



# The Quail

March 2013

News from Lane County Audubon Society



## From Our President

### Cover for Birds

Maeve Sowles 541.343.8664 [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org)

Audubon Phone – 541.485.BIRD

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See page 7.

**O**n a recent Saturday afternoon we watched with fascination as a Cooper's Hawk hunted on the ground among the underbrush surrounding our bird-feeding area. The hawk would duck under the lower branches and pop out the other side, trying to scare out a smaller bird. He would rustle the leaves and stomp the ground near a clump of red-hot poker foliage, listening for movement underneath the greenery. On this particular day, we did not see him catch a bird, but we have seen him successfully fly off with small birds from our bird feeder, and we have seen feather piles from Mourning Doves. The smaller birds (juncos, towhees, sparrows) need the low brush for hiding places, and larger birds, such as jays and doves, use the trees and shrubbery nearby to fly up into. Having a variety of plants in and around the feeding area gives them a chance to get away when the Cooper's Hawk returns. The hawk is a natural predator the birds know and expect on occasion, so giving birds a fly-for-cover option is necessary near the bird feeders. Rhododendrons, azaleas, lavender, and conifers that maintain foliage all year are good choices to have near the bird feeders and birdbath areas. As you plan for spring improvements to the yard, consider plantings with the birds in mind!

The downside of having shrubbery near the bird feeder is when a neighborhood cat is in the area. We are lucky that is not the case at our house. Folks often call the Audubon phone to ask how to keep cats from taking birds at their bird feeders. If there is a cat in the yard, it is better to not feed the birds at all, so they are not drawn into the trap. The domestic cat is not part of the native ecosystem, and birds are taken off guard by this foreign predator. If it is your cat, keep it inside OR give it an outside fenced enclosure, away from where the bird feeders are located. Check out the links at the end of the Conservation column on page 3 for more on this topic.

Meanwhile, I am looking forward to the approach of spring and bird songs and arrival of bird migrants that will give us more birding fun and pleasure. The warming cycle and longer days make me want to get outside into the garden, always keeping an ear and eye out for the birds that share my piece of the planet.



## Birds and Pesticides

Debbie Schlenoff

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It is estimated that a mind-boggling 1.2 billion pounds of pesticides are applied in the United States every year. Several recent reports have highlighted the threat of these toxic chemicals to public health, especially to the developing bodies of children, as well as the elderly, immune-compromised, and chemically sensitive. Pesticides are found in all types of habitat: grasslands, forestlands, farmland, lawns and backyards, in the soil, and in our waterways. Several types of pesticides, including herbicides, insecticides, and rodenticides, have adverse effects on fish and wildlife. It is difficult to get an idea of the extent of the threat. According to Bird Life International, approximately 50 pesticides that are currently in use in the U.S. are known to have caused die-offs of birds, in such diverse groups as songbirds, game birds, raptors, seabirds, and shorebirds. A 1997 report estimated 672 million bird deaths per year from direct exposure, but many people fear this may be the tip of the iceberg. There are more pesticides in use today, very little actual monitoring of bird deaths, and no mandated central reporting requirement. A bird killed by pesticides will likely disappear anyway since more than 92% of bird carcasses are scavenged. Perhaps the most confounding issue is that most pesticide effects are sublethal; they don't cause immediate death but otherwise compromise the animal in a way that leads to illness, lower reproductive success, and eventual early mortality.

Among the ill effects of pesticides are nervous system degradation, muscle paralysis and respiratory failure, and endocrine disruption, which results in reproductive and immune system problems, as well as the development of cancer. Behavioral effects, in animals ranging from minnows to falcons, include alterations in mating and parenting, nest building, activity level (lethargy), predator avoidance, and foraging. Pesticide exposure has been associated with deformed embryos, slower nestling growth rates, lack of appetite and weight loss, interference with body temperature regulation, and inability to orient in the proper direction for migration.



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a scientifically based program that seeks proactive, effective, and least harmful methods of controlling pests. The United States EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) recommends IPM. It involves monitoring and managing areas to prevent pests and, when necessary, controlling them using least toxic methods first. IPM programs have been found to be effective and cost-efficient and are used in several states throughout the country. The "Safe Public Places Bill" being introduced in the Oregon legislature this year will mandate IPM on state lands. The bill will significantly reduce the use of harmful pesticides on public lands throughout Oregon, including parks, around public buildings, and on public roads. Birds often use public lands as refuges, as places to forage, for shelter, to find water, and, perhaps, to just rest during migration. Birds and other wildlife (not to mention people) would benefit greatly from the passage of this bill. The bill is supported by a number of conservation and public health organizations.

Unfortunately, large pesticide manufacturing companies will be fighting the bill. Your support is needed. "Beyond Toxics" is campaigning for the bill and has a website with information and a way to express your support at [www.SafePublicPlaces.org](http://www.SafePublicPlaces.org). On Friday, March 8, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, Beyond Toxics is sponsoring "Safe Public Places Lobby Day" in Salem at the State Capitol. It will include a morning of training, a press conference at the State Capitol Press Room, and visits with legislators. Cars will leave from downtown Eugene at 7:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Lisa Arkin at Beyond Toxics, 541.465.8860 or [info@beyondtoxics.org](mailto:info@beyondtoxics.org).

*(continued on page 3)*

## Bird's-Eye Views

Herb Wisner

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**P**at Boleyn, from Boleyn Bird Walks and Consulting, and members of the Pacific Tree Climbing Institute (PTI) will give a presentation about their guided bird expeditions up into the canopies of old-growth forests. The trips offer overnight expeditions led by Pat and expert tree guides and certified arborists. The outings take people up into the tree canopy, where they listen to the evening songs of breeding birds, vocalizations of owls, and, after sleeping overnight in tree tents, wake early to listen to the dawn chorus. Pat, a wildlife biologist, long-time birder, and ecology instructor at Lane Community College, assists participants with bird recognition by sight and sound. Come view images of the ecology of the old-growth canopy from more than 150 feet up, and compare it to the lower canopy layer we are used to seeing. Learn about what it takes to get up into the canopy safely. PTI has taken hundreds of people from ages 5 to 75 to great heights for recreation and experience in discovering the great beauty of our legendary forests in the Pacific Northwest.

Plan to join us for this presentation on Tuesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, Eugene.

### February Program Meeting Bird's-Eye Views with Pat Boleyn



**Tuesday, March 26, 2013, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Eugene Garden Club,**  
**1645 High St., Eugene**

### Conservation Column (continued from page 1)

#### OTHER TOPICS IN THE NEWS

**A New York Times article published January 29, 2012, "That Cuddly Kitty Is Deadlier Than You Think":** [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/30/science/that-cuddly-kitty-of-yours-is-a-killer.html?\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/30/science/that-cuddly-kitty-of-yours-is-a-killer.html?_r=1&)

**Another article that references the recent study:** [http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/347928/description/Cats\\_kill\\_more\\_than\\_one\\_billion\\_birds\\_each\\_year](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/347928/description/Cats_kill_more_than_one_billion_birds_each_year)

**Several good solutions for the cat-kills-bird problem can be found at:** <http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/index.html>

## Volunteers Needed

### Coordinate Monthly Bird Walks

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 at 541.343.8664 or [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org).

### Webmaster Needed

Volunteer 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 help us refresh the look on our web page, please contact us! Call or e-mail Maeve at 541.343.8664 or [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org)

## Field Notes: January 2013



- Hermit Warbler
- Snow Goose

- Trumpeter Swan
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

*Tom and Allison Mickel*

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The month started out with an unusually cold, dry but foggy couple of weeks before changing to a more normal warmer and wetter end of the month. Wintering Hermit Warblers have increased exponentially in the last five years, with two being found just this month. Other interesting birds found this month include the “blue” Snow Goose, Trumpeter Swans, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, the “red” Fox Sparrows, and the “pink-sided” Dark-eyed Junco.

**Abbreviations:** Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), many observers (m.ob.), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR).

### WATERBIRDS

<b>Snow Goose – blue phase</b>	Jan 30	Cottage Grove	MB,JB	A color phase rarely seen in Lane County.
<b>Ross’s Goose (2)</b>	Jan 28	Creswell area	NS	Individuals are found in large flocks of Cackling Geese.
<b>Canada Goose – lesser (20+)</b>	Jan 18	Eugene area	SMc	A subspecies that rarely winters in the southern Willamette Valley.
<b>Trumpeter Swan (5)</b>	Jan 26	Siuslaw South Slough	DP	A species rarely found in Lane Co.
<b>Eurasian Wigeon (2)</b>	Jan 1	Kirk Pond	E&VT	A normal wintering location.
<b>Cinnamon Teal</b>	Jan 1	Delta Ponds	m.ob.	Seen throughout the month.
<b>Cinnamon Teal (2)</b>	Jan 6	Ada Grange	AC,DP	A normal wintering location.
<b>Canvasback</b>	Jan 7	Delta Ponds area	TMe	Not a normal location for the species.
<b>Canvasback (36)</b>	Jan 24	Dexter Reservoir	AC,HH	A normal wintering location.
<b>Redhead</b>	Jan 24	LCC ponds	AC,HH	One was also seen there in December.
<b>Common Goldeneye (10)</b>	Jan 24	Dexter Reservoir	AC,HH	A normal wintering location.
<b>Eared Grebe</b>	Jan 15	old town Florence	RR	Occasionally winters in the area.

### GULLS to OWLS

<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>	Jan 16	NJSR	A&TM	A normal wintering species.
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>	Jan 2	Bob Creek	JW	A normal wintering species in small numbers.
<b>Black-bellied Plover (22)</b>	Jan 1	FRR	RR	A normal winter flock.
<b>Wilson’s Snipe (26)</b>	Jan 7	Delta Ponds	TMe	A large group for this location.
<b>Marbled Murrelet (12)</b>	Jan 16	Tokatee Klootchman	A&TM	A large number for the Lane County coast.
<b>Northern Pygmy-Owl</b>	Jan 6	Perkins Peninsula	AC	A freshly dead bird on the highway – not normal habitat being pasture, marsh and ash woodland.
<b>Northern Pygmy-Owl (2)</b>	Jan 31	Zumwalt Park	LF	Heard calling.
<b>Northern Pygmy-Owl</b>	Jan	SE Eugene	A&TM	They started calling at the first of the month and have been quite vocal all month – earlier than normal.

### WOODPECKERS to SPARROWS

<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>	Jan 13	Santa Clara	MRu	Fifth record for Lane County.
<b>Horned Lark</b>	Jan 13	Camas Swale area	RR	Few reports from the area, but that could be because of the lack of birders visiting the area.
<b>Mountain Chickadee (2)</b>	Jan 1	Creswell area	NS	Still a few being found in the area.
<b>Mountain Chickadee</b>	Jan 19	Creswell area	NS	Still a few being found in the area.
<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>	Jan	Alvadore	m.ob.	Seen throughout the month.

<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>	Jan 17	Autzen Stadium area	DH	Winters in very small numbers most years.
<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b>	Jan	River Road area	TMe	Seen throughout the month.
<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b>	Jan 30	Perkins Peninsula	DA et al.	Small numbers winter most years.
<b>Hermit Warbler</b>	Jan 4	Perkins Peninsula	JH	Very rare in winter, but reports have been
<b>Hermit Warbler</b>	Jan 9	Masonic Cemetery	DA et al.	increasing in the last few years.
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>	Jan 2	River Road area	BC	An unusual wintering species. A second bird was
				seen sporadically during the month.
<b>Fox Sparrow – red subspecies</b>	Jan 7	Heceta Beach	DP	Rarely found in Oregon.
<b>Fox Sparrow – red subspecies</b>	Jan 13	Santa Clara	MRu	Rarely found in Oregon.
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>	Jan 24	Washburn Lane	AC,HH	One of the same birds found in Nov?
<b>Dark-eyed Junco – pink-sided</b>	Jan 14	Delta Ponds area	AC	Rarely found in Lane County.

DA Dennis Arendt, MB Marty Beyer, JB John Bugley, BC Barbara Combs, AC Alan Contreras, LF Lukas Ferrenburg, JH Jim Hardman, DH Dan Heyerly, HH Hendrik Herlyn, SMc Steve McDonald, TMe Thomas Meinzen, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, DP Diane Pettey, RR Roger Robb, MRu Mark Rudolph, NS Noah Strycker E&VT Eddie & Vjera Thompson, JW Jason Wilder.

## Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

*A service to Lane Audubon members*

### Willamette Resources And Educational Network (Wren)

March 12, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (Tuesday)

*“Wetland Wanders to Meadowlark Prairie”*

“Wetland Wanders” are casual walks through various West Eugene Wetlands sites.

Free; FMI: <http://www.wewetlands.org>

### Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

March 13, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (Wednesday)

*“New Nature Guide Orientation”*

Lead spring tours for K-5 students.

Free training, registration required. FMI: 541.747.1504; [education@mountpisgaharboretum.org](mailto:education@mountpisgaharboretum.org)

### Eugene Natural History Society

March 15, 7:30 p.m. (Friday)

*“A Plant Ecologist’s Dream Trip: The Floral Diversity of Australia”*

Gail Baker shares this “dream trip” through her striking photography of the flora of Australia. Gail retired in 2012 from Lane Community College where she taught botany.

Free; Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO Campus, Eugene

### Willamette Resources And Educational Network (Wren)

March 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Saturday)

*“Family Exploration Day to Meadowlark Prairie”*

Family exploration days foster unstructured play, discovery, and exploration for families and adults.

Free; FMI: <http://www.wewetlands.org>

### Olympic Birdfest 2013

April 5-7

Guided birding trips, boat tours, an auction and raffle, banquet, totem tour, and many other events in Sequim, Washington.

Fees and registration required. FMI: <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>

### Pacific City Birding and Blues Festival

April 12-14

The 10th annual festival includes birding trips, workshops, guest speakers, and music in Pacific City, Oregon.

Fees and registration required. FMI: <http://www.birdingandblues.com>

Hear Jim Maloney talk about wind energy and birds at <http://media.uoregon.edu/channel/2012/11/19/jim-maloney-birds-and-wind-energy-an-un-natural-history/>.

# 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:

**April Issue: March 2**  
**May-June Issue: April 6**

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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Layout by Kerry Lutz



### 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

### Lane Audubon Officers & Board Members

President..... Maeve Sowles .....541.343.8664..... [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org)  
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Webmaster..... Volunteer Opportunity

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## Booth Volunteers Showcase LCAS at Good Earth Show

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The aisles were crowded, a crowing rooster was in attendance (really!), and staffers at Lane County Audubon Society's booth were busy answering questions and hearing about bird sightings from the estimated 600 visitors who stopped by the booth during the seventh annual Good Earth Home, Garden, and Living Show at the Lane County Fairgrounds January 18-20.

Our group of enthusiastic booth volunteers did a great job of informing booth visitors about LCAS programs and activities. Thanks to all of them: **Rick Ahrens, Flo Alvergue, Connie Berglund, Pat Bitner, Anne Bonine, Barbara Butzer, Diane McInnes, Sally O'Donnell, Nancy Radius, Debbie Schlenoff, Phil Smyser, Bruce Stermer, Janie Thomas, and Susanne Twight-Alexander.**

Special thanks go to **Dick Lamster**, whose workshop session on feeding backyard birds drew about 40 people, and **Kris Kirkeby**, who led a workshop on drawing birds for 15 attendees.



If you're interested in helping staff the booth, contact Ron Renschler, 541.345.0834, [christyandron@qwest.net](mailto:christyandron@qwest.net). No experience is necessary; training will be provided.

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## LCAS Board Thanks Our Volunteers!

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- Anne Bonine has volunteered to transport *The Quail* to the post office for delivery into your mailboxes each month.
- Kris Kirkeby and Dick Lamster conducted workshops at the Good Earth Show the weekend of January 19.
- Dick Lamster gave community talks at three locations over the past few months:
  - November 6 at the Junction City Garden Club on “Gardening and Birds”
  - January 8 at Travel Lane County on “Bird Watching and Birding Events”
  - February 21 at the Late Bloomers Club in Vida on “Birds We See in Our Garden”
- Dick Lamster testified on behalf of Lane Audubon at the January 31 meeting in opposition to seaplanes at Waldo Lake.
- Doris Bakshi sends out renewal reminders to LCAS members every few months.

*Thanks to each of these volunteers for helping with outreach in the community!*

### **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 Godsil at [tgodsil@gmail.com](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com).

**March Program Meeting**  
**Bird's-Eye Views**  
with Pat Boleyn




**Tuesday, March 26, 2013**  
**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



*Maeve Sowles*

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

**SATURDAY**  
**March 16**

### **THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK**

*Birds, Ecology, and Stewardship at Delta Ponds, led by Bruce Newhouse and Peg Boulay*

Bruce Newhouse and Peg Boulay, local environmental educators, will provide a summary of the development of the ponds and how this natural area within the city of Eugene has become a favorite of local birders. We will look for waterfowl, black phoebe, raptors, and other exciting finds in the mixed vegetation.

Meet at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson) for carpooling at 9:00 a.m. Plan to return by 12:30 p.m. All birders are welcome. A \$3 donation is suggested. As a precaution, please remember not to leave valuables in your car. Questions? Call Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or [president@laneaudubon.org](mailto:president@laneaudubon.org).

### **January's Third Saturday LCAS Bird Walk Report**

*by Maeve Sowles*

The January 19 Lane Audubon bird walk was an iffy prospect as Dick and I drove into the foggy Eugene meeting location and the temperature was 27 degrees! We took bets on whether anyone would be there to go out on that biting cold morning! It turns out 14 people showed up, and we carpooled out to Dexter Reservoir to look for water birds. We actually got out of the valley fog into the bright sunshine and bright blue skies. The folks on the trip were an eager, happy group who braved the cold with hats, gloves, and laughter. John Sullivan led us to various points around the reservoir, where we tallied 38 species, including some unusual birds such as Horned Grebe, Common Goldeneye, and Hooded Merganser. We had a beautiful flyover of an adult Bald Eagle emerging from a fog bank and flying out of view. We had leisurely looks at a group of gulls perched on a dock so that John could help us define the ID markings of each species. It was a cold but successful bird walk! If you don't go out, you don't see the birds!