



The Quail

December 2009–January 2010

NEWS FROM LANE COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

From our President



Darkening the night— clearing the sky for stargazers and our avian friends

Maeve Sowles

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For those of us drawn to the outdoors, the night skies offer a realm of beauty and fascination. December and January have early sunsets and the longest evenings for watching stars. If we have clear weather, winter constellations are brilliant. The bright stars of Orion, Taurus, Canis, and Gemini sit on each side of the Milky Way. The ancient Greeks gave mythical names to these constellations we still recognize. Our ability to enjoy these glorious stars connects us with ancestors who lived centuries ago. Many of Earth's early cultures were inspired by celestial events as seen in Anasazi petroglyphs, Egyptian and Mayan ruins, Stonehenge, Chinese jewelry, and Japanese paintings. Babylonian and Arab mathematicians charted distances in the skies of their time. Early Polynesian navigators used their knowledge of the night skies to find pinpoint islands on the open ocean. This timeless connection with the experiences of our ancestors is available to us every clear night.

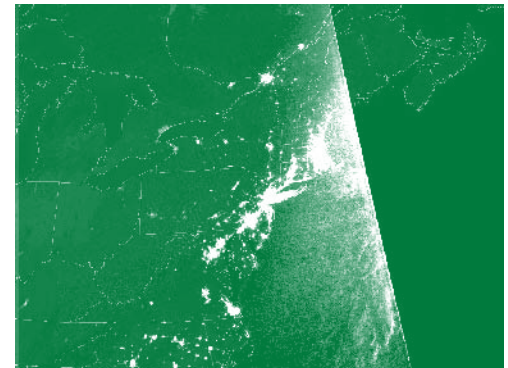


Photo courtesy of NOAA/DMSP

One challenge to astronomy is the light pollution of our cities and towns. Even in rural areas, yard lights and highways mask the light from the stars. The satellite image from the 2003 blackout in New York dramatically shows the US continent at night (www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories/s2015.htm). There are very few truly dark areas. Our own enjoyment is not the only issue with light pollution. Birds use stars as a directional cue during migration. Night-migrating birds can become confused by illuminated structures causing them to deviate from their route. The extra energy needed to regain their course increases mortality in weaker birds. Birds also collide with tall, lighted structures. Many other animals that depend on nocturnal activities for survival are damaged by light pollution. Sea turtle hatchlings are confused by lights at beaches and crawl toward the light rather than into the ocean. This leaves them vulnerable to predators for a longer time. Mammals, insects, amphibians, plants, and fish have all suffered deaths due to artificial lighting.

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2009 Eugene Christmas Bird Count



68th annual Eugene Christmas Bird Count— sign up now to participate with a Count Team or as a Feeder Watcher

Dick Lamster

343.8664

This year will be the 68th annual Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) and the 110th National Audubon Society (NAS) Christmas Bird Count. This year, the ECBC will be on Sunday, January 3, 2010. Centered in the Danebo area, the 15 mile diameter Count Circle is divided into 25 Count Areas. Each area has a Team Leader who organizes team members, leads the group through the area on the day of the count, and then submits the results to the ECBC Committee.

ECBC committee

Dick Lamster is this year's **Count Coordinator** (officially called the Count Compiler), and he will be working with NAS on the administrative tasks of the count. He will also be coordinating with the Team Leaders as well as handling publicity, assembling packets for the Team Leaders, and writing part of the post-Count narrative.

If you are interested in participating on one of the bird count teams, please call Volunteer Coordinator **Barbara Gleason** at **345.3974**, and she will place you on a team. If you prefer to be placed with a team or leader that you have volunteered with in the past, feel free to contact that leader.

Dan Gleason (345.0450) will be accepting the **Bird Checklists** from the Team Leaders at the end of the Count day. He will also review reports of **rare and unusual bird sightings** and then submit all the results to NAS. Dan also works with Dick in preparing the post-Count narrative.

If you cannot participate on a count team but would like to count the birds that visit your yard, please call Herb Wisner at 344.3634. Herb is in charge of the **Feeder Watchers** and will assist you in recording the birds you see at home for the official count. He will send you a form for recording bird observations, and then he coordinates your sightings with the leader of the Count Area you live in. Herb then submits your sightings to Dan to be included in the official results. **Please call Herb by December 28 if you would like to be a feeder watcher.**

Chili feed

All Team Leaders and ECBC participants are invited to gather at the Eugene Garden Club at 1645 High Street after the count for the traditional Chili Feed. Allison Mickel will once again be making homemade vegetarian chili for this fun ending to a day full of birding. We will tally results at the Garden Club and swap stories of the day's sightings. The doors to the Garden Club will open around 3:30 p.m. if you would like to stop by as soon as you finish your count. The Chili Feed will start around 5:00 p.m. The Lane County Audubon Society will provide the chili along with a salad, dinner rolls, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Please bring a dessert to share with others plus your own table service,

Call for volunteers

Christmas Bird Count to resume in the Oakridge/Westfir area

Wanda Wilson

wanda2w@gmail.com

For the first time in almost 25 years, the Oakridge/Westfir area will be covered during the Christmas Bird Count. The Count will be held on Sunday, December 27, and we need volunteers!

For more information about joining us, please e-mail Wanda Wilson at wanda2w@gmail.com.

including plate, bowl, cup, and silverware. You may also bring a beverage of your choice. I really encourage you to join us for this delicious ending to a long day.

Last year's results

Last year the ECBC had the third largest number of Christmas Bird Count participants out of the 2,124 official NAS counts in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific Islands. This is an amazing accomplishment for all of us, including the committee, Team Leaders, team members, and Feeder Watchers! We had 155 birders in the field and 73 feeder watchers for a total of 228 participants.

The entire group identified 130 species and 74,624 individual birds. Results of last year's ECBC as well as all the other Christmas Bird Counts in North America can be viewed at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc. Our Count code is **OREU**.

We hope you can join us for this year's ECBC. If you have questions, please call **Dick Lambster** at 343.8664 or any of the other committee members listed above. We are looking forward to seeing you on January 3!

Oregon Audubon Council sets statewide conservation priorities for 2010

Debbie Schlenoff

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The Oregon Audubon Council (OAC) met in Eugene on the weekend of November 7–8. In attendance were representatives from eight chapters around the state: Cape Arago, Central Oregon/East Cascades, Corvallis, Lane County, Lincoln City, Portland, Rogue Valley and Salem. The goals of the OAC meetings are to bring together state chapter members, learn about what other chapters are doing, and discuss conservation issues of concern. Lane Audubon hosted the conference and our president, Maeve Sowles, is due many thanks for organizing the weekend and arranging the functions. Maeve's leadership was especially appreciated by members when she shared her insights about sustaining effective Audubon chapters.

Throughout the weekend attendees shared meals and conversations. The Sunday bird walk to Fern Ridge Reservoir (Important Bird Area) and West Eugene Wetlands was led by Jim and Charlotte Maloney and included a presentation by Jeff Krueger of Lane Council of Governments, who discussed the history and future of planning efforts and green space connectivity in the greater Eugene area. The Fern Ridge area is a 12,780 acre complex of wetland, grassland, rare wet prairie (lowland grasses), oak woodland, and freshwater aquatic habitats. Over 286 species of birds have been documented there.

The Saturday conservation meeting took place in an EWEB meeting room overlooking the Willamette River. The view outside the window provided the quintessentially Oregon background, as we were treated throughout the day to cycles of rain, sunbursts and autumn leaves swirling in gusts of winds.

Although each chapter focuses on concerns as they come up throughout the year, conference participants identified six issues that would benefit from a coordinated effort on the part of multiple chapters. In addition, the Council acknowledged the impacts of climate change on birds, wildlife, and habitat and discussed the goals of both reducing the carbon footprint of chapter activities and allowing the science of climate change to inform conservation action.

The following are the three priorities for 2010 as summarized by Lynn Herring, Council Secretary:

1. Important Bird Areas: The OAC recognizes the need to highlight Important Bird Areas (IBAs) as critical areas of important ecological significance for native birds and their habitats.

Action Priority: Establish a statewide network and program of IBAs in each eco-region in Oregon.

2. Wildland Forest Habitats: The OAC advocates for protection of the remaining wildland forest habitats on public lands. We recognize that biological diversity and long-term forest productivity are threatened due to the continuing destruction and degradation of wildland forest ecosystems, including old growth forests, roadless forests and wilderness areas.

Action Priority: Protect wildland forest species and habitats by defeating attempts to rollback protections in public lands management plans, weaken the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan, and de-list the Marbled Murrelet.

3. Inland Water Habitat Protection: Protect wetlands, riparian areas, streams and watersheds; Willamette River Protection.

Action Priority: Chapters should pursue and commit to local areas of concern such as Lake Abert in eastern Oregon, the West Eugene Wetlands, and the Willamette River.

The following are other OAC Issues of Special Concern for 2010:

Marine Protected Areas: In the past year, two pilot marine reserves were established and four others were chosen for further evaluation. Oregon Audubon chapters will continue work to establish and support marine reserves off the Oregon coast.

Wildlife Diversity Programs: The OAC supports efforts to secure broader and more stable funding bases for both the Biological Resources Division and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife Diversity Program. We will work on strategies to support funding for non-game wildlife and for management of refuges for birders and other wildlife watchers.

Energy Development and Wildlife Protection: The OAC will work to develop strategies to ensure that the promise of renewable energy is met with the least impact to wildlife. Guidelines for the development of wind energy projects are available for the Columbia Plateau but they need to be adopted for other areas and distributed to developers and county planners in such a way that the requirements necessary for sound development are satisfied.



Photo by Joanna deFelice

Conservation Alert

Effort to ban motorboats from Waldo Lake takes new twist

Dave Stone

dns@efn.org

As one of the two or three clearest lakes in the world, Waldo Lake deserves to be protected with a ban on motorboats.

Already, two-thirds of the surrounding land is permanently protected as Wilderness. In the 1990s, the US Forest Service designated the lake as a semi-primitive, non-motorized place where the public can enjoy tranquility. In the past several years, the Forest Service has installed state-of-the-art toilets at the large campgrounds on the eastern shore of Waldo Lake to prevent pollution from that source.

In 1999 the Forest Service proposed a ban on gas-powered motor boats from Waldo Lake, while allowing electric motors to help sailboats to move out of the dock coves and onto the open lake, and to provide a way for disabled people to get around on the Lake.

This wasn't good enough for timber industrialist Stub Stewart and his son, Steve. They have stalled the effort by claiming that only the state has the authority to enact such a ban.

Now comes the Oregon State Marine Board with a proposed ban, seeking comments on the issue. Steve Stewart has, in the past, said that he would abide by their decision. Governor Kulongoski appoints the Board and "strongly supports the Marine Board's proposed rule to ban (gas) motors on Waldo."

The Marine Board is accepting comments until December 15:

→ by mail: June LeTarte, OSMB, P.O. Box 14145,
Salem. OR 97309

→ by e-mail: osmb.rulemaking@state.or.us

What is your favorite children's bird story book?

Kris Kirkeby

k2kirk@comcast.net

Lane Audubon wants to initiate a reading program at the Eugene Library and would like you to suggest books to use for this "Bird Story Time." We know there are many book lovers out there with children or grandchildren who have enjoyed reading a special book with a bird character. If you have suggestions on book titles for this project, please send them to Kris Kirkeby at k2kirk@comcast.net. Please include the approximate target grade level or age range.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Darkening the night: clearing the sky for stargazers and our avian friends,

continued from page 1

Many cities are adopting ordinances to minimize light pollution. Use of directional lighting—shielding light in a downward direction and reducing high wattage bulbs—can restore the visual pleasure of the night sky and reduce energy costs. Chicago skyscrapers have been dimming their lights during spring and fall migrations to help save birds' lives. (www.chicagoaudubon.org/lightsout.shtml).

Zurich, Switzerland (www.swissinfo.org/sen/Swissinfo.html?siteSect=511&sid=4148664) and even small towns in Idaho (www.mtexpress.com/2003/03-08-13/03-08-13lowlights.htm) are committed to reducing light pollution. Another organization, the International Dark Sky Association, has a website full of interesting examples of the many reasons to reduce light intrusion (www.darksky.org). The White House hosted a Star Party this past October to call attention to the scientific and esthetic value of a sky full of stars! (www.whitehouse.gov/blog/White-House-to-Host-Star-Party).

Oregon has areas that are still good for stargazing: Crater Lake, eastern Oregon, the southern Oregon Coast, and the Cascades. University of Oregon's Pine Mountain Observatory can be a source of information for star watching opportunities (pmo-sun.uoregon.edu). We can keep our skies dark for our own aesthetic pleasure as well as to enhance the survival of wildlife. I urge you to lower your outside lights, shield them, or reduce their use entirely so that we can enjoy the clear, dark, starry nights.

Nature-related books and art by local authors and artists!

Meet area authors and artists at the 10th Annual Authors and Artists Fair, held Saturday, December 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the atrium of the Lane Events Center (Lane County Fairgrounds), next door to Holiday Market.

Each year, about 40 Oregon authors and 20 local artists are invited to contribute to this benefit fundraiser. A portion of all sales benefit the Lane Library League's summer reading and literacy programs.

A number of the artists, including several Lane Audubon members, create nature-related art. A number of authors who write on natural or bird-related themes will also be on hand.



A Message from Lane Audubon Board of Directors

Maeve Sowles, President

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president@laneaudubon.org



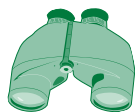
We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. All of your local dues stay here to help us work on local education projects and conservation issues related to birds and their habitats. With your support, we will continue to 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/year



- **Field Trips and
Bird Walks**



- **Program
Meetings**



- **Educational
Publications**



- **Conservation
Issue
Representation**



- **Answers to
Questions:
485.BIRD**

Visit our web site:
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 \$ ____
- ☐ 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) ... \$ ____
- ☐ 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 Society
P.O. Box 5086
Eugene, OR 97405

Thanks, booth staffers, for your Mushroom Festival work

Ron Renschler

345-.0834

christyandron@qwest.net

A hearty round of thanks goes to our Lane County Audubon Society booth staffers for the Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Festival on October 25. The festival was once again a booming success, with large crowds all day. The volunteers who staff the booth help make the festival a favorite local event.

Thanks go to **Flo Alvergue, Margot Fetz, Kris Kirkeby, Debbie Schlenoff, Susanne Twight-Alexander,** and **Herb Wisner.**

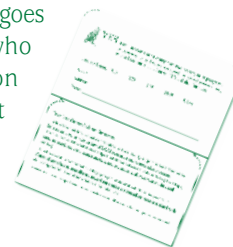
Look for our booth at the Good Earth Home, Garden and Living Show, January 22–25, at the Lane County Fairgrounds. If you have an interest in helping out at this or other events, call or e-mail Ron Renschler, Booth Coordinator at 345.0834 or christyandron@qwest.net.

Thank you, members!

Ron Renschler, LCAS Treasurer

A heartfelt thank you goes to each member who has sent a donation in the envelope that we included in your November Quail.

If you missed the envelope, but would like to include Lane County Audubon Society in your annual giving, you may mail a donation to Lane County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405.



The Quail

Deadlines

February issue: **January 9**

March issue: **February 6**

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

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 page 6).

Subscriptions: Contact Jim Blick at 683.4635 or blick@toast.net.

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Field Notes: October 2009

Merlin at Waldo • Black Phoebe on the deflation plain • Sparrows off course—Clay-colored, Lark

October is the month when most Neotropical migrants have left or will leave for warmer, sunnier locales to the south and when almost all of our wintering species have arrived or will be arriving for the winter season. Weather-wise, this October was kind of a mixed bag—some sunny and warm days, some sunny and cold days, and some cloudy and wet days—so I guess you could call it a typical October. This was the first October in quite a few that a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was not reported from Fern Ridge Reservoir, but the high water levels at the reservoir could have had something to do with that.

WATERBIRDS, RAPTORS

Eurasian Wigeon	Oct. 7	Delta Ponds	DA et al.	First report for winter
Swan spp. (2)	Oct. 30	Fern Ridge Reservoir	JS	First report for winter and a normal time
Tundra Swan (15)	Oct. 31	FRR, Shore Ln	JS	for small numbers to start showing up
Long-tailed Duck (2) (possible)	Oct. 28	Dexter Reservoir	fide JG	Rare, but regular during this season
Turkey Vulture (100s)	Oct. 5	Cottage Grove area	B&RM	Moving south in large flocks
Eared Grebe (3)	Oct. 31	FRR, Shore Ln	JS	Increasing at FRR during non-breeding times
White-tailed Kite (4)	Oct. 1	FRR, Fisher Butte	JS	Their numbers increased through the month,
White-tailed Kite (26)	Oct. 30	FRR	JS	as is normal at this traditional wintering site.
Northern Harrier (6)	Oct. 1	FRR, Fisher Butte	JS	Their numbers increased through the month,
Northern Harrier (20)	Oct. 30	FRR	JS	as is normal at this traditional wintering site.
Rough-legged Hawk	Oct. 5	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	DP	First report for the season
Merlin	Oct. 11	Waldo Lake	A&TM	Not often reported, but not a location many people bird this time of year

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS, SWIFTS

Sandhill Crane	Oct. 11	FRR, Royal Ave	DI,DP	Rarely found at this location
Black-bellied Plover (20)	Oct. 31	FRR	JS	Normal wintering numbers
American Golden-Plover	Oct. 11	FRR, Royal Ave	VT	Getting to be late for this species
Semipalmated Plover	Oct. 28	FRR	CM	Getting to be late for this species
Dunlin (1,000)	Oct. 31	FRR	JS	Normal wintering numbers
Vaux's Swift	Oct. 5	Alvadore	DI	Last report: typical time for their departure

PASSERINES

Rufous Hummingbird	Oct. 22	N. Eugene	DH	A very late report
Lewis's Woodpecker	Oct. 8	Skinner Butte	AP	Mostly likely a different bird than last month's
Lewis's Woodpecker (4–6)	Oct. 16	Royal Ave. oak grove	JS	Large number for one location in Lane County
Black Phoebe	Oct. 4	SJSR, deflation plain	AC	Not a normal location for this species
Northern Shrike	Oct. 10	SJSR, Crab Dock	AC	First report for the winter season
Barn Swallow	Oct. 24	FRR	JS	A later than usual report
White-breasted Nuthatch	Oct.	Spencer Butte area	AMc,GT	First for these locations—it appears the species
White-breasted Nuthatch	Oct.	N. Eugene	BG	may be expanding
American Dipper	Oct. 2	N. Fork Siuslaw River	HH	Not often reported, but few people bird here
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Oct. 30	SE Eugene	TM	Last report—normal date for their departure
Townsend's Warbler	mid-Oct.	Eugene/Springfield	m.ob	They seem to have been found in larger numbers than is normal for this time of year.

Field Notes: October 2009, *continued*

PASSERINES, *continued*

Common Yellowthroat	Oct. 14	FRR, Royal Ave	LM et al.	Last report—a normal time for their departure
Western Tanager	Oct. 7	SW Eugene	DI	Last report—a normal time for their departure
American Tree Sparrow	Oct. 11	FRR, Royal Ave	DI,DP	Reported almost every year in Lane County during October–November
Chipping Sparrow	Oct. 3	SW Eugene	DI	A normal time for their migration
Clay-colored Sparrow	Oct. 4	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	AC	Rarely found in Lane County, but this date would be during their migration period
Lark Sparrow	Oct. 16	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	AC	Rarely found in Lane County in the fall
Lincoln's Sparrow	Oct. 4	FRR, Royal Ave	JS	Large numbers in the area
Swamp Sparrow (possible)	Oct. 28	Greenhill Rd	LM	First report for the winter—a typical time
White-throated Sparrow	Oct. 13	N. Eugene	DS	First report for the winter—a normal time
Golden-crowned Sparrow (2)	Oct. 2	SE Eugene	AC	First report for the winter—later than usual
Black-headed Grosbeak (2)	Oct. 8	River Rd./Santa Clara	MRu	Last report—later than usual



Abbreviations

FRR Fern Ridge Reservoir; **m.ob.** many observers; **SJSR** South Jetty of the Siuslaw River

Thank you, contributors!

DA Dennis Arendt, **AC** Alan Contreras, **JG** Joel Geier, **BG** Brandon Green, **HH** Hendrik Herlyn, **DH** Dan Heyerly, **DI** Dave Irons, **B&RM** Bill & Rosalie Macauley, **AMc** Arch McCallum, **LM** Larry McQueen, **CM** Craig Merkel, **A&TM** Allison & Tom Mickel, **DP** Diane Pettey, **AP** Al Prigge, **MRu** Mark Rudolph, **DS** Don Schrouder, **JS** John Sullivan, **GT** Gary Tepfer, **VT** Vjera Thompson.

2010 Winter Wings Festival: Mark your calendar for February 12–14

The 31st annual Winter Wings Festival will offer three full days of activities on February 12–14 at the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls.

The Winter Wings Festival offers phenomenal birding/nature-related opportunities to observe the rich diversity present in the Klamath Basin during wintertime.

Some highlights of the 2010 Festival include:

Friday night guest speakers: Bill Clark, photographer, author, and lecturer has over 45 years experience working with birds of prey, including five years as Director of the National Wildlife Federation's Raptor Information Center. Bill will present "Eagle Quest," in which he will recount his adventures with the world's eagles.

Following Bill Clark's talk, Canon will present their "Explorer of Light" photographer, Rick Sammon, in a special slide show "Exploring Wildlife and Nature Photography." Rick has published 34 books, including his latest, *Rick Sammon's Digital Photography Secrets*.



Keynote speaker: Scott Weidensaul, a well-known wildlife writer, lecturer, and field researcher, will explore how and why birds migrate and the conservation challenges that face them based on his book *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*.

New offerings: Light room and Photoshop; Larry Turner photography field trip; Storyteller Susan Strauss; Lava Beds tour; Environmentally Friendly Desert Landscaping; Introduction to Falconry; Baby Birds; Family Friendly Birding; Bird Sketching; and many more

Popular returning activities: Flyouts; Aerie Afternoon; Big Day; Leisurely Birding; Canon Photography Workshops; Behind the Scenes at the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge; It's Not in My Field Guide; and many more

Visit www.WinterWingsFest.org for the latest in Festival planning information. On-line registration will begin about mid-December. If you have questions in the meantime, contact Todd Christian, Festival Registrar, at 541.850.0084 or e-mail him at singingbear@charter.net.

Audubon Adventures

2008–09 Audubon Adventures: “Action for Planet Earth”

Debra Eichner

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“**A**ction for Planet Earth” is the theme of this year’s *Audubon Adventures* kits, the nature-based curriculum published annually by National Audubon Society. This year’s curriculum focuses on citizen science and conservation action to preserve water, energy and habitats. Materials in the kits bring many years of social action and citizen science into colorful, child friendly handouts. The content of this standards-based curriculum is rooted in the core elementary science, language arts, and social studies curricula.

Our local teachers have been receiving this enriching curriculum for many years thanks to the generous support of Lane Audubon members. We would like to take this space to recognize and thank those generous donors.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, we have a number of classrooms (see below) still needing sponsors for the 2009–10 school year. You may mail a check of \$45 to Lane County Audubon Society, PO Box 5086, Eugene OR, 97405. Please include a note indicating how you wish your contribution to be used. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Audobon Adventure Kits

The kit includes 32 of each of the student newspaper editions. In addition, the teacher receives a teaching guide book containing supplemental articles and handouts, posters, other supporting brochures, and membership in national Audubon Society. They receive a subscription to *Audubon* and *The Quail* at their schools.



Thank you sponsors!

School	Grade	Sponsor
Adams Elementary	3	Jo and Peter Von Hippel
Agnes Stewart Middle School	6	Shirley Froyd
Awbrey Park Elementary	4	Charles and Reida Kimmel
Awbrey Park Elementary	4	Doris Wimber
Awbrey Park Elementary	4	George and Brenda Clarke
Brattain Elementary School	2–5	Sandra Luks
Camas Ridge Elementary	3	Mike McCann
César E. Chavez Elementary	4	Camilla Pratt
César E. Chavez Elementary	4	Jo and Peter Von Hippel
Danebo Elementary	3	Debbie Schlenoff
Douglas Gardens Elementary	5	Margot Fetz
Edison Elementary	2	Ron Renschler
Fairfield Elementary	4	Edrey Anker
McCornack Elementary	4	Gaylene Carpenter
Meadow View School	6	Herb Wisner
Meadow View School	6	K Danz and D Thigpen
Riverbend Elementary	4	Rob Castleberry, Joyce Thomas, and Robin Gage
Siuslaw Elementary	4	Marty Beyer
Siuslaw Elementary	4	Ron and Mary Sherriffs
Springfield Middle School	6–8	Quail Mailing Crew
Thurston Elementary	5	Robin Gage, Joyce Thomas, and Rob Castleberry
Willagillespie Elementary	4	Herb Wisner

The 2009–10 “Action for Planet Earth” student newspapers highlight three topics:

- At Home in a Habitat
- Caretaking Our World’s Water
- Power from Our Planet

Schools needing sponsors!

School	Grade
Awbrey Park Elementary	4
Fairfield Elementary	3,4
Gilham Elementary	4
Guy Lee Elementary	4,5
Hamlin Middle School	6
Meadow View School	6
School	Grade
Ridgeview Elementary	6
Siuslaw Elementary	4,5
Walterville Elementary	3
Willagillespie Elementary	4
Yujin Gakuen	4

Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Eugene Birder's Night

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

Monday, Dec. 14, 7:00 p.m., Monday, Jan. 11, 7:00 p.m.

*Conference Room A (across hall from auditorium),
Sacred Heart Hospital, 1255 Hilyard Street, Eugene*

Enhancing and Restoring Prairie and Savanna

North American Butterfly Association

Jason Blazar will discuss regional efforts to enhance and restore prairie and savanna landscapes within the central southern Willamette valley and how these restorations benefit butterflies, plants, and the broader community. Jason, a local landscape ecologist, is stewardship coordinator for Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah, Hendricks Park forest manager for the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division, and Executive Director of the Camas Educational Network.

Monday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.

EWEB Training Center, 500 W. 4th Ave., Eugene; free

Warm in the Wild

Nearby Nature Quests

Build a simple shelter and learn how to stay warm in the wilderness using common sense and a few simple materials. Join us for a family-paced hike, craft, and a visit from one of our costumed Kinder Critters! Snacks are provided. Fun for all ages—families especially welcome.

Saturday, Dec. 12, 10:00 a.m. to noon

*We meet outside the Alton Baker Park Host Residence,
rain or shine. Cost: \$2/person, \$5/family;
pre-registration is suggested: 687.9699*



Stop the Invasion

Eugene Natural History Society

"We have to do a better job educating people about why a cute little critter like a red-eared slider or a beauty like a mute swan can be destructive," states wildlife biologist Rick Boatner. Rick will focus on invasive wildlife species detrimental to both agriculture and native habitats in Oregon.

Friday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO campus; free

Bee All That You Can Bee— Pollinator Gardening for the Masses

North American Butterfly Association

Presentation by botanist/ecologist Bruce Newhouse. Are butterflies and other pollinators just a whole lot of fun to look at, or are they helpful too? What are pollinators, and what plants do they need or want? Can I grow pollinator plants in my garden? Are there other things I need to do to attract pollinators and give them (and me) a healthy life? Come and experience this show on our local pollinators, the plants they need, and local garden tips—and how pollinators might become your "extended family!"

Monday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.

EWEB Training Center, 500 W. 4th Ave., Eugene; free

Save the dates: February 12–15

The Great Backyard Bird Count is coming!

The next Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place Friday, February 12 through Monday, February 15, 2010. The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are calling on everyone to "Count for Fun, Count for the Future!" During last year's count, participants turned in more than 93,600 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

We hope you'll join us again and help spread the word, since the success of the count depends on people tallying birds from as many locations as possible across the continent.

Visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc for more information.



Program Meeting: Tuesday, January 26

Christmas Bird Counts—History of a Holiday Tradition

Herb Wisner

344.3634

hrwisner@comcast.net

For bird lovers across the country, the annual Christmas Bird Count has become as much of a holiday tradition as gift giving and eggnog. Over the past 68 years, Eugene volunteers have endured early mornings—and often rain and cold—to observe and tabulate Lane County bird numbers. Lane County Audubon Society board member Herb Wisner will discuss the history of the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count in Eugene and across the country. Herb coordinated the Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) efforts in our region for many years, and he is currently in charge of recording ECBC numbers from home “feeder watcher” observations. He will provide information on ways birders can volunteer in future Counts and present numbers from this year's local Count. Come in the spirit of volunteering and bird conservation!

Program Meeting Christmas Bird Counts— History of a Holiday Tradition by Herb Wisner



Photo by Cary Kerst

Tuesday, January 26, 7:30 p.m.
Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street, Eugene

Special Lane Audubon Event

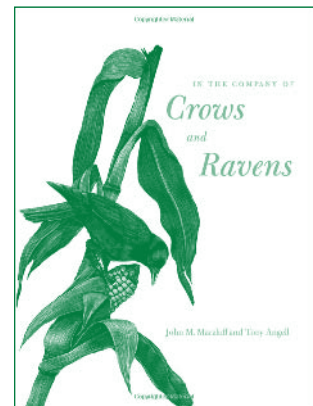
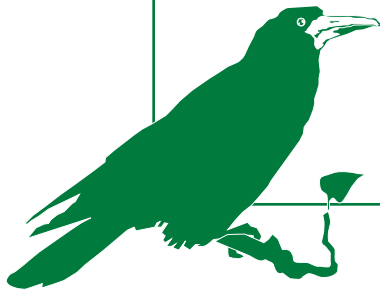
Crows and Ravens

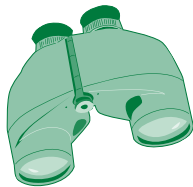
by John Marzluff

Friday, December 11, 7:30 p.m., Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO Campus

University of Washington Professor John Marzluff, coauthor of *In the Company of Crows and Ravens*, presents a talk on corvids, jointly presented by the Lane County Audubon Society and the Eugene Natural History Society. Marzluff is a Professor of Wildlife Science in the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington and has authored over 100 articles on bird behavior and wildlife management.

His current research interests include studying the effects of forest fragmentation on the nest predators of the endangered Marbled Murrelet and a variety of songbirds in coastal Washington, understanding how best to conserve birds native to the Pacific Islands, and determining how birds respond to urbanization. “Although these topics seem disjunct, they have a strong common thread that has anchored most of my research since graduate school. That thread is my personal interest and enthusiasm for corvids, especially jays, crows, and ravens.”





Bird Walks and Events

Leila Snow

968.5533

leilas@ori.org

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.

Eugene Christmas Bird Count

**Sunday,
January 3**

If you are new to the area or have not been on our Christmas Bird Count recently, please contact Dick at 343-8664 to get more information or sign up. See page 2 for details.

**Saturday,
January 16**

Third Saturday Bird Walk: Winter raptors, *with Dave Bontrager*

Winter is a perfect time to seek out raptors. Our trip leader, Dave Bontrager, is a former biologist/educator with National Audubon Society. He was also a research biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dave currently teaches a variety of bird and natural history classes in Eugene. He'll help us identify raptors and locate other birds in the West Eugene Wetlands.

All levels of birders are welcome, from first timer to expert. We will meet in the parking lot at South Eugene High (19th and Patterson), rain or shine, at 8:00 a.m. and return by 12 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.

Audubon2Audubon

**Friday–Sunday,
March 12–14**

Lane County and East Cascade Audubon Societies will team up to lead a weekend trip to the Fort Rock/Summer Lake area March 12–14. Pine species, such as Pinyon Jay and Crossbills are possible at Cabin Lake. Fort Rock produces raptors and a sage grouse lek, and the Summer Lake area abounds with marsh birds and snow geese.

Trip size limited to 8. See the February Quail or contact Leila Snow at leilas@ori.org or 541.968.5533.

Program Meeting

*Christmas Bird Counts—
History of a Holiday Tradition
by Herb Wisner*

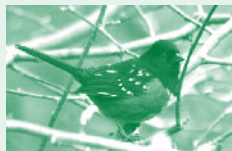


Photo by Cary Kerst

Tuesday, January 26

7:30 p.m.

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



**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER**

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