

May-June 2014 The ual

News from Lane County Audubon Society

From Our President



American Robins Successfully Adapt

Maeve Sowles

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Audubon Phone - 541.485.BIRD

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ach year American Robins nest on our property. The nesting pairs **⊿** arrive in late February and begin singing and setting up their territories. One pair of robins nests near our gate, one pair nests across a field to the south, and another nests north of our house, all in conifers. I notice them in the early



spring because they are so vocal and aggressive with each other. As trite as it sounds, the robins' songs are a joy to hear first thing in the morning as well as late in the day. Their vocalizations, along with those of other singing birds of the summer, provide a great morning sound track.

The robins' nests are made of small twigs, rootlets, and grass that top mud foundations. The nests are well hidden among the branches of the conifers; we can locate them only by observing where the birds fly in. The robin pair works as a team to construct the nest. Sometimes both birds carry in mouthfuls of mud, and sometimes one guards the area while the other builds. Nesting season brings out the robins' territorial nature. High-speed chases and even physical contact may occur between the pairs if they cross the line into another pair's territory. They also aggressively defend their nests from animals that may be nest predators—since they are fairly large birds, robins can be intimidating. When the chicks begin to fledge and forage on their own, the adults' protective nature is obvious. Birds are wonderful parents, guarding and providing food for their vulnerable offspring during this time.

The robins often set up second nests in the late spring or early summer, whether they have succeeded or failed with the first nest of chicks. Usually the second (continued on page 4)

Conservation Column: May-June 2014



Rodenticides Kill More Than Rodents

Debbie Schlenoff 541.685.0610 dschlenoff@msn.com

People have long been fascinated by owls. Search for the term owl facts and you'll find lists such as fun owl facts and awesome owl facts (because, well, owls are awesome). On some of these lists, you'll learn that a Barn Owl can eat up to 1,000 mice each year. Many owl species are voracious eaters and feed mostly on rodents. But for owls today, capturing and eating their main food source could prove deadly. Many owls, other birds of prey such as hawks and eagles, and mammals such as foxes, bobcats, and domestic cats and dogs die each year by consuming rodents that have been poisoned by rodenticides. Recently, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife veterinarians issued a press release advising people to use alternative methods for controlling rodents. The Cascades Raptor Center here in Eugene has documented an increase in the number of poisoned birds they have seen and urges people to avoid using rodenticides (see www.eraptors.org/eNews /enewsFeb2014/enewsFeb2014.htm#article1436676).

Anticoagulant rodenticides in the form of pellets, bars, or dust are widely used both indoors and out for pest control. When ingested, the chemicals result in widespread bleeding throughout the body and ultimately death. Because these poisons are slow acting, animals might continue to eat them for several days; as a result, the poisons can accumulate to levels several times the lethal dose. Poisoned mice, rats, and voles are lethargic and stumble around out in the open where they become easy prey. Birds and other animals that consume the poisoned rodents suffer similar fates.

Due to the documented hazards of rodenticides to children, pets, and wildlife, the Environmental Protection Agency is working to limit purchases to first-generation chemicals, which are (slightly) less toxic. Many proposed reforms have been delayed by the companies that sell rodenticides, including the makers of d-Con rat poison. In California, regulations go into effect this summer (July 1, 2014) that will make it difficult for consumers to purchase second-generation anticoagulation rodenticides that contain the active ingredients Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, Difenacoum,

and Difethialone. (Secondgeneration rodenticides are more concentrated and more toxic than first-generation rodenticides and might work with a single ingestion.) But problems persist: Pest-control companies will still be allowed to use second-generation



poisons, growers will use licensed operators to purchase large quantities of these chemicals, and the regulations can be evaded by purchasing the products online. In addition, some first-generation chemicals (Diphacinone), although less lethal to mammals, have been shown to be very toxic to birds.

Please do not use rodenticides. If you are dealing with an infestation and must use a pest-control company, find one that does not use poison. Nontoxic alternative products are available. See www.raptorsarethesolution.org/alternatives-tips/.

The best solution for pest problems is prevention. Recommendations include the following:

- Restrict access. Seal holes, especially around sinks and pipes, doors and windows, basements, attics, and access to crawlspaces.
- Don't leave food and water exposed (indoors or out.) Put away pet food and water at night. Repair leaky pipes. Store food in tightly sealed containers.
- Seal trash and compost around structures.
- Remove invasive ivy—it shelters rodents, attracts rodent food, and acts as climbing ladders. Consider planting natives to provide habitat for native species rather than pests.
- Clean the ground around bird feeders.
- Keep outdoor cooking areas clean.
- Keep firewood off the ground and away from structures with potential rodent problems.
- If you want *awesome* pest control, encourage barn owls to nest and stay in your area by installing a nesting box. Please note that you should live in a suitable location and have neighbors who do not put out poison.

Field Notes: March 2014



- White-tailed Kite
- Northern Shrike
- Lewis's Woodpecker
- Lazuli Bunting

Tom and Allison Mickel

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arch was a more normal month weather-wise, with some rain and some nice sunny, warm spring days. Those days always make you think that migration should be in full swing, but it never really is until mid-April. The really early warbler reports below might have been birds that wintered locally, not migrants just arriving from their southern wintering areas. The first wave of Orange-crowned Warblers that start moving through in the latter part of March are the local breeding subspecies that are much brighter yellow than the more northern breeding birds that migrate through later in the spring, and these locals can be confused with other bright yellow warblers like Yellow and Wilson's. So look carefully at those first bright yellow warblers that come through in late March and early April!

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

WATERBIRDS

Snow Goose (3) Cinnamon Teal (5) Horned Grebe	Mar 12 Mar 24 Mar 26	Mt Pisgah FRR – Royal Ave FRR – Royal Ave	KL, et al. A&TM DA, et al.	Normally winter in small numbers A couple weeks later than normal They have been showing up this time of year for the last few years
American White Pelican (20)	Mar 23	FRR – Royal Ave	SH	Good numbers for this early in the year
RAPTORS to TERNS White-tailed Kite	Mar 1	Cottage Grove area	MB, JB	One of very few reports since the Dec freeze

White-tailed Kite	Mar 1	Cottage Grove area	MB, JB	One of very few reports since the Dec freeze
Sandhill Cranes (200)	Feb 26	Cottage Grove area	J&JD	Their normal migration time
Black-bellied Plover (50)	Mar	FRR	m.ob.	A normal wintering location, but with the high
Dunlin (5000)	Mar 25	FRR – Royal Ave.	RR	water they are more visible at the edges of the reservoir
Lesser Yellowlegs	Mar 13	Meadowlark Prairie	BC	Earlier than normal migration timing
Caspian Tern	Mar 30	FRR	MRa	A normal time for their migration to the
Caspian Tern	Mar 30	Siuslaw River mouth	DP	breeding grounds

WOODPECKERS to FINCHES

Lewis's Woodpecker	Mar 15	FRR – Royal Ave	E&VT	Still being seen
Northern Shrike	Mar 19	FRR – Royal Ave	BC	Still being found
No. Rough-winged Swallow	Mar 26	Delta Ponds	SMcC	About a week earlier than normal
Cliff Swallow (2)	Mar 12	FRR - Royal Ave	SM	About two weeks earlier than normal
Barn Swallow	Mar 19	FRR – E Coyote	BC	About two weeks earlier than normal
Orange-crowned Warbler (3)	Mar 22	Skinner Butte	A&TM	Right on time!
Common Yellowthroat	Mar 26	FRR - Royal Ave	DA, et al.	Right on time!
Yellow Warbler	Mar 25	Eugene yard	JD	About a month earlier than normal
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Mar 13	Delta Ponds	BG	Singing migrants starting to show up
Wilson's Warbler	Mar 25	River Road area	BC	About three weeks earlier than normal
Chipping Sparrow	Mar 27	North River Road	MRu	A few days earlier than normal
Lazuli Bunting	Feb 6	near Alton Baker Park	fide MP	First winter record for Lane Co
Brown-headed Cowbird	Mar 22	FRR	TMo	About two weeks earlier than normal
Evening Grosbeak	Mar 20	Cottage Grove area	J&JD	Becoming more widely reported now

A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, **BC** Barbara Combs, **BG** Brandon Green, **DA** Dennis Arendt, **DP** Diane Pettey, **E&VT** Eddie & Vjera Thompson, **J&JD** Jim & Jodi DeLapp, **JB** John Buyley, **JD** Joni Dawning, **KL** Kit Larsen, **m.ob.** many observers, **MB** Marty Beyer, **MP** Magnus Persmark, **MRa** Mitch Ratzlaff, **MRu** Mark Rudolph, **RR** Roger Robb, **SH** Sally Hill, **SM** Sylvia Maulding, **SMcC** Sarah McCarty, **TMo** Tori Morgan. **Fide** indicates a sighting that was reported to the listed observer.

Program Meeting: Tuesday, May 27

Antshrikes to the Xenopses: Biomes of Brazil with Bob Fleming

Herb Wisner 541.344.3634 hrwisner@comcast.net

ver the past decade, naturalist Bob Fleming has visited various parts of South America and his presentation will be a natural history overview of one of South America's most amazing countries. Brazil, at 3.3 million square miles, is by far the largest country in South America and encompasses six major biological regions (biomes), which vary from the dripping jungles of the Amazon Basin, to the Caatinga, a near desert complete with occasional cacti. Some 1700 species of birds dwell in a remarkable array of habitats, as do over 550 species of mammals, a wealth of insects, many interesting reptiles, and innumerable plants.

The northern half of Brazil falls within the Amazon Basin, and birds are a conspicuous component of the fauna. Another major biome, the Cerrado, covers part of the Central Brazilian Shield, an uplift that rises south of the Amazon Basin. Southwest of the Cerrado, the rivers slope to the west; when water reaches the first hint of the Andean uplift, it pools in a region called the Pantanal and forms the world's largest wetlands. The Pantanal features South America's best wildlife viewing.

Southeast of the Pantanal rises the Atlantic Coast Range, with peaks ranging up to 9,000 feet. These mountains create rainforest conditions by catching moisture pouring in from the Atlantic. The two other biomes in Brazil are the semidesert of the Caatinga in the extreme east and the Pampas grasslands of the deep south.

Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, for a naturalist's view of Brazil.

From Our President (continued from page 1)

nests are in deciduous trees that have by then leafed out, and the nests are well hidden by the leaves. We have seen both apple trees and oak trees used for second nests. The robins are driven workers throughout their breeding season, which ends in late summer. I find it interesting that they use different trees at different times, showing their adaptability to changes in their habitat. The robins' ability to find new nest sites within their chosen territory helps them to be a successful species that can live and reproduce in a variety of situations. Although we tend to overlook American Robins because they are so common, it's worth considering what *makes* them so common—their remarkable adaptability. It is a pleasure to learn by watching the robins, and I'm happy to have them in my yard, offering up their songs each day.

Note: If you have nesting birds near your home, you might want to participate in NestWatch, a citizen science project organized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. For more information, go to http://nestwatch.org/.

May Program Meeting Antshrikes to the Xenopses: Biomes of Brazil with Bob Fleming



Tuesday, May 27, 2014 7:30 p.m.

Eugene Garden Club 1645 High St., Eugene

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.

Get Involved—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 LCAS is a great way to meet new people, give back to the community, and—best of all—have fun! For more information, visit our Volunteer page online at http://www.laneaudubon.org/support/volunteer.

Booth Coordinator

Lane County Audubon is looking for one or two volunteers to help with our booth appearances at local events and festivals. This opportunity involves setting up and taking down the booth four or five times a year and scheduling other volunteers to staff the booth at events. One or two people could share or split these duties. We will provide orientation and training. If you enjoy coordinating activities and working with people, this could be the opportunity for you. For more information, contact Ron Renchler at 541-345-0834 or christyandron@qwest.net.

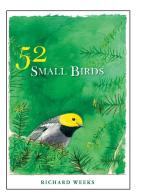
Audubon in the Schools Program Coordinator

The Audubon in the Schools (AITS) curriculum, developed by Kris Kirkeby, our former Education Chair, comprises five fun-filled lessons that combine bird biology and basic art techniques. It is designed to provide elementary students with a solid introduction to core aspects of bird biology, including feather anatomy and function, bird identification techniques, bird field marks, and habitat. The lessons are excellent examples of participatory education. The coordinator keeps all facets of the program going, including classroom scheduling and volunteer training, and also teaches lessons to students along with the other volunteers. We hope to find a new coordinator who can take this wonderful education program to new heights!

Program Chair

The Program Chair recruits speakers for the chapter Program Meetings that are scheduled eight times a year. This person seeks new programs that will enhance our members' awareness of birding, habitats, natural history, conservation, and other issues and must be able to engage speakers and organize publicity and other logistics well in advance of each meeting.

52 Small Birds Now Available



A new book by Richard Weeks, 52 Small Birds, is now available! The book is a memoir of an eight-year quest to photograph and paint the 52 breeding warblers of the United States, and Richard's beautiful artwork appears throughout the story. According to the author, "This narrative relates how the process of searching for, photographing, and

painting birds enhanced and deepened my connection to the natural world." Published in cooperation with LCAS, 52 *Small Birds* sells for \$22 plus \$2 shipping. It's also available at LCAS monthly meetings, including the May 27 meeting, for \$20. All profits go to LCAS.

To order and for more information about the book and author, go to www.rweeksart.com.

LCAS Thanks Dick Lamster and Maeve Sowles

Dick Lamster presented at the Eugene Garden Club's monthly membership meeting on March 18. Dick reports that it is fun and rewarding to talk to garden clubs because their members already know a lot about birds and bird habitat, so the presentation usually turns to "fine-tuning" their gardens and yards to be even more attractive to wildlife.

Maeve Sowles presented at the Willamette District Garden Clubs' quarterly meeting on March 21. She showed photos of birds that can be seen in our area, discussed how to attract them, and provided interesting facts about them.

Lane County Audubon Society Board Election Notice

Lane County Audubon Society Board elections will be held at the May 27 Program Meeting. The following candidates are running for reelection: Maeve Sowles, Ron Renchler, Debbie Schlenoff, Herb Wisner, and Jim Maloney.

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: July-August Issue: May 31 September Issue: Aug. 2

Submit material to Paula Rich richpaula@hotmail.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 County Audubon Society.

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

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Lane Audubon Membership Du	es\$				
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☐ Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program	P.O. Box 5086				
 I'd like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues. 	Eugene, OR 97405				

Lane Audubon Officers & Board Members

President	Maeve Sowles	541.343.8664	president@laneaudubon.org
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	Herb Wisner	541.344.3634	hrwisner@comcast.net
	Jim Maloney	541.968.9249	jimgmal@comcast.net

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Recording Secretary			
Webmaster	Sara Lee Higgins		sara.lee.higgins@gmail.com

Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Joan Bray Art Exhibit

May 1–31 (Reception on Saturday, May 10, 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.) The artwork of Joan Bray is displayed at Birds Unlimited during May. Joan was a long-time member of LCAS and helped with *The Quail* mailings for many years. Joan's daughter Nancy Bray will host a reception during the South Willamette Art Walk on Saturday, May 10, from 3:00–6:00 p.m.

Free. Birds Unlimited at 2510 Willamette Street, Eugene.

FMI: 541.844.1788

Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)

Saturday, May 10, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Family Exploration Day at Stewart Pond

Meet at the Stewart Pond Overlook.

Tuesday, May 13, 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Wetland Wander at Dragonfly Bend

Meet at Checkermallow Access.

Saturday, May 17, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

8th Annual Walkin' & Rollin' through the West Eugene Wetlands Walk, roll, stroll, bike, or scoot the Fern Ridge Bike Path through the scenic West Eugene Wetlands.

Tuesday, June 10, 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Wetland Wander at Danebo Wetland Site and Tsanchiifin Trail Meet at the Red House/WREN's office parking lot, 751 S. Danebo Avenue in Eugene.

All WREN events are free. FMI: 541.338.7047, info@wewetlands.org

Cascades Raptor Center

Last Sunday of each month, May through September, 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Family Nature Discovery Days

Each Discovery Day features a different theme and different activities for children and families. Activities are recommended for ages 4–11; children must be accompanied by adults.

May 25: Birds in Springtime (paint eggs and build nests)

June 29: The Art of Nature (create artful masterpieces with our collection of found items: shells, pinecones, stones, leaves, seed cases, and more)

General admission (members free) plus \$2 activity fee.

FMI: 541.485.1320, www.eraptors.org

The Mountain Bird Festival

May 30-June 1, Ashland, Oregon

The first annual Mountain Bird Festival will combine a celebration of Ashland region's mountain birds with the stewardship ethic needed to ensure thriving landscapes for humans and wildlife. Registration required.

FMI: www.KlamathBird.org/Education/MountainBird

Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, May 3, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Amphibians and Reptiles

Join Tom Titus on an exciting exploration of the reptiles and amphibians that call Mount Pisgah home. Suitable for ages 8 and up. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center.

Families \$8, Adults \$5 (members free).

Tuesday, May 13, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Wildflower Walk

Enjoy peak wildflower displays on a spring walk led by Gail Baker, LCC professor emeritus. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center.

\$5, members free.

Sunday, May 18, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Wildflower and Music Festival

As many as 400 wildflowers will be on display, and top botanists of the region will be on hand to answer questions. A wide variety of plants, baked goods, and arts and crafts will be on sale and there'll be live music all day.

Suggested donation \$8 per person, kids under 12 free.

Sunday, May 25, 8:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

Spring Bird Walk

Join Nature Guides Julia Siporin and Chris Roth for a bird walk for people with all levels of birding experience, beginner to advanced. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center.

\$5, members free.

FMI: 541.747.1504, www.MountPisgahArboretum.org

Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah

Thursday, May 15, and Thursday, June 26, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. *Turtle Flats Tour*

Turtle Flats is an important natural area at the confluence of the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette River, recently purchased by the Friends to be protected forever.

Saturday, May 24, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Birds of Pisgah's Grasslands

Pat Boleyn will lead this bird walk through the South Bottomlands.

Registration is required for Friends tours.

Free. FMI: 541.344.8350, www.bufordpark.org/tours

May Program Meeting
Antshrikes to the
Xenopses:
Biomes of Brazil
with Bob Fleming



Tuesday, May 27, 2014 7:30 p.m.

Eugene Garden Club 1645 High St., Eugene



Has your *Quail* subscription expired? See page 6 for renewal info!

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Bird Walks and Events



Jim Maloney 541.968.9249 jimgmal@comcast.com

Friday, May 2

WELCOME BACK VAUX'S SWIFTS AT AGATE HALL

The LCAS Swift Event is a wonderful opportunity to observe Vaux's Swifts as they enter the Agate Hall chimney to roost for the night. Join LCAS at sunset at 17th Avenue and Agate Street for this annual natural phenomenon. See the LCAS website or call 541.343.8664 for more information.

Saturday, May 17

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK

Elijah Bristow State Park, led by Dave Bontrager

Wildlife biologist Dave Bontrager will lead the May Third Saturday Bird Walk to Elijah Bristow State Park, off Highway 58 near Dexter.

Saturday, June 21

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, led by Chris Roth, Julia Siporin, and Mary Johnson

The destination for the June Third Saturday Bird Walk is Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Chris Roth and Julia Siporin (and possibly Mary Johnson) will guide the group. Folks can meet at the South Eugene High School parking lot at 8:00 (see below) or at the Arboretum parking area at about 8:20. If you do not carpool from SEHS, remember there is a parking fee at the Arboretum or you must have a member parking permit.

For both trips we will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson), rain or shine, for greetings and carpooling. We plan to return by noon. Remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables in your vehicle if you leave it at the high school. All levels of birders are welcome. A \$3 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities.

For more information, check the LCAS website or the LCAS Facebook page, or contact Jim Maloney at 541.968.9249 or jimgmal@comcast.net.