Arendt,  
Kit Larsen, Jim Regali, and  
Roger Robb**




**Tuesday, Oct. 23,  
7:30 p.m.  
Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High St., Eugene**



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER

*The Quail*

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## Bird Walks and Events



*Daneen Justice*

310.503.4537

*dkjustice@mac.com*

**SATURDAY  
October 20**

**THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK**

Delta Ponds, led by Dennis Arendt

Meet at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson) for carpooling at 8:00 a.m. and plan to return by noon. All birders are welcome. A \$3 donation is suggested. As a precaution, please remember not to leave valuables in your car. Questions? Contact Daneen, 310.503.4537, [dkjustice@mac.com](mailto:dkjustice@mac.com).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Distribute and deliver *The Quail* in the community**

Our newsletter reaches a broad audience. Help us get printed newsletters out to the community by delivering them to the post office for delivery to our members. Also, distribute *The Quail* to high-visibility locations around the community in an effort to reach new members. Each of these tasks only requires a few hours nine times per year, and it is a huge help! Contact Ron Renschler, 541.345.0834, [christyandron@qwest.net](mailto:christyandron@qwest.net).

**Webmaster needed for the Lane Audubon web page**

If you have skills that can help us keep our web page updated with current information and also ideas to refresh our look on the web page, please contact us! Contact Maeve Sowles, 541-343-8664, [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org).