

The Mal

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News from Lane County Audubon Society

From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

Miraculous Avian Migrators!



ird migration is one of the true marvels of the natural world. Some 350 species of North American breeding birds make the arduous journey north to take advantage of burgeoning insect populations, budding plants, and an abundance of nesting locations. Often they follow the same route to their summer homes, year after year. Northern summers offer longer daylight hours and more insect food to help them nest, feed, and fledge their young in a short span of time-six to eight weeks! It is a very efficient process, even though they had to make the long trip north.

At our property in the south hills of Eugene, we welcome Tree Swallows and Violet-green Swallows to our nest boxes each year. As they set up their nests, the box choices are remarkably consistent year-to-year. The northwest corner of the property is primarily Tree Swallows and the southwest corner is Violet-green Swallow nests. The pattern has been this way for at least a decade. I surmise that the same birds, or their young, return each year and perpetuate the localized nest box choices.

Sometimes we have found a dead adult bird in a box shortly after its arrival. We assume the bird was exhausted and perhaps starved, but just made it back to its preferred nesting site with its last effort. These small birds struggle to reach the breeding territory through many challenges. Travel of two thousand

miles or more, winds and weather, searching for food and rest sites, exposure to predators and human-caused hazards make it a life-or-death struggle.

And yet, when they arrive on their breeding territory they fill the air with their songs and calls that sound like sheer joy. Their acrobatic flights and chases thrill us each day. The swallows build their nests and lay eggs. The egg incubation time is about 21 days, then for the next 21 days the parents hunt insects to feed their young. The chicks develop and grow quickly, until they are the same size as the adults. We are sometimes able to witness their successful fledge, when they leap from the nest box, closely followed by their parents and other swallows. The sky fills with local breeding swallows, excited to see the young out of the nest for the first time. We do indeed feel happy when we see this event each year.

The birds reward us by eating insects that could be mosquitos or pests in our fruit trees. It is so worth it, for them and for us!

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

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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Bees Continue to Need Our Help!

Te are pleased to announce that the City of Eugene and the University of Oregon have received official bee-friendly designation! The Bee City USA program (beecityusa.org) helps us institutionalize the community's commitment to pollinator protection, provides accountability, and helps raise awareness. The City of Eugene invests in the creation and restoration of native pollinator habitat. Eugene has banned neonicotinoid pesticides (particularly problematic for bees) from use on city property. Additionally, Eugene's Native Plant Nursery and neighborhood parks are pesticide-free. Lane County Audubon has joined the Eugene Pollinator Protection Committee in collaboration with the Xerces Society, Beyond Toxics, Walama Restoration Project, GloryBee, and the City of Eugene Parks and Open Spaces to protect our pollinators. By helping to protect native bees, we also secure resources, habitat, and health for our bird populations and other wildlife. A recent study highlighted the importance of native plants for birds by demonstrating a decline in a population of birds (the study subject was the Carolina chickadee) when residential yards contained less than 70 percent native plants.

Unfortunately, pollinator populations are declining dramatically. A 2017 report revealed that more than 700 species of native bees are in trouble. As for the nonnative honey bee, beekeepers have

lost an average of 38 percent of their hives each winter since 2010. The devastating declines can be attributed to loss of habitat and native plants, widespread use of pesticides, the spread of invasive species and diseases, and climate change. Why should we care? In general, 75-90 percent of flowering plants rely on animal pollinators, including insects like bees and butterflies and vertebrates like birds and bats. One out of every three bites of the food we eat is pollinated by bees. Bees pollinate about 75 percent of the most common crop species around the world. Pollinators add about \$217 billion to the global economy (more than \$24 billion in the U.S. alone). In addition, pollinators are responsible for functional ecosystems that support all life on earth.

Although most people are familiar with the introduced honeybee, it turns out that there are about 20,000 species of bees worldwide, with 500 species of bees in Oregon alone. These hard-working bees include species such as mason bees, sweat bees, mining bees, carpenter bees, longhorned bees, and cuckoo bees. Most of these bees are solitary, with each female constructing her own nest and foraging for nectar and pollen to provision her offspring. With no hive to defend, these bees are gentle. Even the social native bees (like some bumblebees) are not particularly aggressive and rarely sting. Native bees are more efficient pollinators than honeybees. According to one



statistic, to successfully pollinate an acre of apples, 250 blue orchard bees can do the work of about 15,000 honeybees. In addition, some native bees are able to forage in colder and wetter conditions than honey bees. Researchers have found that sustainable crop production relies on farms having several different species of native bees. Crops like tomatoes, peppers, cranberries, and blueberries require buzz pollination, a service provided by bumblebees, which vibrate flight muscles at just the right frequency to get the flowers to release a burst of pollen.

With the many problems facing our planet today, people often throw up their hands thinking that there is nothing they can personally do to effect change. Bees and birds flit and can take advantage of habitat patches throughout our communities. Along with native habitat in our city parks, informed people throughout our community can have pollinator patches in their gardens or flowering plants in their window boxes to provide the connectivity on which pollinators rely. We sincerely believe that this is one area where individuals in our community can come together to make a difference.



Field Notes: March 2019

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

Hooded Oriole, Short-eared Owl, Mountain Bluebird, Harris's Sparrow

ell, March started with quite the "winter wonderland"—more than a foot of snow in Eugene/Springfield! And went out on a warm, sunny weekend with wildflowers and migrants starting to show up! As you can see by the notes, most of the early spring migrants have arrived with a few unexpected surprises. For example, Say's Phoebes, which used to be an early spring migrant in very small numbers, have turned into a common wintering species in small numbers and a common migrant in amazing numbers.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)



Hooded Oriole



Short-eared Owl

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

Snow Goose	Mar 31	FRR - Royal Ave	RR	Getting late for this species
Cinnamon Teal (pair)	Mar 17	Junction City area	RR	Normal arrival time for non-wintering birds
Harlequin Duck	Mar 26	Tokatee Klootchman	AC,et al	Still at their wintering area
Harlequin Duck (pair)	Mar 26	Oakridge - Salmon Ck	MLS	On their breeding grounds
Black Scoter (2)	Mar 26	Tokatee Klootchman	AC,et al	One of the best wintering sites in Lane Co
Long-tailed Duck	March	Florence - oldtown	DF	Still being seen throughout the month
Common Goldeneye	Mar 16	Mt Pisgah	JF,MD	Unusual location, but seen last year also
Band-tailed Pigeon	Mar 2	SW of Eugene	MS	First report for the valley
Sandhill Crane	Mar 4	Springfield	AT	Heard overhead at night— normal timing
Black-necked Stilt (2)	Mar 31	FRR - Fisher Butte	RR	At early end of arrivals
Lesser Yellowlegs (5)	Mar 24	Meadowlark Prairie	AC,et al	Large number for so early
Short-eared Owl	Mar 20	FRR - Royal Ave	RW	Only report for the winter!

WOODPECKERS TO GROSBEAKS

Yellow-billed Sapsucker (imm)	Mar 15	Honeyman State Park	MK	Last seen at this location
Yellow-billed Sapsucker	Mar 26	Royal Ave area	NS	Rare— breeding plumage male
Black Phoebe (pair)	Mar 12	Waite Ranch	DF	Starting to nest
Say's Phoebe				
Say's Phoebe	Mar 19	Blue River	CT	
Say's Phoebe (8)	Mar 19	Oakridge	AC,et al	
				Two weeks earlier than earliest date!
Horned Lark (5)	Mar 11	Oakridge	MLS	Unusual in this area
Violet-green Swallow	Mar 8	Delta Ponds	fide BN	Later than normal
No. Rough-winged Swallow	Mar 18	Oakridge	JL,TL	Normal arrival time
Cliff Swallow	Mar 26	Kirk Pond	SH	Normal arrival time
Barn Swallow	Mar 23	Creswell area	NS	Normal arrival time
Sedge Wren	Mar 21	Waite Ranch	DF	Last seen
Mountain Bluebird (pair)	Mar 3	FRR - Fisher Butte	KG	Rare in the valley—seen through mid-month
Pine Siskin				
Lapland Longspur	Mar 11	Oakridge	MLS	
Chipping Sparrow (3)				
Chipping Sparrow	Mar 31	Knight Rd	BC	Right on time
Brewer's Sparrow	Mar 23	Creswell area	NS	Rare— normally found in late summer
Vesper Sparrow	Mar 19	Oakridge	AC,et al	
Swamp Sparrow	Mar 26	Waite Ranch	DF	Still being heard in the area
				Large number for one location
Harris's Sparrow	Mar 7	Royal Ave area	DJ	

WOODPECKERS TO GROSBEAKS CONT.

Orange-crowned Warbler	Mar 12	West Lawn Cemetery	SH	
Orange-crowned Warbler	Mar 23	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	First spring migrant— everywhere on Mar 26
Palm Warbler	Mar 26	West Lake State Park.	AC,et al	Still being found
Common Yellowthroat	Mar 20	W Eugene wetlands	BB	About a week earlier than normal
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Mar 31	FRR - Fisher Butte	RR	Right on time
Western Meadowlark (5)	Mar 11	Oakridge	MLS	
Hooded Oriole	Mar 31	Florence	DF	Rare— photo in mid-Dec—just refound
Bullock's Oriole (3)	Mar 8	Florence	DF	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Mar 4	Eugene	ST	Rare— photo posted to Facebook

AC Alan Contreras, AT Alby Thoumsin, BC Barbara Combs, BB Brian Brodenick, BN Bruce Newhouse, CT Cindy Tofflemoyer, DF Daniel Farrar, DJ Dave Jones, JL Joshua Little, JF Judy Franzen, KG Kara Greer, MS Maeve Sowles, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, MD Meer Deiters, MK Michael Karpinko, NS Noah Strycker, RW Rebecca Waterman, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, ST Sreedhar Thakkum, TL Terry Little, VT Vjera Thompson. Fide references a sighting reported to the listed observer.



Rose Britton presenting at Springfield Public Library

Thanks to Rose Britton

Many thanks to Rose Britton for presenting an "Introduction to Birdwatching" for kids at the Springfield Public Library. Rose was assisted by LaRue Rodgers, Lauri Costa, Janet Barnes, and Rose's niece. During her excellent presentation, she managed to keep all 61 attendees interested in learning about birds. Perhaps some new birders were inspired that day.

New Nature-Oriented Event Calendar for Adults

This spring, Nearby Nature began hosting Rick's List! on its website: nearbynature.org/ricks-list/ It is a collection of local nature education events for adults, maintained by Rick Ahrens, a Nearby Nature volunteer. You may have met Rick—he does programs and trainings for many local nature groups. The calendar is updated regularly, but you are encouraged to confirm details for events you plan to attend.

FMI: nearbynature.org/contact-us or 541.687.9699, Ext 1

Volunteer Breeding Bird Surveyor Needed

If you can identify most of this region's birds by sound, the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) would be grateful for just a couple days of your time this year, between late May and early July. There are two routes within about an hour's drive of Eugene where volunteers are needed: Green (west of Roseburg) and Blue River (east of Springfield). Locations of these and other "Vacant Routes" can be viewed by zooming in on the Oregon map at pwrc.usgs. gov/bbs/RouteMap/Map.cfm. Or contact Paul Adamus for details, adamus7@comcast.net

Booth Set-Up Volunteer Needed

If you'd like to help Lane Audubon in a big way but don't have a lot of time available, here is a great chance to get involved.

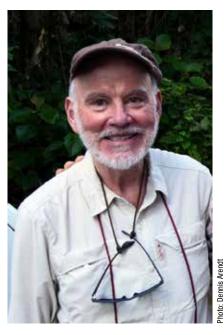
The booth set-up/take-down volunteer delivers and erects our portable booth, tables, and display materials at event and festival sites, and then dismantles them after the event is over. Set-up and take-down require only an hour or two of your time, usually on a Saturday morning and early Sunday evening, a few times a year. If you enjoy being out and about 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 but not required.

Orientation and training for the booth set-up position 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 this opportunity, please call Ron Renchler at 541.345.0834 or e-mail christyandron2@gmail.com.

Program Meeting, Tuesday, May 28, 7:30 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541,221,3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

Kangaroo Paws, Donkey Ears, and **Frogmouths: Wildflowers and Birds of Southwestern Australia with Bob Fleming**



ast September (spring in ✓ the southern hemisphere), Bob Fleming visited Australia's southwestern region. Join us for an evening journey, as he shares some of what he experienced there.

An island continent for some 45 million years, it is no surprise that Australia features a splendid assortment of unique mammals and birds. The western edge of the country, separated from the rest of Australia by extensive deserts, might almost be considered a botanical island. The Southwest Botanical Region alone, which is a third larger than Oregon, is home to some 8,000 species of plants, of which 80 percent are endemic. And these plants support a number of birds and other animals, including Black Cockatoos, Western

Rosellas, and mound-building Malleefowl. Mammals and reptiles found here include Gray Kangaroos and Spiny Echidnas, plus venomous Western Brown and Red-bellied snakes.

At a casual glance, much of Australia's southwest landscape is rather uninspiring, with limited trees, drab bushes, and no great vistas of colorful wildflowers. Uninspiring, that is, until one looks more closely and realizes that every few miles there is yet another species of spider orchid, or carnivorous sundew, or Banksia.

The plants that flourish here have adapted to the nutrient-poor soils and almost annual fires that sweep over the ground. Most plants sprout from underground bulbs or tubers once the fire has passed, while others feature thick lignite, almost fireproof bark. The saving feature for the plant and animal life in the southwest is the humid wind that blows in from the Indian and Southern Oceans. The moisture captured by the Stirling Range provides enough rain to allow this astonishing array of species to prosper.

Bob, a zoologist-naturalist, has organized and led natural history tours to many biological regions of the world. On this, his fifth visit to Australia, he traveled with friends, two of whom were from Eugene.



New Holland Honeyeater



Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo



Banksia Coccinea

LCAS Board Elections Notice

Lane County Audubon Society Board elections will be held at the May 28th program meeting.

The slate of candidates are all incumbents: Ramiro Aragon, Rachael Friese, Jim Maloney, Ron Renchler, Debra Schlenoff, Maeve Sowles, and Rebecca Waterman.



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 July/August issue: June 1

September issue: August 3

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	GILV STATE ZID
☐ Lifetime Membership \$400	\$
$\hfill \square$ I want to do more. Here's my tax-deductible contribution for	
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To pay by PayPal, go to laneaudubon.org/support/join	☐ I would prefer to receive the e-Quail 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.☐ 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 Legacy progra	

Community Calendar and Events

A service to Lane County Audubon Society members



Coast Fork Birders

Saturday, May 11, 8 am -10 am Bikes to Blooms Wildflower Event, Morning Bird Walk

On International Migratory Bird Day, Bikes to Blooms features activities for families and nature enthusiasts, including guided wildflower walks, stewardship opportunities, educational booths hosted by local organizations, and a morning bird walk at 8 am. Gather at Bake Stewart Park, on the eastern end of Dorena Reservoir in Cottage Grove.

FMI: facebook.com/events/1975390612755900/ or 541.767.9717



Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, May 12, 8 am -11 am Bird Walk

Joni Dawning and Julia Siporin lead this monthly bird walk intended for people with all levels of birding experience. They'll use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of spring migrants and yearround 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

Tuesday, May 14, 10 am -11:30 am Green Start Play Day: Mighty Mamas

Celebrating moms in nature, participants will explore nests and eggs, learning about local animal babies and the mothers who raise them. For kids 5 and under only, with an adult. Rain or shine! Members free, non-members \$5. Pre-register nearbynature.org/events/or call 541.687.9699.



Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, May 19, 10 am - 5 pm Wildflower and Music Festival

Hundreds of local wildflower species on display, live music, nature walks, Art in Nature Trail, kids' activities, a plant sale, food booths, and local arts and craft vendors. Cosponsored by LCC and the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Free parking. Suggested donation \$10, Arboretum members free.



Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, May 20, 7 pm Eugene Birders' Night

Kit Larsen and Dennis Arendt will show photos and videos from their trip to Central Columbia, where the Andes mountains split into three ranges with ecologically diverse habitats. Their group saw more than 400 species, including often secretive antpittas and 55 species of hummingbirds. Location: Historic McNail-Riley house, 601 W 13th Ave, Eugene. Park in the five spaces closest to the M-R house, or across 13th in the fairgrounds parking lot. All are welcome to attend this free monthly event.

FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com



UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History

Friday, May 31, 5:30 pm -7:30 pm Peregrine Exhibit Opening Weekend

LCAS members are invited to the exhibit preview reception, Friday, May 31, 5:30-7:30 pm. Grand opening weekend for the general public is Saturday and Sunday, June 1-2, 11 am-5 pm. The exhibit will be on display through September 29, at 1680 E. 15th Ave., Eugene. After the opening reception, fees vary. Check the website.

FMI: natural-history.uoregon.edu/exhibits or 541.346.3024



Bee City and Bee Campus

Sunday, June 9, 10 am - 3 pm All ages and experience levels are

invited to join the bee celebration at Alton Baker Park. Various activities throughout the day include a bee survey, pollinator information, a bike tour, a native plant tour, food booths, vendors, crafts, and kid's activities. LCAS is one of the sponsors. FMI: our webpage: laneaudubon.org, or the LCAS Facebook page.



Nearby Nature

June 19-August 30 Week-long, nature-focused

summer daycamps for kids, ages 3-13, clustered in 5 age groups.

FMI: nearbynature.org/daycamps or 541.687.9699

What You Can Do to **Support Pollinators:**

- Get involved. Raise awareness. Spread the word about the importance of pollinators.
- Volunteer to help the city maintain native habitat.
- Support suppliers of pesticidefree native plants. Make sure that the plants you purchase aren't treated with pesticides.
- Feed hummingbirds by combining four parts hot water to one part white sugar, boiled for one to two minutes. Don't use honey, natural or artificial sweeteners, or red dye. Keep feeders clean.

In the garden:

- Provide diverse and abundant native pollinator plants.
- Plant various flowering natives that bloom in succession throughout the growing season. For lists of native pollinator plants and bloom times, see salixassociates.com /resources.html
- Provide clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling.
- Provide undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, unmowed areas, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering of wild pollinators. You can also make or purchase native bee nesting boxes.
- Avoid the use of chemicals in the garden. Use pesticide-free materials and plants.
- Allow some mess in your yard and reconsider having a manicured lawn.



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LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org

Third Saturday Bird Walks

Saturday, May 18, 8 am; Saturday, June 15, 8 am In May, Maitreya will lead a walk at Perkins Peninsula. In June, Tom and Allison Mickel will lead a walk at the Willamette Confluence of the Nature Conservancy reserve. Details will be posted on the LCAS Facebook page: facebook. com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824, and on the website: laneaudubon.org.

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars, if you have them. To carpool, meet at 8 am 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 fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org

Global Big Day 2019



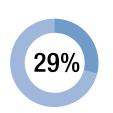
Saturday, May 4

It's that time of year again! Get ready to spend an entire day in the field, trying to record as many species as possible. Last year, more than 30,000 citizen scientists helped to record more than 7,000 species in a single 24-hour period. Our LCAS team plans to follow the same general route as in previous years. It will include Skinner's Butte, Alton Baker Park, Fern Ridge, various spots at the coast, and any other hotspots with potential to produce exciting birds.

If you are not able to commit to a full day of birding, no problem! You can spend as much time with the group as you like. Even ten minutes spent in your backyard is extremely helpful! Check out the ebird site at https:// tinyurl.com/y25mfspg for more information. Email fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org for more information on how to join the team!



May Program Meeting Kangaroo Paws, Donkey Ears, and Frogmouths: Wildflowers and Birds of Southwestern Australia with Bob Fleming Tuesday, May 28, 7:30 pm Eugene Garden Club 1645 High St., Eugene



Join your fellow 29% of Lane County Audubon Society members who help save paper and postage by receiving The Quail electronically.

Contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com