



# The Quail

May-June 2009

NEWS FROM LANE COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### Reading in winter inspires action in summer

Maeve Sowles

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Earlier this year, in the cold month of February, I read *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, by Barbara Kingsolver. This book had been on my nightstand for some time before I finally read it, and I thought it was fascinating. She leads the reader through a year of her family's efforts to eat locally grown and produced foods, either from their garden or within a small radius of their home. They are fortunate, as are we, to live in a region where small organic farms and locally produced items such as eggs, cheese, meats, nuts and grains are actually available. Their experiment in Virginia takes them from sparse eating options in the month of February through the abundance of the harvest season when fresh produce and fruits are everywhere. The challenges and rewards of their year of eating locally are described with rich detail, charm, cheer, reverence for nature and some hard data.



The book provides detailed information, but it is also a wonderful family story and even includes recipes. The Kingsolver family's decision to involve themselves with the food they eat provides a strong lesson in how the deliberate choices we make affect the ecosystems of the earth. We cannot all adopt this approach exclusively, but the take-away messages are timeless: sustainable organic agriculture makes sense; purchase as many locally grown or produced products as possible; grow your own fruits and vegetables if you can; and do not use poisons to kill unwanted living things.

Gardeners always fantasize about the garden in the winter and make plans, some of which work out and some of which do not! I plan to plant my regular kitchen garden this year, but I also want to support the local farmers that sell nuts, eggs and other products from our local area. These items are fresher, and the organic farming practices help the earth, the insects, the birds, the fish, and even us! We need to use our purchasing power to get products that are healthy for the whole network of life. Our local options are terrific, with farmers markets, farm stands and farms you can visit to make purchases helping to keep the local economy healthy as well. I hope to see you at the farmers market!

"Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" helped me mentally prepare for the growing season.



**May 9, 2009 • [www.wingsandwinefestival.com](http://www.wingsandwinefestival.com)**

- 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** **Bird Walk to Perkin’s Peninsula and Zumwalt Park**  
 Look for marsh birds, migrant songbirds and many other birds. Leaders: Tom and Allison Mickel.  
*Limit: 20 Fee: \$10 Pre-registration: Required Meet at: Secret House Winery*
- 
- 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** **Bird and Ecology Walk to Fisher Butte Unit at Fern Ridge**  
 Look at species of birds that breed here, and focus on how they use the wetland habitats of Fern Ridge. Leader: Dave Bontrager, biologist, researcher and educator.  
*Limit: 20 Fee: \$10 Pre-registration: Required Meet at: Secret House Winery*
- 
- 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** **Birds and Blooms Walk and Tour at the Oregon Country Fair Site**  
 The site includes wetlands, uplands, forests and open meadows. Leaders: Bruce Newhouse (plants, birds and butterflies), Dennis Arendt (bird identification) and staff from the Oregon Country Fair.  
*Limit: 40 Fee: Free Pre-registration: Required Meet at: Oregon Country Fair site entrance at 24450 Suttle Rd. and the corner of Aero Rd. Follow signs for parking and starting point.*
- 
- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** **Birding Scopes at Royal Avenue Platform**  
 View numerous species of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, terns, and other birds with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers biologist Roberta Swift.  
*Limit: No Fee: Free Pre-registration: None Meet: Royal Avenue viewing platform (walk west from the west end of Royal Ave. until platform is in view, follow trail to platform)*
- 
- 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** **Secret House Festival Grounds Open**  
 ✓ Free Fun for the whole family! ✓ Gardens open all day for bird watching! ✓ Lunch from Veneta’s “Our Daily Bread” restaurant! ✓ Hourly bird walks on Secret House grounds ✓ Visit many booths: Cascade Raptor Center, Lane Audubon, US Army Corp of Engineers, WREN, Nearby Nature, Veneta Parks, Barnes and Noble, Wine Tasting and more
- 
- 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** **Fern Ridge Bird Walk**  
 Dan Farrar, former biologist/intern with the US Army Corp of Engineers, will focus on identification of the many shorebirds along the edges of the Fern Ridge wildlife area.  
*Limit: No Fee: Free Pre-registration: Required Meet at: Royal Avenue Gate*
- 
- 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** **Paddle on Fern Ridge Lake and Coyote Creek**  
 Paddle the marshy side of Fern Ridge and get close to wetland raptors and other water-loving birds. Led by Guy Santiago.  
*Oregon River Sports will bring the canoes and gear. You should bring: rain gear, quick-drying, synthetic clothing (minimal cotton), shoes that can get wet (no flip flops), sunscreen, mosquito repellent, hat, sunglasses, retainers for eyeglasses, water, a snack and binoculars.*  
*Limit: 10 canoes Fee: \$25 per person or \$40.00 per canoe Pre-registration: Required Meet at: 9:45 at Perkins Peninsula Park*

- 
- 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** **Open House at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Office (ODFW), Fern Ridge Wildlife Area**  
 Visit to see displays of mounted birds, free bird checklists, maps to trails of woodlands and wetlands. A great opportunity to become better acquainted with your local wildlife area. The area is entirely open this time of year for self-guided walks.  
*Limit: No    Fee: Free    Pre-registration: None    Meet at: 26969 Cantrell Road*
- 
- 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** **Hourly Bird Walks on Secret House Winery Grounds**  
 Led by various Lane County Audubon Society leaders.  
*Limit: 25    Fee: Free    Pre-registration: Required    Meet at: Lane Audubon booth*
- 
- 11:00 a.m.** **Nature Trail Walk at the ODFW site**  
 Led by Kevin Roth, Fish and Wildlife Senior Technician and Assistant Manager of the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area, who has been conducting wetland/upland restoration.  
*Limit: No    Fee: Free    Pre-registration: None    Meet at: 26969 Cantrell Road*
- 
- 11:00 a.m.** **Raptor Identification**  
 Presented by Dan Gleason, Louise Shimmel & an all-winged cast from the Cascades Raptor Center.  
*Limit: No    Fee: Free    Pre-registration: None    Meet at: Cascades Raptor Center Booth*
- 
- 11:30 a.m.** **Kid-friendly Bird Walk**  
 Join us in the beautiful gardens. Led by Leila Snow and Kris Kirkeby.  
*Limit: No    Fee: Free    Pre-registration: None    Meet at: Lane Audubon booth*
- 
- 11:30 a.m.** **Hedgerow Talk, by Patti Chappel**  
 Learn about plantings to enhance bird habitat, especially native plants to attract native birds. Patti Chappel is the owner of Secret House Vineyards and has developed hedgerow habitat throughout her property. Her beautiful gardens are enjoyed by all who visit!  
*Limit: No    Fee: Free    Pre-registration: None    Meet at: Wine Tasting booth*
- 
- 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** **Wineries Tour with Birding**  
 Van tour will begin at Secret House, then to Sweet Cheeks and King Estate wineries. Visit the tasting rooms, hear about the wineries, check for birds and enjoy the afternoon tour! Lane County Audubon Society Field Trip Coordinator Leila Snow will be the bird guide.  
*Limit: 20    Fee: \$35    Pre-registration:    Meet at: Secret House wine cellar*
- 
- 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** **Plant and Wildflower Walk at Fisher Butte**  
 Wes Messinger, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers botanist, leads this walk through wet prairie. Wear waterproof boots. The Fisher Butte parking lot is on the North side of Hwy 126 one half mile west of Fisher Road, 4.8 miles east of Territorial Hwy.  
*Limit: 20    Fee: Free    Pre-registration:    Meet at: Fisher Butte parking lot*
- 
- 2:00 p.m.** **Backyard Habitat Talk**  
 Dick Lamster, past president of the Lane County Audubon Society, will discuss bird feeders, bird boxes, and attracting wildlife with landscape ideas.  
*Limit: No    Fee: Free    Pre-registration: None    Meet at: Secret House*
- 
- 3:00 p.m.** **Bat Talk**  
 This presentation will dispel common preconceptions of our oft misunderstood flying mammalian neighbors. Presented by Cameron Bishop, Corps of Engineers wildlife technician.  
*Limit: No    Fee: Free    Pre-registration: None    Meet at: Secret House Tasting room*

“The State of the Birds”

Debbie Schlenoff

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This spring, the Secretary of the Interior released a report, “The State of the Birds”, which analyzed trends in bird populations across the United States. The overall picture is not good; over a third of bird populations across the country are endangered, threatened or in grave decline. Not only do healthy bird populations boast their own inherent value, but, additionally, they are significant indicators of the health of the environment we share. This should be a wake-up call to all of us; conservation efforts are needed without delay.



The report describes staggering losses of grassland and arid-land birds, species native to Hawaii, species dependent on the ocean, and many forest dwelling birds. However, there have been success stories, as well, of species targeted for special conservation efforts such as the peregrine falcon and of wetland species and hunted waterfowl in general. It is no coincidence that the recovery of these populations was dependent on money targeted for conservation efforts. In the case of many waterfowl, that money has come mostly from license fees and equipment taxes paid by hunters and fishermen.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is responsible for the conservation of wildlife in the state. Non-game species account for 88% of the species they are charged with protecting, but these species receive less than 2% of the funding. The majority of funds is for management of game species which come through a 10% tax on hunting and fishing equipment and license fees.

**A proposal to fund conservation efforts**

The Oregon Conservation Strategy is a nationally recognized plan for management of non-game species in our state, but there is no source of funding. Some organizations such

as Portland Audubon Society are proposing a sales tax on bird seed to help fund the Conservation Strategy. The bird seed sales tax would be similar to the tax that hunters and fishermen pay and would bring funding and

influence to non-game conservation programs.

The bill appears to have many advantages. The small number of birdseed distributors would make the sales tax relatively easy to implement at the wholesale level. The largest birdseed seller in the state, Backyard Birdshops, is promoting passage of legislation to implement the funding. The amount

of money paid by individuals would be small but state-wide would generate two million dollars a year, which would be matched by federal funding to produce 4-6 million dollars. The bill being proposed in the state legislature would expire in five years, so it can be actively opposed if it is not being used correctly.

Recent statistics show that the number of people who engage in wildlife viewing is now greater than the number of people who hunt and fish. Commendably, hunters and fishermen have been paying a tax to support their species of interest for decades and, as a result, leverage a great deal of influence on management strategy. Perhaps it is time for bird enthusiasts concerned about the state of all birds to have a way to help and be heard. I can buy a lot of bird seed for 20 bucks and would personally be gratified to know that a small amount of that money will support habitat for birds and promote wildlife viewing. None of us like taxes. But wouldn't it be nice to turn an old adage on its head: two birds in the bush are worth more than one in the hand.

# 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!



## LANE AUDUBON

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



*The Quail* • **The Quail**  
9 issues/yr.



• **Field Trips & Bird Walks**



• **Program Meetings** **NEW**



• **Educational Publications**



• **Conservation Issue Representation**



• **Answers to Questions: 485-BIRD**

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

## JOIN OR RENEW TODAY:

### Lane Audubon 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 DUES

- Individual \$20.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Student 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).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you are a current national Audubon member     Don't know

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

*Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organizations. We will use it only for Lane Audubon 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 Audubon  
P.O. Box 5086  
Eugene, OR 97405



## VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

"Thank you" to Phil Shepard, who has served as our Fern Ridge Wings and Wine Festival volunteer since last November. Phil scheduled and organized our steering committee meetings, kept issues moving forward, updated the web site, and generally kept the event on track for the May 9th festivities! We are very grateful for his organizational skills, sense of humor, and persistence! Phil's work was a valuable contribution to this year's Fern Ridge Wings and Wine Festival. Thank you, Phil!

## 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 layout.

**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](mailto:quail@clearwire.net)



# The Quail

Deadlines:

**July-August issue: June 13**

**September issue: August 8**

Submit material to:  
Cynthia Stockwell, editor,  
<[quail@clearwire.net](mailto: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. 5).

**Subscriptions:** Contact Jim Blick at 683-4635 or [blick@toast.net](mailto:blick@toast.net).

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## LANE AUDUBON OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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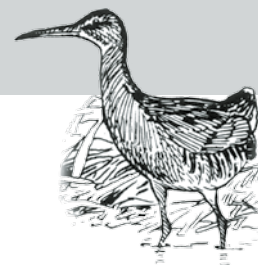
## FIELD NOTES: MARCH 2009

### • Swans depart, pelicans land at Fern Ridge • Rail sings at Mt. Pisgah • Kittiwakes flock to Florence • Longspurs stroll along beach

Tom & Allison Mickel

485-7112

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Spring migration has started, as you can see by the reports below, so now is a great time to get out and enjoy your favorite birding locations. As you're doing that, don't forget to let us know what you're seeing.

#### WATERBIRDS

Ross's Goose	Mar. 14	Fern Ridge Reservoir	JG	They winter here in very small numbers.
Tundra Swan	Mar. 3	SJSR Deflation Plain	B&ZS	Last sighting for this winter
Tundra Swan (2)	Mar. 23	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	Typical date for last sighting of the season
Western Grebe	Mar. 30	Delta Ponds	SH	Unusual location
American White Pelican	Mar. 21	Fern Ridge Reservoir	JH	Returning for the summer again

#### RAPTORS

Turkey Vulture (5)	Mar. 10	Alton Baker Park	AM	First migrants
Osprey	Mar. 7	Fern Ridge Reservoir	EC,ER	Returned to the area a few days earlier than usual
Rough-legged Hawk	Mar. 21	Junction City area	JS	Toward the end of their winter stay
Merlin	Mar. 14	Creswell area	BF	Around in small numbers during the winter

#### RAILS, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS

Virginia Rail	Mar. 13	Mt. Pisgah	AP,BH	Heard calling from the small marsh near the east trailhead; a typical date for their return to breeding areas
Black-bellied Plover	Mar. 23	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	They winter here in small numbers.
Mew Gull	Mar. 11	Delta Ponds area	TM et al.	Small flocks were moving north throughout the
Mew Gull	Mar. 11	I-5 area	AC	Lane County Willamette Valley on this day
Glaucous Gull	Mar. 14	Florence	JG	In the area for about a month
Black-legged Kittiwake (300+)	Mar. 2	Florence area	A&ES	A very large number

#### PASSERINES

Red-breasted Sapsucker	Mar. 13	Mt. Pisgah	AP,BH	Southern (daggetti) race; Not often found in the Eugene-Springfield area
Black Phoebe (2)	Mar. 2	Cantrell Rd.	PS,SM,DS	A location where they have bred in the past
Say's Phoebe	Mar.	Eugene-Springfield	m.ob.	Larger numbers than usual were found throughout the area this month.
Tree Swallow	Mar. 17	Ada Grange area	B&ZS	First spring report for the area
Violet-green Swallow	Mar. 22	Ada Grange area	B&ZS	First spring report for the area
Cliff Swallow	Mar. 30	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	A few days later than is normal
Barn Swallow	Mar. 30	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	Returning right on time

## FIELD NOTES: MARCH 2009, *continued*

### PASSERINES *continued*

Ruby-crowned Kinglets	Mar. 30	Mt. Pisgah	EC	Large numbers of migrants in the area
Orange-crowned Warbler	Mar. 20	Skinner Butte	SH	Returning right on schedule
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Mar. 9	Santa Clara area	MRu	A significant increase in numbers at feeders as migrants starting to arrive
Hermit Warbler	Feb. 24	Eugene, south hills	BMc	A female coming to a suet feeder
Hermit Warbler	Mar. 14	N. Eugene	BG	A male coming to a suet feeder; both birds likely wintered locally.
Common Yellowthroat	Mar. 30	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	Returning right on schedule
Chipping Sparrow	Mar. 21	Delta Ponds	DH	A little over a week earlier than usual
Fox Sparrow	Mar. 30	Mt. Pisgah	EC	None were found where they're typically common all winter
Lapland Longspur (15+)	Mar. 16	North Jetty beach	B&ZS	A casual migrant along the outer coast
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Mar. 30	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DJ	A few days earlier than usual
Evening Grosbeak	Mar. 27	River Road area	BC	Returning right on time

### ABBREVIATIONS

**FRR** Fern Ridge Reservoir;  
**North Jetty** North Jetty,  
Siuslaw R.; **SJSR** South Jetty,  
Siuslaw R.

### THANK YOU, CONTRIBUTORS!

**EC** Ellen Cantor, **BC** Barbara Combs, **AC** Alan Contreras, **BF** Bob Fish, **JG** John Gatchet, **BG** Brandon Green, **JH** Jane Happy, **SH** Sally Hill, **DH** Diane Horgan, **BH** Bill Hunter, **DJ** Dave Jones, **SM** Sylvia Maulding, **BMc** Bill McWhorter, **A&TM** Allison & Tom Mickel, **AP** Al Prigge, **ER** Elaine Rees, **MRu** Mark Rudolph, **DS** Don Schrouder, **PS** Paul Sherrell, **A&ES** Andy & Ellen Stephiewski, **B&ZS** Bill & Zanah Stotz, **NS** Noah Strycker, **JS** John Sullivan.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

*A service to Lane Audubon members*

### MAY DAY WILDFLOWER WALK

#### MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

Botanist Dr. Rhoda Love will lead a wildflower walk through the Arboretum.

**Friday, May 1, 5–6 p.m.**

*This walk is free, in honor of Native Plant Appreciation Week; Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center*

### WINGS AND WAVES BIRDING FESTIVAL

#### THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CITY

Events include: \$500 Bird Count Contest, Field Trips and Kayak Trips, Speakers, Live Raptor Show, "For The Birds" Gallery, Live Music, Construction of World's Largest Bird Nest

**Friday–Sunday, May 1–3**

*Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Hwy 101, Lincoln City; FMI: [www.LincolnCityAudubon.com](http://www.LincolnCityAudubon.com) AudubonLC@charter.net or 992-0440*

### WETLANDS & WEAVING FOR WEE ONES

#### WREN

Learn how Native American people harvested the inner bark of Cedar, Maple and Willows to make clothing, baskets and rope.

**Saturday, May 2**

**Session 1: 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

**Session 2: 1:00–3:30 p.m.**

*Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$4; Pre-registration is required. Contact Holly McRae at [hmcrac@wewetlands.org](mailto:hmcrac@wewetlands.org) or 683-6494. Meet at the West Eugene Wetlands Yurt, 751 S. Danebo Ave. in Eugene*

### BIRDING ESSENTIALS

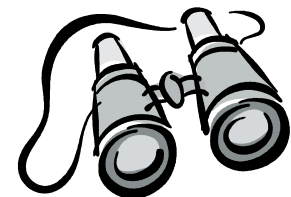
#### MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

Join birder Rick Ahrens and learn a systematic way to identify birds by sight and sound and how to use your field guides and optics more effectively.

**Sunday, May 3, 8:00–12:00**

*Most class time will be spent in the field, so dress for the weather.*

*Call 747-1504 to sign up; \$25*





# COMMUNITY CALENDAR, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

*A service to Lane Audubon members*

## NATURE AND COMMUNITY ON THE MCKENZIE RIVER: AN EVENING WITH BARRY LOPEZ

### MCKENZIE RIVER TRUST

Barry Lopez, the acclaimed writer and long-time McKenzie River valley resident, will read and reflect on his life-long study of the natural world and human culture. This is a rare opportunity to hear from one of North America's foremost writers on nature and culture and to lend your support for the McKenzie River Trust in celebration of its 20th Anniversary.

**Friday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.**

*Soreng Theater, Hult Center*

## SPRING BIRD WALKS

### MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

Join entertaining birder Davey Wendt for a series of Saturday morning bird walks for all levels of expertise.

**Saturday, May 9, 8-10 a.m.**

**Saturday, June 6, 8-10 a.m.**

*Limit 20; RSVP to Clare at 747-1504.*

*Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center; \$5 donation.*

## NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

### NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Visit eight private gardens in Eugene where native plants are prominent. Plants will be labeled.

**Sunday, May 10, 12-5 p.m.**

*Download tour brochure from [emeraldnpso.org](http://emeraldnpso.org).*

## EUGENE BIRDER'S NIGHT

An informal gathering of birders sharing Lane County sightings. All levels of birding experience are welcome.

**Monday, May 11, 7:00 p.m.**

*Sacred Heart Hospital (downtown), 1255 Hilyard St., Conference Room A (across hall from Auditorium)*

## NATIVE PLANTS FOR NATIVE BIRDS

### WILLAMETTE VALLEY HARDY PLANT GROUP

Field Ecologist Bruce Newhouse will explain how to use plantings to attract

birds to our yards. The evening also includes a mini clinic by Ellie Ryan of the North American Butterfly Association about how to attract butterflies to feed and breed in our gardens.

**Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.**

*Doors open at 6:30 for refreshments and book sales. Agate Hall, UO; Agate St. at 18th Ave; Admission \$6; FMI: [www.thehardyplantgroup.org](http://www.thehardyplantgroup.org) or Pam Perryman at 344-0896*

## WETLAND WANDER

### WREN (WILLAMETTE RESOURCES EDUCATION NETWORK)

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

**Tuesday, May 12, 9-10 a.m.**

*Meet at the Stewart Pond overlook off of Stewart Road. WREN will provide binoculars. FMI: Holly McRae at 683-6494*

## THE BIGGEST AND THE DEEPEST: TRACKING WHALES

### NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Presentation by Bruce Mate, Director, Marine Mammal Institute, Newport, OR

**Friday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.**

*Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO*

## WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL AND PLANT SALE

### MT. PISGAH ARBORETUM

Our annual celebration! Enjoy a huge display of native wildflowers, live music, kids' activities, great food and wine, arts, crafts, books and free parking!

**Sunday, May 17, 10-4**

*Leave pets at home. Suggested donation \$5/person, \$10/family.; FMI: 747-3817 or [www.MountPisgahArboretum.org/festivals](http://www.MountPisgahArboretum.org/festivals).*

## THE 3RD ANNUAL WALKIN' & ROLLIN' THROUGH THE WETLANDS!

### WREN

To celebrate American Wetlands Month explore the West Eugene Wetlands by biking or walking the

Fern Ridge Bike Path between Beltline and Greenhill Rd. Along the way, local experts and organizations will have educational displays highlighting the many wonders of the wetlands.

**Saturday, May 30, 10:00-2:00**

*FMI: Holly McRae at 683-6494*

## NATURAL TREASURE HUNTS NATURE QUEST:

### NEARBY NATURE

Join Nearby Nature on a family-paced hike in search of natural treasures! Learn how to use a GPS unit and a compass. Enjoy a craft, snack and a visit from a costumed Kinder Critter.

**Saturday, May 30, 10 to noon**

*Meet at the Alton Baker Park Host Residence (between the dog run and community gardens); \$2/person or \$5/family; Pre-registration suggested: 687-9699*

## SUMMER DAY CAMPS

### NEARBY NATURE

Kids age 3-11 who like exploring, riding bikes, telling stories, canoeing, catching bugs, or creating nature art will love Nearby Nature's summer day camps.

**June 22-August 28**

*FMI: Call 687-9699, e-mail [uinfo@nearbynature.org](mailto:uinfo@nearbynature.org) or see [www.nearbynature.org](http://www.nearbynature.org).*

## WONDERFUL WORMS NATURE QUEST

### NEARBY NATURE

Discover who's creeping and crawling in Nearby Nature's Learnscape Gardens. Check out our giant worm bin and sample garden goodies! Also enjoy a craft, snack, and a visit from a costumed Kinder Critter.

**Saturday, June 27, 10 to noon**

*Meet at the Alton Baker Park Host Residence (between the dog run and community gardens). \$2/person or \$5/family. Pre-registration suggested: 687-9699*

## PROGRAM MEETING: MAY 26

### Nature for the Soul by David Donahue


*Herb Wisner*

344-3634

*hrwisner@comcast.net*



The beauty of travel is the profound shattering of perceptions we all seem to create for places that are unfamiliar to us. For some, the undeniable call of nature is the driving force behind the decisions we make, the experiences we seek and the lifestyles we live. Imagination runs wild about places at the

edge of human influence, free from the shackles of exploitation and ignorance. With a camera in hand and a backpack ready to go, the winds carry us to the four corners of the globe. In the end, and with a little bit of luck, we come back with a better understanding of how our actions can impact the delicate balance between life and death. From the Okavango Delta to the Andes, from Antarctica to Queensland, the program will highlight several fascinating places on the planet and reflect on environmental concerns threatening many of these spectacular ecosystems. Please join Eugene native David Donahue on a photographic journey across seven continents celebrating biodiversity and the spirit of adventure. 

### PROGRAM MEETING

#### Nature for the Soul

*By David Donahue*



**Tuesday, May 26  
7:30 P.M.**

**Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High Street, Eugene**

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

### Spring into action: Help staff the Lane Audubon Booth!

*Ron Renchler*

345-0834

*ronr@uoregon.edu*

May and June are our busiest months for having the Lane County Audubon Society booth at local festivals and events. We have a full lineup scheduled for the coming weeks. If you have a spare hour or two on any of the following days, you can help us spread the word about Lane Audubon's birdwalks, program meetings, educational outreach, and conservation initiatives.

**Wings and Wine Festival, Saturday, May 9**

**Mt. Pisgah Wildflower Show, Sunday, May 17**

**WREN West Eugene Wetlands Walk & Roll Event, Saturday, May 30**

**KLCC Garden Tour, Sunday, June 28**

No experience necessary. If you haven't volunteered before, we'll match you up with an experienced booth staffer to teach you the ropes.

Check your calendar now. If you're available, please contact Ron Renchler at 345-0834 or [ronr@uoregon.edu](mailto:ronr@uoregon.edu).



## BIRD WALKS AND EVENTS continued

Leila Snow

968-5533

leilas@ori.org

*Bird Walks and Events continued from page 12.*

**SUNDAY  
MAY 24**

### NEST BOX TOUR

Dick Lamster and Maeve Sowles will lead a tour of the 45 nest boxes on their ten acres southwest of Eugene. These nest boxes have been inhabited by western bluebirds, violet-green swallows, tree swallows, black-capped chickadees and chestnut-backed chickadees. We will show you how we design, place, and monitor our nest boxes. There will also be a presentation of ideas to enhance your yard for wildlife. This limited-space event will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at noon.

*Please call 343-8664 to reserve a spot.*

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 20**

### Third Saturday Bird Walk

#### GREEN ISLAND

Green Island, home to over 130 bird species, is created by the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers. Owned and managed by McKenzie River Trust, it is one of the most significant conservation projects in the Willamette Valley.

Our bird walk leader, Chris Vogel, is the Green Island Protection Manager.

*All levels of birders are welcome, from first timer to expert. We will meet at South Eugene High School (19th and Patterson Sts.), 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  
JUNE 27**

### WOODPECKERS IN THE SISTERS AREA

Were you as intrigued as I was by Paul Bannick's presentation in January about "The Owl and the Woodpecker"? I thought we should go see for ourselves how woodpeckers are an indicator species, providing the nesting hole for many other species. On this trip, we'll visit burned areas of different ages because different species of woodpeckers are attracted to different post-burn ecological stages. Our guide, Stephen Shunk, has been a bird guide since 1992 and has a background in environmental education and natural history. We'll carpool to Sisters, then travel in a van to visit sites. All levels of birders will enjoy this trip!

*Pre-registration is required. The trip is limited to 12 participants. The cost is \$35 plus shared gas expense for carpooling. Please contact Leila at leilas@ori.org or 968-5533.*

## Birds and Climate Change: On the move

**A**s reported in our March Quail, National Audubon Society has released a new study based on analysis of 40 years of Christmas Bird Count data. They found that nearly 60% of the 305 species found in North America in winter are "on the move," shifting their ranges northward. Below is one report of a species of local interest. For complete information, see <http://birdsandclimate.audubon.org>.

### Marbled Murrelet

The Marbled Murrelet is a bird of contrasting needs; it is a seabird, but breeds in both old-growth forests and on

rocky slopes. This yellow WatchList species is declining in the southern portions of its range (California, Oregon, and Washington) primarily because of the loss of old-growth nesting habitat; the species also appears to be declining throughout its range. Climate change poses an additional challenge.



photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

— Gus Van Vliet, USFWS



## 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 and their habitats. All birders are welcome, from novice to expert. A \$3 donation is suggested.

Leila Snow

968-5533

leilas@ori.org

**SATURDAY  
MAY 9**

### FERN RIDGE WINGS AND WINE FESTIVAL

The Fern Ridge Wings and Wine Festival is our big event of the year—see schedule on page 2 for details!

**SATURDAY  
MAY 16**

### Third Saturday Bird Walk

#### MADISON MEADOWS

Conservation—is it really only the province of big organizations? May's walk will focus on the Jefferson Neighborhood, visiting Madison Meadows and the surrounding area. What happens to bird life when open habitat is preserved and when neighborhoods move to more organic methods? If you've ever wondered what you and some committed neighbors could do to change the world, this walk is for you!

Our bird walk leader, Dave Irons, has been birding since age 6 and is a resident of the Jefferson Neighborhood.

*All levels of birders are welcome, from first timer to expert. We will meet at South Eugene High School (19th and Patterson Sts.), 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.*

**FRIDAY–  
SUNDAY  
MAY 22–25  
MEMORIAL  
DAY WEEKEND**

### CAMPOUT: WENAS CREEK, WASHINGTON

Each year Washington State Audubon gathers in the Wenas Valley for rustic camping, birding, wildflower viewing, family activities and more. Some of us thought we'd go see what's up on the east side of the state. No registration required; donations accepted for camp costs; bring own food, water, tent or small RV, table, etc. FMI: [www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org)

Contact Leila Snow at [leilas@ori.org](mailto:leilas@ori.org) or 968-5533 for carpooling.

*Bird Walks and Events continued on page 11.*

### PROGRAM MEETING

**Nature for the Soul**

*By David Donahue*



**Tuesday, May 26  
7:30 P.M.  
Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High Street, Eugene**




**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER**

*The  
Quail*

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