

The Mal

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News from Lane County Audubon Society

From Our Treasurer

Ron Renchler, 541.345.0834, christyandron2@gmail.com

Support the Birds ... and LCAS

By now, you may have heard the discouraging news, first published in the journal *Science*, about severely declining bird populations. When our members hear these reports, they often ask: How can I make a difference?

Among many possible answers (see page 2), two short ones are especially important. First, vote, and, second, support Lane County Audubon Society.

Your opportunity and duty to vote—both locally and nationally—occurs periodically, and you can show your support for birds by voting for individuals and initiatives that align with LCAS's mission and values.

Another thing you can do is to support LCAS. While we welcome donations at any time, we limit our fundraising appeal to the November issue of *The Quail*, when we ask

members to make a tax-deductible donation, large or small, to fund our education and outreach programs. We are an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization and have no paid staff members, so all funding goes directly toward the material costs of running our programs. In addition to their gift, many LCAS members choose to renew their local memberships at this time, too.

LCAS believes that education is critical in raising awareness about the value and importance of birds, so we have two robust school programs run by energetic volunteers: Audubon in the Schools and Audubon Adventures. Nine times a year, we offer an evening program with talks by experts who focus on birds and conservation. We stage monthly bird walks to local hotspots to help

our members identify and learn about the birds that grace our area. Each year at the end of December, hundreds of local birders turn out for the annual Christmas Bird Count. The data collected on that day are used by researchers to track bird populations at the local, national, and international level.

For the past several years, LCAS has been a major sponsor of the Willamette Valley Bird Symposium at Oregon State University, where scientists from throughout the region report on their state-of-the-art research. This fall, LCAS is hosting a meeting of the Oregon Audubon Council, where board members from Audubon chapters throughout the state gather to identify and act on the most pressing statewide needs for bird conservation and education.

That's just a small sampling of the ways your gift to LCAS helps birds thrive. Please use the envelope in this issue to mail your gift, or visit laneaudubon.org/support/join to give online. Thank you for caring about birds and their continued well-being.

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

How Can We Do a Better Job of Protecting Birds?

n article published in the A journal *Science* this month revealed that bird populations in North America have declined by 29 percent since 1970. That's a loss of about 3 billion birds! These population declines were documented in common bird species as well as species of concern. Indeed, people in our community have been contacting Lane County Audubon for years with concerns about the disappearance of many favorite backyard birds. Unfortunately, the study actually provides what is surely a conservative estimate of loss over time, in that it measured abundance since the 1970s, a period in which most native bird populations had already suffered steep declines.

Birds disappeared from grassland and forest habitat at the highest rates. Bird families hit the hardest are sparrows, warblers, finches, and blackbirds, including Oregon's state bird, the Western Meadowlark. Several recent scientific reports have provided comparable evidence including a United Nations assessment this spring that documented unprecedented global rates of biodiversity loss, indicating 1 million species at risk of extinction.

The disappearance of one in four birds in a mere 50 years should be a wake-up call for all of us. In addition to being fascinating and beautiful, birds are an important part of ecosystems, playing critical roles in

food webs and providing services such as pollination, seed dissemination, and insect control. Birds act as indicators of environmental health; we share their fate. It's all too easy, when problems reach crisis proportions, to bury our heads in the sand (ostriches don't actually do that). Instead, let's focus on solutions. As a community, we can unite in our efforts.

We are able to identify the main causes of bird decline: habitat loss, overuse of pesticides, climate change, and other human-caused hazards. We can address sources of direct humancaused mortality, such as collisions with buildings. Birds simply don't see glass as solid objects and are harmed when they attempt to fly through or land on reflections of vegetation in windows. We can use screen covers, closely spaced decals, or strings that hang over our windows. We can ask that new construction include fritted glass or special UV-reflecting glass to makes windows more visible to birds.

Lights in residential areas attract and disorient migrating birds. We can turn off unnecessary lights and use window coverings. Outdoor lights can be shielded and directed downward.

Several studies have indicated that outdoor cats are one of the largest sources of mortality for birds and other native wildlife. Cats should be kept indoors most of the time, and closely supervised when outside. It's a win-win given that, on average,



Western Meadowlark

indoor cats live longer and healthier

In our yards, let's replace lawns when possible with vegetation that supports birds. Garden with a diversity of native plants for birds and for pollinators. Don't poison the birds and the food that they rely upon. Avoid the use of chemical pesticides, rodenticides, and herbicides. Keep your gardens a little untidy; brush piles and snags support birds.

Consumer choices matter. We can decrease meat consumption and eat a more plant-based diet to reduce the destruction of habitat everywhere and to reduce greenhouse gases. Encourage hunters to use non-lead ammunition. Birds are poisoned by lead shot when they scavenge carcasses. When possible, eat organic food and purchase shade-grown coffee and cacao. This form of agriculture has been shown to support a greater abundance and diversity of birds. Reduce the use of plastics, especially one-time-use disposables, which find their way into the digestive tracts of birds and other animals.

We are fortunate in Oregon to have a diversity of ecosystems including some intact forests. Conserving forest habitat helps provide resources for struggling populations, while doubling as a natural solution for the reduction of atmospheric carbon that contributes to an unstable climate.

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Field Notes: September 2019

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

Hudsonian Godwit, Tufted Puffin, Pomarine Jaeger, Pink-footed Shearwater

his was a surprisingly wet and cool September! As is normal for fall migration, a number of unusual birds were found. It will be interesting to see what's found during the rest of the fall migration.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), South Eugene High School (SEHS), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR)



Hudsonian Godwit



Tufted Puffin

WATERFOWL TO HAWKS

Greater White-fronted Goose	Sept 18	SE Eugene	JG	First flocks heard migrating south
Greater White-fronted Goose	Sept 22	Eugene area	M.ob	Very large numbers migrating overhead!
Red-necked Grebe				
				Regular roosting spot during migration
Rufous Hummingbird	Sept 26	Eugene	DA	Last report for breeding season
Sandhill Crane (8)				
American Golden-Plover	Sept 28	FRR - Royal Ave	M.ob	Small numbers during migration
Pacific Golden-Plover				
Whimbrel	Sept 4	FRR - Royal Ave	TG-T	Small numbers during migration
Whimbrel (32)				
Whimbrel (30)	Sept 13	FRR - Royal Ave	TJ	Same or different flock?
Long-billed Curlew				
Hudsonian Godwit				
Red Knot	Sept 3	SJSR crab dock	AC,et al	Small numbers found during migration
Dunlin	Sept 19	FRR - Royal Ave	RR,JHo	First report for the winter
Solitary Sandpiper (2)	Sept 1	FRR - Royal Ave	PO	Small numbers are found during migration
Pomarine Jaeger	Sept 21	Siltcoos River mouth	AC,et al	Uncommon from shore
Parasitic Jaeger	Sept 3	Heceta Beach	AC,TJ	Not uncommon during fall migration
Cassin's Auklet				
Rhinoceros Auklet				
Tufted Puffin (2)	Sept 23	Heceta Head	SW	Rarely found along Lane coast
Sabine's Gull	Sept 3	Heceta Beach	AC,et al	Uncommon from shore
Western Gull				
Caspian Tern (2)				
Buller's Shearwater (3)	Sept 10	Siltcoos Beach	DF	Uncommonly seen from shore
Sooty Shearwater				
Pink-footed Shearwater (3)	Sept 17	Siltcoos Beach	DF	Uncommonly seen from shore
White-faced Ibis				
Swainson's Hawk	Sept 24	SE Eugene	JG	About twenty reports for Lane, rarely in fall

FLYCATCHERS TO GROSBEAKS

Olive-sided Flycatcher	Sept 20	Waldo Lake	CC,CKJ	Last report for the breeding season
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Sept 22	SE Eugene	TM	Last report for the breeding season
Willow Flycatcher	Sept 9	FRR	JS	Last report for the breeding season
Cassin's Vireo	Sept 12	Walterville Reservoir	VB	Last report for the breeding season
Warbling Vireo	1			1 0

FLYCATCHERS TO GROSBEAKS CONT.

Purple Martin	Sept 10	FRR - Royal Ave	RR	. Last report for the breeding season
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Sept 11	Mt Pisgah	JHa	. First report for the winter in the valley
House Wren	Sept 23	Springfield	JS	. Last report for the breeding season
Varied Thrush	Sept 19	Spencer Butte	RF	. First report for winter in the valley
Lapland Longspur	Sept 20	Siltcoos	DF	. Migrate through in small numbers
Lapland Longspur	Sept 23	FRR	KP	. Migrate through in small numbers
Fox Sparrow	Sept 6	N Eugene	CT	. First report for winter in the valley
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Sept 12	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	. First report for the winter
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Sept 6	FRR - Royal Ave	BMc	. Last report for the breeding season
Bobolink	Sept 8	FRR - Royal Ave	HH,et al	. Eighth record for Lane
Tricolored Blackbird	Sept 6	FRR - Royal Ave	SH	. Less than ten records for Lane
Black-and-White Warbler	Sept 1	Hillaire St	JSp	. About tenth record for Lane
Townsend's Warbler	Sept 18	River Rd area	BC	. First report from the valley
Hermit Warbler	Sept 14	Hardesty Mtn	JG	. Last report for the breeding season
Black-headed Grosbeak	Sept 21	Ridgeline Trail	TM	. Last report for the breeding season

AC Alan Contreras, BC Barbara Combs, BMc Barry McKenzie, CC Caleb Centanni, CKJ Courtney Kelly Jett, CM Collin McElroy, CT Charlie Thomas, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, EG Eughan Gormley, GM Gerry Meenaghan, HH Hendrik Herlyn, JG Joshua Galpern, JHa Jennifer Haynes, JHo John Houle, JS John Sullivan, JSp Josh Spice, KP Kenneth Phifer, PO Pam Otley, PR Peter Ralph, RF Rachael Friese, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, SW Steven Waltz, TG-T Torrey Gage-Tomlinson, TJ Tye Jeske, TM Tom Mickel, VB Vickie Buck. M.ob. many observers.

Conservation continued from page 2

Let your representatives know that you value public lands for the habitats they afford, and that you support bedrock environmental laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and The Endangered Species Act. Support action to improve energyefficiency in the transportation, industrial, and housing sectors. Demand policies that implement climate solutions. And vote!

Finally, bring friends and family outside to enjoy the splendor of birds. Let's take action right now to ensure that our youth get to enjoy birds in the future.

Volunteer Opportunities: 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

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 on an occasional basis.

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, November 26, 7:30 pm

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

India: Exotic Creatures and Captivating Culture with Ram Papish and Dawn Harris



Dawn Harris and Ram Papish

rom the heights of the snowcapped Himalayas to the steamy marshes of Rajasthan, India's exotic birds and captivating wildlife live side-by-side with a large and diverse human population. Come and see breathtaking images of the exotic birds and mammals of India presented by Ram Papish and Dawn Harris.

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.

Dawn Harris has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 20 years. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida and a Master of Science degree in Wildlife Biology from Oregon State University. For the past 18 years, she has served as the manager of the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex's visitor services program. Her interests include international travel, gardening, chicken keeping, birding, parrot rescue, and watching her husband perform theatrical acts.

Ram grew up in Eugene and now lives in Toledo, Oregon, on six wooded acres with his fabulous (Ram's adjective) 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.



Bengal tiger



Alexandrine parakeets



Painted storks

Recruiting Volunteers and Classrooms for Audubon in the Schools

Audubon in the Schools (AITS) has been popular and well-received in the Lane County schools. Last school year we visited 19 schools and gave 44 presentations to 1,085 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 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.



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 1 Feb issue: January 1

Submit material to Karen Irmscher at quailkaren1@gmail.com

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

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

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

Lane Audubon Membership Benefits

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

☐ 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	
Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society)	
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 program	

Community Calendar and Events

A service to Lane County Audubon Society members



Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, November 9, 10 am-3 pm 12th Annual Play in the Rain Day

Looking for something fun to do with your family on a rainy (or possibly sunny) Saturday? Activities include tree climbing, hikes, crafts. hayrides, and more. Typical attendance is 1,000 to 2,000 people. Parking is free on this day, courtesy of Lane County Parks.

FMI: mountpisgaharboretum.com/festivalsevents/play-in-the-rain-day/ or Jenny Laxton at 541.741.4110



Sunday, November 10, 8 am-11 am Bird Walk

Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for another monthly bird walk intended for people with all levels of birding experience. They'll use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of fall migrants and year-round residents. Come discover the Arboretum's avian diversity. 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 or 541.747.3817



Upper Willamette Stewardship Network

November 14, 7 pm Wild & Scenic Film Festival

One of the largest environmental film festivals in North America is coming to Eugene! The festival works with environmental groups across the globe, bringing together diverse audiences with the goal of inspiring people to protect the lands and rivers that surround them. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit

the education programs of the six local partner conservation non-profits that are linked together in the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network. McDonald Theater, 1010 Willamette St, downtown Eugene. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

FMI: 541.345.4442, mcdonaldtheater.com or upperwillamette.org



Eugene Natural History Society

Friday, November 15, 7:30 pm Greg Retallack will give a talk

entitled Astropedology and the Origin of Life. Astropedology explores what we can learn by studying soils from earth as well as extraterrestrial locations. Might these soils be connected?

Location: 100 Willamette Hall on the UO campus.

FMI: pages/uoregon.edu/enhs



Coast Fork Birders

Saturday, November 16, 9 am-11am Fall Bird Walk

Join the Coast Fork Birders for a fall bird walk led by Grace Fowler-Gore. This beginnerfriendly outing welcomes participants of all birding abilities to observe feathered friends. The terrain in is fairly flat on a mix of paved and unpaved surfaces. Dress for the weather and bring your own water, snack and birding gear. Park in the parking area and meet at the kiosk near the weigh station, 33322 Row River Road, Cottage Grove 97424.

FMI: facebook.com/events /2328266260761062/, visit the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council online at coastfork.org or call the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council office 541.767.9717



Southern Willamette **Ornithological Club (SWOC)**

Monday, November 18, 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



Nearby Nature

Saturday, November 23, 1 pm-3 pm Mushrooms and More - Nearby

Nature's Citizen Science Saturday

Join Nearby Nature for citizen science (adult) investigations, including data collection, observations, photography, and more. This month's focus is on the wonders of fruiting fungi in the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park. If you have a smartphone or a camera, please bring one to take pictures. Smartphone users please load the iNaturalist app onto your phone, if possible. It's available at inaturalist.org. Meet at Nearby Nature, 622 Day Island Rd, Eugene, on the Water Wise Garden Patio outside the Alton Baker Park Host Residence. Members free, non-members \$5.

FMI or to pre-register: nearbnynature.org or 541.687.9699

Nearby Nature Has a New Nature-related Events Calendar

Nearby Nature has a new feature on its website: a calendar of community nature education and participation events. Created by Rick Ahrens, it's somewhat similar to our LCAS calendar, but the format is different. It's laid out in a monthly grid, so you can see at a glance what's happening on the days you have available. Each entry links to a window with more information. You can think of it as one-stop shopping for outdoor activities. Some of the groups listed in October included: Lane County Audubon Society, Eugene Astronomical Society, Mt Pisgah Arboretum, Grassroots Garden, REI, Willamette Resources & Education Network (WREN), Obsidians, Eugene Natural History Society, and Science Pub. You'll find it at nearbynature.org/ricks -list/





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LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org

Third Saturday Bird Walks

Saturday, November 16, 8 am

Dave Bontrager will lead a walk at a location to be arranged. 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

Date Set for Eugene Christmas Bird Count

This year Sunday, December 29, is the date for the 2019 Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC). This fun and exciting event is 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. If you are a skilled birdwatcher, we could use your assistance and expertise. Whether or not you have participated in the past, we hope you will join us this year. We have space for everyone.

This will be the 78th ECBC and the National Audubon Society's 120th Christmas Bird Count. Dick Lamster is the Coordinator again this year. Our 15-mile-diameter Count Circle is divided into 27 Areas, each with an expert birder as the Team Leader. We also welcome Home Counters who can report birds seen in their yards while still staying warm and dry inside. Watch for more information in the December-January issue of *The Quail*, or contact Dick Lamster at 541.343.8664, or maeveanddick@q.com



November Program Meeting India: Exotic Creatures and Captivating Culture with Ram Papish and Dawn Harris Tuesday, November 26, 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