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# The Quail

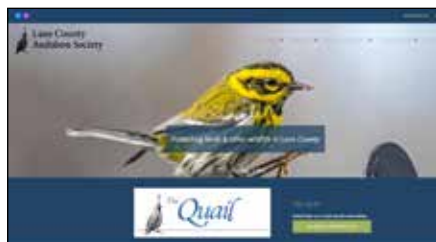
News from Lane County Audubon Society



## From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

## Lane Audubon has a NEW WEBSITE!



We are happy to announce that we have updated our website to WordPress, which is a simpler, more user-friendly management system. This project has been in the works for almost 2 years. Our old one, constructed in 2013, was difficult to update and keep current with safety features. Recently, we were finally able to hire Ruby Porter, a local web design company, to create this new version of the Lane Audubon website for us. Hurrah for

Ruby Porter's help! They were easy to work with and very supportive.

Generally, the website contains all the same features. Navigating through it is quick and easy, and updating content will also be easier. One new addition is the *Birds of Lane County Checklist*, now available on the website under the Resources tab! Prior to this, only hard copies were available! Now anyone can download and print this, as well as many other LCAS handouts.

We must give a very **big thank you** to Hilary Dearborn, our webmaster, for transferring content from the old website to the new one. She managed the process of re-populating the various drop down tabs, and worked with the Ruby Porter folks to learn and understand the inner workings of the new website.

Ron Renschler and Maeve Sowles were also involved in the process, attending one of the Zoom trainings with Ruby Porter and assisting with editing and feedback. Another person who helped provide content is Gerry Meenaghan, who sent us a selection of his wonderful photos of Lane County birds. He shared more than 24 photos, complete with bird names and location. We will be using them in various ways on the website, and truly appreciate Gerry's talents and generosity!

We are happy to have this big item off our "TO DO" list! Check out the new website at [laneaudubon.org](http://laneaudubon.org).



Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

[laneaudubon.org](http://laneaudubon.org)

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

[facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/](https://www.facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/)



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# Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

## Pesticide Ban & Bird Humor

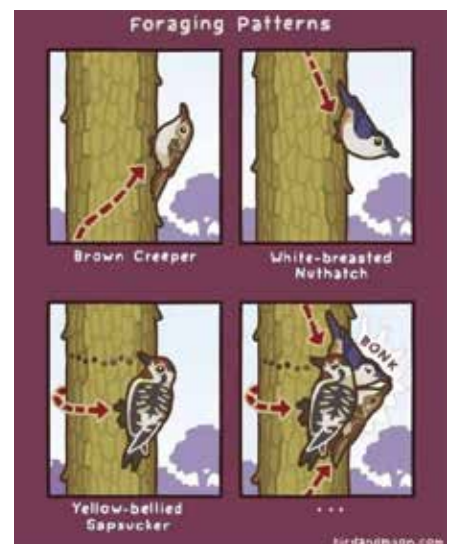
### EPA Bans Chlorpyrifos

Years of commenting on the dangerous effects of the pesticide chlorpyrifos has paid off. In August, the EPA banned the use of this toxin on fruits and veggies. Chlorpyrifos was banned due to the documented risks to humans, particularly to children, but our bird friends will benefit as well. The toxin was highly concentrated in pellet form and seed treatments, both of which attracted birds. It also severely reduced their food base of fish and insects in many regions and was found to be toxic to 97 percent of all threatened and endangered wildlife. Way to go EPA; now let's take a closer look at banning and restricting other harmful pesticides.

Pesticides, loss of habitat, climate change, man-made hazards—it can get overwhelming to think about conservation concerns. I am lucky in that I know several young adults who really do care about life on earth. This gives me hope for the future.

### Let's Celebrate With Some Laughter

In my classes we sometimes share memes and comics. Humor is an important tool for coping and communicating. For our column this month, I thought it might be fun to take a page out of that book. Hope you enjoy.



## Field Notes: August 2021

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

# Long-billed Curlew, White-tailed Kite, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot



*Long-billed Curlew*

Photo: Jerry Kfichtart, wiki commons



*White-tailed Kite*

Photo: Becky Matsubara, wiki commons

Another dry, warm month! Fall migration is in full swing with shorebirds and some passerines moving through or in for the winter. Migration will continue for a few more months, so get out and enjoy it!

### Abbreviations:

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR)

## WATERFOWL TO HAWKS

Greater White-fronted Goose	Aug 22	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	First flock headed south
Red-necked Grebe	Aug 16	Bob Creek Wayside	A&TM	Earlier than normal
Red-necked Grebe	Aug 16	Tokatee-Klootchman	RN	Earlier than normal
Vaux's Swift (1100)	Aug 21	Agate Hall, UO	BC	Normal numbers for this time of year
Sandhill Crane (2)	Aug 29	Waldo Lake area	EW	Breed in small numbers in the high Cascades
Black-necked Stilt	Aug 1	FRR - Royal Ave	JS,DF	Last report for the breeding season
Black-necked Stilt	Aug 20	FRR - Perkins Pen	M&MD	Later than normal
American Avocet (3)	Aug 3	FRR - Royal Ave	SHi	Last report for the breeding season
Long-billed Curlew	Aug 15	FRR - Royal Ave	VT,NC	Uncommon in Lane
Long-billed Curlew (2)	Aug 30	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	The same or different birds
Hudsonian Godwit	Aug 8	FRR - Royal Ave	AC,VT	Sixth Lane record
Marbled Godwit	Aug 1	FRR - Royal Ave	B&CS,TG	Unusual inland in Lane
Black Turnstone	Aug 16	NJSR	A&TM,DF	First report for the winter
Red Knot	Aug 8	FRR - Royal Ave	PO	Unusual inland in Lane
Surfbird	Aug 13	Carl Washburne SP	SW	First report for the winter
Stilt Sandpiper (juv)	Aug 25	FRR - South Marsh	AC	It's been 3 years since the last report
Dunlin	Aug 29	FRR - Perkins Pen	VT,AC	First report for the winter
Baird's Sandpiper	Aug 8	FRR - Royal	KM	First report for the fall migration
Pectoral Sandpiper	Aug 11	FRR	JS,SH,VB	First report for the fall migration
Wandering Tattler	Aug 5	NJSR	M.ob.	First report for the fall migration
Cassin's Auklet	Aug	North coast	M.ob.	High numbers for this time of year
Black Tern	Aug 10	FRR - Royal Ave	M.ob.	The last report for the breeding season
Common Tern (4)	Aug 30	FRR - Perkins Pen	AC	Annual, this time of year in small numbers
White-tailed Kite	Aug 6	FRR - Royal Ave	RR	Unusual, given their rarity the last few years

## OWLS TO ORIOLES

Great Gray Owl (5)	Aug 28	McKenzie Bridge area	HF	Pair w/three large young
Long-eared Owl	Aug 16	Old McKenzie Pass	LJ	Calling & flying in the area
Lewis's Woodpecker	Aug 18	Waldo Lake area	LG,M.ob.	Large numbers seen migrating north
Williamson's Sapsucker	Aug 29	Waldo Lake area	EW	A rare breeder in the high Cascades
Western Kingbird	Aug 24	Sher Khan Rd	NS	The last report for the breeding season

*continued on page 7*



# Audubon Adventures Updates

## Audubon Adventures for the 2021-22 school year!

The generous donations of Lane County Audubon members make it possible for us to give free Audubon Adventures curriculum kits to elementary-school classrooms throughout Lane County. We hope that you will add your support to this worthy and exciting program.

Each year, the National Audubon Society creates a new environmental education curriculum for students in grades 3-5. Developed by professional environmental educators, Audubon Adventures presents standards-based science content about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. The lessons can be easily integrated into the curriculum areas of science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, and creative arts.

Topics for the 2021-22 modules will be announced in October. As soon as we have the new information we will update the web page.

Audubon Adventures provides teachers with:

- 32 copies of each of 3 or 4 full-color magazine sets sent throughout the year
- access to digital teaching units for each module
- an assortment of classroom and field-based activities
- “Eyes on the Wild” videos and webcams
- supplemental online material, including instructional guides, learning assessments, games, quizzes, and alignment with science education standards

Audubon Adventures' classrooms also receive a year's membership to the National Audubon Society and Lane County Audubon Society.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, check out the donation information below. Those who wish to sponsor a specific school or classroom should include that information. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

Educators interested in receiving an Audubon Adventures kit for their classrooms can email [audadv@laneaudubon.org](mailto:audadv@laneaudubon.org).

Mail your donation of \$45 per classroom (payable to LCAS) to:  
Audubon Adventures  
PO Box 5086  
Eugene, OR 97405

or go to [laneaudubon.org/education/audubon-adventures](https://laneaudubon.org/education/audubon-adventures) to make your donation online via our secure PayPal server.

## Welcome to new Audubon Adventures Coordinator, Cecelia Hagen!



We are grateful that Cecelia has joined our volunteer group to lead the Audubon Adventures project this school year!

Cecelia Hagen grew up in Norfolk, Virginia, and now lives in Eugene.

She first started to study birds with her older brother in the lowlands of coastal Virginia. Although she claims her grasp of ornithology remains basic at best, she has never lost her appreciation and interest in birds and other animals, with the exception of stink bugs.

After earning a degree in English with a minor in modern dance from Connecticut College, she moved from Boston to Eugene in the 1970s to get her MFA in poetry at the University of Oregon. Cecelia has worked as a magazine editor and has taught writing at every level, from grade school to college. A recipient of the annual Eugene Arts and Letters Award, she co-founded and taught for Writers in Lane County Schools, and served as the long-time fiction

editor for *Northwest Review*. Her poems are featured on the electrical panels at each of the 26 West Eugene EmX stops and in various online and print publications. Now “retired,” she teaches memoir-writing classes and enjoys her four grandchildren, hiking Mt. Pisgah, reading, dancing tango, and swinging in the hammock in her backyard.

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Lane County Audubon Society

## LCAS Program Meeting Tuesday, October 26, 7:00 pm, Zoom only

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



The October Program meeting will be Zoom only. The speaker will present her program from her home near Mount St. Helens. Check the LCAS website and/or Facebook page for the up-to-date Zoom link.

## Birding at the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument



*Gina Roberti*

As most long-time Oregonians are aware, on May 18, 1980, a cataclysmic event occurred at Mount St. Helens. The north flank of the volcano slid off in one of the largest landslides in recorded history, unleashing a powerful eruption. It buried 230 square miles of existing old-growth forest under hundreds of feet of volcanic debris. Close to the volcano's crater, almost no living organisms survived. Ash from the eruption blew across the United States while megatons of logs and volcanic debris clogged rivers, lakes, and streams. The eruption dramatically reshaped the landscape, creating a mosaic of habitat types that are now home to a diverse suite of birds.

In 1982, the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument was designated to protect the land closest

to the volcano as a place for research, recreation, and education. Today, as home to more than 80 species of nesting birds, the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument offers unique birding opportunities.

Join Gina as she guides us on a tour through the diverse mosaic of habitats created by the 1980 eruption, and learn where to see some of Mount St. Helens' signature birds. This interactive presentation will excite and prepare you for in-person birdwatching in the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Bring your questions and curiosities!

Gina Roberti is a geologist, naturalist, and educator who grew up digging quahogs and exploring the shorelines of the Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island amidst the ancient metamorphic rocks of the Appalachian Mountains. Since graduating from Brown University with a degree in Geology-Biology, Gina has spent several years working as a geoscience educator in various geologic regions in the western U.S. These have included the Colorado Plateau, Snake River Plain, Klamath-Siskiyou, North Cascades, and presently the active Cascade volcanic range. In each of these places she taught thousands of youth and adults about earth

science in a variety of field-based and classroom settings.

Gina currently works with the Mount St. Helens Institute. She strongly believes in the power of education to inspire awareness, appreciation, and stewardship for the natural world. When Gina is not working, she can be found on long walks or cross-country skis, often in the company of birds. Contact Gina at [gina.m.roberti@gmail.com](mailto:gina.m.roberti@gmail.com).



Photo: Dennis Arendt

*Clark's Nutcracker*



Photo: Dennis Arendt

*Steller's Jay*

### Volunteer 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 a home computer would be required.

FMI: please contact Maeve Sowles at [audubon@laneaudubon.org](mailto:audubon@laneaudubon.org) or 541.343.8664.

# 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](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com)

**The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines**  
July-August issue: June 1  
September issue: August 1

Submit material to Karen Irmischer at [quailkaren1@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

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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



Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	Aug 11.....	Mt Pisgah .....	DA,et.al.....	Very early—some that saw it question ID
American Pipit.....	Aug 28 .....	Heceta Beach.....	NS.....	First report for the winter
Brewer’s Sparrow .....	Aug 11.....	Old McKenzie Pass .....	AC.....	Occur in small numbers in the fall
Brewer’s Sparrow .....	Aug 23 .....	Waldo Lake area.....	NB .....	Occur in small numbers in the fall
Brewer’s Sparrow (2).....	Aug 29 .....	Oakridge area.....	RH,PP .....	Occur in small numbers in the fall
Golden-crowned Sparrow.....	Aug 29 .....	Oakridge area.....	PP.....	First report for the winter
Bullock’s Oriole .....	Aug 4 .....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	SHe .....	Last report for the breeding season

AC Alan Contreras, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, BC Barbara Combs, B&CS Brain & Chantelle Simmons, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, EW Evan Wilder, HF Harry Fuller, JS John Sullivan, KM Kayla McCurry, LG Linda Gilbert, LJ Laura Johnson, M&MD Mark & Mari Dembrow, NB Neil Bjorklund, NC Nancy Clogston, NS Noah Strycker, PO Pam Otley, PP Paul Pisano, RH Rich Hoyer, RN Russ Namitz, RR Roger Robb, SHe Sam Heinrich, SHi Sally Hill, SW Stuart Winquist, TG Tom Gearing, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson. **M.ob** signifies many observers.

## Patient and Visitor Numbers Up at Cascades Raptor Center

What a busy year this has been for the Raptor Center... record-breaking patient numbers (more than 500, including over 80 barn owl orphans), multiple raptor rescues and renestings, plus an increase in visitors and the return of education programs.

Cascades Raptor Center’s Raptor Resiliency Campaign 2021 is under way! You are invited to join the

Raptor Center team for an in-person Night at the Raptor Center (October 8th) and culminating virtual event (October 16th) to celebrate this busy year and help raise funds to continue this important work! You can go to [Cascadesraptorcenter.org/resiliency](http://Cascadesraptorcenter.org/resiliency) for information on events.

— Louise Shimmel, Executive Director, Cascades Raptor Center

## Wind Energy Safety

The American Bird Conservancy ([abcbirds.org/](http://abcbirds.org/)), a non-profit national organization, is dedicated to conserving wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas and has been working for years on efforts to reduce threats to bird populations.

One of their project areas has been to reduce the negative impacts of large-scale wind energy development on birds. Wind energy and birds can co-exist, but only if turbines are sited properly. The United States is now the world’s leading producer of wind energy, with tens of thousands of wind turbines in operation and many more planned. As a result, bird mortality from collisions is escalating every year, especially in areas where turbines

and their associated power lines and towers have been poorly sited from the perspective of bird conservation.

ABC has recently teamed up with two other non-profits to promote the development of distributed solar electric energy installations on homes nationwide. Distributed solar electric energy production can be a significant contributor to reducing reliance on fossil fuels and can be much less harmful to birds. An additional benefit to their joint efforts is to assure that underserved and minority communities are included and that the efforts are truly in every state and community. You can find more information at [30millionsolarhomes.org/](http://30millionsolarhomes.org/) and at [solarunitedneighbors.org/](http://solarunitedneighbors.org/)

— Jim G Maloney



Photo: Rebecca Waterman

Ten folks observed 3 dozen species at Mt Pisgah during September’s First Saturday Bird Walk. It was very smoky. Several warblers seen, plus a vocalizing Dusky Flycatcher! Full list below. Cheers and good birding

—Rebecca Waterman (she/her)

4 Canada Goose	Chickadee
2 Eurasian Collared-Dove	3 Tree Swallow
6 Anna’s Hummingbird	3 Violet-green Swallow
1 Turkey Vulture	X Tree/Violet-green Swallow
1 Belted Kingfisher	3 Barn Swallow
2 Red-breasted Sapsucker	5 White-breasted Nuthatch
1 Downy Woodpecker	4 Brown Creeper
1 Hairy Woodpecker	3 Bewick’s Wren
4 Northern Flicker	2 European Starling
1 American Kestrel	12 American Robin
4 Western Wood-Pewee	24 Cedar Waxwing
1 Dusky Flycatcher – Recorded first, then got visual	4 American Goldfinch
1 Pacific-slope Flycatcher	4 Song Sparrow
24 Steller’s Jay	12 Spotted Towhee
3 California Scrub-Jay	1 Yellow Warbler
15 Black-capped Chickadee	2 Black-throated Gray Warbler
3 Chestnut-backed	1 Wilson’s Warbler
	Common Merganser
	Mallard
	Common Yellowthroat



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## LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, [fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org)

Masks and distancing may still be required throughout walks, depending on evolving COVID-safety guidelines.

### First Saturday Bird Walk, October 2

Our First Saturday bird walks, created in celebration of the Lane Audubon Inclusivity and Diversity Statement, are reserved for women, BIPOC, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Birders of all levels and backgrounds are welcome to join, particularly those who may have felt intimidated at the thought of birding alone or on other guided walks. October's First Saturday walk leaders will be Nick Paget and Sarah Merkle.

### Third Saturday Bird Walk, October 16

Our Third Saturday bird walk continues to be open to all participants. LCAS Board Member Rachael Friese will lead this walk.

### Bird Sits

Rebecca also has plans in the works to start a regularly scheduled Birding Sit (an hour or so) for birders who have mobility challenges. If you're interested, or know someone who might be, email Bex. Times will be based on the availability of interested participants.

Walk locations are typically chosen closer to the date of the event, based on up-to-date reports of bird abundance. Participation continues to be limited due to the ongoing pandemic, so please email Bex at [rebecca.waterman@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.waterman@gmail.com) to sign up.



Photo: Rebecca Waterman

*September Bird Walk*



Photo: Rebecca Waterman

*Masked birders*