



The Quail

October 2010

News from Lane County Audubon Society

From Our President



Savoring the changing of the seasons

Maeve Sowles

541.343.8664

president@laneaudubon.org

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Many of us wish summer would last forever. I am one who loves the change of the seasons, especially after living in Hawaii for 14 years in that endless summer lifestyle. It actually gets boring after a few years. October is one of my favorite months because fall brings dramatic changes as the leaves turn yellow, orange, and red before they drop. We get frosty mornings that doom many of the garden plants to the compost pile but that also put sugar into the apples in our orchard. The ebbs and flows of the life cycle are all around us at this time of year. There is a melancholy feel that the growing season is coming to a close. Yet, an acceptance of what nature provides us through the passage of time is also part of autumn's harvest ritual.

In fall, I spend time outside picking fruit from the orchard, and bird watching while doing it, of course. Small mixed flocks of birds fly through gleaning insects and I get to practice my immature warbler ID skills. I can hear distant flocks of geese and sometimes Sandhill Cranes flying south high overhead. Their breeding season has come to an end and their southern migration rounds out the annual breeding cycle for these birds.

It is extra work to use fruit from the orchard, but like my garden, the rewards are worth it for me. It keeps me focused on the seasons and the rhythms of the earth. I enjoy the time outside, and the results of my labor are a tangible product that we will enjoy when I thaw out a package of green beans or applesauce that I have prepared in the harvest season—the flavor and the goodness of summer still inside.

It is a full circle; the packages of applesauce started out last spring as fresh pink flowers on our orchard trees. It is such a beautiful thing to enjoy on a coming winter morning.



In the wake of the Gulf oil spill, land-based oil extraction also needs more attention

Debbie Schlenoff

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Unless you had your head buried in the sand in an ostrich-like manner, it's been difficult lately to ignore the fact that there are problems involved with oil extraction. Ostriches don't really bury their heads in the sand (although they might lower their heads in response to danger), and people need to metaphorically look up and to the future when considering our energy problems. More must be done to cut down on energy usage—to use energy efficiently and to explore alternative methods that do the least harm to the environment. Adopting aggressive fuel economy standards and improving energy efficiency in buildings, factories, appliances, and mass transportation should be priorities. However, after the Gulf oil spill disaster, some conservationists fear that there will be a bigger push toward getting more oil from less conventional land-based sources which include tar sand extraction and oil shale production.

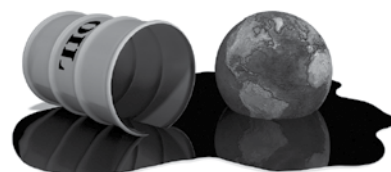
Although there are large expanses of rock known as oil shale in the western United States, extracting the oil from the rock is an expensive, inefficient, and destructive process. The two primary methods of extraction are large-scale mining followed by extensive heating or in situ drilling of large numbers of wells containing equipment that heats the rock to extreme temperatures over many years. These processes require huge amounts of energy, are performed on a massive scale, severely limit productivity, and reduce enormous areas of habitat for birds and other wildlife. The extraction process demands the use of vast quantities of water (most of the shale is located in arid areas to begin with). The water is diverted, polluted, and rendered useless for wildlife and human consumption. The loss of water will severely compromise suitable habitat for birds and other wildlife beyond the area actually mined. In addition, the process of turning shale into oil releases large amounts of carbon dioxide, which further contributes to the problems of global warming.

In Canada, the trend in oil extraction has been to mine and drill in tar sands, with many of the same problems. This method is likewise conducted on a massive scale, and large amounts of natural gas are used to separate a dense form of petroleum known as bitumen from the sand. Much of this crude oil is destined for the United States, and one company, TransCanada, is planning a 1,600 mile pipeline that goes from Alberta to oil refineries on the Gulf of Mexico. Despite the problems with the toxins produced, the carbon dioxide released, and the excessive need for water, tar sand extraction continues to expand in Canada and now fragments much of the boreal forest. Many of the birds impacted by the pollution, habitat destruction, and water loss are migratory birds that we enjoy during the colder months in the contiguous United States.

Last year, it was reported that 500–1,600 birds died in an Alberta tailing pond—a watery mix of clay, sand, oily hydrocarbons, and heavy metals created from the oil extraction process.

This summer, EnCana Corp. of Canada pleaded guilty to violating the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The company was fined \$200,000 for the deaths of 55 birds at its energy plants in Colorado and Wyoming and agreed to spend more than \$3 million on bird protections in those states. It is encouraging that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act withstood this legal test to demand responsibility, but it is more important that it be used to prevent the destruction of populations of birds and their habitats in the first place.

For more information, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has released a report titled "Impact on Birds of Tar Sands Oil Development in Canada's Boreal Forest," which can be found at www.nrdc.org/wildlife/borealbirds.pdf.



Poetry from a budding birder

Editor's note: Thomas Meinzen is a local 7th grader and bird enthusiast. Thomas and his family attended the June nest box tour with Lane Audubon's Maeve Sowles and Dick Lamster. To express his gratitude, Thomas sent Maeve a collection of poems and a wonderful drawing of a "bird cabin" featuring several species of local birds. Three of the poems are printed below and do an excellent job of highlighting bird behavior and identification. He also has an interest in bird photography. Keep up the great work, Thomas!



Ultimate Bird Cabin drawing
Thomas Meinzen, 7th grade

American Goldfinch

The American Goldfinch
seed after seed
ten minutes it sits there
to rest and to feed.

Now take that consumption
and times it by six
the average flock size
and you may be in a fix.

These sociable birds,
of yellow, black, and buff.
To your piggy bank,
may be a little rough.
But they're fun to watch,
and they're fun to feed,
they bring me great joy,
seed after seed.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Down our oak,
the nuthatch creeps
placing its "yank yanks"
above the Chickadee's peeps.

Down to the feeder
the red-breasted flies.
Then flies back with a seed:
a nook it spies.

It wedges the seed in,
then pounds it hard.
Three knocks and a swallow
echoes through the yard.

A review of *Bright Wings*

by Suzanne Twight-Alexander

This delightful little book makes a great gift for a bird/poetry lover. Edited by Billy Collins, a former U.S. poet laureate and author of eight books of poetry, *Bright Wings* (published in 2009, 265 pages, \$22) is illustrated with paintings by David Allen Sibley (*Sibley Guide to Birds*, 2004 and *Sibley Guide to Trees*, 2009).

Each painting of a bird includes a description beneath it, and a poem about the bird on the opposite page. Occasionally, the book will include several other poems about that bird.

The following is an example entry for the Sandhill Crane. "The Sandhill Crane has the longest fossil record of any extant bird and so is among the oldest living birds. One fossil places cranes in present-day Nebraska nine million years ago. Its range is from northeastern Siberia throughout most of North America." Opposite that is the poem "A Bird at the Leather Mill" by Joshua Mehigan.

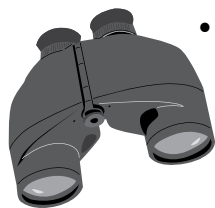
Who knew there were so many poems about birds? From poets Steven Vincent Benet to Whitman and from Mary Oliver to Hardy; from loons to eagles and from owls to warblers, the book combines the art of words with the art of painting. The very first poem is about John James Audubon. After that it's strictly for the birds.

I have my book, a gift, beside my bed, and I read several poems before going to sleep.

Anna's Hummingbird

This tiny little hummer,
with head of magenta-red
sits above our nectar feeder,
from when I get up to when I go to bed.
A bright little bullet that zips around the garden,
our male chases the females,
dropping the "I beg your pardon."

Field Notes: August 2010



- Merlins arrive early
- Semipalmated Sandpiper at Hills Creek Reservoir
- Common Nighthawks numerous in Crow area
- White-breasted Nuthatch—rare sighting at Alton Baker Park

Tom and Allison Mickel

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Typical migration patterns began this month. Shorebird migration was in full swing this month, and some of the northern breeding waterfowl started to arrive for the winter. Passerines were also beginning their typical movements.

WATERBIRDS

American Wigeon	Aug. 20	Siltcoos	DF	First fall report
Northern Pintail (10)	Aug. 16	Siltcoos	DF	First fall report
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Aug. 18	FRR	LM,et.al.	A normal location for this species

RAPTORS

White-tailed Kite	Aug. 4	FRR	DS, et.al.	First fall report
Merlin	Aug. 7	Stewart Pond	JP	An early report for the valley

RAILS to GULLS

Virginia Rail (3)	Aug. 16	FRR	BMc	Frequently seen during the month
Sora	Aug. 16	FRR	BMc	Also frequently seen during the month
Sora	Aug. 23	Gold Lake	A&TM	Not often found in the high Cascades
Pacific Golden-Plover	Aug. 22	Crab Dock	AC,MP	They migrate through in small numbers most years.
Greater Yellowlegs (20)	Aug. 16	FRR	BMc	The highest number reported for the month
Lesser Yellowlegs (6)	Aug. 16	FRR	BMc	The highest number reported for the month
Solitary Sandpiper	Aug. 14	FRR	E&VT	Larger numbers than normal reported this fall and in locations that where they aren't normally found
Solitary Sandpiper	Aug. 25	Delta Ponds	LM,et.al.	(see above comment)
Solitary Sandpiper	Aug. 26	Siltcoos River	JC,TM	(see above comment)
Wandering Tattler (7)	Aug. 26	SJSR	JC,TM	A good number for one place in the county
Ruddy Turnstone	Aug. 23	Crab Dock	DF	They migrate through in small numbers.
Red Knot	Aug. 25	Crab Dock	DF	They migrate through in small numbers.
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Aug. 12	Hills Creek Reservoir	JG,BA	An unusual location for this migrant
Semipalmated Sandpiper (5)	Aug. 28	Crab Dock	AC	An unusually large number
Baird's Sandpiper (2)	Aug. 16	FRR	BMc	Normally found along the beach
Baird's Sandpiper (adult)	Aug. 20	Siltcoos	DF	Adults are rarely found
Pectoral Sandpiper	Aug. 1	FRR	EC	First fall migrant reported
Short-billed Dowitcher	Aug. 3	Siltcoos	DF	First fall migrant reported
Red-necked Phalarope	Aug. 20	Siltcoos	DF	First fall migrant reported
Red-necked Phalarope	Aug. 23	Diamond Peak area	JC,TM	On small lake along the PCNST
Glaucous-winged Gull	Aug. 16	Coastal Lane County	DF	First fall report

NIGHTHAWKS to FINCHES

Common Nighthawk (10)	Aug. 1	Lake Melakwa	FC	A normal location and number.
Common Nighthawk (30)	Aug. 12	Crow area	DI	A very large number for the valley!
Black-backed Woodpecker	Aug. 3	Lake Melakwa	FC	A normal location for this species

continued on page 7

A Message from Lane Audubon Board of Directors

Maeve Sowles, President

541.343.8664

president@laneaudubon.org

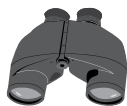


We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. All of your local dues stay here to help us work on local education projects and conservation issues related to birds and their habitats. With your support, we will continue to do the things you expect from us. We welcome your suggestions—this is your Audubon!

Lane Audubon Membership Benefits



The Quail—
9 issues/year



**Field trips
and bird walks**



Program meetings



**Educational
publications**



**Conservation issue
representation**



**Answers to
questions—
541.485.BIRD**

**Visit our web site:
www.laneaudubon.org**

Lane Audubon welcomes you—join or renew today!

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) \$ _____
- ☐ Current National Audubon member ☐ Don't know

Name _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

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

Volunteer opportunity: booth setup and takedown

Each year, Lane Audubon receives numerous invitations to have its booth at community events. We appear at as many of these events as possible and would like to continue our visibility in the community through our booth presence.

For some events, the requirements are simple. We only need to staff a table, offer handouts, and field questions about LCAS. Other events require more elaborate planning. For instance, the booth must be set up and materials delivered for display.

If you have an interest in helping set up and take down the booth, we could use your help. Setup requires only about an hour of your time, usually in the morning, and dismantling it requires another hour in the afternoon after the event is over. Though not much time is involved, this is a critical function in our booth operations. To help out with this important task, contact Ron Renschler at 541.345.0834, or christyandron@qwest.net).



The Quail

Deadlines

November issue: **October 9**
Dec/Jan issue: **November 13**

Submit material to
Rob Hoshaw, editor
rhoshaw@gmail.com

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

Local members of National Audubon Society receive a free subscription to *The Quail*, but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane Audubon (see page 5).

Subscriptions: Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com.

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Field Notes: August 2010, *continued*



NIGHTHAWKS to FINCHES, *continued*

White-breasted Nuthatch	Aug. 3	Alton Baker Park	VT	Not a normal location for the species
Townsend's Warbler	Aug. 22	NJSR	AC,MP	Early for this location
Indigo Bunting	Aug. 6	Stewart Pond	CK	Last report at this location
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	Aug. 23	Diamond Peak	JC,TM	Along the Lane/Klamath County line

Abbreviations

Crab Dock: Crab Dock at the South Jetty of the Siuslaw River, **FRR:** Fern Ridge Reservoir,

NJSR: North Jetty of the Siuslaw River, **PCNST:** Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail,

Siltcoos: Siltcoos River mouth, **SJSR:** South Jetty of the Siuslaw

Thank you, contributors!

BA Bob Altman, **EC** Ellen Cantor, **FC** Fred Chancey, **JC** Jim Carlson, **AC** Alan Contreras, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **JG** Joel Geier, **DI** Dave Irons, **CK** Cary Kerst, **BMc** Barry McKenzie, **LM** Larry McQueen, **A&TM** Allison & Tom Mickel, **JP** June Perrson, **MP** Magnus Persmark, **DS** Don Schrouder, **E&VT** Eddie & Vjera Thompson

facebook



July 17 Lane Audubon dragonfly walk. Photo by James Maloney

Join us on Facebook

Visit Lane Audubon on Facebook. Please join our page and stay informed about events, bird walks, news, and conservation issues. Share bird sightings, photos, links, events, nature news, and stories at www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824.

Cottage Grove Birding Opportunities

Whether you're a novice or experienced birding enthusiast living in or near Cottage Grove, you now have the opportunity to connect with other local birders to take birdwalks, carpool to LCAS events, staff the Lane Audubon booth at community events, and more. Barbara Butzer, a local member, is interested in hearing from Cottage Grove residents who want to be more active in Lane Audubon activities. Contact her at 541.942.2401 or bbutzer@hevanet.com.



July 31 Lane Audubon canoe trip. Photo by James Maloney

Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Autumn Herb Walk

Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, October 2, 10 a.m.–noon

Autumn is a busy time for the herbal harvester. Join certified herbalist Sue Sierralupe on a walk along our scenic trails to identify the medicinal wonders and tasty wild edibles that surround us. Bark and roots are the focus of this season's hike. Meet at the Arboretum Visitors Center.

Fee: \$5 (MPA members/donation). FMI: 541.747.1504

Saving the Silverspot Butterfly

North American Butterfly Association

Monday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.

Anne Walker, wildlife biologist from the Newport office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department will speak about recovery efforts to restore and protect this federally endangered butterfly.

Free! Meet in EWEB Training Center, 500 E. 4th Ave.

FMI: woodnymph3000@gmail.com

Building for Growing: How to Create Different Environments in the Garden from Deserts to Bogs

Emerald Chapter of

the North American Rock and Garden Society

Thursday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.

Peter Korn will present on creating different garden habitats. Peter is a lecturer on the NARGS western speakers tour and lives and gardens in Sweden.

Free! Meet at 1645 High Street.

FMI: Tanya at 541.937.1401 or president@nargsemerald.org

Trees, Truffles, and Beasts: How Forests Function

Eugene Natural History Society

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

Come hear James Trappe, forest scientist, give a delicious, illustrated talk. Trappe, a retired professor, is another one of those guys who has loved his profession so much that he still pursues his favorite topic, "learning new things about forest fungi," and loves to share his knowledge with others.

Free. Meet in Room 100, Willamette Hall at the University of Oregon.

FMI: jmclarkson@Q.com

Finding and Identifying Mushrooms

Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, October 16, 10 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Join mushroom enthusiast Josiah Legler for a short lecture and a hike to observe mushrooms in their native habitat. We will discuss mushroom biology and ecology, edible and medicinal mushrooms, terminology and identification, and more. Dress for a walk in the woods. Bring a lunch, water, and a field guide if you have one.

Registration required. Meet at the Arboretum Visitors Center to carpool to a site 30 minutes away. Fee: \$25 (MPA members \$20).

FMI: 541.747.1504

14th Annual Haunted Hike

Nearby Nature

Friday, October 22, 5:30–9:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of night creature fun and discovery. Go on a pumpkin-lit hike through Alton Baker Park and meet our costumed night critters—Bat, Owl, Raccoon, Frog, Moth, Beaver, and Spider! Enjoy creepy crafts and munch on tricky treats. Volunteers needed!

Registration required. Fee: free for members, \$5 non-members.

FMI: 541.687.9699

Scarecrow Building and Pumpkin Carving

Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, October 24, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Scarecrows made at the workshop can be entered in the Mushroom Festival contest for free! Bring decorations for scarecrows, and knives and spoons for pumpkins. Pants, shirts, straw, and pumpkins provided. Registration appreciated. Meet at the Arboretum Pavillion.

Fee: \$5 for pumpkin or scarecrow. FMI: 541.747.1504

Youth Scholarship Fund at a Track Town Pizza Pie Day

Nearby Nature

Wednesday, October 27, all day

Join us for a Nearby Nature fundraiser at Track Town Pizza, 1809 Franklin Blvd. Track Town will donate 50% of the cost of your pizza, salad, or soup order to Nearby Nature's Youth Scholarship Fund if you bring in our special coupon. Help us make exploring nature accessible to every child in our community!

Coupons at www.nearbynature.org. FMI: 541.687.9699

Mushroom Festival

Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, October 31, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Don't miss our annual fall celebration of mushrooms and the harvest season, co-presented by Mount Pisgah Arboretum, the Cascade Mycological Society, and Lane Community College. There will also be a huge plant sale, live music, a scarecrow contest, children's activities, hayrides, craft vendors, incredible mushroom-inspired food, fresh cider, wine, and much more.

Suggested donation: \$5; kids under 12 free. FMI: 541.747.3817

Scarecrow Contest at Mushroom Festival

Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, October 31, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Get creative, have some fun, and enter the Scarecrow contest. It's a fun, friendly competition for all levels of artistry and experience.

Registration required. Entry fee: \$10. FMI: 541.747.1504



Program Meeting: Tuesday, October 26



Bluebirds: trails and quilts

Herb Wisner

541.344.3634

by Mary Nyquist Koons

hrwisner@comcast.net

Join Mary Nyquist Koons for an evening of bluebird natural science and art. Mary will share her passion for these birds through slides of nesting seasons on her trails in South Eugene and Sisters, Oregon. She will read from her book, *Mor Far's Bluebirds*, and show the original quilts she created to illustrate the books. Bluebirds have long inspired songwriters, poets, artists, and even naturalists. Come hear and see how our Oregon birds inspire our local author and artist.

Mary saw her first Eastern Bluebird on her parents' "farm" in Minnesota in 1976, and it was love at first sight. In 1984, she began monitoring an abandoned trail in Ryland, Kentucky and fledged her first Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*). In 1988, she was recognized as one of Cincinnati's 200 most influential people for her work with bluebirds and teaching children and adults. She returned to Oregon in 1989, and in 2005, Western Bluebirds (*Sialia mexicana*) came back into her life. She now monitors trails in Eugene and Sisters, Oregon, where she lives with her husband, two dogs, and many outdoor bluebirds.

Thanks to Eugene Celebration booth volunteers

The Lane County Audubon booth was part of the Eugene Celebration's Community Causeway again this year on August 28 and 29. A dedicated group of volunteer booth staffers answered questions and informed the public about the wonderful walks, programs, and other educational opportunities we offer our community. Thanks to each of them: **Connie Berglund, Anne Bonine, Margot Fetz, Carolyn Kinkade, Dolly Marshall, Sally O'Donnell, Phil Smyser, and Dave Stone.**

Lane Audubon's booth will be at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum's annual Mushroom Show and Plant Sale again this year on Sunday, October 31. If you're available to help out at this fun event, contact Ron Renschler, 541-345-0834 or at christyandron@qwest.net.

PROGRAM MEETING

Bluebirds: trails and quilts
by Mary Nyquist Koons



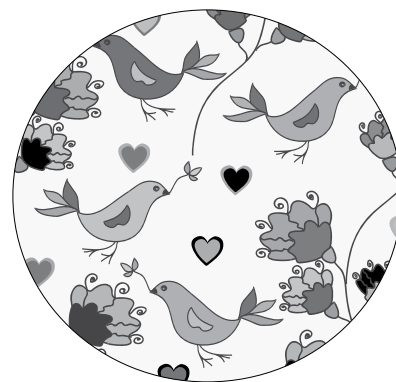
Tuesday, October 26, 7:30 p.m.
Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High
Street, Eugene

Upcoming Program Meetings

**December: Doug Robinson with the
Eugene Natural History Society will
discuss bird ecology in Panama**

TBD: Ornithologist Dan Gleason

**TBD: Jeff Kruger will discuss the
Willamette River Open Space Vision**





Bird Walks and Events

Leila Snow

541.968.5533

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. Questions? Call Leila. We will meet, rain or shine, at 7:00 a.m. at the South Eugene High School parking lot (19th and Patterson Street) and will generally return by noon unless otherwise stated. Please note: As a precaution, do not leave valuables in your parked car.

Willamette Valley Birding Trail—Santiam Loop

**Saturday,
October 16**

The Willamette Valley Birding Trail highlights 138 birding hotspots. We'll visit part of the Santiam Loop between Interstate 5 and Brownsville. This area offers rolling grasslands, ponds, big leaf maple forests, forest edges, and rural farms. Leader: Leila Snow

All birders are welcome, from first-timer to expert. A \$3 donation is suggested. Questions? Call Leila. We will meet, rain or shine, at 7:00 a.m. at the South Eugene High School parking lot (19th and Patterson Street) and will return by 5 p.m. Please note: As a precaution, do not leave valuables in your parked car.

PROGRAM MEETING

*Bluebirds: trails and quilts
by Mary Nyquist Koons*




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



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER

The **Quail**

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

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