

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

Birding Pleasures and Treasures of Belize and Guatemala



Photo: Bob Fleming

Roseate Spoonbill

Travel for birding is a great way to learn about the global interdependence of our ecosystems. Central America hosts some of our Neotropical migratory birds during the winter months. After the previous year's breeding season, the birds fly south for the winter and recover their strength by eating insects in the tropical jungle's abundance of living things. Warm temperatures, water, and

a wide variety of foods are available to the birds. The northern hemisphere is inhospitable to insectivorous birds during this time, but closer to the equator they can eat and prepare for their northern migration in the spring.

When we visited Belize in late February, we saw many warbler species (out of breeding plumage) foraging throughout the jungle around us. About 25 percent of the 191 bird species we saw were migratory to the northern hemisphere. The protection of the tropical rainforest jungle habitat directly affects "our" birds as well as the rich diversity of the many plants, mammals, reptiles, and insects that live in this special area. Although a trip to Belize burns fuel and broadens our eco-footprint, we also add much needed

money to the small communities catering to the eco-tourist and birding traveler. We met with and shared our love of nature with guides and residents who value the beauty and diversity of their local jungle and way of life. Making a connection and supporting the work of the Belizean lodges and guides reinforces the commitment to protect these habitats. Belizeans are proud of their forests and national parks, for good reason!

During our time at three lodges (Lamanai Outpost, Chan Chich, and Chaa Creek) we were fed from local gardens and food producers. We were hosted by local village workers in the lodges and met several guides who chose their occupation out of love for their homes near the jungle forests. Families had lived for generations in this area and truly cared about the protections and income the lodges provide. The bird guides we worked with were young enthusiastic, and excellent birders. They are well trained in Mayan archeology and medicinal plants from their native culture backgrounds. They had worked

Continued on page 4

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

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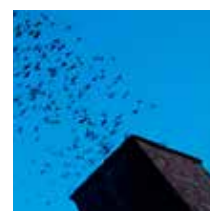
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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Updated Rocky Shores Protection Urgently Needed



Photo: Frank Schultenburg, Wikimedia Commons

Black Oystercatcher

Oregon's rocky coastal shores are not currently receiving sufficient analysis or protection. Oregon Shores and Audubon chapters, along with the other organizations that cooperated to institute Oregon's marine reserves, share this concern. These groups believe that more up-to-date information is needed to make strategic plans. Specifically, we need well-defined objectives, based on scientific data about marine resources and uses. We also need to address imminent changes to marine ecosystems including warming oceans, ocean acidification, sea level rise, and diseases such as sea star wasting syndrome.

In response to these concerns, the Rocky Shores Management Strategy Chapter in the Territorial Sea Plan is in the process of being updated, and the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) is seeking comments from the public. It's been more than 20 years since the Territorial Sea Plan was drafted (1994). We must incorporate current scientific practices to determine the most effective strategy moving forward.

Rocky coastal habitats make up 41 percent of Oregon's 362-mile coastline. These habitats cover a significant area for a diversity of living organisms: sea grasses and kelp, invertebrates (such as anemones, mussels, sea stars), fish, marine mammals, and sea birds (such as cormorants, puffins, and oystercatchers). Protection of habitat will be crucial for these organisms and for the enjoyment of those of us who value spending time on the coast.

Birders, photographers, and tide pool explorers may have valuable information to share with the Council. Your opinion on how the coast should be managed matters. The following contains contact information for submitting comments to OPAC, as well as a link to a survey about what you value: oregonocean.info/index.php/get-involved-rocky-shores-update

Some talking points for communicating with OPAC:

- We value healthy ecosystems, habitat, and living marine organisms and ask that they be managed for future generations.
- We ask you to expand the protections at Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas to adjacent rocky shore areas and to prohibit harvest in these zones.
- We encourage limits on harvest, especially commercial harvest of marine organisms.
- We are concerned about the long-term effects of oil and gas leasing on shore habitat.

- We recommend restricting public access to Black Oystercatcher nesting territory sites during the breeding season, mid-May to late-August.
- We ask for colonial nesting seabird sites to receive increased protections, including seasonal boating closure, such as currently occurs near Three Arch Rocks.
- We promote outreach to plane and drone pilots to curtail low flights during the breeding season.
- We urge more scientific research, which will help improve conservation strategies, management, and protection of rocky shores' habitat.
- We recommend long-term strategies, with a focus on determining which current actions will provide future benefit.

Last month, we got good news when Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to up-list the Marbled Murrelet. This will increase protections for this unique bird that relies on both ocean habitat and old growth forest in Oregon's coast range. The vote was close and the positive outcome is undoubtedly due to the outpouring of comments from Oregon's citizens and groups like Audubon chapters around the state. We can work together to achieve another goal. Let's take a cue from pelicans who swim in cooperative formations while beating their wings in order to herd their prey. So flex your wings, tap your keypad, or write those comments. We have a chance to make more good things happen!

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Field Notes: February 2018

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



Photo: USFWS Mountain-Prairie, Wiki Commons

Rough-Legged Hawk

Rough-legged Hawk, Orange-crowned Warbler, Band-tailed Pigeon, Violet-green Swallow

This month turned out to be about normal with rain, cooler temperatures, and some snow. And as normal for this month, some of the early migrants began to return for the breeding season - hummingbirds, swallows, etc.

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

WATERBIRDS TO RAPTORS

Blue-winged Teal (2).....	Feb 11	Canary Road area.....	SH,DP	A rare winter report
Redhead	Feb 22	Kirk Pond	SH.....	First report for the breeding season
Barrow's Goldeneye (2).....	Feb 25	Dexter dam area.....	VB.....	Small numbers can be found in the winter
Long-tailed Duck	Feb 7	Stonefield Beach area.....	LG.....	Small numbers winter along the coast
Band-tailed Pigeon	Feb 15.....	Creswell area.....	TMo.....	About 3 weeks early, but do occur mid-Feb
Rufous Hummingbird	Feb 8	Siltcoos Lake.....	HG.....	First report for the breeding season
Rufous Hummingbird	Feb 18	Cottage Grove area.....	DAu.....	A few days earlier than normal
Common Loon	Feb 15.....	Dexter Res.	NS.....	Occasionally winter in large valley lakes
Turkey Vulture	Feb	Eugene/Springfield.....	m.ob.....	Much higher numbers than normal
Turkey Vulture	Feb 15.....	Oakridge.....	MLS.....	Rare for this early in the year
Osprey	Feb 4	North River Road	MRu.....	First winter sighting from this location
Osprey	Feb 11	Oakridge.....	MLS.....	One must be wintering in the area
White-tailed Kite	Feb	Eugene/Springfield.....	m.ob.....	Much lower numbers than normal
Rough-legged Hawk	Feb 1	FRR - Royal Ave.....	LG.....	One of very few reports this winter
Merlin	Feb 7	SJSR.....	LG.....	Always around in the winter

SWALLOWS TO WABLERS

Say's Phoebe	Feb 1	Franklin Rd area	DE,C&MA	Last report for this bird
Say's Phoebe	Feb 10	Greenhill/Hwy 126.....	TJ,JS.....	Another wintering bird
Violet-green Swallow	Feb 3	FRR - Royal Ave.....	ID,RM.....	Two weeks earlier than normal
Northern Mockingbird	Feb 10	SJSR.....	KY.....	Still being reported in the area
White-winged Crossbill	Feb 7	SJSR pay station	LG.....	Last report from this location
Orange-crowned Warbler	Feb 25	River Road area	BC.....	Singing - first report - about 3 weeks early

BC Barbara Combs, **C&MA** Cindy & Mark Armstrong, **DAu** Dee Austin, **DE** Deanna Emig, **DP** Diane Pettey, **HG** Hank Gale, **ID** Isaac Denzer, **JS** John Sullivan, **KY** Kaplan Yalcin, **LG** Linda Gilbert, **MLS** Mary Lee Sayre, **m.ob** many observers, **MRu** Mark Rudolph, **NS** Noah Strycker, **RM** Rufus Mainwaring, **SH** Sally Hill, **TJ** Tye Jeske, **TMo** Tori Morgan, **VB** Vickie Buck.

Observation by John Polo

On Friday, March 2, there was a Hermit Thrush in our yard apparently foraging. It was the first time I saw "our" thrush move to the ground of all its visits (I'm assuming it was the same bird I was seeing a couple of months ago). While it was searching, I noticed its legs shivering. I was close, I was just on the other side of a glass door to the yard, and could see the bird quite well. The shaking was unmistakable. It was just the legs shaking pretty vigorously. I was surprised that a bird would be

that cold in weather that was about 44 degrees. I've seen juncos and thrushes in snow never twitch at all.

I emailed a couple of ornithologist friends because I thought it was weird to see a bird shiver and one of them came back with a link to a blog that wrote about this behavior in HETH. It appears this is not an anomaly. Here is the link: bootstrap-analysis.com/2006/10/hermit_thrush_a.html

hard to achieve their positions and were personable representatives of their country. The Lamanai Lodge bird guides had won awards for the most bird species on their Christmas Bird Count efforts. This is no surprise, since the Lodge boasts a bird list of almost 400 species!

Marco, our bird and archeology guide for a day trip to Tikal in Guatemala, said, "Any day I can see a Roseate Spoonbill is a good day for me. They are so beautiful and only pass through during their migration." Marco is a member of a birding group in Guatemala called Peten Birders Club. They monitor birds several times a year and post them to eBird. They also do citizen science, educational outreach, and birding camps to encourage protecting habitats for the birds living in their corner of Guatemala. The intact rainforest preserves that cover portions of Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and the other Central American countries is the largest rainforest outside the Amazon jungles.

Seeing these areas and soaking in the history, culture, and magnificent jungle ecosystem was a wonderful experience. The down side was heat, high humidity, and insect bites! We stayed clear of other hazards and had a great trip. Hearing Golden-mantled Howler monkeys on a daily basis keeps you awake and aware of the wild jungle world outside the cabin door!

FMI on the Neotropical migration of birds: tinyurl.com/yell4cyg



Audubon in the Schools (AITS)

This Lane Audubon program, which provides grade school visits with instructors and bird-related specimens, is making a comeback this spring!

Our small group of committed volunteers is planning to teach a few classroom groups, and hope by doing so to breathe new energy into this wonderful program.

We have two new volunteers and **are looking for more** who are interested in shadowing the well-seasoned teachers in order to get a feel for the experience. With further training and working together, we hope to offer more in-school programs going forward.

Please get in touch if you want to find out more, and/or if you think you'd like to help us engage classrooms of students with bird specimens and drawing exercises. The kids love it, and you may too!

Call or email: Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664 or maeveanddick@q.com



Year OF THE Bird

Save the Date/Volunteers Needed: Saturday, May 12

Lane County Audubon Society is teaming up with Nearby Nature to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day with the community in a big way! The focus will be on kids' activities, games, and bird walks throughout the morning.

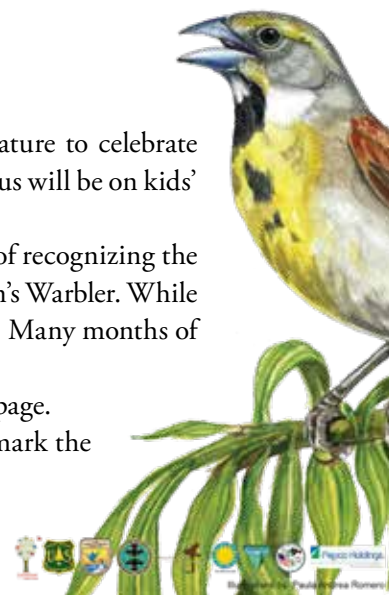
Bilingual (Spanish/English) activities will highlight the importance of recognizing the international lives of many of our seasonal birds, like the Osprey and Wilson's Warbler. While living in Lane County part of their year, these birds are truly international. Many months of their lives are also spent north and south of our borders.

More details will come in the May/June *Quail* and on the LCAS Facebook page.

If you would like to volunteer to help or just come to enjoy the fun, please mark the date on your calendar. Help would be much appreciated, as would dry weather.

FMI: Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, or maeveanddick@q.com

2018 World Migratory Bird Day



Program Meeting: Tuesday, April 24, 7:30 pm



Poetry of the Natural World

“The work of poetry is to direct our attention, with words, to the place without them, so understanding can occur.”

—Anita Sullivan

This month we focus on words instead of images, but what image-words! We’ve invited **Alan Contreras**, **Ce Rosenow**, and **Anita Sullivan** to give us a tour through the vivid world of nature poetry as they see it. Reading from their own work and the work of their favorite poets, they will also talk about different forms of poetry and how they and other poets have tried to convey particular images or themes through their poems.

Alan Contreras has studied the birds of Lane County for more than 30 years. He is past president of the Oregon Field Ornithologists, and has written and edited several books on Oregon birds, including “Northwest Birds in Winter,” and “Birds of Lane County.” He co-edited “Birds of Oregon,” a hefty and comprehensive (752-page!) reference to the approximately five hundred bird species known to occur in the state. He has also published widely on higher education issues, and his third poetry collection, “In the Time of the Queen,” is just out.

Ce Rosenow, a specialist in haiku and other Asian forms, coordinated Lane Community College’s honors program for several years. Previous to that, she taught literature and writing at LCC, and she has now returned to the writing and literacy classrooms full time. For many years she was the publisher of Mountains

and Rivers Press. Her recent collections include “North Lake,” (Mountain Gate Press), “Pacific,” (Mountain Gate Press), and “A Year Longer,” (Longhouse Publishers).



Alan Contreras



Ce Rosenow



Anita Sullivan

Anita Sullivan has written, hiked, and gardened in Eugene, while owning and operating her own piano tuning business for almost 30 years. During those piano tuning years, she earned an MFA in Poetry, helped found Airlie Press, was an occasional commentator on National Public Radio, and traveled to Greece seven times. She has published two poetry chapbooks and a full-length collection. The most recent chapbook is “And If The Dead Do Dream,” (Uttered Chaos Press, Eugene, 2016). Later this year Shanti Arts Press in Brunswick, Maine, will publish a chapbook of her essays, “The Bird That Swallowed the Music Box.” The title essay is based on her reaction to the song of the Swainson’s Thrush.

Program Committee Chair Volunteer Needed!

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.

FMI, please contact Maeve Sowles, 541.485.2473, or 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 Godsfil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsfil@gmail.com.

The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

May/June issue: April 7
July-Aug issue: June 2

Submit material to Karen Irmischer at 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

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).....\$ _____

To pay by PayPal, go to laneaudubon.org/support/join

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Gift memberships Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

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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

4/14-15

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Botany Workshop

Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

In this two-day, thorough workshop, botanist Tobias Policha will help participants improve their identification skills and knowledge of our local flora. This is a hands-on class, so be prepared to go outside. Recommended text for class: Gilkey and Dennis' Handbook of Northwestern Plants (2001 edition). Members \$50, non-members \$60. \$7 materials fee (paid to instructor). All materials included. Please bring a hand lens if you have one. FMI: for all Mt Pisgah events: mountpisgaharboretum.org or 541.741.4110

4/15

Bird Walk

Sunday, April 15, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for another monthly bird walk intended for people with all levels of birding experience. Attendees will use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of spring migrants and year-round residents. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, members free.

4/16

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Birds of the Watery Borderlands:

Northern Costa Rica to Southern Nicaragua
Monday, April 16, 7 p.m.

Attendees share recent bird sightings and birding-related topics. Then Ellen Cantor will report on an infrequently birded area in Nicaragua: the Islas Solentiname, an archipelago in the southern edge of the enormous Lago de Nicaragua, and an even more remote 640,000 acres of primary lowland rainforest, Reserva Biologica Indio-Maiz, accessible only by boat. Birds from Northern Costa Rica are also included. Location: Historic McNail-Riley house, 601 W 13th Ave, Eugene, at the NW corner of W. 13th and Jefferson by the former Lincoln School. Park in the five spaces closest to the M-R house, or across 13th in the fairgrounds parking lot. All are welcome to this free monthly event.

FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com



4/20-22

14th Annual Birding and Blues Festival

Friday, April 20-Sunday, April 22 in Pacific City

FMI and registration: birdingandblues.org

4/21

Nearby Nature

Amazon Adventure

Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.-noon

Join Nearby Nature at Amazon Park, and the Emerald Chapter of the Native Plant Society on this family-friendly wildflower wander. Play games, use magnifiers, and go on a spring scavenger hunt. Meet at the playground.

4/28

Wow Newts!

Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m.-noon

Enjoy a newt quest in Tugman Park! Learn about these cool critters from naturalist Tom Titus as participants explore the wild side of this south Eugene park for the third year in a row. Meet at the Tugman Park picnic shelter, 3666 Hilyard Street, Eugene. Members free; non-members \$5/family. FMI or to pre-register: 541.687.9699 or nearbynature.org.

4/28

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Native Bee ID Workshop

Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Oregon is home to several hundred species of native bees, including a few dozen that can be found within the Eugene-Springfield city limits. Join Arboretum Interpretation Coordinator August Jackson for an introduction to simple ways to identify some of the more common genera in our region—all without the need for a microscope! Meet at the Visitor Center. Members \$40, non-members \$50. Pre-registration required. To register call 541-747-3817, or go to: mountpisgaharboretum.com/workshop-registration.

5/6

Friends of Hendricks Park

May 6, 7 a.m.

LCAS field trip coordinator Rebecca

Waterman will join with the Friends of Hendricks Park for an early morning bird walk focused on identifying birds by ear. Meet at the picnic shelter. \$3 fee. FMI: 541.653.3354 or rebecca.waterman@gmail.com

5/31-6/3

8th Annual Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival

May 31-June 3 in Sisters, Oregon

Sponsored by East Cascades Audubon Society. Online registration opens April 2 at 9 a.m. PDT. Trips fill quickly. FMI and registration: eaudubon.org/dean-hale-woodpecker-festival or email questions to dhwf2018@gmail.com

Bureau of Land Management

Late May Through October

Consider assisting the Northwest Oregon District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at its bird-banding station in the West Eugene Wetlands. Participants will help provide kids with real-world, interactive lessons about research and conservation efforts for resident and migratory bird populations. Volunteer positions include: net openers/extractors, data recorders, and conservation education leaders. Education leaders should be at least amateur birders and be excited to connect kids in grades 6-12 with nature through the joy of birds. Activities will take place near Fern Ridge Reservoir on selected Thursday and Friday mornings between the end of May and the end of October. Involves rapid walking. FMI or: contact Wildlife Biologist John Deluca, jdeluca@blm.gov or 541.683.6229



Double crested Cormorant, Delta Ponds, Eugene OR

Photo: Cary Kerst



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LCAS Bird Walks & Events

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

Third Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, April 21, 8 a.m.

Our walk leader is TBA. 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 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



Vaux's Swift Watch— Friday, April 20

We can expect the Vaux's Swifts to arrive with a warm wind from the south sometime between early April and early May. The timing of the migration has varied recently, with the birds coming through earlier. This makes it hard for humans to know when to celebrate their arrival!

We hope the swifts will be here April 20th, when we will be watching the skies to see the birds ride in on the wind. They use the chimney to roost for the night as they gather and recover after migration from the south.

Come join us at sunset Friday, April 20th, at Agate Hall, 17th Ave. and Agate Street on the UO campus.

FMI: Lane Audubon Facebook page or web site, or call the Lane Audubon phone at 541.485.2473

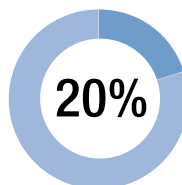
Or check out this website: vauxhappening.org/Vauxs_Happening_Home.html



April Program Meeting
Poetry of the Natural World
with Alan Contreras, Ce Rosenow,
and Anita Sullivan

Tuesday, April 24, 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