

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

Special volunteer opportunity: Audubon in the Schools!

We are very excited to have a newly expanded team working on the Audubon in the Schools program now! Kathy Wilson, Barb Pope, Rose Britton, Marty Merrill, Janet Barnes, and Sue Markley have been organizing the lesson plans, specimens, and supplies, while gearing up to offer AITS sessions for the 2018-2019 school year. One teacher has already contacted them and is on the schedule! We still have room for more folks to join this rewarding volunteer effort. If you have an interest in education, care about the children in our community, and want to share your enthusiasm for birds and art, please get in touch! Call Maeve at 541.485.2473 or if you are a teacher wanting to schedule a class session, email Barb Pope at aitsbirds@gmail.com. See the poster on page 4.

Volunteers Are the Life Blood of LCAS



Volunteers are the “green energy” that drives the activities of the Lane Audubon chapter. The only way we keep our projects running is with folks who have some time, talent, and initiative to help. The work done by Lane Audubon is all because of our wonderful volunteers.

We have a small and committed Board that steers our various projects and lends a hand when needed. The Board will help new volunteers with advice, support, and experience. We want to see everyone succeed in

forwarding our mission. We care about wildlife and their habitats, and we also care about people.

Most of you know that we are an all-volunteer group. Some chapters have paid staff, but that is not the case with us. We do need help. Spend some time with us, come to a Board meeting, a Program meeting, and please, get involved. Lane Audubon’s work is important in the community. We advocate for environmental education and conservation programs throughout Lane County. If you have an interest in joining other Lane Audubon volunteers or have skills you would like to put to work in support of our goals, we would like to hear from you! Call 541.485.2473. Be a part of the team of Lane Audubon volunteers! Please step up to help us keep our energy and forward momentum going!

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

 facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/



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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Oregon Forests Promote Planetary Health



Photo: Jim Maloney

Steens Mountain area

Good reasons to conserve the forests always include concern for the welfare of birds and other living beings. But that's just the beginning. Two recent scientific reports highlight important roles that birds play in the world. And birds need healthy forests.

The first report (*Science*, 2018) warns that a warming climate will mean a significant increase in losses of major food crops to insect pests. Increased temperatures mean more insects, resulting in greater crop losses. The losses for wheat, an important Oregon crop, will increase 46 percent for each rise of 2 degrees Celsius. A second report (*The Science of Nature*, 2018) documents the importance of birds in controlling insect populations—insectivorous birds consume between 400 and 500 million tons of insects per year. Forest-dwelling birds consume around 75 per cent of that total. So it makes sense to conserve bird habitat, due to the vital role of birds in the food web (including insect control), as well as for their pollination prowess and seed dispersing skills.

Nonetheless, the current administration has proposed a blanket increase in logging on public lands. For eastern Oregon forests, a decision was just released on the proposed Blue Mountains Forest Management Plan. The Blue Mountains Forest Plan replaces 25-year-old plans for the management of eastern Oregon's forests, the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, covering nearly 5.5 million acres. That's about one-third of Oregon's public forest lands. Several alternatives were proposed to provide guidance on managing these national forests including one, alternative C, that supported natural ecological processes with less logging, stricter water protections, and more wilderness areas. This alternative was not chosen. The one that was selected, Alternative E-Modified, is meant to be a compromise of varying interests. Unfortunately, that means it is weak on recreation, wildlife protection, carbon storage, and sustaining remaining ancient forests, but it embraces outdated practices such as logging and

grazing. Under the plan, the timber sale program quantity will increase by 104 million board feet, more than double the existing amount of logging. The plan additionally calls for thinning up to 33 percent of dry-upland forest types. Previously, older and most fire-resistant large-diameter trees were firmly protected, but now this is just a suggestion. Several loopholes in the plan would permit logging of old growth and mature trees. Often this is done under the guise of "addressing management of fuels and fire risk," which translates as more logging. Other concerns include a narrower width of protection in riparian corridors, and the maintenance of grazing allotments. This includes currently vacant plots, which would result in a functional increase in the amount of grazing on public lands. Taken together, the end result will be elimination of wildlife and fish habitat and degradation of soils and water quality.

The proposal also falls short on proposing Wilderness Protection in these beautiful and wilderness designation-eligible forests. The recommendation to Congress for wilderness allocations is approximately 1.4 percent of the three National Forests—about 20,000 acres less than what was proposed in the draft environmental impact statement. For several reasons, this is a missed opportunity with long term repercussions. Once extractive industries are allowed access to these public lands, they will no longer meet the criteria for wilderness designation.

To share your concerns about this management plan for our state's eastern forests, Oregon Wild has an action alert with a sign-on letter here: secure.everyaction.com/IJX2xQKhgUmu1W9v63X3mg2

Field Notes: August 2018

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



Photo: National Audubon Society

Long-tailed Jaeger

Long-tailed Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Snow Goose, Hudsonian Godwit

Another warm, dry month. Fern Ridge Reservoir was exceptional for shorebirds this month, as you can see from the sightings below. Some other very good Lane County birds were found during the month, which isn't unusual for August.

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

WATERFOWL TO SWIFTS

Snow Goose	Aug 23	FRR - Royal Ave.....	CC,BT	Rare summer sighting
Greater White-fronted Goose	Aug 23	FRR - Royal Ave.....	CC,BT	Earlier arriving flock than normal
Red-necked Grebe	Aug 10	Siltcoos & SJSR.....	JS	Rare summer sighting
Black Swift	Aug 24	Marshall Island.....	BC	Rare sighting away from Salt Ck falls

CRANES TO TERNS

Sandhill Crane	Aug 17	FRR - Royal Ave.....	JS,JL	Rare summer record
Long-billed Curlew	Aug 10	FRR - Royal Ave.....	JS	First of a larger number than normal
Hudsonian Godwit (photos)	Aug 15	FRR - Royal Ave.....	TJ	Second Lane record
Stilt Sandpiper (adult).....	Aug 10	FRR - Royal Ave.....	JS	Four years since the last report
Stilt Sandpiper (2).....	Aug 15	FRR - Royal Ave.....	TJ	Juvenile birds, so different than the earlier one
Stilt Sandpiper	Aug 31	FRR - Royal Ave.....	JS, et al.	Different bird or one of the earlier ones?
Dunlin (10).....	Aug 21	Heceta Beach.....	BG	Very early record for this late migrant
Buff-breasted Sandpiper (ad).....	Aug 23	FRR - Royal Ave.....	CC,BT	Rare, a little earlier than normal
Buff-breasted Sandpiper (juv).....	Aug 27	FRR - Royal Ave.....	CG	Different than the earlier bird
Buff-breasted Sandpiper (4).....	Aug 31	FRR - Royal Ave.....	m.ob.	Very large number for Oregon
Solitary Sandpiper	Aug 1	FRR - Royal Ave.....	SH	Annual in small numbers in the fall
Wilson's Phalarope (3)	Aug 21	FRR - Royal Ave.....	RR	Did they breed here this summer?
Long-tailed Jaeger (photo).....	Aug 27	FRR - Perkins Pen.....	CG	Rarely found inland in Lane Co
Jaeger species	Aug 27	FRR - Perkins Pen.....	CG	Thought to be a Parasitic
Black Tern	Aug 23	FRR - Royal Ave.....	SH	Last report for the breeding season
Elegant Terns (2)	Aug 31	Heceta Beach area	DP	First report in two years

OWLS TO BUNTINGS

Northern Pygmy-Owl	Aug 19	Skinner Butte.....	JH	Unusual location for this species
Lewis's Woodpecker (2)	Aug 24	Waldo Lake	GM	They migrate through the high Cascades
Merlin (photo).....	Aug 25	Springfield	JS	Much earlier than normal
Black Phoebe (photo).....	Aug 22	Waldo Lake	GM	First sighting for the high Cascades
Western Kingbird	Aug 14	FRR	JS	Last report for the breeding season
Red-eyed Vireo	Aug 6	Friendly St area.....	fide DA	Unusual location for this species
Green-tailed Towhee	Aug 12	Blair Lake	JG	Good time to find them in the Cascades
Grasshopper Sparrow (photo).....	Aug 24	FRR	NS	Getting late for this species
Common Grackle	Aug 6	Eugene Airport.....	LM	About the fifth record for Lane Co
Black-and-White Warbler	Aug 8	Mt Pisgah	JG	About the tenth record for Lane Co
Summer Tanager (female)	Aug 30	Delta Ponds	LB	Third record for Lane Co
Lazuli Bunting	Aug 20	Mt Pisgah area.....	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season

A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, BC Barbara Combs, BG Brandon Green, BT Bill Tice, CC Caleb Centanni, CG Cory Gregory, DA Dennis Arendt, DP Diane Pettey, GM Gerry Meenaghan, JG Joshua Galpern, JH John Hosking, JL Joshua Little, JS John Sullivan, LB Laurie Brandt, LM Larry McQueen, NS Noah Strycker, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, TJ Tye Jeske. **Fide** references a sighting reported to the listed observer. **M.ob.** signifies many observers.

Are You for the BIRDS?



FIND OUT ABOUT BIRDS WITH

"Audubon in the Schools!"

We combine Science and Art in two different lessons available to Lane County Elementary classrooms:

- ▶ BIRDS and Feathers and
- ▶ BIRDS in the Ecosystem

Both presentations include bird specimens and materials for student participation.

To schedule a FREE presentation & for information, contact

➡ aitsbirds@gmail.com

LANE COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Program Meeting, Tuesday, October 23, 7:30 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

Upstream, Midstream, and Downstream: Working with Living Rivers in the Upper Willamette Basin

A Presentation by Joe Moll



The Willamette River and its tributaries have been an economic driver for centuries.

Due to its rich resources, the river basin is home to about two-thirds of Oregon's population, and will continue to attract people to the region in the coming decades. Inevitably, this influx is leading to more conflict over demands for available water, and more pressure on water that remains in-stream.

With settlement and development, demands on the river increased, and the health of the river declined. The loss of complexity and floodplain connections have contributed to decreases in native and increases in non-native fish and wildlife populations. Water quality declined dramatically in the first two

thirds of the 20th century but has improved in recent decades.

How have we and how will we deal with these changes? And what impacts might we see in water availability, fish and wildlife health, and community development? This presentation will focus on the conservation work of McKenzie River Trust in the upper Willamette Basin, from headwater streams to the mainstem Willamette River near Harrisburg. The Trust is a part of a growing network of organizations working to protect, enhance, and restore river processes. This recognition of a Living River, or one that is free to meander and change course throughout the seasons and throughout the years, has implications for how we choose to live, work, and play in the Willamette Valley.

Joe Moll has been Executive Director of McKenzie River Trust since January 2005. The Trust has been active in river land conservation and restoration throughout Lane and neighboring counties since 1989. The Trust has been a core member of the Willamette River Initiative, a collaborative effort among private landowners, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations committed to river health throughout the Willamette Basin. Since February 2018, Joe has been an appointed Commissioner for the Oregon Water Resources Department.

Prior to joining the Trust, Joe worked in Montana for The Nature Conservancy; Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; and the University of Montana. He has also conducted research and worked independently as a wildlife management specialist in Hokkaido, Japan.

Joe completed a Master of Science degree in Natural Resource Management at the University of Montana-Missoula School of Forestry and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky.

Seeking Sponsors for Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures is back with a brand new learning kit for the 2018-19 school year, entitled "Getting to Know Birds." Some teachers have started placing their orders, and are eager to share the new material with students! This year's kit includes the following three topics:

#1: Get to Know Birds

#2: Hooray for Hummingbirds

#3: Plants Are for the Birds!

Audubon Adventures is developed by professional educators and designed for grades 3-5. Each kit contains 32 printed magazines on each topic as well as access to online features and activities. Thanks to generous sponsors, we offer these kits at no cost to teachers in Lane County.

If you would like to sponsor a classroom, please mail a tax-deductible donation of \$45 (payable to LCAS) to Audubon Adventures, PO Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405, or donate online via the provided link: laneaudubon.org/education/audubon-adventures/sponsor/form

Please contact Rachael Friese at audadventures@gmail.com if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!



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.

The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

November issue: September 23
Dec./Jan. issue: November 3

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).....\$ _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- To pay by PayPal, go to 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

10/9

Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group

Tuesday, October 9, 7 p.m.

Soil: What It Is and How It Works

Most people have only a vague idea of what soil is and how it works. You will learn more than you ever thought possible from this lecture by James Cassidy, the Senior Instructor of Soil Science, Soil Physics and Organic Agriculture at Oregon State University. Admission is free for members, \$5 for non-members.

Location: Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W 13th Ave. Doors on the east side of the building open at 6:30 for refreshments, book sales, botanical sample browsing, and socializing. FMI: thehardyplantgroup.org, or info@thehardyplantgroup.org

10/13

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Oaks for the Land, Acorns for the People: Ecology and Sustenance of a Wild Local Food

Have you ever wanted to try eating acorns? In this workshop with Heron Brae, instructor at the Columbines School of Botanical Studies, we will explore the role of oaks in the world around us, and how human needs can be met when we help take care of the oaks. Manual and electric processing methods will be used for making this traditional food edible. With oak ecosystems shrinking and an unpredictable climate, looking to our local oaks for sustenance can become part of food security plans.

Meet at the Visitor Center. Bring a lunch, bowl and utensils, pad and pen, and mortar and pestle (optional). Members \$50, non-members \$60. Don't forget your parking pass. Pre-registration required. To register: 541-747-3817 or mountpisgaharboretum.com/workshop-registration. FMI: mountpisgaharboretum.org or 541.741.4110

10/14

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, October 14, 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 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

10/15

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, October 15, 7 p.m.

Eugene Birders' Night

After attendees share recent sightings and discuss birding-related topics, Kit Larsen will show photos and discuss Birds of Southern Portugal. We'll hear about his sightings of the two species of bustards that occur in that region, and see photographs of various species of vultures and shorebirds, and the sought after hoopoe. 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

10/21

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, October 21, 1 -3 p.m.

Scarecrow Building and Pumpkin Carving Workshop

Get ready for the Mushroom Festival's Scarecrow Contest at this fun, family-oriented event. The Arboretum staff provides inspiration and know-how for creative pumpkin carving, and you can design your own unique scarecrow to enter in the Scarecrow Contest or display on your lawn. Scarecrows made at the workshop can be entered in the Scarecrow Contest at our Mushroom festival for free! Pants, shirts, straw, and pumpkins provided, but you are encouraged to bring your own used clothes as well! \$5 per pumpkin or scarecrow. No registration required. Meet at the White Oak Pavilion. Don't forget your parking pass.

10/28

Mushroom Festival

Sunday, October 28, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Join us for one of the largest fungal celebrations on the West Coast! Co-sponsored by Lane Community College and the Cascade Mycological Society. Hundreds

of local mushroom species on display, live local music, hourly nature walks with experts, scarecrow contest, fresh-pressed apple cider, food booths, and local arts, crafts, and plant vendors. Suggested donation \$8, Arboretum members free.

FMI: mountpisgaharboretum.com/festivals-events/mushroom-festival-2018/

Bike Path Cleanup—Volunteers Needed

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. You can help us keep this part of the walking and biking path a safe and clean area for recreation, next to an inviting habitat for birds and other wildlife. Please consider joining this satisfying and enjoyable endeavor. Great camaraderie guaranteed!

FMI or to volunteer, call Phil Johnson at 541.731.7439



Audubon
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Save the Date: December 30, 2018

The date for the 2018 Eugene Christmas Bird Count has been set for Sunday, December 30. It will be our 77th Christmas Bird Count. More information will be in the November Quail. But if you can't wait: FMI: Dick Lamster, 541.343.8664



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



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

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

Third Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, October 20, 8 a.m.

Our October walk leader is Dave Bontrager. 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.

Swift Event Well Attended By Both Birds and Humans

When more than 5,000 birds show up, the Swift Event at Agate Hall is an incredible natural phenomenon to witness! And that's how it was September 7. It was a perfect evening and the people attending seemed to have a great time.

We estimated 200 people enjoying the show. The Vaux's Swifts gave a spectacular performance, circling around for more than an hour, then entering the chimney after sunset in 10 minutes time! Once they started dropping in the chimney, it was hard to count them, but we estimated 5,400 birds. A Cooper's Hawk captured two birds, highlighting the risks these small birds cope with every day.

Thanks to Rebecca Waterman, Nick Paget, Ron Renschler, Ramiro Aragon, Debbie Schlenoff, Maevie Sowles, Hilary Dearborn, John Polo, and Rose Britton for turning out to help out and share the fun.

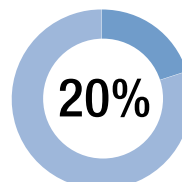


October Program Meeting

Upstream, Midstream, and Downstream:
Working with Living Rivers in the Upper
Willamette Basin, by Joe Moll

Tuesday, October 23, 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