

# The Mail **News from Lane County Audubon Society**

### **From Our President**

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@g.com

# **Bonney Butte Offers a Wealth of Migrant Raptor Flyovers**



Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bonney Butte

y September, bird migration is in full swing. We can find shorebirds and ducks arriving at Fern Ridge and other waterways. We can see the Vaux's Swifts at Agate Hall, as well as other chimneys around the area. A little farther from home, the raptor migration can be observed from atop Bonney Butte in the Mount Hood National Forest. I have never been to this location, but have heard it is a fun way to watch hawks fly over relatively closely and in high numbers. Hawk counters, banders, and an educator are on the butte every day from September 1 to October 30, weather permitting. The site is open to the public and visitors are welcomed. The largest flight and peak migration typically occur between September 20 and October 10.

Bonney Butte, just south of Oregon's Mount Hood, is home to the largest known fall concentration of migrating raptors in Oregon. In 1994, HawkWatch International hired observers to conduct a season-long count, and in 1995 a small-scale banding program was begun. Each year, during the months of September and October, a total of 2,000 to 4,500 migrant hawks are seen from the top of

Bonney Butte on the southeast side of Mt. Hood. The great majority of these birds are Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks. Migrating Merlins, Golden Eagles, Turkey Vultures, and Red-tailed Hawks are also commonly seen. A total of 18 migratory raptor species have been recorded to date. On a good day in late September, it's possible to see 150 migrating hawks from the butte.

The concentration of hawks seen from the butte is a result of the local topography. Just north of Bonney Butte three large north-south ridges converge into a bottleneck that funnels birds over the butte as they travel south. The longest of these is Surveyor's Ridge, which extends almost 30 miles south from the Columbia River all the way to Bonney Butte. The combined effect of this ridge with Bluegrass Ridge and Bennet Ridge is that under normal flight conditions, almost any hawk migrating across a wide area along the east side of Mt. Hood will be funneled over Bonney Butte. Hawks

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**Lane County Audubon Society** 541.485.BIRD laneaudubon.org P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

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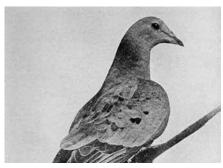


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## **Conservation**

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

# **Administration Busy Weakening Our Environmental Protections**



Passenger Pigeon, now extinct

prefer bird tweets to presidential tweets. It's too easy to get distracted by the rhetoric and scandals, which may lead to the false impression that not much is getting done. However, while we are distracted, the current administration has sought to roll back many bedrock environmental protections. The vast scope of these changes and proposals makes it difficult for me to read or listen to the news. The following is a sampling of the more than 60 policy changes. Some are in the proposal stage, while others have been enacted.

• The federal government is reversing a policy that would have increased vehicle mileage standards for cars made over the next decade. The standards that were to go into effect would have limited vehicle emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. They would have also lessened other forms of pollution, reduced the need for fossil fuels, and saved people money at the pump. Hard to believe, but the government cited "safety" as the reason for the reversal—owners of more efficient cars might drive more, putting them at greater risk of accidents.

- The Clean Power Plan to regulate power-plant emissions has been stalled.
- The administration moved to shrink several National Monuments. Two have already been altered. This month, documents about the decision process were released, and then retracted a day later. They revealed that Interior Department officials dismissed evidence that these public lands did indeed boost tourism and contribute to archaeological discoveries. Their correspondence, instead, emphasized the value of logging, ranching, mining, and energy development.
- Several proposals to weaken the Endangered Species Act are being considered. The law was set up so that reviews of listed species would be based on scientific data, but the proposed changes allow economic impacts on corporations to be considered too. Species listed as threatened rather than endangered would lose protections. Critical habitat designation would be restricted, and consideration of climate change may be invalid as a factor determining the species "foreseeable future." These are administrative changes that can happen without Congressional approval, but several bills to weaken the ESA have also been also proposed in Congress.
- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which has been protecting birds for 100 years, will no longer be enforced to prevent incidental "takes" (harm to birds)

- under an administrative directive, thereby allowing industrial hazards, such as oil pits, transmission lines, towers, and oil spills, to kill birds.
- When considering the safety of chemicals, the EPA will exclude, in the name of "transparency," most of the data that has typically been used to assess health impacts. For example, reviews of personal health information are an important source of evidence on chemical safety. However, they are not publicly available because of privacy laws. Therefore, the EPA no longer needs to consider these health reports on chemicals such as pesticides or water contaminants.
- Despite the fact that EPA scientists concluded that the chemical insecticide, chlorpyrifos, was a health hazard, the administration rejected a call to ban the toxin. Additionally, the banning of other chemicals that have already been found to be harmful has been delayed.
- Lead-risk reduction programs, mostly targeted to protect children, have been cut.
- Another proposal would abolish the Waters of the United States rule, which gives the EPA authority to regulate pollution of wetlands and tributaries that run into larger waterways.
- The administration lifted the decadesold ban on oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and proposes making more than 90 percent of the outer continental shelf of the United States available for such purposes.
- The administration has blocked a rule that would have enabled the capture of methane during drilling activity on federal lands.
- The Interior Department has overturned a rule that would have continued on page 4

# Field Notes: June/July 2018

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

# Marbled Godwit, Willet, Franklin's Gull, **Tufted Puffin**

very dry and warm summer! As is normal, southbound shorebird migration A started about as soon as the northward migration ended. And as is almost always the case, a number of unusual birds were found this season. The southbound migration/post-breeding movements for passerines will be underway soon, so keep an eye out for those unusual birds moving through.

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



Tufted Puffin



Marbled Godwit

#### **WATERFOWL TO SWIFTS**

Trumpeter Swan (3)	June 17	Star Log Pond, Noti	JG	Are they pets or wild?
Cackling Goose	July 10	FRR - Royal Ave	JG	Summering birds found most years
Harlequin Duck	June 16	Bob Creek	DI,et al	Non-breeding birds & males
Harlequin Ducklings	June 26	Lookout Ck	AP	Above Blue River Res
Surf Scoter	June/July	along coast	m.ob	High numbers this summer
White-winged Scoter	June/July	along coast	m.ob	High numbers this summer
Horned Grebe	-	_		•
Red-necked Grebe	June 11	Dexter Reservoir	SH,VB	Very rare summer record
Common Nighthawk	July 7	Eugene Country Club	AH	Never common in town
Black Swift (2)	July 7	Salt Creek Falls	EH	No nesting again this year

#### **SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS**

Black-necked Stilt (5)	July 27	FRR - Royal Ave	JS,JL	Largest numbers seen this year
Black-bellied Plover	July 2	FRR - Royal Ave	SH	The first for the fall migration
Pacific Golden-Plover	July 4	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	Annual in very small numbers
Semipalmated Plover	June 4	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	Summering or early south migrations?
Marbled Godwit	July 6	FRR - Royal Ave	SH,DP	Rarely found inland
Ruddy Turnstone (2)	July 27	SJSR	JS	Normal time for their southward migration
				Very early migrant or summering?
Baird's Sandpiper	July 15	FRR - Royal Ave	RR	Earlier than their normal migration
Pectoral Sandpiper	July 13	FRR - Royal Ave	RR	Much earlier than their normal migration
				Annual in small numbers this time of year
Semipalmated Sandpiper (24)	July 24	FRR - Royal Ave	ID,JM	A very large number for Lane
Western Sandpiper	June 26	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	First southward migrants
Wandering Tattler (14)	July 28	NJSR	JL	A very large number for Lane
Lesser Yellowlegs	July 4	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	A little earlier than normal
Willet				
Willet	July 31	FRR - Royal Ave	LG	The same bird or another?
Red-necked Phalarope (2)	July 29	FRR - Royal Ave	AC,et al	A little earlier than normal
				Rare in Lane in recent of years
Bonaparte's Gull	July 20	FRR - Royal Ave	HH,et al	An unusual summer sighting
Franklin's Gull	July 24	FRR - Royal Ave	ID,JM	Rare in Lane
Forster's Tern				
Forster's Tern	July 2	FRR - Royal Ave	JS,SH	Annual the last few years

#### **PELICANS TO SPARROWS**

American White Pelican (57)	July 5	FRR - Royal Ave	JG	Smaller numbers than the past few years
Black-crowned Night-Heron	June 4	Delta Ponds	EZ	An unusual location for this species
Black-crowned Night-Heron	July 14	SJSR	JT	An unusual location for this species
White-tailed Kite	June 25	FRR - Royal Ave	DS	Not normally found in breeding season
Short-eared Owl	July 18	FRR - Royal Ave	FE	Very rare during the breeding season
Ash-throated Flycatcher	June 19	LCC area	JG	Found almost annually
Red-eyed Vireo	June 2	Clearwater Park	RR	A few days earlier than normal
Red-eyed Vireo	July 22	Jaeg Rd	BC	Unusual location on west side of the valley
Merlin (2)	July 25	Santa Clara area	MRu	Appeared to be an adult female & recently
				fledged male; possible first nesting for Lane
California Scrub-Jay	June 24	Florence	fide DP	A pair was in town about 10 years ago
Bank Swallow (14)	July 27	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	A very large number for Lane
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	July 31	River Road area	LM	With gray flanks like this species in CA -
				a hybrid Black-capped X Chestnut-backed?
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	June 13	Mt Pisgah	DA,et al	A pair with a nest - only 2nd time nesting
Gray Catbird (heard only)				
Vesper Sparrow	July 19	FRR - Royal Ave	DB	Post-breeding birds?

AC Alan Contreras, AH Anne Heyerly, AP Al Prigge, BC Barbara Combs, DA Dennis Arendt, DB Don Berg, DF Daniel Farrar, DI Dave Irons, DP Diane Pettey, DS Derek Stoner, EH Eric Horvath, EZ Elias Zuniga, FE Finn Etter, HH Hendrik Herlyn, ID Isaac Denzer, JG Joshua Galpern, JL Joshua Little, JM Jacob Mathison, JS John Sullivan, JT Jeff Tibbits, LB Lary Brown, LG Linda Gilbert, LM Libbie Marshall, MRu Mark Rudolph, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, VB Vickie Buck. Fide references a sighting reported to the listed observer. M.ob. signifies many observers.

# Two Booth Volunteers Needed—(1) Setup and (2) Staffing Scheduler

Tf you'd like to help Lane Audubon Lin a big way but don't have a lot of time available, here are a couple of ways to get involved. We need a person to take over the Lane Audubon booth setup and takedown, as well as someone to coordinate the scheduling of booth staffers.

Booth setup/takedown involves delivering and erecting our portable booth, tables, and display materials at event and festival sites, and then dismantling them after the event is over. Setup and takedown require only an hour or two of your time, usually on

a Saturday morning and early Sunday evening, a few times a year. If you enjoy being outdoors in the morning and doing a little light physical activity (nothing too strenuous), this could be the spot for you. Access to a larger vehicle (a van or pickup) is useful.

If you're more indoorsy and have some basic computer and organizational skills, such as sending e-mail messages and putting together staffing schedules, you could help Lane Audubon by sending out announcements alerting our volunteers of booth staffing opportunities. After volunteers respond,

you put together staffing schedules and distribute them by e-mail to volunteers. This work usually takes an hour or two and can be done in your own home a couple of weeks before booth events are scheduled.

Orientation and training for these volunteer positions will be provided. It can be rewarding to work behind the scenes to help Lane Audubon spread the word about the importance of birds and their habitats. If you'd like to learn more about either of these positions, please call Ron Renchler at 541.345.0834, or e-mail him at christyandron2@gmail.com.

#### Conservation cont. from page 2

- added regulations for hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, on federal and tribal lands.
- The administration has weakened rules on coal ash operations to suspend groundwater monitoring. Now it is allowable for coal ash waste at risk of leaking into groundwater or wetlands to persist for a longer period. This was the first major rule signed by EPA acting administrator Andrew Wheeler. It doesn't look like much will improve with Priutt's departure.
- The EPA has announced changes to the Clean Air Act, which will reverse the decades-old policy subjecting major sources of pollution to stricter control standards.
- FEMA can no longer consider climate change in strategic planning. The NASA climate-monitoring program has been cut.

Please let your elected representatives know that you are paying attention and oppose the weakening of regulations designed to protect our health and that of the environment.

# **Program Meeting, Tuesday, September 25, 7:30 pm**

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

# **Land and Sea Conservation Issues and Strategies**



aul Engelmeyer will present on the topic of Oregon Marine Reserves and the conservation challenges and issues facing the Marbled Murrelet, forage fish, and coho recovery efforts. He is a dynamic speaker with a passion for his work in advocating protections for seabird populations, Marbled Murrelets, fish, and coastal habitats.

The Oregon coast is one of the wildest and most unique places in the

state, offering exceptional opportunities for viewing seabirds, marine mammals, and other wildlife. It is also home to vast underwater kelp forests and rocky reefs that provide important habitat for the hundreds of fish and other aquatic species that live in Oregon's near-shore waters.

Marine Reserves are areas in the ocean that fully protect fish, wildlife, and their habitats from destruction within their borders. Marine Protected Areas are places in the ocean that have varying protection levels in keeping with specific conservation purposes. Oregon is now home to five Marine Reserves: Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, Otter Rock, Cape Perpetua, and Redfish Rocks.

For more than 20 years, Paul has worked in coastal conservation and is currently the chair of the Mid-Coast Watershed Council. Since 1991 he has managed Portland Audubon Society's Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary, near Yachats. As a respected voice on Pacific Northwest conservation issues, he provides valuable information to state and regional fish and wildlife commissions. He is also a recognized leader in exposing the plight of Oregon's now-threatened Coho Salmon, and works on the regional Forage Fish campaign to ensure a critical food base for seabirds, salmon, tuna, and marine mammals within the California Current.





# **New LCAS T-shirts**

Classy, freshly designed LCAS T-shirts have just become available, and you can have one for only \$15. The simple but striking design features birds flying into the towering Agate Hall chimney on the UO campus. It's similar to what we see

during the spring and fall Swift Events that we host outside the actual chimney. Black with white print is the only color option. The shirts are 100 percent preshrunk cotton and made in the US. They come in sizes small, medium, large, and extra large.

They will be available at our monthly Program Meetings, and at booth events. To make other arrangements for purchasing a shirt, e-mail Ron Renchler at christyandron2@gmail.com.

# **Donated Canoe, Sold for \$200**

Two longtime Audubon members/ volunteers donated their canoe to LCAS to sell and use the income as needed. The money will go for purchasing hand lenses to be used in the Audubon-inthe-Schools Program.



# **Eugene Commits to Bee Friendliness**

In July, the City of Eugene passed a resolution to become a Bee City USA affiliate. This official bee-friendly designation helps institutionalize our community's commitment to sustain pollinators. The Bee City USA program endorses a set of commitments, defined in a resolution, for creating sustainable habitats for pollinators, which are vital to feeding the planet.

For details as to what this commitment entails, you can check out their website: beecityusa.org



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 October issue: September 4 November issue: September 23 (early!)

Submit material to Karen Irmscher 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

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Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society)\$	E-mail
To pay by PayPal, go to laneaudubon.org/support/join	$\square$ I would prefer to receive the <i>e-Quail</i> newsletter by e-mail.
I am a 🔲 Current National Audubon member 🔲 Don't 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.
☐ Gift memberships ☐ Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program	Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organization We will use it only for Lane County Audubon Society communications.

# **Community Calendar and Events**

A service to Lane County Audubon Society members



#### Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, September 9, 8-11 a.m. Bird Walk

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for their monthly bird walk. People at all levels of birding experience can find something to enjoy. They'll use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of the Arboretum's diverse breeding 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, Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free. FMI: mountpisgaharboretum.org or 541.741.4110



#### **Nearby Nature**

Wednesday, September 12, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Fall Volunteer Info Session

Want to help connect kids and nature? Love spending time outdoors? Learn all about leading school nature walks in Alton Baker Park, as well as other Nearby Nature volunteer opportunities. No experience neededtraining provided. Eugene Public Library, Singer Room (second floor) FMI: nearbynature.org/volunteer, info@ nearbynature.org, or 541.687.9699



#### Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, September 15, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Late Summer Wildflowers Walk Join Arboretum Interpretation Coordinator August Jackson for a tour of the amazing diversity of wildflowers that wait to bloom until the end of summer. Participants will take a walk along a wet prairie, then down to the river to see emergent vegetation

in bloom. They will also look at which insects pollinate these late-season flowers. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free. FMI: mountpisgaharboretum.org or 541.741.4110



#### **Native Plant Society of Oregon** Monday, September 17, 7 p.m.

Program: Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants of Lane County

Charlene Simpson, a founding member of Emerald Chapter and retired co-chair of the Rare and Endangered Committee, uses a slide show to tell us stories of Lane County species losses, gains, and near misses. Charlene illustrates her program with images from her photo library accumulated over 45 years. Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St. FMI: npsoregon.org, info@npsoregon.org, or 541.232.4706.



#### Southern Willamette **Ornithological Club (SWOC)**

Monday, September 17, 7 p.m.

Eugene Birders' Night

After attendees share recent sightings and discuss birding-related topics. Then Sarah Smith de Vasconcellos will give a presentation on her birding trip to Sichuan province in Southwest China. The main focus of her attention was a host of endemic and specialty birds, but she also enjoyed seeing Giant Pandas and spectacular mountain scenery. Highlights included special pheasants such as Golden and Lady Amherst's that are common in aviaries but much more exciting in the wild! She also visited the Tibetan Plateau, where Black-necked Cranes were surprisingly common. All are welcome to attend this free monthly event.

Location: Historic McNail-Riley house, 601 W 13th Ave, Eugene, at the NW corner of W. 13th and Jefferson St., by the former Lincoln School. Park in the five spaces closest to the M-R house, or across 13th in the fairgrounds parking lot. FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com



#### **Lane County Waste** Management

Sunday, September 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Plastic Recycling Collection Event

Feeling despair at the rollbacks in recycling options? Some relief is in sight. Lane County Waste Management and partners are hosting a free, plastic recycling collection for plastic containers that have recently been dropped from residential recycling. They will collect #2, #4 and #5 (Polyethylene and Polypropylene) tubs, jugs, bottles, lids and beverage handles. All materials must be clean, clearly stamped with a plastic resin code (number inside chasing arrow) #2, #4 or #5 and sorted by number and shape. Plastics will be delivered directly to Denton Plastics, a local recycling plant that does not have a wash line. Unsorted, dirty, greasy, unmarked or incorrect materials will NOT be accepted.

FMI: Kelly.Bell@co.lane.or.us, or 541.682.2059

# **Save the Date! Volunteer** to help Bike Path Cleanup!

Sunday, October 14, 9 a.m.- noon

LCAS has adopted a five-mile stretch at the westerly end of West Eugene's Fern Ridge Bike Path. Bike Path Cleanup volunteer coordinator Phil Johnson has now scheduled our fall cleanup. Please help us keep this part of Eugene's waterway an inviting habitat for wildlife and a safe and clean area for recreation. FMI or to volunteer, call Phil Johnson at 541.731.7439

From Our President cont. from page 1

follow these north-south ridges as they migrate, because updrafts and thermals from the ridges provide the lift needed to travel long distances with minimal energy expenditure. After passing over the butte, the birds disperse again and travel over a much wider area. Banding data has shown

that most of the hawks passing over Bonney Butte are migrating from breeding territories in southwest British Columbia to wintering grounds in Southern California.

This year a Bonney Butte Hawk Migration Festival will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

For directions and logistics check out these web links hawkwatch.org /migration/item/81-bonney-butte -hawkwatch hawkwatch.org/images /stories/Conservation\_Science /Site\_Brochures/Bonney\_butte \_brochure\_2014.pdf



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#### LCAS Bird Walks & Events

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

## Third Saturday Bird Walk

#### Saturday, September 15, 8 a.m

Our September 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. FMI: Rebecca Waterman at 541.653.3354 or Rebecca.waterman@gmail.com

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.

## **Bon Voyage to Vaux's Swifts at Agate Hall**

#### Friday, September 7, sunset

LCAS will have its annual Fall Swift Event outside Agate Hall on Friday, September 7, at sunset. The Vaux's Swifts use the chimney to roost for the night, as they gather prior to migration. We may see thousands of birds entering the chimney, but there is no guarantee! It is fun to observe the swifts before they fly off to Central and South America for the winter.

Lane Audubon will have handouts with information about the Vaux's Swifts. Look for the LCAS banner at 17th and Agate Street. Stop by and enjoy this annual natural phenomenon. It is free, and Prince Puckler's is just around the corner. Call 541.343.8664 for more information.

Another good location to check out is the Smith Family Bookstore chimney (5th and Willamette, downtown Eugene) where several thousand birds have also been observed.

FMI: see the Vaux's Swift page on the LCAS website, listed under resources. (laneaudubon.org/docs/vauxs-swift)



September Program Meeting Land and Sea Conservation Issues and Strategies with Paul Engelmeyer Tuesday, September 25, 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