

The Mau

News from Lane County Audubon Society

From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, president@laneaudubon.org

Exploring the Bird-rich Summer Lake Area



Avocet at Summer Lake

In early June, we visited Summer Lake in Eastern Oregon to explore some areas new to us. We have driven through this high desert basin many times on the way to visit relatives near Lakeview, but never spent time there, and it was not a disappointment. The ODFW Summer Lake Wildlife Area is 18,941 acres in size, "with a goal of supporting wetland dependent wildlife and a diverse array of other wildlife and

plant species for use and enjoyment by present and future generations."

There is an eight-mile drive through the wildlife area, as well as some basic picnic and camping sites adequately staffed by mosquitos. We did enjoy seeing many breeding bird species such as Western Grebes, Trumpeter Swans, Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Black-necked Stilt, Avocet, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. The most gratifying thing was the amount of water visible everywhere! Green grass, flowering sagebrush and wildflowers carpeted the valley. Willow, poplar, and cottonwood were green and healthy looking. The ample water supply created great habitat and food for breeding birds this year.

One day we drove to the Abert Lake and Rim area to see the water level in

the lake. It was amazingly full, which was wonderful to see. Two years ago it had dried up for the first time since the 1930s. Having high lake levels provides a critical food supply for migrating birds that eat the brine shrimp that grow in the alkaline lake. Abert Lake is one of the largest lakes in Oregon. It is not deep (11 feet), but covers an area of 15 by 7 miles when full! The hillsides had an abundance of Indian Paintbrush interspersed with yellow balsamroot; huge boulders were covered with bright orange lichen, creating a surprisingly colorful hillside.

We also took two drives into the Fremont-Winema National Forest to the west of the Summer Lake basin. One day we went to Thompson Reservoir and saw some great high-country birds, such as Lewis's Woodpecker, Mountain Bluebirds, Clark's Nutcracker, Western Tanagers, flycatchers and several Bald Eagle and Osprey pairs that nest near the lake. The flanks of the mountains have juniper and sagebrush, with some burned areas good for bird watching. There are craggy rock formations and

continued on page 7

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Conservation 2



Field Notes 3 & 4



Bird Walks 8

Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Global Cooperation Necessary For Future Generations' Survival



Semi-palmated Plover

Rather than read the back of the cereal box, I am currently reading articles on bird behavior, including "Parental cooperation in a changing climate: fluctuating environments predict shifts in care division."

Cooperation among birds has been shown to increase the chances of successfully raising offspring. Sometimes this means taking turns sitting on the nest and incubating the eggs. In plovers, the females do more of the incubating and typically take the day shift, while the males sit on the eggs at night. As temperatures rise, it becomes more difficult for the females to sit during the day. This study examined populations at different temperatures. They found that at higher temperatures, the males increased their share of care, including taking on some daytime incubation. I think: Birds choose budgets (based on time and energy) that help the next generation. I think: Birds are cooperating to be successful as they deal with the repercussions of climate change. I think: We need to be more like birds.

At the end of May, the administration released a proposed budget for 2018. It contains several areas of concern, many of which will affect the environment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service budget will be cut by 8.6 percent. The Environmental Protection Agency budget will be cut by 31 percent. The Department of Agriculture's budget will be cut by 21 percent, putting Farm Bill Conservation Programs at risk. The Department of the Interior budget goes down 12 percent, with a call to eliminate or weaken several conservation programs such as the Neo-tropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, State Wildlife Grants, Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, the North American Wetland Conservation Act, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The budget emphasizes development of energy extraction ventures on public lands, including in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge and in Sage Grouse habitat. The budget cuts spending on renewable energy innovation, and eliminates Clean Air programs like the Greenhouse Gas Reporting program. It cuts coastal, river, and lake water restoration programs, environmental justice programs, toxic spill clean-up programs, and it slashes several science research programs. The proposed budget also eliminates the Global Climate Change Research program and several programs to help prepare communities for extreme storms and rising sea levels.

We need to be more like birds by working together to ensure a better chance of success for the next

generation. We should not minimize our ability to collectively make a difference. Our Congress will vote on some version of this budget, and we elect officials to represent us. Let your opinion be known. Write your elected representatives and inform them of your concerns about cuts to the budget that affect our environment. To find your members of Congress, see govtrack.us/congress/members/OR.

Program Meeting Hiatus

In summer, Audubon members are often out enjoying birds and the outdoors, traveling far and wide.

Since sitting indoors when there's still daylight is less attractive, LCAS takes a break from presenting programs in June, July and August.

Our regularly scheduled programs will resume on the fourth Tuesday of the month, September 26, with a longawaited talk (and slides) by the intrepid local but international birder, Noah Stryker.



Field Notes: April/May 2017

Tom and Allison Mickel, 541.485.7112, tamickel@riousa.com

Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Le Conte's Sparrow, Hudsonian Godwit, White**crowned X Golden-crowned Sparrow**

Veather was a normal spring mix: wet, dry, warm, and cool. A number of rare birds were seen in the county, including a first record! Some migrants arrived early and some late, as is getting to be the norm. Now that the breeding season is upon us it will be interesting to see what's found.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), Lane Community Collage (LCC), Oregon Birds Record Committee (OBRC), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR)



Le Conte's Sparrow



Hudsonian Godwit

WATERBIRDS

Snow Goose	April 2	Alvadore	BC	A late report
Trumpeter Swan (photos)	May 8	Noti Pond	OSU	Rare spring report
Blue-winged Teal	April 15	FRR – Fisher Butte	LG	About a week earlier than normal
Harlequin Duck (pair)	May 5	Brice Creek	BH	Breeding?
				Doesn't appear to be uncommon out this far
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	May 5	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	Rarely seen from the beach
Sora	April 6	FRR	RR	Right on time

HAWKS TO ALCIDS

Swainson's Hawk (photo)	April 28	SW Eugene	AC	Rare but regular in spring
Swainson's Hawk	May 6	Royal Ave area	MN	
Caspian Tern (2)	April 3	Florence area	LG	A normal time for their arrival
Black Tern (2)	May 6	FRR – Royal	JP	A couple days later than normal
Common Tern	April 16	Heceta Head	PR	A normal time for their migration
Forster's Tern	May 6	FRR – Royal	WG,et.al	Bred two years ago
Black-bellied Plover (3)	April 6	Sutton Creek	DF	A normal time for their migration
Semiplamated Plover (4)	April 19	Sutton Creek	DF	A normal time for their migration
Black-necked Stilt	April 1	FRR – Fisher Butte	SH,VB	About two weeks earlier than normal
Solitary Sandpiper	April 22	Siltcoos River mouth	RP	
Solitary Sandpiper	April 23	Stewart Road	RR	A normal time for their migration
Willet	May 5	SJSR	SB	Occasional in migration
Whimbrel	May 30	FRR	BC	
Long-billed Curlew	May 10	SJSR beach	DF	
Marbled Godwit	April 19	Sutton Creek	DF	A normal time for their migration
Hudsonian Godwit (photos)	May 24	SJSR crab pier	NS	First Lane Co record
Ruddy Turnstone	May 1	SJSR beach	WW	Small numbers in migration
Red Knot	May 19	Sutton Creek	DF	Unusual during spring migration
Baird's Sandpiper	May 5	Berry Creek	DF	Rarely found in the spring
Wilson's Phalarope	May 13	FRR – Fisher Butte	TGT	About a week later than normal
Red-necked Phalarope (2)	April 8	Cantrell Rd	JL	
Red Phalarope	May 24	Strawberry Hill	NS	
				Small numbers may still be breeding

continued on page 4

GOATSUCKERS TO FINCHES

Common Nighthawk	May 26	Walterville area	VB	About a week earlier than normal
Black Swift				
	•			A normal time for their migration
				A couple days earlier than normal
				Possible female – rare in the county
				Less than fifteen records for Lane Co.
				About four sightings – a normal number
Olive-sided Flycatcher	April 28	Dunes City	DF	A few days earlier than normal
Olive-sided Flycatcher	April 28	Skinner Butte	SM	A few days earlier than normal
Western Wood-Pewee	April 24	River Road area	MM	About a week earlier than normal
Willow Flycatcher	May 6	Willow Creek	BC	About a week earlier than normal
Hammond's Flycatcher	April 6	Long Tom canoe path	RR	A couple weeks earlier than normal
Gray Flycatcher				
Gray Flycatcher	May 9	LCC area	RR	Almost annual in spring
Dusky Flycatcher	May 17	Skinner Butte	DI	A few days earlier than normal
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	April 22	Skinner Butte	AC	
Say's Phoebe	April 9	OR Dunes NRA	DF	Not a normal place for this species
Ash-throated Flycatcher	May 8	Skinner Butte	LG	Almost annual in the spring
Western Kingbird	April 21	FRR - Perkins	JL	
Warbling Vireo	April 18	Alton Baker Park	BR	A few days earlier than normal
Purple Martin	April 3	FRR	NS	About a week earlier than normal
House Wren	April 9	Mt Pisgah	TM	Over a week earlier than normal
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	April 19	Skinner Butte	DW	About 25 records for Lane Co.
Swainson's Thrush	April 28	SW Eugene	AC	A couple days earlier than normal
Gray Catbird (photos)	April 6	Florence	MH	Fifth record for Lane Co.
Gray Catbird	May 26	Hills Creek Dam	ER	Sixth record for Lane Co.
Nashville Warbler	April 13	Skinner Butte	SH,VB	
MacGillivray's Warbler	April 16	Cottage Grove area	ТМо	A few days earlier than normal
Yellow Warbler	April 22	Cottage Grove Res	ТМо	A couple days earlier than normal
Black-throated Gray Warbler				
				About a week earlier than normal
Yellow-breasted Chat				
				A couple days later than normal
Brewer's Sparrow				
				About a week earlier than normal
Vesper Sparrow				
Lark Sparrow	May 21	Hills Creek Dam	FT	Almost annual spring migrant
	•			Almost two weeks later than normal
				First Lane Co record if accepted by OBRC
White-throated Sparrow	•			-
W-c X G-c Sparrow (photos)	-			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
_				Over a week earlier than normal
Black-headed Grosbeak	-			•
		_		A couple days earlier than normal
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-			•
				Found almost annually at this location
Bullock's Oriole				
Evening Grosbeak (12)	April 12	Eugene downtown	AC	A couple weeks later than normal

AC Alan Contreras, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, BC Barbara Combs, BH Bruce Hutcheon, BR Bitty Roy, DF Daniel Farrar, DI Dave Irons, DS Dazzia Szczepaniak, DW Darryl Wisner, ER Elaine Rees, FT Forest Tomlinson, GR Glenn Reubon, JL Joshua Little, JP John Powell, JS John Sullivan, LG Linda Gilbert, LM Libbie Marshall, MH Mary Holm, MM Marcia Maffei, MN Mark Nikas, NS Noah Strycker, OSU Oregon State University bird-a-thon, PL Paul Leman, PR Peter Ralph, RP Reuban Pannier, RR Roger Robb, SB Sean Burns, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, TGT Torrey Gage-Tomlinson, TMo Tori Morgan, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson, WG Wink Gross, WW Will Wright





Thanks to LCAS's Migratory Bird Day Event Volunteers

The weather was rainy and cool on May 13 for Lane County Audubon Society's International Migratory Bird Day event, staged in Alton Baker Park in collaboration with Nearby Nature and Cascades Raptor Center. Despite the weather, several families stopped by the picnic shelter at Alton Baker Park, where our educational activities were being staged, and then continued on to Nearby Nature's Learnscape area. IMBD-LCAS volunteers led family-friendly bird walks, Raptor Center staff displayed a live Peregrine Falcon, and Nearby Nature staff conducted more nature-related activities for kids.

LCAS volunteers showed up in force to lead the walks and help kids learn more about bird migration and other nature topics. We are deeply grateful to all who helped out with our celebration of International Migratory Bird Day.

Thanks especially to the planning committee for the event: Ramiro Aragon, Jim Maloney, Ron Renchler, and Maeve Sowles, as well as Shyanne Woods and Beth Stein of Nearby Nature.

Our bird walk leaders included Ramiro Aragon, Ashley Studholme, Caryn Stoess, John DeLuca, Laurie deGonzalez, Judy Franzen, and Stephen Franzen (who also helped with photography for the event).

Helping with LCAS booth outreach and assisting with other event needs were Larue Rodgers (who created new educational activities for the kids), Rachael Friese (facilitator for LCAS's Audubon Adventures program), Connie Berglund, Nancy Radius, Debbie Schlenoff, Bruce Wilson, Kyle Wilson, Jaime Jones, Judy Brown, Dolly Marshall, Susanne Twight-Alexander, and Janie Thomas. Many thanks to one and all.

More LCAS Volunteer Thank Yous!

Thanks Joyce Trawle for staffing an information table at South Eugene High School on Earth Day, April 21.

Thanks to June Persson, who for the past couple of years helped distribute *The* Quail, our monthly newsletter, around town. Thanks also to Jan Danforth, who has volunteered to distribute the newsletter now that June is no longer able to.

Saturday April 29, four volunteers from Lane County Audubon Society (Judy and Stephen Franzen, Caryn Stoess, and Jim Maloney) conducted a bird survey of a walking loop at Dorris Ranch in Springfield with two staff members of Willamalane Park District. Thanks for their efforts to work with this local agency to enhance bird habitat! Their eBird checklist is online at ebird.org/ebird /view/checklist/S36395931

Team LCAS Goose Rescue

During the morning event, three of our volunteers rescued a Canada Goose from fishing line tangled around its leg and foot.

Rachael noticed it and sat with the bird, feeding and talking to it.

LaRue got a blanket and Kyle used it to catch the goose. He then used his Leatherman tool to cut off all the fishing line. The goose was released, fluffed it's feathers and continued to graze nearby, free of its shackles and unharmed.

Thanks to Rachael, Kyle and LaRue for the extra effort in helping this goose!



Audubon in the **Schools Instructors**

School is out for the summer, but that's a temporary situation. The Audubon in the Schools program sends teams of volunteer instructors into the elementary schools to teach third-, fourth-, and fifthgrade students both science and art using bird specimens, feathers, bones, and nests. No teaching experience or artistic talent is required. All you need is a few hours a month and an interest in teaching children. You can check out the program by sitting in on a class.

For more information, contact Caryn Stoess, Audubon in the Schools Coordinator, at 541.357.8739 or AITSEugene@gmail.com.

For other ways to help, check out our volunteer page online at laneaudubon.org/support/volunteer.



The Quail is the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society, a chartered chapter of National Audubon Society. Local members of National Audubon Society receive a free subscription to *The Quail* but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane County Audubon Society.

The Quail Subscriptions

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

The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

September issue: August 5 October issue: August 28 Submit material to Karen Irmscher at quailkaren@earthlink.net

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Lane County Audubon Society 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 fully cover the costs of 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 Audubon 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
- · Website: laneaudubon.org

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I want to do more. Here's my tax-deductible contribution	n for\$	
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am a 🔲 Current National Audubon member 🔲 Don't k	know	☐ I would like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.
Please contact me regarding		☐ I would like to volunteer for Lane County Audubon activities. Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organizatio
☐ Gift memberships ☐ Lane Audubon's Living Legacy	program	We will use it only for Lane County Audubon Society communications.

Community Calendar and Events

A service to Lane County Audubon Society members



Great Horned Owlet

7/1

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Butterflies and Dragonflies Walk Saturday, July 1, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Join nature guide Dave Hagen on a walk for kids and families. Explore the diversity of butterflies and dragonflies found at the Arboretum! This will be a gentle walk through the meadow lands. Nets and bug boxes are provided so you can get a closer look at these amazing organisms. Meet at the Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$8 per family, \$5 individual, members free.

FMI: 541.741.4110 or mountpisgaharboretum.com

Bird Walk 7/9

Sunday, July 9, 8 a.m.-noon Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for a monthly bird walk. People at all levels of birding experience will find something to enjoy. We'll use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of our summer and year-round residents. Come discover the Arboretum's avian diversity. Please bring binoculars. Option to leave the walk earlier, if desired. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center, \$5, members free.

7/15

Yoga Under the Oak Trees

Saturday, July 15, 10 a.m.-noon Join Jenny Ewing and Suzy

Kropf for a monthly summer yoga class for beginners. Stretch out and center yourself under the boughs of centuries-old oak trees. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass: \$5, members free.

7/17

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Meetings will return to their regular third Monday night of the month, restarting in September.

FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com

8/20

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Bird Walk

Sunday, August 20, 8 a.m.-noon Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for another monthly bird walk intended for people at all levels of birding experience. Vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues will help identify our summer and year-round residents. Come discover the Arboretum's avian diversity. Please bring binoculars. Option to leave the walk early, if desired. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center, \$5, members free.

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amazonsmile

From the President continued from page 1

some volcanic rock areas as well. The higher elevations have ponderosa and lodgepole pine, true fir, mixed conifers, and some aspens in the high meadows. Wildflowers were spectacularly blooming and many had yet to open. The array of blooming flowers changes weekly as the progression of blooms creates a stunning palette of changing colors. It promises to be a good year for the late summer migration of Rufous Hummingbirds, which use these blooms for nourishment on their way back to Mexico and Central America.

Another drive into the mountains took us to the high point of the Fremont Lookout, at 7,135 feet elevation. This

point is 3,000 feet above the valley below. It affords views of Mount Shasta to the south and the Three Sisters to the north, plus a panorama of landscape features. Birds from the mountains and the valley were cruising by us as we spent time snacking at the picnic bench. A group of 30 American White Pelicans slowly lifted up from Summer Lake and circled for several minutes, gaining altitude with each spiral. Finally they soared up and over the ridge to catch a breeze heading southwest to another lake on their itinerary. Over the 4 days we tallied 102 bird species. Half the fun of getting into the outdoors is waiting and watching to see what will be there.

The treasure hunt for birds brings many other rewarding sights into our field of view. Have a great summer—Oregon is worth exploring!



High Country Meadow in Fremont-Winema National Forest



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Check your mailing label. Has your Quail subscription expired? See page 6 to renew!

Lane County Audubon Society Bird Walks & Events

Jim Maloney, 541.968.9249, jimgmal@comcast.net

Third Saturday Bird Walk



Saturday, July 15

Not really a walk, this one. Dick Lamster and Maeve Sowles will lead a bird-watching-by-canoe/kayak trip to Fern Ridge Lake. You will need to furnish your own binoculars, canoe or kayak and lifejackets (required). Each craft also needs an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit. (See boatoregon.com for more information on this required permit.)

To reserve a spot on the trip and get more information, call Dick at 541.343.8664. He'll fill you in on the time and meeting location when you call. If you do not have a canoe or kayak, call anyway because other participants may have extra space in their craft.

Saturday, August 19

Site and leader will be determined by interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL and other pertinent information available before the day of the walk. Details will be posted on the LCAS Facebook page (facebook .com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon -Society/330177413824) and on the website (laneaudubon.org). All ages and skill levels are welcome.

To carpool, meet at 8 a.m. at the South Eugene High School parking lot, corner of 19th and Patterson. We plan to return by noon. Remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables or your vehicle registration in your car if you leave it at the lot. A \$3 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities.

FMI: Jim Maloney at 541.968.9249 or jimgmal@comcast.net



The Program Meeting resumes in September with a long-awaited talk (and slides) by the intrepid local but international birder, Noah Stryker

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. Eugene Garden Club 1645 High St., Eugene



Join your fellow 20% of Lane County Audubon Society members who help save paper and postage by receiving The Quail electronically.

Contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com