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The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

Summer to Fall Transition—Reminders of Earth’s Rhythms



Photo: Jim Maloney

Lane County enjoyed wondrous weather this summer. We had blue skies, moderate temperatures, and small amounts of rain at intervals, keeping the deciduous plants lush and green through August. Now that fall has arrived, we will see the progression of fall colors in the leaves. Fall colors in Oregon are not as famous as those of the northeast, but the stately backdrop

of evergreen trees creates a contrast for the yellows and oranges of our deciduous canopy of ash, alder, oak, willow, and big-leaf maple. The understory of vine maple and poison oak adds splashes of reds.

Another bonus of our lovely summer weather is the bountiful harvest of fruits and vegetables we enjoy this time of year. In the fall I keep very busy trying to cope with our apples and pears that fill my refrigerator, countertops, and garage as they ripen. And I work to preserve their sweet summer flavors for later use. I always plant too many tomatoes and they also ripen late in the season, due to our garden elevations of almost 1,000 feet. While it is work to process all these gifts of the garden, I’m truly

grateful for their healthy nutrition in my diet.

For autumn birding, we have the return of mountain birds to the lower elevations. Obviously some birds migrate south, but others simply move into lower altitudes like the Willamette Valley. This is true of the Belted Kingfisher, Varied Thrush, Northern Flicker, Pacific Wren, the two kinglets, and Harlequin Ducks (who return to coastal waters). We will also see the return of some of the northern-breeding birds, such as Golden-crowned Sparrow and Fox Sparrow, plus many ducks, and shorebirds who will remain in the Willamette Valley until next spring.

The transitions to fall and then winter give us a sense of the larger workings of the natural world. In this human era of stress and conflict and uncertainty, we need to take the pulse of the natural world. We need to remember the rhythms of the earth moving around the sun, and how we depend on this wonderful planet, the blue-green Earth, our home.

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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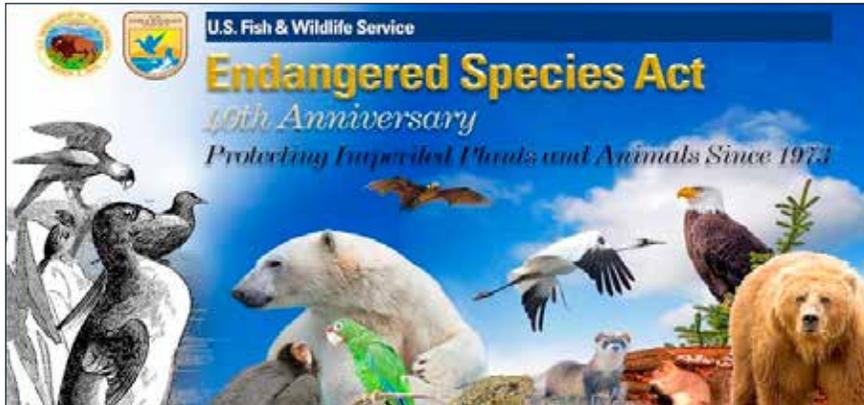


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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

The Endangered Species Act Is Itself Endangered



The Endangered Species Act is one of America's most effective and important environmental laws. Since its passage in 1973, the Act has enabled the recovery of several at-risk species including the Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, humpback whale, Virginia flying squirrel, and the Oregon chub, among others. The ESA was established with overwhelming bipartisan support during the Nixon administration and has consistently enjoyed the support of more than 80 percent of Americans ever since. Although less than 2 percent of listed species have actually been delisted, a more telling measure is that this law has prevented the extinction of almost all of the species that have been listed. This is a vital accomplishment, given that a recent U.N. report found that about a million species on the planet are facing extinction due to human activity, and that organisms of all kinds (from birds to insects, terrestrial organisms to marine life) are disappearing at a rate that is

alarmingly higher than the average for the previous 10 million years.

Unfortunately, the current administration has recently announced plans that would undermine the effectiveness of the Act. Among the concerning changes are a reduction in protections for species that will be listed as "threatened," one step down from the "endangered" category. One of the biggest criticisms of the ESA in the past has been that species must wait until they are in dire straits to be afforded protection. Studies in conservation biology have demonstrated time and time again that the deeper into the extinction vortex a species goes, the more difficult it is to recover it. Providing protection to threatened species was the best tactic to have a fighting chance of tangible recovery. The proposed change is counterproductive, to say the least.

Other changes will allow economic assessments when considering whether a species should be listed, a policy

contrary to the original and current practice of making scientifically based decisions. The way that critical habitat is calculated for endangered species will also be altered, threatening their recovery. Further, there will be a change in how the term "foreseeable future" will be defined, leading to uncertainty and a lack of consideration of the consequences of climate change. How can you help a species recover if you cannot establish protection of the habitat that they need to survive into the future?

Announcements of the administration's modifications have been accompanied by the argument that these changes will remove burdens on people. This is fallacious as there have already been several amendments to the Act that protect small landowners and allow for all kinds of exemptions. The reality is that these changes align with other administration policies that allow for more oil and gas drilling, mining, and development in places where protected species live. We are in the midst of a public lands giveaway that will result in profit for a few at the expense of many.

We humans are dependent on healthy functioning ecosystems in which organisms support other organisms in an amazingly complex web of life. Allowing this web to continue unraveling at such a rapid pace places us firmly among those species whose futures are endangered.



Field Notes: August 2019

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

Long-billed Curlew, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Franklin's Gull, Williamson's Sapsucker

August is a normal month as far as the weather, maybe a little cooler. As is normal for August, the migration is picking up, especially for shorebirds. They always seem to be in a hurry to get south, and for some of them that means southern South America!

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



Long-billed Curlew

Photo: Mike Baird, wiki commons



Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel

Photo: Caleb Putnam, wiki commons

WATERFOWL TO PELICANS

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|------------------|----------|---|
| Ruddy Duck (adult & juv) | Aug 8 | Gold Lake | KL | Rare breeding record for Lane Co |
| Red-necked Grebe | Aug 20 | SJSR | SMa,TL | Early for this wintering species |
| American Avocet (2) | Aug 28 | FRR - Royal | RN | First report for FRR this year |
| Golden-Plover species | Aug 25 | FRR - Royal | LG | Reported as both species over a few days |
| Long-billed Curlew | Aug 29 | FRR - Royal | RR,et al | Rare in Lane Co |
| Marbled Godwit (6) | Aug 28 | Heceta Beach | AC,et al | Small numbers migrate through in fall |
| Ruddy Turnstone (3) | Aug 7 | Heceta Beach | DF | Small numbers migrate through in fall |
| Red Knot | Aug 28 | FRR - Royal | RN | Rare inland in Lane Co |
| Ruff | Aug 28 | FRR - Royal | RN | Almost annual during fall migration |
| Sanderling | Aug 17 | FRR - Royal | JL | Rare away from the coast |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | Aug 17 | FRR - Royal | JL,MP | First report for fall migration |
| Solitary Sandpiper | Aug 28 | Dog Pond - SJSR | AC,et al | Found in very small numbers in the fall |
| Wandering Tattler (12) | Aug 22 | NJSR | JL | Large number for Lane Co |
| Parasitic Jaeger | Aug 28 | Stonefield Beach | AC,et al | Normal time for their migration south |
| Ancient Murrelet (2) | Aug 9 | Ocean Beach SP | EL-H | Very rare breeding season report |
| Bonaparte's Gull | Aug 15 | FRR - Royal | BC | First report for fall migration |
| Franklin's Gull (2) | Aug 13 | FRR - Royal | SH | Rare sighting for Lane Co |
| Black Tern (2) | Aug 21 | FRR - Royal | JS,NS | Last report for the breeding season |
| Common Tern (2) | Aug 21 | FRR | TL | Small numbers most late summers at FRR |
| Common Tern (2) | Aug 29 | SJSR - crab dock | KL,SMc | Small numbers migrating along the coast |
| Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel | Aug 12 | SJSR | LW,et al | Very rarely seen from land in Lane Co |
| American White Pelican | Aug 7 | Heceta Beach | DP | First report of this species from the coast |

WOODPECKERS TO BUNTINGS

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|----------------------|-------|---|
| Lewis's Woodpecker | Aug 23 | Waldo Lake | GM | Normal migration time through high Cascades |
| Williamson's Sapsucker | Aug 23 | Waldo Lake | GM | Rare in Lane Co |
| Merlin | Aug 20 | FRR | RR | First report for this wintering species |
| House Wren | Aug 31 | Wild Iris Ridge | JL | Last report for the breeding season |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | Aug 25 | Mt Pisgah | JH | Still being reported after breeding |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | Aug 19 | FRR | SH,VB | First report from the "low lands" |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | Aug 29 | Box Canyon | A&TM | Still singing, high Cascades breeding grounds |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | Aug 16 | Westlake County Park | DR | Rare along the coast |
| Bullock's Oriole | Aug 1 | FRR - Royal | FT | Last report for the breeding season |

WOODPECKERS TO BUNTINGS CONT.

Bullock's OrioleAug 1Mt PisgahSH Last report for the breeding season
Hermit WarblerAug 18.....Diamond Peak area.....FT Last report for the breeding season
Lazuli Bunting.....Aug 17.....West Eugene wetlands.....VT..... Last report for the breeding season

AC Alan Contreras, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, BC Barbara Combs, DF Daniel Farrar, DP Diane Pettey, DR Doug Robinson, EL-H Elizabeth Laver-Holencik, FT Forest Tomlinson, GM Gerry Meenaghan, JH Jennifer Haynes, JL Joshua Little, JS John Sullivan, KL Kit Larsen, LG Linda Gilbert, LW Liam Waters, MP Magnus Persmark, NS Nancy Stotz, RN Russ Namitz, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, SMa Sylvia Maulding, SMc Scott McNeely, TL Terry Little, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson.

Seeking Sponsors for Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures is back with a brand new learning kit for the 2019-2020 school year! “Sharing Our World with Birds” is the newest kit offered by Audubon Adventures. Teachers have started placing their orders and can't wait to share the new material with students! This year's kit includes the following three topics:

- **Sharing Our Shores** – For many kinds of birds, beaches are places to nest and raise their young or to rest and refuel on long migratory journeys.
- **Seabirds: Feathered Ocean Mariners** – Seabirds come in a wide variety of sizes and shapes, and they have a fascinating array of adaptations for spending most of their lives on water.
- **Raptors! The Birds of Prey** – Owls, eagles, hawks, harriers, falcons, ospreys, and kites—the diverse

and charismatic birds in this group share physical features that make them the hunters of the sky.

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 free 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 at: 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!



Volunteer Opportunity: Bike Path Cleanup Coordinator

Help us coordinate a twice per year cleanup of our piece of the West Eugene bike path. Lane County Audubon adopted the west end (about five miles) of West Eugene's Fern Ridge Bike Path. The goal is to help keep Eugene's waterways an inviting habitat for wildlife, plus a safe and clean area for recreation. The volunteer coordinator will pick the date and organize the day's activity. We will help with recruitment and publicity!

FMI or if you're interested in volunteering, contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or audubon@laneaudubon.org

Program Meeting, Tuesday, October 22, 7:30 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

The Brown Bears of Hokkaido, Japan: From Gods, to Pests, to Neighbors in 200 years



Joe Moll

A presentation by Joe Moll, who has served as the executive director of the McKenzie River Trust since January of 2005.

Hokkaido is the northernmost of Japan's four main islands. In addition to the metropolis of Sapporo, home to 1.8 million people, the island also hosts several thousand brown bears, or higura, which are directly related to the

grizzly bears of North America. Higura were celebrated and revered by the native Ainu people through the late 19th century. But in the early 20th century, the bears were seen as a dangerous embarrassment by the Japanese government, which had become intent on western-style economic development. Despite tremendous efforts to eradicate the bears, great numbers of higura persist in close proximity to people. Joe will trace some of that history and discuss efforts today to coexist with bears in Hokkaido and other parts of Japan.

Previous to his current position, Joe worked mostly with grizzly bears and landowners in Montana and Hokkaido, northern Japan. When he's not working with and for the Trust, he likes to spend as much time as he

can running trails and exploring new places outdoors with his wife and three boys. In 1993 Joe conducted research on the history of bear-human interactions in Hokkaido, Japan, for his master's thesis. He returned to Hokkaido in 1999 for two more years of work with wildlife and land managers. He continues to maintain contacts with his former colleagues there, consulting at times on conservation and public outreach efforts.

The Trust is a non-profit organization founded to protect riparian areas on the McKenzie River that are vital to the river's biological integrity and water quality. This goal has now expanded to include lands along other rivers in our area.



Photo: Joe Moll

Higura

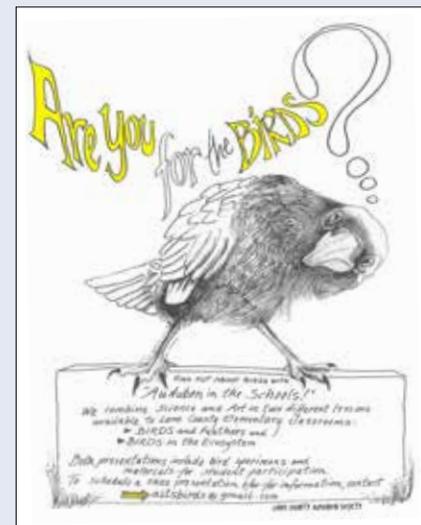
Looking for: AITS Volunteers and Classrooms That Want AITS Visits

Audubon in the Schools (AITS) has been popular and well-received in the Lane County schools since spring of 2005 when Kris Kirkeby developed this teaching program. Last school year we visited 19 schools, and gave 44 presentations to 1085 students! We want to continue bringing this special program to grade school classrooms.

If you are a teacher and want to sign up for a class visit, please schedule with Barb Pope at aitsbirds@gmail.com

If you are interested in volunteering with this program contact Maeve Sowles at audubon@laneaudubon.org

Our core group of seven volunteers are eager to get back into classrooms, and they would love to welcome new volunteers. Training is provided, and we typically have at least two people working together during each class session. Several requests for fall-term class sessions have already been received.



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: October 1
Dec/Jan issue: November 1

Submit material to Karen Irmischer at quailkaren1@gmail.com

Nine issues published per year (Feb., Mar., Apr., May-June, July-Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec.-Jan.)

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Lane County Audubon Society Welcomes You—Join or Renew Today!

We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. Your membership dues for National Audubon Society no longer fully cover the costs of a membership in your local chapter. Your local dues stay here to help us work on local education projects and conservation issues related to birds and their habitats. With your support, we will continue to do the things you expect from us. We welcome your suggestions—this is your Audubon! We appreciate your support. — *Maeve Sowles, President*

Lane Audubon Membership Benefits

- *The Quail*—9 issues/yr.
- Field trips and bird walks
- Program meetings
- Educational publications
- Conservation issue representation
- Answers to questions: 541.485.BIRD
- Website: laneaudubon.org

Lane County Audubon Society Yearly Membership

- Individual \$20.....\$ _____
- Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15.....\$ _____
- Family \$25.....\$ _____
- Lifetime Membership \$400.....\$ _____
- I want to do more. Here's my tax-deductible contribution for\$ _____
- Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society).....\$ _____

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

I am a Current National Audubon member Don't know

Please contact me regarding

Gift memberships Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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I would prefer to receive the e-Quail newsletter by e-mail.

I would like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

I would like to volunteer for Lane County Audubon activities.

Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organizations. We will use it only for Lane County Audubon Society communications.

Mail this form and your payment to: Lane County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

Community Calendar and Events

A service to Lane County Audubon Society members



10/8 Nearby Nature

October 8, 10 am-11:30 am

Green Start Play Day: Creatures of the Night

Enjoy outdoor nature play plus toddler and pre-school activities and stories — this month about creatures of the night. Rain or shine! Kids 5 and under only, with an adult. Members free, non-members \$5/family.

FMI or to preregister: 541.687.9699, ext 2 or nearbynature.org

10/8 Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, October 8, 10 am-4 pm

Oaks for the Land, Acorns for the People.

Heron Brae teaches this workshop covering the ecological and historic role of oaks in relation to the natural environment and humans. Participants will practice techniques for making traditional food from acorns. Meet at the Arboretum 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.

FMI or to register: 541.747.3817 or mountpisgaharboretum.com/workshop-registration

10/12 Nearby Nature

Saturday, October 12, 1 pm-3 pm

Citizen Science Saturday: Blight, Blister, Blotch

Join us for citizen science investigations, including data collection, observations, and photography focused on end-of-season garden and compost fungi. Event open to all but designed especially for adults. If you have a smartphone or a camera, please bring it to

take pictures. Members free, non-members \$5. Meet on the Water Wise Garden Patio outside the Alton Baker Park Host Residence.

FMI or to preregister: nearbynature.org

Friends of Douglas-fir National

10/12 Monument

Saturday, October 12, 8:30 am-6 pm

Auto-tour on the Quartzville Creek Backcountry Byway, featuring fall color. Little or no hiking. Participants will receive specific instructions when they register.

FMI or to register: Dave Stone, dns@efn.org

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

10/13

Sunday, October 13, 8 am-11 am

Bird Walk

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for a monthly bird walk appropriate for people with all levels of birding experience. They use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of fall migrants and year-round residents. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

FMI: mountpisgaharboretum.com

Eugene Natural History Society

10/18

Friday, October 18, 7:30 pm

Jesse D'Elia, lead author of the book *California Condors in the Pacific Northwest* (OSU Press) will share insights on this topic along with other endangered species recovery efforts. Location: 100 Willamette Hall on the UO campus.

FMI: pages/uoregon.edu/enhs

Coast Fork Birders

10/19

Saturday, October 19, 9 am-11 am

Big Day Fall Bird Walk

Julie Parker will lead this walk at My Brothers' Farm, 84674 Cloverdale Rd., Creswell. The location is a Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council restoration project site. Species observed will contribute to the Global Big Day.

FMI: [facebook.com/events/2301227223331033/](https://www.facebook.com/events/2301227223331033/)

10/20

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, October 20, 1 pm-3 pm

Scarecrow Building and Pumpkin-Carving Workshop

Get ready for the Mushroom Festival's Scarecrow Contest at this fun, family-oriented event. Scarecrows made at the workshop can be entered in the Festival's Scarecrow Contest for free, or used to decorate your yard. 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 Arboretum's White Oak Pavilion. Don't forget your parking pass.

10/21

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, October 21, 7 pm

Eugene Birders' Night

Attendees will share recent bird sightings and discuss birding-related topics. 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

10/27

Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, October 27, 10 am-5 pm

Mushroom Festival

Enjoy 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 \$10, Arboretum members free.

FMI: mountpisgaharboretum.com/festivals-events/mushroom-festival-2019/ or 541.741.4110





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See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org

Third Saturday Bird Walks

Saturday, October 19, 8 am

Nick Paget will lead a walk at the Bertelson Nature Park, near Wallis and 5th Avenue. To get there, take 1st Avenue to Wallis. Take Wallis to 5th, and park near that intersection. Do not park near Euphoria Chocolate as that is too far from our starting point. 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 Rebecca.waterman@gmail.com.



Photo by Rebecca Waterman of September Third Saturday walk, at South Jetty, Florence

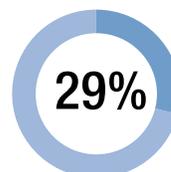


October Program Meeting

The Brown Bears of Hokkaido, Japan
with Joe Moll

Tuesday, October 22, 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