



The Quail

September 2013

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

NAS Convention Report

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In mid-July, I attended the National Audubon Society (NAS) convention held at Skamania Lodge above the Columbia Gorge in Washington. I had never attended before because the last convention in our region was 15 years ago! Chapter leaders, NAS Board members and staff from all over the United States, and international partners were there—over 500 people in all! I met and visited with folks from around the country and Mexico. At every event, people were friendly and eager to meet each other. Over the weekend, concurrent sessions covering nine topic areas were held. It was difficult to decide what to attend.

I learned of a new NAS climate change initiative that will be publicized this fall that involves using bird data paired with earth temperature modeling to predict how bird populations will be affected over the next few decades. I also signed LCAS up to access a GIS mapping tool developed by Esri, a mapping software company. The LCAS Board can decide how we might use it. One idea is to share local birding data as an overlay to the parks and open spaces in Lane County. We might need some time and volunteers to get it up and running, but the mapping tool is a great opportunity offered by NAS.

NAS president David Yarnold held six small-group sessions for chapter leaders who wanted to meet with him. I attended one with people from New Mexico, North Carolina, Idaho, Ohio, Florida, Kansas City, Klamath Falls, Sequim (Washington), San Diego, and Mendocino (California). Yarnold asked us what challenges we face and how NAS could help us. He was approachable and interested in our stories. The attendee from New Mexico was a 29-year-old chapter president—the youngest in the country! I spoke with him about getting younger people involved and asked whether Audubon is boring or irrelevant to his age group, and he said NO! He thinks young people just need to know they can become involved in and contribute to activities. He was an inspiration.

(continued on page 7)



The State of the Birds 2013 Report

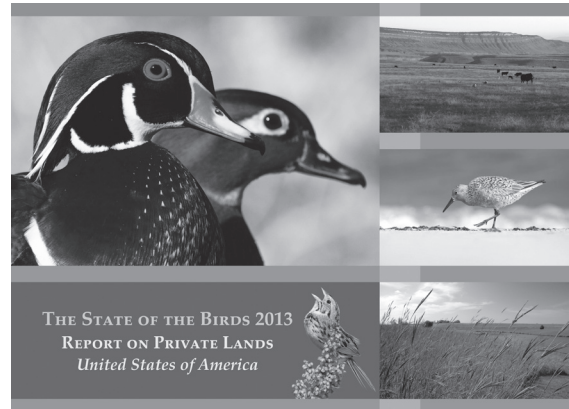
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This summer saw the release of the fourth State of the Birds report, a collaborative effort on the part of federal and state wildlife agencies, National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Klamath Bird Observatory, American Bird Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and several other organizations. The status of bird populations is widely considered one of the best indicators for the health of ecosystems. The 2013 report focuses on the distribution of bird populations and conservation opportunities on private lands. About 60% (1.43 billion acres) of land in the United States is privately owned, mostly by corporations or families. Much of it is ranch land, farmland, and timberland. Of the 200 bird species examined for the report, 100 species have greater than half their breeding populations distributed on private lands. In some cases, the percentage increases dramatically; for example, 85% of grasslands are privately owned, with greater than 80% of bird populations occurring in these areas. The Horned Lark (featured in our endangered species profile in this issue) has a winter distribution of 83% on private lands, with only 1% of this land currently protected. There is such a substantial expanse of existing bird habitat on private land that, clearly, more should be done to manage it for the requirements of our native and migratory bird species.

One of the ways that conservation goals can be met on private lands is through land trusts and conservation easements; these entities typically involve nonprofit environmental organizations that manage private lands for wildlife habitat enhancement. Another way is to provide direct technical assistance to landowners through universities, conservation organizations, and state-supported consulting biologists. The report contains a number of inspiring success stories that highlight collaborative efforts on privately owned lands. However, further support must come from the government to provide incentives for ranch owners, farmers, and timber owners to manage at least part of their land for wildlife.



The US Farm Bill is the largest supplier of funds to support conservation efforts. Programs supported by the Farm Bill include Working Lands for Wildlife, which targets priority species such as Golden-winged Warbler, Greater Sage-Grouse, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher on farms, ranches, and forestland. The Farm Bill also provides landowners with funds to replace crops on highly erodible cropland with native grass, trees, wetlands, and buffers. Additional funds in the various Reserve Programs directly target wetlands, grasslands, or forests to restore these essential ecosystems. This synergy between public entities and private landowners is essential to ensure that the vast amount of private land in this country continues to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. Unfortunately, Congress has politicized the Farm Bill and continues to slash funds for conservation programs. Nearly 80% of all cuts to the Farm Bill since 2007 have targeted the conservation programs, reducing funding by more than \$3 billion. In the years following the cuts, farmers have converted over 23 million acres of grasslands, bushes, and wetlands into croplands, thereby compounding the ill effects of habitat loss and fragmentation. The market, regrettably, does not much support conservation efforts; it is up to our representatives in government to work with private landowners to protect biodiversity and its shared benefits.

The State of the Birds 2013 report is available online at <http://www.stateofthebirds.org/>.

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act: The Streaked Horned Lark Nominated for the Endangered Species List

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The Horned Lark is one of the most widespread bird species in North America. So how did it become a candidate for the endangered species list? The Horned Lark comprises 21 subspecies, including three or four that breed in Oregon. One subspecies, the Streaked Horned Lark, is found only in the southern Willamette Valley (where 900–1,300 individuals breed) and in isolated sites in Washington State and on the lower Columbia River. Its historical range extends from southern British Columbia through the Umpqua and Rogue River Valleys.

Natural History

The Streaked Horned Lark occupies flat, wide-open spaces with sparse, low vegetation, no trees, and large expanses of bare ground. In the Willamette Valley, it finds this habitat in native prairies, plowed fields, intensively grazed pastures, gravel roads, Christmas tree farms, airports, and grass-seed fields.

These small songbirds eat seeds, seedlings of crop plants such as wheat or lettuce, and insects. Each year, females return to the same nest sites—shallow depressions in the ground lined with fine dead grass in the shade of rocks or clumps of vegetation. They typically lay four eggs. Eggs have been found as early as March and as late as mid-August, but they usually begin laying in early May. They incubate the eggs for 11 days, and the young can fly nine to 12 days after hatching.

The largest group of Streaked Horned Larks in Oregon breeds at the Corvallis Municipal Airport. The only known nest in Multnomah County is at the Portland International Airport.

Conservation Issues

The Streaked Horned Lark, like many endangered species, has declined over the past several decades in part because of habitat destruction. Developments in the historical range of the subspecies have replaced the sparsely vegetated, open fields it prefers with housing, commercial buildings, parking lots, and the like.

Management of remaining suitable habitat has also contributed to the decline—for example, farmers plow fields during nesting season and grow tall grass that livestock prefer.

Other threats include predation by skunks, raccoons, harriers, kestrels, dogs, and feral cats.



Streaked Horned Lark at Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge (Polk County).

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Protection

In October 2001 the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) gave the Streaked Horned Lark Candidate status; that is, it was put in line to be listed as a threatened species after higher priority species are protected. In October 2012 the USFWS determined that the Streaked Horned Lark might become threatened with extinction in the foreseeable future and upgraded its status to Proposed Threatened. This action was “part of the Service’s efforts to implement a court-approved work plan that resolves a series of lawsuits concerning the agency’s ESA Listing Program,” according to a USFWS news release.

The USFWS is also proposing a special rule that allows civil airport managers, farmers, and ranchers to “take” (harm or kill) Streaked Horned Larks without being held in violation of the listing.

Learn More about the Streaked Horned Lark

- USFWS: <http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Species/Data/StreakedHornedLark/>
- Oregon Public Broadcasting: <http://www.opb.org/news/article/npr-can-this-rare-songbird-be-lured-away-from-risky-neighborhoods/>
- Portland Audubon: <http://audubonportland.org/issues/species/streaked-horned-lark>

Correction: The photo of the Marbled Murrelet in the July-August issue should have been attributed to Cary Kerst.

Field Notes: June-July 2013



- American Avocet (nesting)
- Dickcissel
- Ruff
- Tricolored Blackbird
- Franklin's Gull
- Great-tailed Grackle

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Weather-wise, the season was mostly dry except for some rain in mid-June. Bird-wise, the season was rather exciting with nesting shorebirds at Fern Ridge Reservoir, pelagic and summering arctic breeders off the coast, and a few rare passerines to keep everyone on their toes.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR)

WATERBIRDS

Brant (6)	July 20	NJSR mudflat	BG	Uncommon summering birds
Surf Scoter (55)	July 11	Tokatee Klootchman	WH	High number of summering birds
White-winged Scoter (2)	July 11	Tokatee Klootchman	WH	Uncommon summering birds
Red-throated Loon	July 11	Tokatee Klootchman	WH	Uncommon summering bird
Pacific Loon (37)	July 11	Tokatee Klootchman	WH	Unusually high number of summering birds
Western Grebe (20)	June 8	FRR-Royal Ave	JS, Ma	Given the low water levels, it will be interesting to see if they breed this year.
Clark's Grebe (12)	June 8	FRR-Royal Ave	JS, Ma	
Murphy's Petrel	May 31	50+ mi offshore	PL, LP	Maybe they're more common than we thought in the 50+ mile range off the coast.
Murphy's Petrel	July 10	50+ mi offshore	PL	
Buller's Shearwater	June 8	35-45 mi offshore	PL, LP	The earliest record off OR coast
American White Pelican (90)	July 8	FRR-Royal Ave	JS	Very large number for the county
Green Heron	July 25	North Eugene	C&Pd	Nesting in their yard
Black-crowned Night-Heron (2)	July 19	FRR-Royal Ave	JS, BMc	A normal time for this location
White-faced Ibis (2)	June 8	FRR-Royal Ave	JS, Ma	A late date for the species

QUAIL to AUKLETS

Black-bellied Plover (2)	July 12	FRR-Royal Ave	JS	A normal time for their fall migration
Pacific Golden-Plover	June 21	FRR-Royal Ave	JS	Only the second record for June
Pacific Golden-Plover	July 24	FRR-Royal Ave	LM, et al.	More normal migration time
Semipalmated Plover (5)	July 17	FRR-Royal Ave	LM, et al.	A normal time for their southward migration
Black-necked Stilt	June 16	FRR-Royal Ave	AH, VB	Female on nest
American Avocet (2)	June 15	FRR-Royal Ave	JS	They nested and have two downy young – a first for western Oregon.
Solitary Sandpiper (2)	July 10	FRR-Royal Ave	LM, et al.	An unusual breeding season report
Whimbrel (6)	June 7	Carl Washburne SP	NC	Getting late for this species
Marbled Godwit	June 7	Carl Washburne SP	NC	Getting late for this species
Semipalmated Sandpiper	July 9	FRR-Royal Ave	AC	A normal time for their southward migration
Baird's Sandpiper	July 17	FRR-Royal Ave	LF	A normal time for their southward migration
Pectoral Sandpiper	July 8	FRR-Royal Ave	JS	Very early report—most are seen in Sept-Oct
Stilt Sandpiper	June 30	FRR-Royal Ave	PO	Very early report—most are found in August
Ruff (Reeve)	June 6	NJSR mudflat	DP	Rare, but almost annual—first report for June
Wilson's Phalarope (12)	June 9	FRR-Royal Ave	TMe	Will they breed again, given the low water?
Wilson's Phalarope	June 22	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	An unusual location for the breeding season

Wilson's Phalarope (2)	July 24	FRR-Royal Ave	LM, et al.	With four downy chicks
Red-necked Phalarope	July 11	Tokatee Klootchman	WH	First report for the fall migration
Franklin's Gull	June 22	FRR-Royal Ave	DA, BMC, AP	A rare migrant in the county
Heermann's Gull (109)	July 11	Tokatee Klootchman	WH	Normal late summer northward movement
Herring Gull	July 10	FRR-Royal Ave	LM, et al.	Very early for the species—normally winter
Caspian Tern (4)	June 9	FRR-Royal Ave	TMe	On "tern island" with the decoys
Black Tern (juv)	July 15	FRR-Royal Ave	JS	They bred, even with the low water levels
Common Tern	June 22	FRR-Royal Ave	KP	Rare during the breeding season
South Polar Skua	June 8	35–45 mi offshore	PL, LP	An early date for the species
Pigeon Guillemot (3)	July 11	Tokatee Klootchman	WH	A normal location for the species
Marbled Murrelet (7)	July 2	Tokatee Klootchman	AC, SB	Good numbers for the species
Rhinoceros Auklet	July 11	Tokatee Klootchman	WH	A normal location for the species
Tufted Puffin	July 5	Devil's Elbow SP	A&CH	Not always found at this location

OWLS to FINCHES

Barn Owl	June 17	SJSR	JL	Not a common location for the species
Common Nighthawk (2)	June 11	Eugene South Hills	DF	About a week later than normal
Common Nighthawk	July	Eugene	m.ob.	Four reports for the month—about normal
Black Swift (3)	July 15	Salt Creek Falls	EH	Nesting, but not in same location as last year
Peregrine Falcon	June 14	Coast Range	fide JD	This year's nest has four chicks
Say's Phoebe	June 3	W Eugene Wetlands	MP	Very late report—breeding?
Red-eyed Vireo	July 22	Alton Baker Park	VT	Same area as a singing bird last year—nesting?
Horned Lark (2)	June 8	FRR-Royal Ave	JS, Ma	Singing from the dry lake bed north of road
Bank Swallow	June 21	Meadowlark Prairie	TMe	Rare, but most common after breeding season
Western Bluebird (pair)	June 15	EWEB-Roosevelt	VT	Nesting in box at facility
Brewer's Sparrow	July 2	FRR-Royal Ave	TMe	Found almost annually—post breeding
Vesper Sparrow	July 20	Oakridge area	CT	Reduced numbers in recent years
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	May 15	FRR area	fide MN	Rare—not normal for them to show up
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	June 23	SW of Eugene	MS	Rare—later than normal
Indigo Bunting (female)	July 3	FRR-Royal Ave	LM, et al.	Rare, but almost annual
Lazuli/Indigo Bunting	June 1	Alton Baker Park	A&DH	Male, singing in same area as last year
Dickcissel	July 2	FRR-Royal Ave	TMe	Second record for Lane Co
Tricolored Blackbird	July 8	FRR-Royal Ave	SAB, JC, TH	About the seventh Lane Co record
Yellow-headed Blackbird	June 5	Alton Baker Park	LM, et al.	First report for the park
Great-tailed Grackle	June 22	FRR-Royal Ave	DA	Rare, but almost annual at this location
Great-tailed Grackle	June 26	Oakridge	MLS	Second record away from Willamette Valley
Great-tailed Grackle	July 4	Fiddler's Green	LF	Same bird as June?
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	July 18	Diamond Peak	EJ	Not always found at this location
Red Crossbill (30)	June 2	Delta Ponds	TMe	An unusual location for the species

A&CH Adrian & Christopher Hinkle, **A&DH** Anne & Dan Heyerly, **AC** Alan Contreras, **AP** Al Prigge, **BG** Brandon Green, **BMc** Barry McKenzie, **C&Pd** Chuck & Peg de Montmorency, **CT** Charlie Thomas, **DA** Dennis Arendt, **DF** David Fishes, **DP** Diane Pettet, **EH** Eric Horvath, **EJ** Evan Jackson, **JC** Jenna Curtis, **JD** Jim DeLapp, **JL** Jim Little, **JS** John Sullivan, **KP** Kenneth Phifer, **LF** Luke Ferrenburg, **LM** Larry McQueen, **LP** Larry Peavler, **m.ob.** many observers, **Ma** Maitreya, **MLS** Mary Lee Sayre, **MN** Mark Nikas, **MP** Magnus Persmark, **MS** Maeve Sowles, **NC** Nicole Cerra, **PL** Paul Lehman, **PO** Pam Otley, **SAB** Suzanne Austin-Bythell, **SB** Sean Burns, **TH** Tyler Hallman, **TMe** Thomas Meinzen, **VB** Vicki Buck, **VT** Vjera Thompson, **WH** Wayne Hoffman. **Fide** indicates a siting that was reported to the listed observer.

Report on June Bird Walk at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

John Sullivan

About a dozen birders met at the Royal Avenue entrance to the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area for the June 15th Third Saturday Bird Walk. We began the morning in the native wet prairie near the west end of Royal Avenue, where we were immediately treated to nice views of singing **Grasshopper Sparrows**. This area is one of the few breeding sites for Grasshopper Sparrows in Lane County. One adult Grasshopper Sparrow carried a beak-full of caterpillars and other bugs, apparently indicating a nearby clutch of nestlings. **Western Meadowlarks** and **Savannah Sparrows** sang from fence posts, while many dozens of **Cliff Swallows** foraged for insects over the prairie around us. As we made our way into the Fisher Butte Unit west of the Royal Avenue parking area, several **Willow Flycatchers** announced their presence with loud calls of “fitzbew! fitzbew!” **Yellow-breasted Chats**, heard more often than seen, called from the bushes near the trail. Luck was on our side as one of these chats cooperated nicely by perching out in the open so we all got a good look. **Purple Martins** swooped, sang, and called overhead along with many **Tree** and **Barn Swallows**, while the grass around us was alive with many singing **Marsh Wrens** and **Common Yellowthroats**. The nearly constant sewing-machine-like chatter of the Marsh Wrens and “witchity-witchity-witchity” song of the yellowthroats were occasionally interrupted by the pig-like grunts of **Virginia Rails**. The willows lining the ponds near the observation platform were hopping with dozens of fly-catching **Cedar Waxwings** that were taking advantage of a recent insect hatch, while **Orange-crowned** and **Yellow Warblers** flitted through the foliage. From the viewing platform, we saw a distant raft of 20 **American White Pelicans** fishing at the far side of the pond, their bills dipping in synchronized fashion. Many graceful **Black Terns** foraged over the water, their buoyant flight occasionally bringing them quite near the viewing platform. At least eight **Blue-winged Teal**, a high number for this area, were counted among the more common, strikingly gorgeous **Cinnamon Teal**. A drake **Northern Pintail** was the most unusual of the 10 duck species encountered that morning. Several **American Bitterns** were seen flying about the refuge; **Northern Harriers**, **Osprey**, and **Bald Eagle** were



Photo: John Sullivan

Juvenile American Avocet chick feeding at Fern Ridge (July 19)

seen as well. Because it was getting late, about half of the group called it a morning and headed back into town, while the remainder of the group continued south from the platform, further into the refuge. The extra time spent in the area was rewarded with four **Black-necked Stilts**, including one that occupied a nest not far from the trail. **Wilson’s Phalarope** were seen, as was a nesting **Pied-billed Grebe**. While standing to reposition itself, the grebe exposed at least one bright white egg on the mound of aquatic vegetation that served as its nest. The highlight of the day, at least for me, came with the discovery of a pair of **American Avocets** followed closely by two recently hatched chicks. This is not only the first record of nesting avocets at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area, but I believe this is the first record of avocets nesting west of the Cascades in Oregon. Unfortunately, one of the chicks was lost sometime during its first few weeks. Better (and exciting) news is that the second avocet chick has survived and matured into a fully flighted, adult-plumaged bird. Avocet chicks have evolved to acquire an adult breeding plumage for their first feathers as a predator evasion tactic. After about six weeks or so, unless the birds are seen at very close range, it is nearly impossible to tell the young avocets from the adults—they no longer stand out as easy targets for predators looking for a meal. Along with one of the adults, the young avocet has been dividing its time between the two ponds in the Fisher Butte Unit that still have water during this extremely dry season. As of this writing, the avocets were most recently seen on July 30. The first pair of nesting American Avocets at Fern Ridge was a success!

Birding I-5 with Harry Fuller

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Harry Fuller, author of the book *Freeway Birding: San Francisco to Seattle*, will give a PowerPoint presentation at the September Program Meeting on great birding sites along Interstate 5 (besides the obvious wildlife refuges). He'll also discuss how the ranges of some birds are changing with global warming—for example, lowland birds are moving higher into the mountains, and southern birds are moving north. Harry always has lots of good bird photographs. Here's the quiz: What state park in the western United States is named after a pioneering ornithologist who also has a namesake bird that was first discovered for science near Portland? The park is just a few miles off Interstate 5 and is a great birding site. (You'll have to attend the meeting to learn the answer!) Program Meetings are free and open to the public.

September Program Meeting

Birding I-5 with Harry Fuller



Tuesday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.
Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St.

NAS Convention Report (continued from page 1)

At the final dinner I sat at a table with two NAS Board members and three women who work in urban areas on programs to prevent bird collisions with windows. They were from Chicago, New York City, and Minneapolis, and they are trying to roll out an NAS program using the projects and training tools they have developed in their local chapters. They are the experts on bird-window collisions in the United States. By the way, the keynote speaker was Paul Bannick, author of *The Owl and the Woodpecker*, who presented at one of our chapter programs three years ago!

I came away, frankly, impressed! The energy and commitment exhibited by both attendees and the NAS organization was awesome. The convention gave me a sense of belonging to a larger dynamic and diverse group. NAS leaders made the convention attendees feel that they, their work, and their opinions are valued and contribute to the greater good. The new NAS leadership's welcoming attitude and the way they reached out to the whole network of chapters that create National Audubon Society was refreshing. Their parting statement was that "what WE do as a Chapter matters—THANK YOU!"

For more information, see <http://www.audubonconvention.org>. The Esri GIS mapping tool is at <http://www.esri.com>.

Bon Voyage to Vaux's Swifts at Agate Hall

Lane County Audubon Society will hold its annual fall Swift Event outside Agate Hall on the University of Oregon campus on two consecutive Fridays, **September 20th and 27th**, at sunset.

The Vaux's Swifts roost in the chimney at Agate Hall as they gather before their fall migration to Central and South America. They begin migrating at the end of their breeding season. Last year at this time we saw between 5,000 and 9,000 birds at this location. The LCAS Swift Event is a wonderful chance to observe and learn about the birds.

Lane Audubon will provide informative handouts about the Vaux's Swifts. Look for the LCAS banner at 17th Avenue and Agate Street. Stop by and enjoy this annual natural phenomenon. It's free and open to the public!

Call 541.343.8664 for more information.

Another good location to check out is the chimney at Smith Family Bookstore (5th and Willamette in downtown Eugene), where several thousand Vaux's Swifts have been observed.

Lane Audubon welcomes you—join or renew today!



We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. Your membership dues

for National Audubon Society no longer support a membership in your local chapter. Your local dues stay here to help us work on local education projects and conservation issues related to birds and their habitats. With your support, we will continue to do the things you expect from us. We welcome your suggestions—this is your Audubon! We appreciate your support. —Maeve Sowles, President

Lane County Audubon Society Membership Benefits

- The Quail—9 issues/yr.
- Field trips and bird walks
- Program meetings
- Educational publications
- Conservation issue representation
- Answers to questions: 541.485.BIRD

Visit www.laneaudubon.org



Deadlines:

Oct. Issue: August 31

Nov. Issue: October 5

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

Local members of National Audubon Society receive a free subscription to *The Quail* but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane County Audubon Society.

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

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Lane Audubon Membership Dues

- Individual \$20 \$ _____
- Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15 \$ _____
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- Lifetime Membership \$400 \$ _____
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- Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society) \$ _____

- Current National Audubon member Don't know

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

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

Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organizations. We will use it only for Lane County Audubon Society communications.

Please contact me regarding

- Gift memberships
- Volunteering for Lane Audubon activities
- Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program
- I'd like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

Mail this form and your payment to:

Lane County Audubon Society
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Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah

Saturday, September 7, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Tour—The Nature Conservancy's Willamette Confluence Project

With Chris Orsinger, executive director of the Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah.

Tour—Oak Woodland Ecology

With Bart Johnson, landscape architect, and Aryana Ferguson, ecologist.

Registration is required for both of these tours.

FMI: 541.344.8350, www.bufordpark.org/tours

Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)

Tuesday, September 10, 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Wetland Wander at Willow Creek Natural Area (east)

Meet at the vehicle turnout on West 18th Avenue between Willow Creek Road and Bertelsen Road.

Wetland Wanders are casual walks through various West Eugene wetland sites led by WREN volunteers on the second Tuesday of each month.

Free. FMI: 541.338.7047, info@wewetlands.org

Nearby Nature

Wednesday, September 11, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Eugene Public Library, Tykeson Room

Fall New Volunteer Orientation

Learn to lead nature walks for children. Volunteers take small groups of K–5 students on interactive nature walks in Alton Baker Park.

Free. FMI: 541.687.9699, info@nearbynature.org

Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)

Saturday, September 21, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

WREN's Family Exploration Day at Golden Gardens Ponds

Participants will be able to catch insects, investigate plants, watch wildlife, and enjoy experiential learning in nature. WREN provides equipment and guidance. Bring a picnic lunch and water, and wear sturdy shoes.

Free. FMI: 541.338.7047, info@wewetlands.org

Godwit Days Fall Migration Bird Festival

Saturday and Sunday, October 5–6, Humboldt County, CA

2nd Annual Fall Preview

Nine select birding trips are offered over the course of the weekend.

FMI: 707.826.7050, www.godwitdays.org, info@godwitdays.org

New Editor for *The Quail*

Lane County Audubon Society welcomes our new *Quail* editor, Paula Rich, who has an extensive background in writing and editing for a local publisher. Paula previously worked at Channel Islands National Park in California, where she conducted bird counts and did census counts of bird carcasses on the beaches!

She has recently taken up birding again after a hiatus of several years, and looks forward to getting involved in Lane County Audubon Society. We welcome her to our large community of volunteers and appreciate her excellent work in editing *The Quail*.

Thank you to the National Audubon Society and the Board of Lane County Audubon Society for providing financial sponsorship for Maeve Sowles and Dick Lamster to attend the 2013 Audubon Convention.

Have Some Fun—Volunteer!

Lane County Audubon Society is an all-volunteer organization, and our members are very proud of the energy and diverse talents that volunteers bring to our cause—we couldn't do it without them! Volunteering with Lane Audubon is a great way to meet new people, give back to the community, and best of all, have fun!

If you're interested in volunteering for one of the opportunities below, or if you have other ideas about ways you can help, contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.

Publications Manager

Help inventory, organize, and update handouts used at our booth and other locations. Work with others to plan and create new handouts.

Bike Path Cleanup Coordinator

Coordinate cleanup of our stretch of the West Eugene bike path. Visit our Volunteer page online at <http://www.laneaudubon.org/support/volunteer>.

**September
Program Meeting**

**Birding I-5
with Harry Fuller**



**Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013
7:30 p.m.**


**Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene**



**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
LANE COUNTY CHAPTER**

*The
Quail*

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Bird Walks and Events



Jim Maloney

541.968.9249

jimgmal@comcast.com

**Saturday
September 21**

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK

Site to be determined, led by Jim and Charlotte Maloney

Jim and Charlotte Maloney will lead September's Third Saturday Bird Walk. They will select the location based on interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL and other information available before the day. If a location is determined before the third Saturday, it will be posted to the LCAS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824?ref=hl>) and on the website (www.laneaudubon.org).

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson) for greetings and carpooling, and we plan to return by noon. Remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables in your vehicle if it's parked at the high school. All levels of birders are welcome. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities.

For more information, contact Jim Maloney at 541-968-9249 or jimgmal@comcast.net.

Be sure to check our website at www.laneaudubon.org for the latest details on field trips and bird walks.

Electronic version of *The Quail* available!

Help us save paper and postage! Lane County Audubon Society offers an electronic version of *The Quail*. Each month, LCAS will send a link to your email address that will take you to

a PDF version of our newsletter. If you would like to begin receiving *The Quail* electronically or would like more information, please contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com.