

The Mau **News from Lane County Audubon Society**

From Our Treasurer

Ron Renchler, LCAS Treasurer, 541.345.0834, christyandron2@gmail.com

Supporting LCAS—Reasons to Give



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

y travels this summer took me to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology near Ithaca, New York, where I was able to bird in renowned Sapsucker Woods near the lab. I also took a behind-thescenes tour of the research facility itself, technically known as the Imogene Powers Johnson Center for Birds and Biodiversity. The center houses classrooms, a DNA sequencing lab, and a library containing the world's largest collection of recorded natural sounds, including the songs, sounds, and calls of more than 5,600 species of birds!

Scientists at the lab not only conduct some of the most cuttingedge research on birds and their habitats but also teach students and others about the threats that birds and other wildlife face in response to climate change and environmental destruction taking place throughout the world.

My visit to the lab reminded me of the importance of the education and conservation work that Lane County Audubon Society does at the local level to keep birds and their habitats in our region safe (or at least safer) from these ever-increasing threats.

Your annual financial contribution allows us to offer classroom programs such as Audubon Adventures and Audubon in the Schools. Our letterwriting and awareness-raising campaigns cover a diversity of conservation issues.

Monthly program meetings and bird walks offer information and camaraderie. All of these activities are geared toward helping our members and the general public become more informed about the birdlife in our area. You need only read through the pages of this issue of The Quail to learn more about the many things that LCAS does to protect birds and other creatures from the detrimental changes taking place all around us.

All of our efforts are the result of the work of volunteers. LCAS has no paid staff, so 100 percent of your taxdeductible gift goes toward the material costs associated with sustaining our education and conservation programs. Many of our supporters also choose to donate a bit extra to help us along at the same time as they start or renew their LCAS memberships. To make it even easier, this issue of The Quail has an envelope you can use to mail your gift. If you prefer to give online, you can do so at laneaudubon.org /support/donate.

On behalf of the birds, we thank you for supporting our work.

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

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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Helping Migratory and Native Birds

he bad news first. The conservation group BirdLife International's latest report found that 40 percent of the world's 11,000 bird species are in decline. The good news is that many people are seeking to protect nature in a myriad of ways. They develop conservation programs to protect ecosystems and for various specific species. Some of this is done in the field, some through communication with policy makers, and some in the courts. It's easy, but deceptive and disempowering, to think that we as individuals can't make a difference. One of the most important things we can do now is to vote and let our representatives know that we value laws that protect species and habitats. Protective laws can work: 70 percent of the birds listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) have populations that are now stable, increasing, or have recovered enough to be delisted.

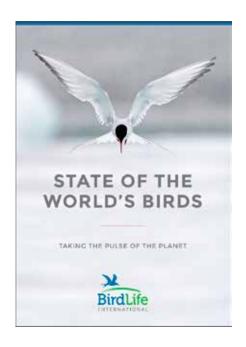
Some of the many other things we can do as individuals to make a difference are listed below.

Ways we can help migratory and native birds:

- Birds need food, water, and shelter.
 - Provide food and fresh water. Feeders and bird baths are enjoyed by birds and by the people who get to watch them.
 - Keep your bird feeders and water source clean. (Immerse feeders for a couple of minutes in a solution of one part household chlorine bleach to nine parts water; then air dry.)

- Garden with native plants. Plant a diversity of native vegetation—flowers, shrubs, trees-for food and shelter. For bird and pollinator-friendly gardening resources check out: laneaudubon.org/node/796
- Provide cover. Shrubs, brush piles, and dead trees (snags) are great sources of shelter.
- Help keep birds safe and healthy.
 - Don't poison the birds and the food that they rely upon. Avoid the use of chemical pesticides, rodenticides, and herbicides.
 - Birds don't see glass. Help prevent window collisions. Provide screen covers. Use closely spaced decals. A network of parallel, vertical strings spaced 4 inches apart can be placed on the outside of windows. For more ideas, see laneaudubon.org/conservation/ issues/bird-window
 - Migrating birds are disoriented by artificial lighting. Shield outdoor lights and direct them downward. Close curtains and blinds in the evenings.
 - If you fish or hunt or know people who do: Birds that forage in water are poisoned by lead sinkers used for fishing. Birds of prey are poisoned by lead shot used for hunting after they scavenge carcasses.
 - Outdoor cats kill billions of birds each year. Indoor cats live an average of three to seven times longer than outdoor cats. Keep cats indoors for their health

- as well as the safety of native wildlife.
- Don't feed waterfowl. Despite good intentions, it increases transmission of disease, conflict, stress, and malnourishment. Especially, don't feed them bread.
- Birds need habitat.
 - Support efforts to create, restore, and preserve public green spaces.
 - Volunteer to help restore native habitat in public spaces.
- Consumer choices matter.
 - Drink shade-grown/organic coffee to help improve habitat for migratory birds.
 - Your meal choices affect the overall health of the environment. Consume more plant-based meals. Buy local. Buy organic.
 - Reduce the use of plastics.
 - Recycle, reduce, reuse. Conserve energy and water,
- Bring your friends and family outside.
 - Enjoy the color, sound, and splendor of birds!
- Did I mention VOTING!?
 - Vote for elected representatives who will uphold bedrock environmental laws.



Field Notes: September 2018

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

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Hawaiian Petrel, Long-tailed Jaeger, Black-and-White Warbler

ostly dry and warm, with a record number of days without rainfall set this month! A very good fall for shorebirds at Fern Ridge Reservoir (see below). As is normal, the first of the wintering species are starting to return and the last of the neotropical migrants are leaving.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), Oregon Birds Record Committee (OBRC), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR), North Fork of the Siuslaw River (NF Siuslaw River), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR).



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper



Brenda Zaun, USFWS, Wiki Commons

Hawaiian Petrel

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White-fronted Goose	Sept 11	FRR - Royal Ave	RR	First report of migrants headed south
Cackling Goose	Sept 26	FRR	JS,JL	First report for the winter season
Tundra Swan	Sept 29	Heceta Beach	DP	A very early "winter" report
Eared Grebe	Sept 6	NJSR	RH,et al	First report for the winter season
Common Nighthawk	Sept 1	near UO	BN	An unusual location, migrating?
Sandhill Crane	Sept 19	High Pass Rd	CO	Very early sighting
Black-necked Stilt	Sept 18	Siltcoos River mouth	RR	Very unusual for the coast
Black-necked Stilt	Sept 5	FRR - Royal Ave	JK	Last report for the breeding season
Pacific Golden-Plover	Sept 26	SJSR - deflation plain	DF	Annual, but in small numbers
Marbled Godwit (2)	Sept 17	SJSR - Crab dock	DF	Annual, but in small numbers
Red Knot	Sept 10	SJSR - Crab dock	DF	Annual, but in small numbers
Red Knot	Sept 18	Siltcoos River mouth	RR	Most likely a different bird
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Sept 2	FRR - Royal Ave	KS	Continuing, a very good year for them
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Sept 7	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	The only coast report
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Sept 15	FRR - Royal Ave	AC,VT	The last report for the season
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Sept 18	FRR - Royal Ave	SH	The first of numerous reports
Hawaiian Petrel	Sept 9	51 miles off coast	TC	Second record if accepted by the OBRC
Flesh-footed Shearwater	Sept 9	51 miles off coast	TC	Very few records for Lane Co
Great Egret (30+)	Sept 13	NF Siuslaw River	AC	A large number, but they breed just up river

CRANES TO TERNS

White-tailed Kite	Sept 20	FRR - Royal Ave	RR	A normal time for arrival on their winter area
Long-tailed Jaeger	Sept 10	FRR - Perkins Pen	SH	Second sighting this year!
	•			
* *	1			A high number for Lane Co
COMMINGE 1411 (20)				

OWLS TO BUNTINGS

Short-eared Owl	Sept 1	FRR - Royal Ave	ID,et al	A very early report
Lewis's Woodpecker	Sept 18	Skinner Butte	MK	An unusual location
Western Wood-Pewee	Sept 19	Mill Race - Springfield	DA,et al	Last report for the breeding season
Willow Flycatcher	Sept 13	Springfield	SMc	Last report for the breeding season
Say's Phoebe	Sept 19	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	An unusual fall report
Warbling Vireo	Sept 26	Creswell area	NS	Last report for the breeding season
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Sept 15	Marshall Island	BC	Last report for the breeding season
Purple Martin	Sept 20	FRR - Royal Ave	CKJ	Last report for the breeding season
House Wren	Sept 19	Creswell area	NS	Last report for the breeding season
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	•			

Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Sept 25	Fox Hollow area	RF	First report for the winter season
Varied Thrush	Sept 17	Fox Hollow area	RF	First report for the winter season
American Pipit	Sept 10	SJSR - deflation plain	DF	First report for the winter season
Merlin	Sept 14	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	
Lapland Longspur	Sept 26	Florence - Port area	DF	Annual in small numbers
Chipping Sparrow	Sept 13	FRR	RR	Last report for the breeding season
Vesper Sparrow	Sept 5	FRR - Royal Ave	RS	Last report for the breeding season
Fox Sparrow (sooty)	Sept 14	Florence	MK	First report for the winter season
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Sept 6	Heceta Beach	TL	First report for the winter season
Lincoln's Sparrow	Sept 5	FRR - Royal Ave	RS	First report from the valley for the winter
				Last report for the breeding season
Brown-headed Cowbird	Sept 14	FRR - Fisher Butte	JM,LB	Last report for the breeding season
Black-and-White Warbler	Sept 10	Oak Hill Cemetery	LW	About the tenth record for Lane Co
	-			Last report for the breeding season
MacGillivray's Warbler	Sept 27	Creswell area	NS	Last report for the breeding season
Yellow Warbler	Sept 26	FRR - Zumwalt	LM,et al	Last report for the breeding season
Palm Warbler	Sept 14	FRR - Perkins Pen	MB	
Hermit Warbler	Sept 19	Creswell area	NS	Last report for the breeding season
Black-headed Grosbeak	Sept 18	FRR - Fisher Butte	MK	Last report for the breeding season

AC Alan Contreras, BC Barbara Combs, BN Bruce Newhouse, CKJ Courtney Kelly Jet, CO Carol Ortenzio, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, DP Diane Pettey, ID Isaac Denzer, JK John Kuarnback, JL Joshua Little, JM Joshua Meyer, JS John Sullivan, KS Kevin Spencer, LB Linnaea Basden, MB Margaret Bowan, LM Larry McQueen, LW Lisa Wallace, MK Michael Karpinko, NS Noah Strycker, RF Rachael Friese, RH Rich Hoyer, RR Roger Robb, RS Robert Snowden, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, SMc Scott McNeeley, SS Sheryl Sabo, TC Tom Crabtree, TL Terry Little, VT Vjera Thompson.

Bird Bits

Compiled by Debbie Schlenoff

Teamwork

Bird couples may work together to decrease predation at their nest. In a behavior called "coordinated misdirection," both adults will initially fly toward their nest but one will veer off while the other goes directly to the nest. Scientists believe that nest predators are distracted by the bird in flight. This means it's less likely that the predator will discover the nest entrance itself. The behavior has been shown in at least 28 species of passerine birds, across 5 distinct families.

Eric R. Gulson-Castillo, Harold F. Greeney, and Benjamin G. Freeman (2018) Coordinated misdirection: a probable anti-nest predation behavior widespread in Neotropical birds. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* In Press

Evaluating Expected Outcomes

In a clever set of experiments, birds in the parrot family learned that they could exchange a token for food. Later, they were given a choice between a token or a piece of food. If the token allowed the parrots to get preferred food in the future, the subjects would select the token. "This ability is considered cognitively challenging because it not only requires inhibiting impulses, but also evaluating expected outcomes in order to decide whether waiting is worthwhile." Previously, this type of behavior had been demonstrated in primates but not in bird species.

Krasheninnikova, A.; Höner, F.; O'Neill, L.; Penna, E.; von Bayern, A. M. P. (2018) Economic decision-making in parrots. *Scientific Reports* 8, 12537

From Maeve Sowles

Birds Can See Earth's Magnetic Fields, And Now We Know How That's Possible

From sciencealert.com by Michelle Star

The mystery behind how birds navigate might finally be solved: it's not the iron in their beaks providing a magnetic compass, but a protein in their eyes that lets them "see" Earth's magnetic fields. These findings come courtesy of two papers—one studying robins, the other zebra finches. The fancy eye protein is called Cry4, and it's part of a class of proteins called cryptochromes—photoreceptors sensitive to blue light, found in both plants and animals. These proteins play a role in regulating circadian rhythms. There's also been evidence in recent years that, in birds, the cryptochromes in their eyes are responsible for their ability to orient themselves by detecting magnetic fields, a sense called magnetoreception.

FMI: sciencealert.com/birds-seemagnetic-fields-crypto-chrome-cry4photoreceptor-2018



American White Pelicans

Photo: Cary Kersi

Program Meeting, Tuesday, November 27, 7:30 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

Bogoslof: The Island of Fire and Ice



assisting in seabird and seal research, and will share stories about camp life in these remote, seldom-visited areas. Other research locales in his past have included French Frigate Shoals, Laguna Atascosa NWR, Panama, Hawaii, and several more.

For over 20 field seasons, Ram worked as a wildlife biologist studying birds and other wildlife, primarily in Alaska. He also authored and illustrated two children's books: The Little Fox and The Little Seal,

published by University of Alaska Press. His illustrations appear in many books and publications, including the Handbook of Oregon Birds, Northwest Birds in Winter, Oregon Birds, 'Afield, and Seabirds of Alaska. Ram regularly presents on science and nature topics at bird festivals, local bird clubs, and in public schools. He combines his background in art, science, and public speaking to engage and educate the public on environmental topics.

Ram grew up in Eugene and now lives in Toledo, Oregon, on six wooded acres with his fabulous wife, Dawn Harris, eight bird feeders, eight nest boxes, eighteen chickens, four rescued parrots, and one Chia pet. Since 2009 he has concentrated on pursuing a career as a wildlife illustrator.

am Papish will explore changes In Bogoslof, a very actively volcanic Alaskan island north of the Aleutian Island chain in the Bering Sea ecosystem. Ram will present data on seabirds and seals from Bogoslof Island and the Pribilof Islands. The colonies are going in opposite directions. Wildlife thrives on Bogoslof, even as the same species decline over most of the Bering Sea. The presentation will include photographs from both islands as well as scientific information about the area's wildlife. He has spent about 10 summers on Alaskan Islands



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.



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 Dec./Jan. issue: November 3

February issue: January 5 Submit material to Karen Irmscher at quailkaren1@gmail.com

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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

☐ Individual \$20	\$	Name
Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15	\$	Mailing Address
☐ Family \$25	\$	— CityStateZip
Lifetime Membership \$400	\$	
I want to do more. Here's my tax-deductible con	tribution for\$	
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To pay by PayPal, go to laneaudubon.org/support/joir	n	☐ I would prefer to receive the <i>e-Quail</i> newsletter by e-mail.
am a $\ \square$ Current National Audubon member $\ \square$	Don't know	☐ I would like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.☐ I would like to volunteer for Lane County Audubon activities.
Please contact me regarding		Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organization
☐ Gift memberships ☐ Lane Audubon's Living L	egacy program	We will use it only for Lane County Audubon Society communications.

Community Calendar and Events

A service to Lane County Audubon Society members



11/3

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, November 3, 10 a.m.-noon

Medicinal Trees Walk

Learn about the healing properties of trees! Join herbalist Sue Sierralupe on a short walk along the riverbank to view Mount Pisgah Arboretum's majestic flora and delve into their medicinal qualities. The walk will include a short lesson on identifying trees in the cooler seasons. Meet at the Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free. FMI: mountpisgaharboretum.org or 541.741.4110

11/10

Play in the Rain Day Saturday, November 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Looking for something fun to do with your family on a rainy Saturday in November? Visit Mount Pisgah Arboretum for the annual Play in the Rain Day, featuring tree climbing, foam archery, hayrides, campfire cooking, and more! This fun, all-ages family event is put on by the Youth in Nature Partnership. Discover how fun, easy, and rewarding it is to spend time outdoors in nature-in ALL kinds of weather. Free!

11/11

Bird Walk Sunday, November 11, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

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 show you how to 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

11/19

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, November 19, 7 p.m. Eugene Birders' Night: Birding Oklahoma

After attendees share recent sightings and discuss birding-related topics, John Polo will acquaint us with the excellent birding opportunities in Oklahoma, a state rarely considered by out-of-state birders. He will introduce us to some popular birding areas, covering habitats in the coastal plains, eastern deciduous forest, and short-grass prairie. Whooping Cranes, Black-capped Vireos, and Yellow Rails are sure to be seen, plus a few bonus nonbird species such as Texas Horned Lizards. John will also discuss recent research at Oklahoma State University where he worked in the Natural Resources Ecology and Management Department before moving to Eugene. 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



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Other 2018 Christmas Bird **Counts in Lane County**

Florence CBC

Saturday, December 15 Contact: Ellen Cantor ellencantor@gmail.com

Cottage Grove CBC

Saturday, December 29, 7 a.m. Contact Grace Fowler GraceLovesBirds1@gmail.com

Oakridge CBC—TBA



Save the Date: December 14, 7:30

Pollinator Primer: Your Tiny Neighbors and the Plants They Love

We co-sponsor a program each December with Eugene Natural History Society. This year Bruce Newhouse will share information about pollinators that will help us nurture them.

Did you ever wonder about all those flying and crawling critters on your flowers? Do you know how to tell a bee from a fly? Do you know that some flies are good pollinators? Do you know how to plant a garden that will be the best possible place for pollinators? If these kinds of questions go through your mind as you stare at your garden, this presentation is for you! We will venture together, and familiarize ourselves with the most common native pollinators, and learn a few simple tricks to tell them apart. We'll also learn some of the best things you can do to invite native pollinators into your own yard, including which plants "rock the world" of the little creatures that run it.

Location TBA. Updates at: pages.uoregon.edu/enhs/



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LCAS Bird Walks & Events

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

Third Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, November 17, 8 a.m.

Our November 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.

2018 Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) Sunday, December 30, 2018

This is a fun and exciting event open to anyone interested in birds. If you are a beginning birdwatcher and want to learn more, this is a good opportunity to learn while bird watching with experienced birders. This will be the 77th ECBC and the 119th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. Dick Lamster is the Coordinator again this year, supported by the Steering Committee of Allison Mickel, Herb Wisner, Dan Gleason, and Viera Thompson. We will divide our 15-mile diameter Count Circle into 27 Areas. Each Area will have an expert birder serving as the Team Leader. Watch for more information in the December-January issue of The Quail, or contact Dick Lamster at 541.343.8664, or at maeveanddick@q.com. If you are a skilled birdwatcher, we could use your assistance and expertise. If you have participated in the past, we hope you will join us again this year. We have space for everyone.



November Program Meeting Bogoslof: The Island of Fire and Ice, by Ram Papish Tuesday, November 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