

# The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



## From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

## Maeve and Friends Nature Reads for Winter 2018

I like to ask for book recommendations from friends because we do share some of the same interests! Of course one of the main books being discussed is Noah Strycker's *Birding Without Borders: An Epic World Big Year*. If you have not yet read it, make the time. You will not be sorry. In fact you will have a hard time putting it down.

**Jim Maloney** always offers a thoughtful list of books to watch for:

*Project Puffin*, by Derrick Jackson and Stephen Kress, is about the reintroduction of Atlantic Puffins to islands in the Gulf of Maine. It's not a new book, but stories of people trying to undo a destructive past are always welcome.

*Fire Birds*, by Sneed B. Collard, is especially timely as we hear calls for "salvage" logging after devastating wildfires. It's an excellent intro to the

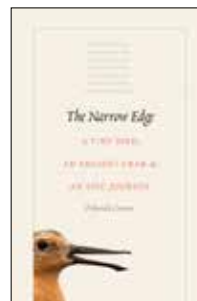
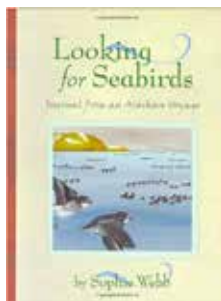
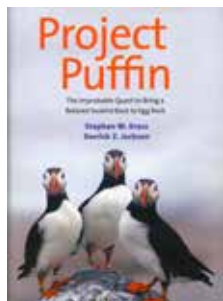
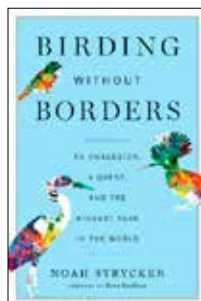
subject, detailing which avian species depend on and flourish in burns.

*Looking for Seabirds*, Sophie Webb's book, is enriched by her hand-rendered illustrations. Her writing style is both friendly and factual.

*The Narrow Edge* follows Deborah Cramer as she travels along with the Red Knots on their epic migration. She shares stories of the people who just won't give up on doing what they can to assure the survival of the species.

*Birds of the Sierra Nevada*, by Edward Beedy and Edward Pandolfino, includes a lot of natural history related to each species and has excellent illustrations by Keith Hansen. While its focal geography is indeed California's

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Lane County Audubon Society

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Christmas Bird Count. 2



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# 2017 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

By Dick Lamster, Count Coordinator

The 76th Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) on Sunday, December 31, 2017, started on a cold and foggy morning. We had all hoped it would be sunny like the day before, but the fog persisted all day long. Luckily, the 149 field participants also persisted, and we saw 130 species of birds, a total of 71,084 individuals. Another seven species were seen during Count Week.

The details of those sightings are reported by Vjera Thompson, beginning on page three of this issue. Vjera was Species Compiler for the first time this year, replacing Dan Gleason, who has been involved with the ECBC for more than four decades. We appreciate his hard work throughout that time.

The 149 field participant total was high, approaching our previous record of 157, set in 2012. The 130 species seen was about the average of what we've been seeing over the past 15 years, but high compared to the first 60 years of the ECBC.

Despite the cold, foggy conditions, the teams walked 118 miles in 172 hours and drove 571 miles in 69 hours. Six teams even went owling in the dark for 6.5 hours and covered 22 miles.

Another 76 people contributed as Home Counters, and their results are folded into the day's totals. If you'd like to participate, but don't want to go out in the field all day, we encourage you to join the Home Counters next year. It is fairly easy to observe all the birds in your yard for a few hours on Count Day, and then report your findings to us.

At the end of the day, nearly 100 tired, cold, muddy but happy birders gathered for the LCAS-sponsored Chili Feed to share stories and participate in the traditional Countdown. Allison Mickel prepared over 10 gallons of homemade vegetarian chili, which was served along with dinner rolls, chips and salad. Participants also brought desserts to share. Sandy Poinsett and Kathy Wilson organized the serving areas and set up tables and chairs. At the end, Bruce Wilson and his clean-up crew of Charlie Thomas, Nancy Radius, Scott Spearman, Kyle Wilson, and David Novak had the room looking spotless in record time. As always, the Chili Feed was an enjoyable ending to a great day of birding.

One notable part of this year's ECBC was having 5-year-old Summer Kofranek join Team 8 with her father and mother, while 95-year-old Herb Wisner participated as a Home Counter. So, we had a 90-year age span in our



*Willow Creek*

participating birders! This proves that no matter how old you are, you can enjoy the beauty of birds while adding valuable information to the knowledge of their behavior.

A special thank you goes to Herb Wisner for organizing the Home Counters, Vjera Thompson for compiling the results, and the 27 Team Leaders whose names appear below. Without the Team Leaders' hard work of assembling teams, guiding them all day, and reporting the results, the ECBC would not be the great and meaningful event that it is.

The results of this year's ECBC will be entered into the 118-year record of all the Christmas Bird Counts around the continent. Scientists and researchers will use these tallies to gather information about birdlife, just as previous results have been used for more than a century. The results of all the CBCs (over 2,500 last year) can be found on the National Audubon Society's website at [christmasbirdcount.org](http://christmasbirdcount.org). The code for the ECBC is OREU.

Thanks again to all of you who participated and helped to make the 2017 ECBC one of the biggest and best in the country!

### Team Leaders by Area

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1: Ron Renschler   | 12A: Steve Gordon    |
| 2: Jim Regali      | 12B: Thomas Meinzen  |
| 3A: Dan Heyerly    | 13A: Charlie Thomas  |
| 3B: Darryl Wisner  | 13B: Holly Hartmann  |
| 4: Rick Ahrens     | 14: Dave Bontrager   |
| 5A: Donna Albino   | 15: Jim Maloney      |
| 5B: Diane Horgan   | 16: Linda Gilbert    |
| 6: Kit Larsen      | 17: John Sullivan    |
| 7: Roger Robb      | 18: Caryn Stoess     |
| 8: Dave Kofranek   | 19: Barbara Combs    |
| 9: Tom Mickel      | 20A: Alan Contreras  |
| 10: Vjera Thompson | 20B: Bruce Newhouse  |
| 11A: David Novak   | 21: Rebecca Waterman |
| 11B: Dick Lamster  |                      |

# 2017 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally



by Vjera Thompson  
December 31, 2017

130 Species + 7 Count Week, 71,084 individuals

H = High, RH = Record High, L = Low, RL = Record Low, TRH = Ties Record High, CW = Count Week

Species	Grand Total	Relative Status	Species	Grand Total	Relative Status
Snow Goose.....	1	L	Western Sandpiper .....	2	L
Greater White-fronted Goose.....	1	L	Long-billed Dowitcher.....	6	L
Ross's Goose.....	1	TRH	Wilson's Snipe.....	100	
Cackling Goose.....	24,987		Spotted Sandpiper.....	2	
Canada Goose .....	3,902		Greater Yellowlegs .....	35	
Trumpeter Swan.....	1	RL	Mew Gull.....	3	L
Tundra Swan.....	464		Ring-billed Gull .....	234	H
Wood Duck.....	156	H	Western Gull.....	23	H
Northern Shoveler .....	142		California Gull .....	32	L
Gadwall.....	108		Herring Gull.....	12	
Eurasian Wigeon .....	1		Thayer's Gull.....	2	L
American Wigeon.....	586		Glaucous-winged Gull .....	141	
Mallard.....	2,333	H	Rock Pigeon .....	637	
Northern Pintail .....	929		Eurasian Collared-Dove .....	201	H
Green-winged Teal.....	983		Mourning Dove.....	244	
Canvasback.....		CW	Barn Owl.....	4	
Ring-necked Duck.....	248	H	Western Screech-Owl.....	6	
Lesser Scaup.....	66	L	Great Horned Owl.....	9	
Bufflehead.....	142	H	Northern Pygmy-Owl.....		CW
Common Goldeneye .....	6		Barred Owl.....		CW
Hooded Merganser .....	73	H	Short-eared Owl.....	4	
Common Merganser .....	63		Northern Saw-whet Owl.....	1	
Ruddy Duck .....	125	H	Anna's Hummingbird.....	245	H
California Quail.....	205	H	Belted Kingfisher .....	28	
Ring-necked Pheasant .....	15		Acorn Woodpecker.....	32	
Ruffed Grouse.....	1		Red-breasted Sapsucker.....	31	H
Wild Turkey.....	600	RH	Downy Woodpecker.....	123	RH
Pied-billed Grebe .....	64		Hairy Woodpecker .....	15	H
Western Grebe.....	5	L	Northern Flicker.....	464	
Double-crested Cormorant.....	135		Pileated Woodpecker .....	8	
American White Pelican .....	39	H	American Kestrel.....	97	
Great Blue Heron .....	104		Merlin .....	9	H
Great Egret.....	83	H	Peregrine Falcon .....	7	H
Green Heron.....	4		Black Phoebe.....	11	
Turkey Vulture .....	25		Say's Phoebe.....	2	TRH
White-tailed Kite.....	1	L	Northern Shrike.....		CW
Northern Harrier.....	40		Hutton's Vireo.....	2	
Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	17	H	Gray Jay .....		CW
Cooper's Hawk .....	20	H	Steller's Jay.....	425	H
Bald Eagle.....	61	H	California Scrub-Jay.....	628	
Red-shouldered Hawk.....	35	H	American Crow.....	1,310	
Red-tailed Hawk .....	159	H	Common Raven .....	129	H
Rough-legged Hawk .....	1	L	Tree Swallow.....	52	RH
Golden Eagle.....		CW	Black-capped Chickadee.....	956	H
Virginia Rail.....	7	H	Chestnut-backed Chickadee .....	141	H
Sora.....	1	RH	Bushtit.....	1,072	H
American Coot.....	51	L	Red-breasted Nuthatch .....	107	H
Killdeer.....	456		White-breasted Nuthatch.....	45	H
Dunlin .....	2,150		Brown Creeper .....	68	H
Least Sandpiper.....	39				

*continued on page 9*

# Eugene Christmas Bird Count

## Compiler Notes

by Vjera Thompson, Species Compiler

Count day, December 31, 2017, dawned foggy and cold, and stayed foggy until late afternoon. The teams that persisted until the end of the day were rewarded with sunshine at sunset. Two different areas were also rewarded with Short-eared Owls that came out at sunset.

On Count Day, 130 species were reported by the field teams and Home Counters. An additional seven species were seen during Count Week. We had two firsts for the count. Two Common Redpolls were found by one team. Those birds stuck around for many local birders to see in the following days. The other first was a female Wilson's Warbler that was seen a few days before the count and was

refound on Count Day. Other unusual birds were two Say's Phoebes (tying a record high), and a Trumpeter Swan. A Golden Eagle, Palm Warbler, and Gray Jay were also seen during Count Week.

Wild Turkeys have continued to increase in numbers. This year they reached another new record high, with 600 counted in 15 different areas. Other record highs were Ross's Goose (1, ties record), Sora (1, ties record), Downy Woodpeckers (123), and Tree Swallows (52).

Even in the fog, we had high counts of several raptors: Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawks (35, one short of a record high), and Red-tailed Hawks (159). Unfortunately we saw



Photo: Cary Kerst

*Stellar Jay*

no Northern Shrikes on Count Day, and almost missed seeing a Rough-legged Hawk (1) and White-tailed Kite (1). Many duck and sparrow species had higher counts than normal. Our Home Counters contributed significantly to high counts of Anna's Hummingbirds (245), Downy Woodpeckers (123), and Red-breasted Sapsuckers (31).

It was a good count despite cold, foggy conditions, thanks to all the birders that participated on field teams and from homes.

## 2017 Oakridge Christmas Bird Count

by Joel Geier, Count Coordinator and Compiler

With Christmas Bird Counts, sometimes you get lucky on the weather, and sometimes you don't. This year's Oakridge CBC, on December 28, was one of those lucky ones, as the predicted rain held off until 3:30 p.m. By then, most of the ten volunteers were headed to the pub for the Countdown anyway! Dry weather and temperatures well above freezing in the preceding days combined to allow good access to upper elevations.

The tally of 66 species on Count Day was the third highest tally since this count restarted in 2009, despite no nocturnal owling effort. Three parties did spot Northern Pygmy-Owls in the

daytime, plus a somewhat low diversity of waterfowl and sparrows.

Unusual species included an Osprey near Greenwaters Rest, an immature Band-tailed Pigeon near Office Bridge, and an adult Northern Goshawk near the north edge of the circle. Twenty-six Western Bluebirds were the highest number tallied since 1979. Other highlights included four Mountain Quails (on Kwis-Kwis Butte), four Ruffed Grouse (multiple parties), a Peregrine Falcon, a Merlin, and four American Dippers. A pair of Wrentits spotted in manzanita bushes near the 3,500-foot elevation level along



Photo: Cary Kerst

*Anna's Hummingbird*

Larison Rock Rd. was surprising for that elevation.

Thanks to Lion Mountain Bakery for opening early to host our morning meeting at their new location along Hwy 58. The Oakridge Lodge graciously stayed open to offer lodging for out-of-town volunteers. The town pub, Brewer's Union Local 180, once again provided a comfortable venue for the Countdown.

# 2017 Cottage Grove Christmas Bird Count

By Grace Fowler-Gore, Count Coordinator and Compiler

The Cottage Grove CBC was originally started in 1971 by Alan Contreras and Mike Patterson, then young birders. It continued for 14 years into the 1980s. On Saturday, December 30, 2017, after a 33-year hiatus, the count was resurrected, making this the 15th for the Cottage Grove area. Grace Fowler-Gore was Count Coordinator and Compiler for the first time this year. She was also among the 32 participants who identified over 80 species and counted 4,438 individuals.

The day started out cold and foggy. After about noon, when the fog cleared, participants enjoyed beautiful, mostly

blue sky with high cirrus clouds. An interesting observation made by three of the five Home Counters was that they saw lots of birds on the days before and after the bird count, but that their feeder birds seemed to be hiding out on Saturday!

New birds for this count were: Eurasian Collared-Dove, Cackling Goose, Fox Sparrow (sooty), Red-shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Black Phoebe, Common Yellowthroat, and Wild Turkey.

The three additional Count Week birds were: Sharp-shinned Hawk, White-throated Sparrow and Hutton's Vireo.



Photo: Cary Kerst

*Spotted Towhee*

Thanks to fellow zone volunteer leaders: Hydie Lown, Alison Center, Catherine Engelman, Julie Parker, Nola Nelson, and Barbara Butzer.

Some of the favorite birds counted were: Barn Owl, Green Heron, Western Screech-Owl, Western Bluebird, Spotted Sandpiper, American Dipper, and Northern Harrier.

# 2017 Florence Christmas Bird Count Summary

by Vjera Thompson, Count Coordinator and Compiler

The 34th Florence Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 16, 2017. The weather was mellow, with a few light showers in the morning and calm in the afternoon. We had 42 participants in the field and at least one Home Counter report. Our Home Counter got three species missed by teams in the field: White-throated Sparrow, Purple Finch, and Mountain Quail.

We recorded 123 species, plus 4 for count week, which is close to our average of 126. One of the count week birds was a Bullock's Oriole that visited a feeder on Friday, avoided it all day on Saturday, and then showed up a couple blocks away on Sunday. The

other count week birds were Banded Owl, Glaucous Gull, and Northern Pygmy Owl.

We had two unusual birds, both in the south jetty area. We had a surprise Gyrfalcon for the 2nd count record and found the wintering Northern Mockingbird for the 3rd count record.

We had Red-shouldered Hawks for the 5th year in a row. Another bird that has increased is Black Phoebe. We had a record high of 21 this year; last year was also a record at 18.

We had a high count of 6 Red-breasted Sapsuckers, plus a hybrid Red-breasted x Red-naped Sapsucker. Other high counts were 5 Northern Shrikes, 4 California Scrub-Jays, 74



Photo: Cary Kerst

*Wood Duck*

Marsh Wrens, 9 Lincoln Sparrows, and 6 Pigeon Guillemots.

Most ducks and gulls were lower than average. Western Gulls increased from last year's low count but were still lower than normal. Bewick's Wren was a record low of just 2 birds.

Species not found included most owls, Gadwall, White-tailed Kite, Brewer's Blackbird, Surf-bird, Dunlin, Pileated Woodpecker, and American Goldfinch.

## Field Notes: November/December 2017

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

### Common Redpoll, White-winged Crossbill, Gyrfalcon, Say's Phoebe

It was drier and cooler than normal, with this being Eugene's fifth driest December on record. Winter finches put on quite the show during the end of the period! In early December, White-winged Crossbills were first spotted in the large flocks of Red Crossbills along the coast in the spruce zone. They continued to be seen in small numbers through the month. The two Common Redpolls found during the Eugene CBC were but one of many rare occurrences for Lane County.

**Abbreviations:** Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), Lane Community College (LCC), Middle Fork of the Willamette River (MFWR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR), Willamette River (W River)



Common Redpoll

Photo: National Audubon Society



White-winged Crossbill

Photo: National Audubon Society

#### WATERBIRDS

Ross's Goose.....	Dec 5.....	Purkerson Rd.....	DE.....	Very small numbers most winters
Trumpeter Swan (3).....	Dec 6.....	Milliron Rd.....	SH,LG.....	Found in very small numbers in winter
Harlequin Duck.....	Dec 26.....	SJSR.....	TL.....	Unusual location for rocky shore species
Black Scoter.....	Dec 26.....	SJSR.....	TL.....	Normally found along north Lane coast
Long-tailed Duck.....	Dec 16.....	NJSR.....	TM,et al.....	One normally winters at mouth of river
Barrow's Goldeneye.....	Nov 24.....	Florence - old town.....	NS.....	Uncommon on the Lane coast
Common Loon.....	Nov 28.....	MFWR - Mt Pisgah.....	JN.....	Not commonly found on the river
Clark's Grebe.....	Nov 24.....	Florence - old town.....	NS.....	Not commonly found along the coast
Laysan Albatross.....	Dec 1.....	Princess Cruise.....	m.ob.....	Rarely found off Lane coast
Short-tailed Albatross.....	Dec 1.....	Princess Cruise.....	m.ob.....	Very rare off Oregon coast
Mottled Petrel.....	Dec 1.....	Princess Cruise.....	m.ob.....	Rarely found off Lane coast
Green Heron.....	Nov 24.....	W D St - Springfield.....	SD.....	Winters in very small numbers

#### VULTURES TO ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture (17).....	Dec 17.....	Meadowlark Prairie.....	BN.....	Unusually large number - many reports
Osprey.....	Dec 4.....	Leaburg.....	BN.....	Wintering in a number of places now
Osprey.....	Dec 18.....	Cottage Grove Res.....	TMo.....	Wintering in a number of places now
Osprey.....	Dec 28.....	Oakridge.....	A&TM.....	Wintering in a number of places now
Osprey.....	Dec 31.....	SJSR.....	AC.....	Wintering in a number of places now
White-tailed Kite (4).....	Dec 6.....	Lorane Valley.....	LG,et al.....	First in a couple of years
Northern Goshawk.....	Dec 28.....	Siltcoos River mouth.....	J&TL.....	Very unusual location for this species
Red-tailed Hawk (photo).....	Nov 1.....	Hwy 36/Poodle Ck.....	KK.....	A white individual - very striking
Golden Eagle.....	Dec 5.....	KR Nielson Rd.....	LG.....	Rare in Lane Co
Golden Eagle.....	Dec 30.....	SE Eugene.....	RS.....	Rare in Lane Co
Sandhill Crane.....	Dec 5.....	15th & Charnelton.....	JH.....	Rare winter flock
Sandhill Crane.....	Dec 6.....	Mt Pisgah.....	AJ.....	Same flock?
Semipalmated Plover (3).....	Dec 3.....	Cantrell Rd.....	AC,et al.....	Rare in the winter
Western Sandpiper.....	Nov 14.....	FRR.....	BC.....	Rare in the winter
Wandering Tattler.....	Nov 29.....	Bob Ck.....	BC.....	Very rare in the winter

Black-legged Kittiwake.....	Nov 24.....	Siltcoos River mouth.....	NS.....	First report for the winter season
Glaucous Gull.....	Dec 17.....	Heceta Beach.....	TM.....	Winter in very small numbers most years
Marbled Murrelet (2).....	Dec 4.....	NJSR.....	SH.....	Not commonly seen from shore in winter
Ancient Murrelet (3).....	Dec 5.....	ocean @ Lily Lake.....	AC.....	Not commonly seen from shore in winter

## PIGEONS TO FINCHES

Band-tailed Pigeon.....	Dec 28.....	Westfir.....	DH.....	Rare in the winter
Barred Owl (2).....	Dec 26.....	River Road area.....	BC.....	Both calling - a pair?
Short-eared Owl (2).....	Dec 3.....	Meadowlark Prairie.....	AC, et al.....	First sighting for the winter
Lewis's Woodpecker.....	Dec 7.....	Creswell area.....	NS.....	Winters some years
Gyr Falcon.....	Dec 6.....	SJSR deflation plain.....	KF, et al.....	Less than ten records for Lane Co
Prairie Falcon.....	Nov 24.....	Cantrell Rd.....	AC, et al.....	An individual or two winter each year
Say's Phoebe.....	Dec 3.....	Washburn Rd.....	AC, et al.....	Rare in the winter
Tree Swallow.....	Dec 3.....	FRR - Fisher Butte.....	JS, JM.....	Rare in the winter
Violet-green Swallow (5).....	Dec 16.....	Delta Ponds.....	RS.....	Very rare in the winter
Northern Mockingbird.....	Nov 14.....	SJSR deflation plain.....	AC.....	Seen throughout the period
Orange-crowned Warbler.....	Dec 17.....	Danebo Ave area.....	BN.....	A rare wintering species
Orange-crowned Warbler.....	Dec 27.....	River Rd area.....	BC.....	A rare wintering species
Orange-crowned Warbler.....	Dec 28.....	SJSR area.....	J&TL.....	A rare wintering species
Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	Nov 27.....	SJSR deflation plain.....	AC.....	Unusually large numbers
Townsend's Warbler (30-40).....	Dec 13.....	Coburg Rd area.....	PS.....	Very large flock
Wilson's Warbler.....	Dec 27.....	LCC area.....	LM, et al.....	Very rare wintering species
Fox Sparrow (red subsp - photo).....	Nov 29.....	Mill Race Trail.....	EC, m.ob.....	Rarely found in Oregon
Swamp Sparrow.....	Dec.....	FRR & coast.....	m.ob.....	A number of reports
Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	Dec 20.....	FRR - Nielson Rd.....	SH.....	Very rare winter sighting
Brown-headed Cowbird (3).....	Dec 5.....	FRR.....	EH.....	Rare wintering species
White-winged Crossbill.....	Dec 6.....	Woahink Lk area.....	DF.....	Rarely found in Oregon
White-winged Crossbill (12+).....	Dec 28.....	SJSR road.....	DP.....	Continued sightings throughout period
Common Redpoll (2).....	Dec 31.....	W River @ EWEB.....	DH.....	Sixth record for Lane Co
Evening Grosbeak.....	Nov 28.....	Hendricks Park.....	TM.....	Last report - winters most years

AC Alan Contreras, AJ August Jackson, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, BC Barbara Combs, BN Bruce Newhouse, DE Deanna Emig, DF Daniel Farrar, DH Diane Horgan, DP Diane Pettet, EC Ellen Cantor, EH Eric Heisey, JH Jane Happy, J&TL Joshua & Terry Little, JM Jim Maloney, JN Jason Nuckols, JS John Sullivan, KF Kai Fruch, KK Keith Kohl, LG Linda Gilbert, LM Larry McQueen, NS Noah Strycker, PS Priscilla Sokolowski, RS Robert Snowden, SD Steve Dignam, SH Sally Hill, TMO Tori Morgan.

## Volunteer Needed!! Audubon in the Schools Program Coordinator

The Audubon in the Schools (AITS) curriculum comprises five fun-filled lessons that combine bird biology and basic art techniques. The kids love seeing the bird, egg, feather and bone specimens. They also get to use our colored pencils and art supplies to draw the specimens.

Originally developed by our former Education Chair, Kris Kirkeby, the lessons are excellent examples of participatory education.

The program 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.

We have a small and dedicated team of volunteers working on this program, but need that spark from a leader to help us take this wonderful education program to new heights!

The coordinator oversees classroom scheduling and volunteer training, along with teaching lessons to students with the other volunteers.

For more information, contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664, or maeveanddick@q.com

**From Our President** *continued from page 1*

Sierra Nevada Range, the vast majority of species overlaps with Oregon’s portfolio of birds.

*Green Birding* is written by Richard Gregson, a Canadian author living in the Montreal area. The gist of the book is to provide helpful info for birders who would like to see and enjoy birds without overly contributing to greenhouse gas emissions with long and/or distant travel. He really does a good job of extolling the wonder and appreciation of local birds and taking full advantage of migration opportunities. Included are good sections (though a tad dated) on eBird, and citizen science opportunities.

**Rebecca Waterman** suggests a novel called *My Last Continent*, by Midge Raymond. It’s about a naturalist who studies penguins in Antarctica, and whose home base happens to be Eugene, Oregon! The bird descriptions seem well researched, and there’s an engaging romantic story along with it. FMI: [midgeraymond.com/books/mylastcontinent.html](http://midgeraymond.com/books/mylastcontinent.html)

**Dave Bontrager**, suggests a book published in 2005: *The Ardent Birder: On the Craft of Birdwatching*. Written by Gene Holtan and Todd Newberry, it’s good for beginner birders, but offers perspectives on the nuances of birding experiences that will hold the interest of experienced birders as well. Dave said it has humor and charming bird drawings to entertain the reader. FMI: [amazon.com/Ardent-Birder-Craft-Birdwatching/dp/1580087159](http://amazon.com/Ardent-Birder-Craft-Birdwatching/dp/1580087159)

Recently, Forbes online magazine published “The 12 Best Books About Birds And Birding Of 2017.”

FMI: [forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2017/12/26/the-12-best-books-about-birds-and-birding-of-2017/#1ff7d8ff681f](http://forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2017/12/26/the-12-best-books-about-birds-and-birding-of-2017/#1ff7d8ff681f)

A final book to watch for is *Birds of the Photo Ark*, with photos by Joel Sartore and text by Noah Strycker. National Geographic has set its release date for April 2018, in conjunction with its yearlong celebration entitled “Year of the Bird.” Cosponsors include the National Audubon Society, National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Together the groups will focus on the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act—a pivotal piece of legislation that continues to save countless birds’ lives. But threats to birds continue to grow, and we still need to work toward their protection. Take a look at the official Year of the Bird website to be inspired: [nationalgeographic.org/projects/year-of-the-bird/](http://nationalgeographic.org/projects/year-of-the-bird/)

For live links to all these URLs, check out the online version of *The Quail*.



**2017 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally** *continued from page 3*

Species	Grand Total	Relative Status	Species	Grand Total	Relative Status
Pacific Wren.....	59		Dark-eyed Junco .....	3,117	
Marsh Wren.....	17		White-crowned Sparrow .....	438	H
Bewick’s Wren.....	106	H	Golden-crowned Sparrow .....	1,034	H
Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	367		White-throated Sparrow .....	18	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	226		Savannah Sparrow.....	22	
Wrentit.....	18	H	Song Sparrow.....	753	
Western Bluebird .....	107	H	Lincoln’s Sparrow .....	37	
Hermit Thrush .....	11		Spotted Towhee .....	610	H
American Robin.....	1,820		Western Meadowlark .....	108	
Varied Thrush.....	133		Red-winged Blackbird.....	3,201	
European Starling.....	6,295		Brown-headed Cowbird.....	65	
American Pipit.....	246	H	Brewer’s Blackbird .....	1,898	
Cedar Waxwing.....	103		House Finch.....	332	
Orange-crowned Warbler .....	1		Purple Finch .....	17	L
Wilson’s Warbler.....	1		Pine Siskin .....	173	
Palm Warbler.....		CW	Common Redpoll.....	2	
Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	115		American Goldfinch.....	156	
Townsend’s Warbler.....	154	H	Lesser Goldfinch .....	110	H
Fox Sparrow .....	402	H	House Sparrow .....	394	



**Program Meeting: Tuesday, February 27, 7:30 pm**

## Wildlife That Isn't Birds



Dave Stone

This is what Dave Stone has to say about his February Program meeting presentation:

Enough with the birds, already (for now, that is). In my travels over the years, I've noticed other wildlife worth photographing. As Yogi Berra says, "You can observe a lot just by watching."

Everything from bugs to frogs to fish to bears and critters in between, I've photographed. This obsession keeps me out of (or into, as you will see) trouble.

Most summers I spend in the great outdoors, occasionally coming into town to get supplies. As Yakov Smirnoff says, "What a country!"

Join me and see what you can observe, just by watching my show.

*Dave has been photographing professionally since 1988. He has been published by National Geographic, National Audubon Society and numerous local and regional publications. He offers photo trips, workshops and private lessons covering many aspects of photography. His class titles include: Nature Photography, Bird Photography, Travel Photography, Making Friends with your Digital Camera, and Photoshop. He spends his spare time traveling and photographing landscapes, wildflowers, birds and anything else that needs to be photographed.*



Photo: Dave Stone

Bighorn Sheep, Jasper, B.C.



Photo: Dave Stone

Grizzly Bear, Haines Hwy, Yukon



Photo: Dave Stone

Sea Lion, Haceta Head, OR

## Volunteer Needed!! Program Committee Chair

The Program Committee is responsible for engaging speakers and organizing publicity announcements for the *Quail*, along with handling other logistics well in advance of each meeting. But the chair doesn't have to do it all alone. The Program Committee and LCAS Board collaborate to develop ideas and recruit speakers for the chapter Program Meetings, so communication with the Board is an integral part of the responsibilities. We all work together!

On the day of the Program, the chair organizes the take-out dinner with the speaker.

Programs occur eight times a year on the fourth Tuesday: January, February, March, April, May, September, October, and November.

For more information, contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664, or [maeveanddick@q.com](mailto:maeveanddick@q.com)

# Lane County Audubon Society



*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](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com).

### The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

March issue: February 3  
April issue: March 3

Submit material to Karen Irmischer at [quailkaren1@gmail.com](mailto:quailkaren1@gmail.com)

Nine issues published per year (Feb., Mar., Apr., May-June, July-Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec.-Jan.)

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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](http://laneaudubon.org)

### Lane County Audubon Society Yearly Membership

- 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) .....

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

To pay by PayPal, go to [laneaudubon.org/support/join](http://laneaudubon.org/support/join)

- I am a  Current National Audubon member  Don't know
- Please contact me regarding
- Gift memberships  Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

- I would prefer to receive the *e-Quail* newsletter by e-mail.
- I would like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.
- I would like to volunteer for Lane County Audubon activities.
- Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organizations. We will use it only for Lane County Audubon Society communications.

Mail this form and your payment to: Lane County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

## Community Calendar and Events

A service to Lane County Audubon Society members

2/7-10

### Laredo Birding Festival 2018

February 7-10

*Rio Grande International Study  
Center in South Texas*

FMI: [laredobirdingfestival.org/](http://laredobirdingfestival.org/) or  
956.718.1063



2/15-18

### Winter Wings Festival 2018

February 15-18

*Klamath Basin Audubon Society*

FMI: [info@winterwingsfest.org](mailto:info@winterwingsfest.org) or  
877.541.2473

2/10

### Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, February 10,  
10 a.m.-noon

*Lichens Walk*

Join Daphne Stone on this popular walk through the Arboretum, exploring lichens, their habitats, and ecology. Learn some lichen names and enjoy the moist winter air that makes the Pacific Northwest such a nurturing environment for lichens. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

FMI: for all Mt Pisgah events:  
[mountpisgaharboretum.org](http://mountpisgaharboretum.org) or 541.741.4110

2/17

Saturday, February 17,  
10 a.m.-noon

*Winter Twigs Walk*

Have you ever wondered what plants you're looking at in winter? During a two-hour walk along the river, Gail Baker will teach you how to identify the many trees and shrubs in the Arboretum in their winter stages. If possible, bring a hand lens and *Winter Twigs* by H. Gilkey and P. Packard. Some will be on hand for reference, and identification handouts

will be provided by the trip leader. Co-presented by the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, members free.

2/18

Sunday, February 18,  
8 a.m.-11 a.m.

*Bird Walk*

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for the Arboretum's monthly bird walk. People at all levels of birding experience are welcome to join. Vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues will be used for identification of our winter and year-round residents. Please bring binoculars. Waterproof footwear might also enhance your comfort level. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, members free.

2/19

### Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, February 19, 7 p.m.

*Eugene Birders' Night*

Attendees share recent bird sightings and birding-related topics, followed by Stephen Franzen presenting photographs and tales of his recent birding trip with his wife, Judy, to San Blas, Mexico, and surrounding areas. Habitats include coastline and the San Cristóbal and El Pozo mangrove estuaries,

sustainable coffee plantations, and primary forest. The region hosts 300 species of birds. Location: The historic McNail-Riley house, 601 W 13th Ave, Eugene, at the NW corner of W. 13th Ave. and Jefferson by the former Lincoln School. Park in the five spaces closest to the McNail-Riley house, or across 13th Ave. in the Fairgrounds parking lot. All are welcome to attend this free monthly event. FMI: [ellencantor@gmail.com](mailto:ellencantor@gmail.com)



4/13-15

### Olympic Birdfest 2018

April 13-15

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet, and more. Featured speaker Claudio Vidal will give a presentation entitled "Patagonia & Chile: Birds & Mammals at the End of the Americas."

FMI: [olympicbirdfest.org](http://olympicbirdfest.org)

5/11-13

### Birding Weekend Fundraiser for PLAYA Artists in Residence Program

May 11-13

At Summer Lake, OR, with renowned ornithologist Pepper Trail  
FMI: [info@playasummerlake.org](mailto:info@playasummerlake.org) or  
541.943.3983



## Great Backyard Bird Count 2018

February 16-19

Join with bird watchers of all ages worldwide by counting birds in your area to create a real-time snapshot of where they are. Last year 181,604 checklists were submitted, 6,250 species observed, and 29,609,117 individual birds counted.

FMI: [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org)



Check your mailing label. Has  
your *Quail* subscription expired?  
See page 10 to renew!

## Lane County Audubon Society Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, rebecca.waterman@gmail.com



Photo: Cary Kerst

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: Rebecca Waterman at 541.653.3354 or Rebecca.waterman@gmail.com

### Third Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, February 17, 8 a.m.

**O**ur walk leader will be Vjera Thompson. The location of the walk will be determined by interesting bird sightings posted to OBOL, along with other pertinent

information available before the walk date. Details will be posted on the LCAS Facebook page: facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824, and on our website: laneaudubon.org.

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars, if you have them. To

amazon  
smile

### Give to LCAS When You Shop Online

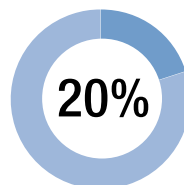
Go to smile.amazon.com and select Lane County Audubon Society



#### February Program Meeting

Wildlife That Isn't Birds  
with Dave Stone

Tuesday, February 27, 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