

The Cuall

NEWS FROM LANE COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Birds and climate change

Maeve Sowles

343-8664

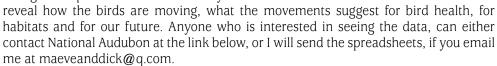
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ational Audubon Society has released an analysis that brings together decades of Christmas Bird Count and climate data in an effort to shed new light on the degree to which global warming is affecting natural systems in North America.

Analysis of 40 years of exhaustive population/location data provides surprising answers with important implications for all Americans that climate change is having a biological impact here at home. Analyses



Some specific species found significantly north from the 40-year starting point are pine siskin (288 miles), purple finch (433 miles), varied thrush (230 miles), and Steller's jays (264 miles). There are also trends showing a decrease in the numbers of some bird species in Oregon such as rock sandpiper, surfbird and bohemian waxwing.

The citizen science data from Christmas Bird Counts makes each of us who have participated a contributor to this body of knowledge. The systematic collection of data over such a long period of time, as well as the sheer numbers of birders who have contributed, makes this a unique national effort. Auduboners tend to be people who are thoughtful and want to make intelligent choices.

National Audubon suggests actions that citizens can take to reduce climate change such as: Eat Locally Grown and Organic Produce, Shop Smarter, Plant More Trees, Save Gas, Switch to Green Power, Reduce Energy Consumption, Determine Your Energy Profile and Carbon Footprint, Get Involved in Your Community, Be an Active Citizen. We can all make a difference!

For more information, go to:http://www.audubon.org/

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

Thank You, Good Earth Show Volunteers!

The crowds were out in force all three days at the Lane County Fairgrounds January 23-25, and so were the Lane Audubon booth volunteers. Hundreds of visitors stopped by to chat about birds and learn about Lane Audubon's programs and activities.

The Good Earth Show never fails to produce a large turnout, and our booth volunteers were kept busy informing attendees about the value of having a local Audubon chapter in our area. Thanks to everyone who helped: Rick Ahrens, Connie Berglund, Joyce Baker, Pat Bitner, Anne Bonine, Debra Eichner, Margot Fetz, Jill Hubbard, Dolly Marshall, Sally O'Donnell, Nancy Radius, Dave Stone, Janie Thomas, Carla Wenzlaff, and Herb Wisner.

A special thank-you goes to Dick Lamster and Kris Kirkeby for presenting workshops on bird-related topics at the Good Earth Show. There will be several more Lane Audubon booth events this coming spring and summer. If you'd like to join the group of volunteers who help with our public outreach, contact Ron Renchler at 345-0834 or christyandron@qwest.net.



Lane Audubon booth volunteers were kept busy at the Good Earth Show in January.



FIELD NOTES: JANUARY 2009

• Some migrants pop in early • Siltcoos Lake gone loony • It's a...Gyrfalcon! • Ancient Murrelet found • More

Tom & Allison Mickel 485-7112 tamickel@rio.com

January was much dryer than usual. What caused some of the earliest spring migrants (swallows and Say's Phoebe) to show up during the month? We don't know. You would think that warmer weather would be more important than dryer weather in triggering movement. Then again, the Say's Phoebe may be a bird that's trying to winter here; there was a report from the same location in early November as well.



WATERBIRDS

Tundra Swan (8-10)	Jan.	Deflation Plain	B&ZS	A normal wintering location, but numbers have been greatly reduced in the last few years
Eurasian Wigeon	Jan. 14	Lane Memorial Garden	s LM et al.	Normally found among larger flocks of American Wigeon
Cinnamon Teal (3 pairs)	Jan. 18	Ada Grange area	AC et al.	A little early—even for the coast
Green-winged (Common) Teal	Jan. 24	Siltcoos Lake	AC, DF	The Eurasian form/species which is rarely found in Lane County
Canvasback	Jan. 6	Dexter Reservoir	PS	A normal winter location
Long-tailed Duck (4)	Jan. 16	Klootchman SW	B&ZS	Normally only found as single birds
Common Goldeneye	Jan. 4	LCC ponds	RR	Not a common location for this species
Red-breasted Merganser (25)	Jan. 18	Siuslaw River	A&TM	A good number for this location
Red-throated Loon	Jan. 24	Siltcoos Lake	AC, DF	It's not often that you find all three species of
Pacific Loon	Jan. 24	Siltcoos Lake	AC, DF	loons on the same coastal lake.
Common Loon	Jan. 24	Siltcoos Lake	AC, DF	
Clark's Grebe	Jan. 24	Siltcoos Lake	AC, DF	Not often found on coastal lakes
Brown Pelican (4)	Jan. 18	Heceta Head	AC et al.	Some of these birds are still hanging around at the coast (see February Quail)
Green Heron	Jan. 6	Delta Ponds	DB	They winter in small numbers most years.

VULTURES & RAPTORS

Turkey Vulture	Jan. 2	Alton Baker Park	KL	The wintering birds seem to be moving around
Turkey Vulture (18)	Jan. 31	Airport & J City area	JS, TB	more than in past winters.
Osprey	Jan. 31	Westfir	CF	A most unusual winter location
Bald Eagle (pair)	Jan. 21	Delta Ponds	DA et al.	I would assume these two sightings are of the
Bald Eagle (Pair)	Jan. 23	Alton Baker Park	AM	pair that nests on Skinner Butte.
Bald Eagle (12 adults;38 imm.) Jan. 25	FRR dam area	A&DH	A large number of eagles for Lane County
Northern Harrier (16)	Jan. 25	Royal Ave. (FRR)	RR	A normal location and number for this species
Golden Eagle	Jan. 19	Alvadore	DS	Rarely found on the valley floor
Merlin	Jan. 18-1	19Deflation Plain area	B&ZS	Normally only found during migration
Gyrfalcon	Jan. 4	NW Eugene	JS,LJ,BCo	The fourth record for Lane County

FIELD NOTES: JANUARY 2009, continued

SHOREBIRDS & GULLS

Greater Yellowlegs (20)	Jan. 3	End of W. 7th Ave.	MP	A high number for one location during winter
Jack Snipe	Jan. 4	Fisher Butte (FRR)	LM	A third record for Lane County
Ancient Murrelet	Jan. 9	Bob Creek	RR	A rare wintering species along the coast
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Jan. 1	Clear Lake Rd.	A&DH	The species is increasing in the Eugene-
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Jan. 2	N. Eugene	A&DH	Springfield area
Barn Owl	Jan. 18	Royal Ave (FRR)	TMc	Not often reported from this location
Northern Pygmy-Owl	Jan. 10	Baker Beach	B&ZS	Not a normal location for this species
Short-eared Owl	Jan. 25	Royal Ave. (FRR)	RR	A normal location for this species

PASSERINES

	Black Phoebe	Jan. 11	Coburg	BCs, RG	The only report this winter season
	Say's Phoebe	Jan. 4	Gimpl Hill	SG,CK	Not normally wintering in the area
	Northern Shrike	Jan. 11	Meadowview Rd.	E&VT	Very few are being reported this winter
	Northern Shrike	Jan. 31	Meadowlark Prairie	JS,TB	
	American Crow (1000+)	Jan. 11	Delta Ponds	A&DH	Numerous large flocks flying to their roost
	Tree Swallow (12-20)	Jan. 25	KR Nielsen Rd.	A&DH	About two weeks earlier than normal
	Violet-green Swallow	Jan. 13	Junction City area	BCl	About a month and a half earlier than normal
	American Pipit (100+)	Jan. 10	Fern Ridge Reservoir	EC	A normal number and location for the species
1	Orange-crowned Warbler	Jan. 21	Delta Ponds	DA et al.	The only report for the winter season
	Townsend's Warbler (12)	Jan.	Heceta Head area	B&ZS	A large flock for this area
	American Tree Sparrow	Jan. 24	SW of Eugene	IB	A rare winter visitor to Lane County
	Fox Sparrow (Red subspecies)	Jan. 2	N. Eugene	HR	A second report for the winter season
	Fox Sparrow (Red subspecies)	Jan. 22	E. Springfield	GG	And a third report for the winter season
	Black-headed Grosbeak	Jan. 1	LCC area	BU	Only the second winter record for Lane County

Larry McQueen Paintings Open House

Please join Lane Audubon at a reception for Larry McQueen's updated art exhibit. Meet the artist and enjoy viewing his beautiful bird art and the hospitality of the Knight Law School Dean's office. Larry is an internationally known artist who lives and works in Eugene.

The reception will be held on March 11, 5–7 p.m., at the University of Oregon Knight Law School Administrative Suite.

Abbreviations

Deflation Plain South Jetty of the Siuslaw River deflation plain; FRR Fern Ridge Reservoir; Klootchman SW Klootchman State Wayside; LCC Lane Community College; South Jetty South Jetty of the Siuslaw River; Siuslaw River Siuslaw River mouth

Thank you, contributors!

DA Dennis Arendt, IB Isabella Barnes, TB Tanya Bray, DB Dave Brown, BCl Bruce Campbell, EC Ellen Cantor, BCo Bill Castillo, BCs Barbara Combs, AC Alan Contreras, DF Daniel Farrar, CF Cheron Ferland, RG Robin Gage, GG George Grier, SG Steve Gordon, A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, LJ Laura Jonhson, CK Cary Kerst, KL Kit Larsen, TMc Teena McKenzie, LM Larry McQueen, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, HR Holly Reinhard, RR Roger Robb, MP Mike Patterson, DS Don Schrouder, PS Paul Sherrell, B&ZS Bill & Zanah Stotz, JS John Sullivan, E&VT Eddie & Vjera Thompson, BU Becky Uhler

CONSERVATION: MARCH 2009

Fern Ridge Wildlife Area manager seeks Audubon's help protecting wildlife

Debbie Schlenoff

685-0610

dschlenoff@msn.com

The Fern Ridge area has been designated as one of Oregon's "Important Bird Areas" (IBAs), sites that are of outstanding significance to bird conservation. We are fortunate to have such a great birding location close to home. Birders recognize the importance of keeping wildlife populations healthy and to that end, we are publishing the following letter from Wayne Morrow and information about the regulations on sanctuary restrictions so we can better plan our visits.

We are pleased with the effort to provide increased access to viewing platforms and recognize the need to balance opportunities to view wildlife with the need to provide sanctuary for over-wintering and nesting birds. All of us can help by spreading the word. And if you are out at Fern Ridge, please let others you may see know about the importance of not disturbing the birds.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/ Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

by Wayne Morrow, Fern Ridge Wildlife Area manager

our units at Fern Ridge Wildlife ◀ Area are designated as wildlife sanctuary following the end of duck season on January 25 and continuing through April 30. The East Coyote, West Coyote, Fisher Butte and Royal Amazon units are open every Saturday during this period for hiking and birdwatching and are posted closed for wildlife sanctuary Sunday through Friday. Royal Avenue and the trail to the Fisher Butte unit viewing platform remains open daily, year-round. We are also opening the trail to the south Fisher Butte unit viewing platform this year specifically to accommodate birdwatchers.

Signs are posted at each access point alerting visitors to entry regulations. On a regular and frequent basis, hikers (birdwatchers, dog walkers) disregard the "Closed" signs and enter the units. The result is disturbance and hazing of wintering concentrations of waterfowl and other wildlife during this important life cycle time period.

The seasonal access restrictions are in place to provide wildlife sanctuary. Of

particular importance in the late winter and spring time period is providing rest areas for waterfowl and other wetland dependent species prior to migration and nesting season. Recent morning fly-off count of Canada geese at Fern Ridge documented 40,225 geese flying off the lake at sunrise. The birds congregate in various fields, and when a walker approaches the large flocks, the birds leave the area. When this happens several times each day by people entering closed areas, the geese leave the area and do not have an opportunity to forage and rest. The functional value of the wildlife sanctuary is diminished when the birds are not allowed to use the area undisturbed.

The walkers do not have to "fire guns" to cause the disturbance. Walking towards a large flock of geese will cause the birds to depart the area. When this happens repetitively, the pattern of use is significantly interrupted or eliminated. In a related area of disturbance, dogs are required to be on leash outside of game bird



The south Fisher Butte unit viewing platform constructed and installed by the Friends of Fern Ridge Wildlife Area Volunteer Tuesday Crew.

hunting seasons, however we regularly encounter people with "special dogs" that the owners choose not to keep on leash. This adds a higher level of disturbance when dogs are allowed to run during wintering and nesting periods.

We (ODFW) are working towards providing a hiking destination at each public access point during the "closed" period by providing marked trails and viewing platforms. During this spring of 2009, we would welcome the opportunity to enlist Audubon members to assist with keeping people out of the wildlife sanctuary areas. On most days, there are unattended vehicles parked at access points and people walking past the "closed" signs. We are asking the birdwatching community to assist with managing the wildlife sanctuary areas by educating the people who disregard the posted signs.

Regulation overview: Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

The majority of Fern Ridge lake and wildlife area remain open daily year-

round. This provides unrestricted access to over 75% of the Fern Ridge project daily year-round.

Four units, less than 25% of the area, have seasonal access restrictions to provide wildlife sanctuary from early October through April 30. The East Coyote, West Coyote, Fisher Butte, and Royal Amazon units have various limited entry and closure dates to provide wildlife sanctuary, even during hunting seasons. For example, during duck season, the Fisher Butte and Royal Amazon units close to hunting each day at 1 PM and are closed to public access at 2 PM. This provides regular and predictable wildlife sanctuary for wintering birds each day. Every afternoon the birds have a safe and undisturbed area for sanctuary, unless people disregard the signs and walk through disturbing the birds.

Our objective is to balance wildlife needs with public use and enjoyment. We hope to achieve both by providing quality habitat and wildlife sanctuary, in balance with public use and birdwatching opportunities. Maintaining access to the viewing platforms is an attempt to provide viewing opportunities without compromising the seasonal needs of wildlife during the critical life stages. We appreciate the support of the birdwatching community and welcome any opportunity to improve conditions for wildlife and viewers.

Wayne Morrow ODFW office Fern Ridge Wildlife Area 26969 Cantrell Road Eugene, OR 97402 (541) 935-2591

Volunteers sought for Fern Ridge at Royal Avenue site

Tami Schroeder at the Corps of Engineers is coordinating volunteers to "sit" at the Royal Avenue viewing platform parking lot during some of the weekends in spring and summer to hand out materials and, with their presence, discourage car clouting. She is asking Lane Audubon members for assistance with this effort. She can be contacted at 942-5631 ext.13.

Regulations 2008-09: Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

East and West Coyote Units

Note: Dates change slightly each year dependent upon calendar/weekend dates

January 26 to April 30: Open to public use on Saturdays for bird watching. Closed Sunday–Friday to all public access to protect wintering waterfowl. Dogs must be kept on leash at all times and discharge of firearms is prohibited.

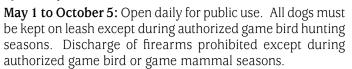
May 1 to October 5: Open daily for public use. All dogs must be kept on leash except during authorized game bird hunting seasons. Discharge of firearms prohibited except during authorized game bird or game mammal seasons.

October 6 to November 14: Closed to all entry for wildlife sanctuary.

November 15 to January 25: Open only for reservation waterfowl hunt on Mon-Wed-Sat mornings until 1 p.m. Closed to all other public access to protect wintering waterfowl.

Fisher Butte and Royal Amazon Units

January 26 to April 30: Open to public use on Saturdays for bird watching. Closed Sunday–Friday to all public access to protect wintering waterfowl. Dogs must be kept on leash at all times, and discharge of firearms is prohibited. Exception: Royal Avenue and trail to Fisher Butte unit viewing platform remain open daily, year-round. Effective this year, the trail to the south Fisher Butte unit viewing platform also remains open daily.



October 6 to October 10: Closed to all entry for wildlife sanctuary.

October 11 to January 25: Open to public use daily until 2 p.m. (Open for both bird watching and hunting). Hunting allowed daily until 1 p.m. Closed to all public access at 2 p.m. to provide afternoon wildlife sanctuary.

Kirk Park Unit

The developed "park" portion of the Kirk Park unit remains open daily, year-round for public access. Hunting regulation apply to the eastern 2/3 of the unit per the restrictions outlined below.

Jan 26 to Oct 10: Open to public use daily and open to hunting during authorized game bird and game mammal seasons

Oct 11 to Jan 25 (concurrent with duck season dates): Open to public use daily and open to hunting only on Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays, and holidays.



A MESSAGE FROM LANE AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maeve Sowles, President

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!

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



The Quail9 issues/yr.



 Field Trips & Bird Walks



Program NE Meetings



 Educational Publications



Conservation Issue Representation



Answers to Questions: 485-BIRD

Visit our web site: www.laneaudubon.org

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY:

Lane Audubon Society welcomes you!

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

LANE AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP D	UES
☐ Individual \$20	\$
☐ Student and Seniors (65 and over) \$15	\$
☐ Family \$25	\$
☐ Lifetime Membership \$400	\$
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Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society)	\$
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Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other use it only for Lane Audubon communications.	organizations. We wi

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



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Quail Layout

Description: We are looking for a volunteer to do layout & graphics for *The Quail*. We provide the template (formatted with InDesign) and the text. Then, you add the graphics and do the layup.

Qualifications: Ability to manipulate graphics files; experience using InDesign

Time commitment: 5-8 hours per

issue; 9 issues per year

Contact: Cynthia Stockwell, 345-9358 or quail@clearwire.net

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Audubon Adventures update

Debra Eichner 607-6123 aceichner@msn.com

Audubon Adventures is a complete language-based natural science curriculum made available to our local teachers through the generous support of Lane Audubon members. We have some new classrooms to welcome this month, bringing our total this academic year to 25 classrooms.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!					
SCHOOL	GRADE	SPONSOR			
Homesource Homesource Mckenzie School Trent Elementary Not Yet Assigned	3-7 K-8 1-5 (2 Kits) 2	Charles And Reida Kimmel Jo And Peter Von Hippel Robin Gage Grace Olsen Marty Beyer			

Quail

Deadlines:
April issue: March 14
May-June issue: April 11
July-August issue: June 6

Submit material to: Cynthia Stockwell, editor, <quail@clearwire.net>

THE QUAIL

The Quail is the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society, which is a chartered chapter of national Audubon. Nine issues are published per year (May-June, July-Aug. and Dec.-Jan. are double issues).

Local members of national Audubon receive a free subscription to The Quail, but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane Audubon (see pg. 7).

Subscriptions: Contact Jim Blick at 683-4635 or blick@toast.net.

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PROGRAM MEETING: MARCH 24

Feathers and Flora by Dan Gleason

Herb Wisner 344-3634 hrwisner@comcast.net



Clark's Nutcrackers collect and store thousands of pine seeds each year

hat makes columbine the perfect hummingbird flower? How do chili pepper plants encourage birds to eat their fruits while discouraging mammals from doing so? These, and many other questions will be answered in "Feathers and Flora," a program by Dan Gleason. Richly illustrated with many photos, this program

discusses the many and various kinds of relationships that exist between plants and birds. Many birds seek the shelter of plants for roosting or nesting, and plants are important sources of foods for many birds. But there are many more influences on both plants and birds that are fascinating to examine and not well-known to many people. Come and learn many new things about the natural world that is in your garden or neighborhood.

PROGRAM MEETING

Feathers and Flora

by Dan Gleason



TUESDAY, MARCH 24 7:30 P.M.

Eugene Garden Club 1645 High Street, Eugene

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

Dael Parsons Outgoing Bird Walk Coordinator

Lane Audubon owes a huge "Thank you!" to Dael Parsons for coordinating bird walks over the past four years. Prior to 2005, she co-led the bird walks with Margie Paris, and her work with Lane Audubon has spanned nearly a decade! We appreciate Dael's cheerful, positive energy and wish her well in her future endeavors. Thank you, Dael!



CORRECTION: FEBRUARY QUAIL

The list of Team Leaders for the Eugene Christmas Bird Count inadvertently omitted Team #3 leader Dan Heyerly. Thanks, Dan, for your contribution to the Count!

VOLUNTEER WELCOME

Leila Snow New Bird Walk Coordinator

Lane Audubon welcomes a new Field Trip Coordinator, Leila Snow, who steps into the role this month. We are very appreciative of her help in reaching out to new and experienced birders as we explore the Lane County area on fun and informative bird walks. We asked Leila to introduce herself to Quail readers:

"I started birding about 25 years ago, stopped while raising a family, and then started again about four years ago. I've had so much enjoyment from watching birds and learning through their activities about the environment that I wanted to share some of the fun with others. Some favorite birding areas are my backyard, Delta Ponds, Skinner's Butte, Klamath Basin, and the Texas coast. Because I'm still relatively inexperienced, another part of my motivation for accepting this volunteer position is the opportunity to learn and meet others who enjoy birding. If you have an idea for a Third Saturday Bird Walk or a field trip, please let me know. I'd be happy to help make it happen!"



BIRD WALKS AND EVENTS

Monthly Bird Walk: Our monthly bird walks are usually held on the third Saturday of the month, but we often have additional walks or special trips. With knowledgeable leaders and many pairs of eyes to help spot birds, our trips are a great way to increase your birding skills while learning about Lane County birds a eir habitats. All birders are welcome, from novice to expert. A \$3 donation is suggested.

Dael Parsons 729-0048 daelparsons@comcast.net

SATURDAY MARCH 21

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK

WILLOW CREEK PRESERVE

Willow Creek Preserve, managed by The Nature Conservancy, is the ecologically richest remnant of native wet prairie in the southern Willamette Valley. More than 200 native plant, 100 bird and 25 butterfly species have been recorded on the 508-acre preserve, including the rare Fender's Blue Butterfly. The Preserve is managed by periodic prescribed burning to reduce encroachment of trees and serves as an excellent example of the role fire can play in the ecology of prairies, increasing bird life from one or two species to as many as thirty in some areas. Charlie Quinn, associate director of development, says: "It's neat to have a place where so much of what we thought we had lost has been rediscovered and to see Threatened species recovering."

Our bird walk leader, Tom Mickel, is actively involved in this process of rediscovery. As a volunteer for Willow Creek Preserve, he performs bird surveys and participates in other interesting projects such as restoring his own plot in the hayfield. Join us to find out more about this remnant of native wet prairie and the birds that inhabit it. All levels of birders are welcome, from first timer to expert.

Wetlands can be-well-wet, so be sure to wear appropriate clothing and footgear. We will meet at South Eugene High School, 19th and Patterson Streets, rain or shine, at 8:00 a.m. and return by noon. A \$3 donation is suggested. Please note: As a precaution, do not leave valuables in your parked car. Questions? Contact Leila at leilas@ori.org or 968-5533.

SATURDAY MAY 9

FERN RIDGE WINGS AND WINE BIRDING FESTIVAL

The Fern Ridge Wings and Wine Festival is our big event of the year. Please see page 2 for information.

PROGRAM MEETING

Feathers and Flora by Dan Gleason



Tuesday, March 24 7:30 P.M. Eugene Garden Club 1645 High Street, Eugene



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