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The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

eBird Benefits Birds and Birders Alike

We can thank the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for eBird. Begun in 2002, this birding tool has transformed our abilities to record and share data about the birds we see, anywhere in the world. eBird’s goal is to gather each person’s bird sightings in the form of checklists with location, archive it, and freely share it to power new data-driven approaches to science, conservation, and education. Birders are able to manage their lists, photos, and audio recordings, access real-time maps of species distribution, and receive alerts that let them know when a species of interest has been seen, all through the eBird platform. By participating in eBird data collection, a birder is joining the world’s largest birding community and contributing to science and conservation.

This huge eBird metadata resource gives researchers studying bird species access to the global data for monitoring, species management, habitat protection, and informing law and policy. eBird is among the world’s largest biodiversity-related science projects, with more than 100 million bird sightings contributed annually by eBirders around the world. This number continues to grow.

You can mine this huge database at the eBird web site to look for target species, or to look up a birding hot spot before you visit to see what is being seen there. A birder can monitor migrations of a bird species of interest such as Snowy Owls that occasionally come south during the winter. In the spring, one can look for sightings of Vaux’s Swifts to see how their northward migration is progressing.



The data is continuously collected and updated so we can see the current information in a way never before possible.

Looking at the various animations eBird has created is one of my favorite aspects of this database. For example, the Vaux’s Swifts’ status and trends can be evaluated using the eBird link at: ebird.org/science/status-and-trends/vauswi.

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Lane County Audubon Society

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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Hope for the Environment Amid Cautious Optimism

Under review by the new administration: One hundred (that's 100!) anti-environmental regulations. Dare we hope that as we move forward, the health of the environment becomes a priority for decision makers? I hear the birds singing and remain cautiously optimistic.

Included in the review is the removal of protections for spotted owls and other old-growth-dependent species, the delisting of wolves from the Endangered Species Act, and regulations that limited scientific and public input in decision-making, including weakening of the National Environmental Policy Act. So far, the leasing for drilling and extraction on public lands in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has been halted and regulations around some types of pollution are being reinstated. More locally, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) upheld the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's denial of a key permit that would have allowed the proposed Jordan Cove LNG export terminal and Pacific Connector fracked gas pipeline to move forward.

There's a lot to do. To make genuine progress, we need smart planning and oversight. Here are some interesting numbers on jobs lost over the last four years: 670 science jobs lost at the Environmental Protection Agency; 150 at the US Geological Survey, which works on climate and natural hazards; 231 at the US Fish and Wildlife Service; and about 200 at the National Institute of Food and

Agriculture. It's fine to trim excess bureaucratic government positions, but these figures mostly reflect the loss of experienced experts who worked on issues such as wetland loss, pollution, and soil conservation. The current administration must refill these positions and find credible scientists if it is to make headway.

The new administration has laudable goals in terms of climate action. We have rejoined the Paris Climate Accord. Federal agencies have been directed to develop strategies for integrating climate considerations. Government transportation fleets will buy clean energy vehicles, creating jobs while reducing emissions. The plans for a new civilian conservation corps, whose purpose is to conserve and restore, has potential. An interagency

council is being established to address environmental justice issues. And a plan is being developed for conserving 30 percent of America's lands and waters by the end of the decade.

All promising, but obstacles exist. Most of these policies are happening through executive order. In order for policies to have long-term effects, it is far more advantageous if acts of Congress are involved. Due to the language in previous orders, some of the overturned regulations, such as methane emission limits and energy standards, will be more difficult to reverse with the stroke of a pen. And, unfortunately, the political influence of corporate entities is not disappearing. Not to mention the usual political quagmire and slew of public misinformation that combine to slow down real progress. As President Abraham Lincoln is purported to have said, "I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts, and beer."



Sutton Creek

photo: Karen Irmischer

Field Notes: January 2021

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



Photo: Bill Bouton, wiki commons

Mountain Plover



Photo: Alan Schmeier, wiki commons

Red-throated Pipit

Mountain Plover, Red-throated Pipit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Red-necked Grebe

This year is starting out right where last year ended—with another new species for Lane County! It will be interesting to see if this trend continues throughout the year. It's been a mild winter so far and some of the birds seen this month reflect that, with a number of species that don't normally winter.

Abbreviations: North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR), Willamette River (WR)

WATERFOWLS TO OWLS

Cinnamon Teal	Jan 5	Dorena Res	NS	Winter in small numbers most years
Common Goldeneye (9)	Jan 4	Canary Rd	DP	Very large number for Lane
Barrow's Goldeneye (12)	Jan 10	WR, Dexter to Jasper	M.ob.	Large number for the lower river
Red-necked Grebe	Jan 3	Dexter Res	VB	Never common inland
Red-necked Grebe (2)	Jan 5	Dorena Res	NS	Never common inland
Band-tailed Pigeon	Jan 23	Creswell area	HL	Uncommon winter record
Anna's Hummingbird	Jan 30	NW Eugene	fide AC	On nest in same shrub as last year
Sora (2)	Jan 3	N Eugene	RH	Rare in the valley during the winter
Sora	Jan 10	Mt Pisgah area	TM	Rare in the valley during the winter
Mountain Plover (photos)	Jan 16	Siltcoos River mouth	DF,LC	A first for Lane
Black Turnstone (40)	Jan 29	NJSR	AC	Highest number this winter for both species, but lower than in past years
Surfbird (8)	Jan 29	NJSR	AC	Continuing to be seen through the month
Red Phalarope	Jan	NJSR	M.ob.	Continuing to be seen through the month
Green Heron	Jan 23	Row River trail	TS	Winter in small numbers
Osprey	Jan	Florence area	M.ob.	Winter in small numbers
Osprey	Jan	Eugene/Springfield	M.ob.	A couple found wintering this year
Short-eared Owl (12)	Jan 31	Washburn Lane	CS	Flushed from day roost by four wheelers

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS

Say's Phoebe	Jan	Willamette Valley	M.ob.	Larger numbers than normal wintering
Tree Swallow	Jan	Delta Ponds	M.ob.	Small numbers throughout the month
Barn Swallow	Jan	Delta Ponds	M.ob.	A few seen sporadically through the month
Mountain Chickadee	Jan 2	Creswell area	NS,et al	Occasionally found in valley during winter
Mountain Chickadee	Jan 10	Dexter	RH	Occasionally found in valley during winter
Pygmy Nuthatch	Jan 28	S Eugene	TC	About the fifth record for Lane
Northern Mockingbird	Jan	SJSR	M.ob.	Continuing to be seen through the month
Red-throated Pipit	Jan 31	Eugene airport area	RA	Second record for Lane
Evening Grosbeak	Jan	Eugene/Springfield	M.ob.	Only three reports for the month
Swamp Sparrow	Jan	Willamette Valley	M.ob.	Larger than normal numbers seen
Tricolored Blackbird (1)	Jan 3	Lehman Dairy	M.ob.	Found in large "blackbird/starling" flock
Tricolored Blackbird (4)	Jan 3	Harrold's Dairy	NS	Found in large "blackbird/starling" flock
Orange-crowned Warbler	Jan	Eugene/Springfield	M.ob.	Larger than normal numbers seen
Common Yellowthroat	Jan 3	N Eugene	RH	Rarely wintering in Lane

AC Alan Contreras, CS Craig Strobeck, DF Daniel Farrar, DP Diane Pettey, HL Hydie Lown, LC Lydia Cruz, NS Noah Strycker, RA Ramiro Aragon, RH Rich Hoyer, TC Tom Cable, TM Tom Mickel, TS Tammie Stark, VB Vickie Buck. M.ob signifies many observers.

Meet New LCAS Volunteer: Katy Vizdal

Lane Audubon is happy to welcome Katy Vizdal as our new Instagram and Facebook poster. Katy approached us to help out with social media outreach and we are happy to have her help! Welcome, Katy!



Greetings, my name is Katy Vizdal, and I am a new volunteer with the Lane County Audubon Society! I originally hail from the Prairie State (Illinois) and have called Eugene home now for over a decade. My appreciation for birds started at a young age, as my mother often took us on drives along the Mississippi River to “see the eagles.” When I’m not working as an arts administrator, I like to

spend my free time visiting natural and wildlife areas around the region. Lately, undoubtedly impacted by the pandemic, I’ve taken a keener interest in birding, as I spend more of my free time outdoors.

As I begin to scratch the surface of this incredibly stimulating and interconnected world of birding, I’m grateful to have our local Audubon chapter as a resource for my new passion. As a new volunteer with LCAS, I’ll be sharing some of my discoveries on the LCAS Facebook and Instagram accounts, so I hope you tune in!

Volunteers Needed

Administrative Assistant

Lane Audubon would like a volunteer who could serve as an administrative assistant for Board and Chapter responsibilities. Requisite skills include use of typical word processing, Excel spreadsheets, and PowerPoint. Since we do not have a physical office, working from home is required.

FMI: please contact Maeve Sowles at audubon@laneaudubon.org or 541.343.8664.

Audubon Adventures Coordinator

Audubon Adventures is National Audubon Society’s (NAS) award-winning environmental education program. Designed by the environmental experts at NAS, it boasts top-quality educational materials. Through our Adopt-a-Classroom Program, Lane County Audubon offers teachers in grades 3–5 an opportunity to participate at no cost to their schools.

LCAS is looking for someone who can link participating teachers with the generous sponsors of this program. If you have a computer and a little time, this might be the volunteer opportunity you’ve been looking for! It takes flexibility, organization, and a sense of timing to make things work well for the teachers and sponsors. Outreach to schools and sponsors begins in September. Orders for the kits are placed in October. Maintaining contact with the teachers throughout the school year is crucial. The coordinator will follow up by making sure they’ve received their kits, seeing if they need any additional help, and checking in with them at the end of the school year.

FMI: Maeve Sowles audubon@laneaudubon.org or 541.343.8664 if this rewarding position interests you. We’ll be happy to provide you with all the information and training you need to manage the program.

From Our President *continued from page 1*

Whether you use eBird for your own personal bird list and photos or to learn new locations for birding or for the big picture aspects that eBird offers, it is truly a marvel!

I am one of those dinosaurs, who have not yet made a leap to this technology, mainly because I do not have cell service at my home where I do 90 percent of my birding. I’m anxious to learn more about eBird, however, as it is an exciting new technology for one of my favorite pastimes. And I am an advocate for anything that ultimately helps the birds!

A big **Thank You** to Rachael Friese for her work on the Audubon Adventures program over the past five years! Rachael’s other commitments are taking her away from this project, but we appreciate all the help she has given to this important education program.

Audubon in the Schools Update

The core group of Audubon in the Schools (AITS) volunteers had a virtual meeting in January to discuss how we might interact with schools and students in 2021. This program depends on in-classroom interactions with bird feathers and specimens that the students use as models for their drawing exercises.

We discussed the possibility of doing virtual presentations, but students working from home may not have the paper and colored pencils they need. Our group decided to draft a letter to teachers who have used the AITS program, and let them know we are waiting for the time when in-classroom sessions could be presented. As with many activities, we must wait for the vaccinations to proceed and the in-class learning options to improve. And we will certainly be ready when that time comes!

Many thanks to Barb Pope, Janet Barnes, Rose Britton, Marty Merrill, and Rosie Hammond for being at the meeting. Sue Markley and Kathy Wilson could not attend, but agreed to help when we get rolling again.

Even though our AITS Program stopped school visits mid-March last year, we had a number of successful classroom visits prior to that date.

AITS 2020 Educational Report Numbers

Winter/Spring 2020 Totals:

Number of Students	528
Classroom Hours	17.75
Schools visited	5
Presentations	22

Good Job AITS Team for doing this important work!

Zoom Program Meeting Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



For access details, check laneaudubon.org

Exploring eBird — An Extravaganza of Resources



Photo: 9Wood

Vjera Thompson

Vjera Thompson grew up in Springfield, in a homeschooling family that encouraged her interest in birding. Early on, Vjera's mom connected her to Audubon walks, counts, and supportive birders. Vjera recently participated in her 25th Eugene Christmas Bird Count! After graduating from Eugene Bible College (now New Hope), she spent a winter working in St. John, Virgin Islands, before settling down in Eugene. She works for 9Wood, a local custom wood ceiling company, but finds time every day to contribute at least one checklist to eBird. She enjoys local "patch" birding by bicycle, but has also ventured to Ecuador to visit her parents and see some new birds.

Vjera has been using digital bird databases since they first existed. She was an early adopter of Birdnotes.net, which started in Oregon in 1999, and

now is an expert user and a volunteer reviewer for eBird. Thousands of birders and scientists worldwide contribute to this database. It has powerful listing and search tools, but more importantly it collects sightings by citizen scientists (that's us!) that researchers are using in fascinating new ways.

For her presentation, she'll be doing a live demonstration of eBird, explaining what it is and showing well-honed tips and tricks for how to get answers to your bird questions.

If you're new to eBird or want to improve your contributions, Vjera recommends the eBird Essentials self-paced training: academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/. You might want to go through it ahead of her presentation. Doing so might inspire questions you'd like to ask her.

eBird Northwest Home Explore



eBird Northwest Home Explore Weather Sitemap About Us



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 Godsfil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com

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Submit material to Karen Irmischer 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

Lane County Audubon Society Yearly Membership

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

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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

Test Run and Results of Three Rivers CBC

By Alan Contreras

Following a few years of discussion about establishing a new CBC just east of Eugene, we did a test run on January 10, just outside the official CBC period. The circle covered the area from Dorris Ranch up the Willamette River, to include most of Dexter Lake and Fall Creek Dam; up the McKenzie from the 42nd Street bridge to the Walterville Pond; and up the Coast Fork to include about half of Creswell. Owing to COVID, we followed Audubon's "bubble" requirements. It was quite successful, with 121 species found by about 20 observers in 12 teams.

Highlights included a Greater White-fronted Goose near Walterville, Red-necked Grebe at Dexter

causeway, Trumpeter Swan, Sora, and Swamp Sparrow in the The Nature Conservancy Confluence area (special permission was obtained to enter), another Swamp Sparrow at Wallace Ruff Park in Springfield, Western Gull at Lowell marina, an amazing 30 Tricolored Blackbirds at a dairy near Creswell, Osprey on the Middle Fork below Dexter Dam, and a Mountain Chickadee just east of Lowell.

A Dipper, missed on count day, was found for count week just below Dexter Dam and a remarkable 110 Wood Ducks were in one pond near Jasper Park. Northern Shrike, Cedar Waxwing, Savannah Sparrow, and Barred Owl were missed and might be expected in the future. Two teams

found Canada Jay, which does not usually reach the Eugene circle. In general, owls, forest species and waterfowl were well represented, along with woodpeckers, Lincoln's Sparrows, and Hutton's Vireos. Montane thrushes and White-crowned Sparrows, were hard to find and gulls were mostly uncooperative.

A decision will be made in the fall whether to hold this count again, and if so whether to make it "official," which of course means finding a date that works in a busy season. Many thanks to all who helped. If the count is held again, we will make an effort to recruit home counters within the circle, which includes much of Springfield, Pleasant Hill and the river valleys.

Bird Flight Patterns and Music Education Concert Video Exploring Connections in Music and Science

Lane Audubon has purchased access to this new and exciting virtual concert and curriculum to give to local schools and share with our members. You can see an introductory preview at: [youtube.com/watch?v=avmXSzIrGRgB](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avmXSzIrGRgB).

The New Bedford Symphony Orchestra in New Bedford, Massachusetts, offered this opportunity to Audubon Chapters around the country. Their creativity has produced concert materials that explore unexpected connections, like those between music and bird flight. The program features a world premiere performance of Jamie

Allen's *Nightingale Concert* as well as works by Haydn, Mendelssohn, Vaughan Williams, Strauss, and Derek Bermel's *Murmurations*.

The video includes an interview with Xavi Bou, photographer for the *Ornitographies Project*; a video featuring David Lentink from Stanford University's bird flight and robotics lab, and a visit with Sam Claggett, Conservation Education Specialist from the Buttonwood Park Zoo, along with a special bird guest.

While the concert video is appropriate for both children and adults, online activities, lessons, experiments, and extra video content

are geared toward students in the elementary grades. Teachers will find a large collection of music, science, writing, and visual art activities that further the bird flight pattern and music exploration.

We are excited to see and hear this fun and fascinating bird and music concert, and even more pleased to be able to offer it to local teachers, students, and our Lane Audubon members! While we have permission to share via email to our members, we cannot make a public posting. If you would like access, contact us at audubon@laneaudubon.org.





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See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org

Third Saturday Bird Walk

Walk Coordinator Rebecca Waterman continues to lead small walks with some restrictions in place in order to adhere to local safety guidelines. Attendance is capped at 10 birders, but she also enjoys doing it for as few as one. Beginners welcome! If more than 10 email her that they'd like to join a walk, she will schedule another walk. If she is free, she will also lead walks at other times.

Folks wishing to join a walk can email Bex at rebecca.waterman@gmail.com. All participants must wear a mask for the entirety of the walk and maintain the recommended 6-foot distance from each other. No carpooling.



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Photo: Cary Kerst

Hooded Merganser



Photo: Dennis Arendt

House Finch

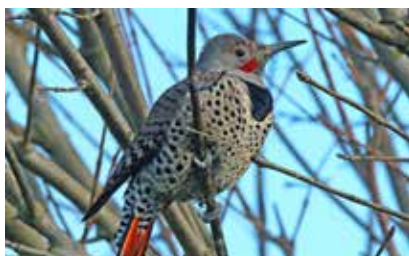


Photo: Cary Kerst

Red Shafted Northern Flicker



Photo: Dennis Arendt

Red Crossbill

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