

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

Please consider receiving The Quail electronically



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

Enjoying Nature Helps Me Stay Balanced Enough to Deal with the Complexities of These Challenging Times



photo: Rebecca Waterman

Two people walking in beauty

As 2021 draws to a close and we greet the New Year of 2022, economic, social, public health, and environmental instability

looms for an uncertain future. As conservationists we have been struggling on behalf of habitat and the environment for decades. The battles never seem to resolve, and the future of our planet has serious pressures with 7.9 billion human inhabitants consuming resources unsustainably. What will we see in the New Year? More of the same, I'm afraid. I cannot be optimistic about true positive change.

I find my Audubon volunteer work, contacts, and outdoor pastimes a refreshing counterpoint to the negative energy of our world. One of the only real positives I see on a day-to-day basis is the pleasure and beauty we can find in the natural world. My husband

and I bird watch as we walk our dogs, work on our property, or visit other locations. Regardless of the weather, we take time to smell, watch, and listen to our natural surroundings. Watching whatever birds might be nearby gives us a sense of expectation, excitement, and an excuse to get out and explore wherever we visit. The enjoyment of birds and birding provide a connection to our surroundings and to our social contacts. I'm not sure any other activity could offer the same interconnectedness.

None of this enjoyment changes the deep concerns we share about our social and natural environment. It does, however, allow me to keep a sense of balance and hold nature's beauty in my life, so I can do the rest of the work of living in today's challenging world. Sharing our birding stories, group bird walks, and the powerful appeal of birds in their natural habitats keeps us strong on the path of doing our part to protect and preserve the natural wonders we

continued on page 5

Lane County Audubon Society

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Conservation..... 2



Field Notes 3



Program Meeting..... 5



Bird Walks 8

Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Hummingbirds Need Our Help!



Anna's Hummingbird

I can't imagine hummingbirds not bringing a smile to your face! I hope all of you get a chance to watch them as they flit, dive, fly sideways, hover, and engage in aerial dogfights. Hummingbirds are beautiful, small, fast, tough, and agile. They have prodigious spatial memories, effortlessly remembering the locations of flowers and feeders previously visited. They also serve as important pollinators, many visiting over 1,000 flowers a day to fuel their active behaviors. Depending on the species, they may weigh as little as 0.141 of an ounce. Their heart rates clock in at an amazing 500-1200 beats per minute.

The results of a new study on the populations of the eight most abundant US hummingbird species were published recently. Some news is good, but, unfortunately, some is bad. Steep population declines were observed for Allen's, Rufous, and Broad-tailed Hummingbird species. Although long-term analyses for Black-chinned and Ruby-throated Hummingbird populations showed little change, a significant decline

was noted when the data for the last ten years was examined. Populations were relatively stable for Calliope and Costa's Hummingbirds. In contrast, Anna's Hummingbird populations showed increases over both the long and short term.

The authors considered possible explanations for the observations based on an analysis of scientific publications. For migratory birds, changes at stopover sites could be key. Researchers believe that one of the repercussions of climate change is to create a mismatch between the timing of plant flowering and hummingbird migration. Other factors include the loss of habitat containing food resources due to an increase in urbanization (and pavement) and invasive species. The birds may further be impacted by widespread exposure to agrochemicals on their breeding grounds. Loss of wintering ground habitat is attributable to logging, agriculture, and urbanization in and south of Mexico. Central American dry forests have suffered anthropogenic disturbance, and loss of habitat is further exacerbated by the frequency and severity of forest fires.

An increase in Anna's populations was noted across the western US, with most dramatic seen in the northern range of Canada where they were once rare. Eucalyptus trees, which bloom from October to April, though not in the northern part of their range, provide additional nectar. Feeders may well be providing a necessary source of food for these birds throughout their range. Researchers have not

yet determined what features of this species allow them to better expand their range into the colder regions of northern North America, while other species impacted by climate change have not or cannot.

Anna's Hummingbirds live in Lane County year-round, so especially in winter, fill your feeders with solutions of 1 part sugar to 4 parts water and clean them regularly. Also consider planting native flowers. Their nectar makes a big difference.

At the federal and state level (as well as in various cities), there is much discussion about climate change legislation. Let your legislators know that meaningful action to slow climate change matters to you and to the hummingbirds.

English, S.G., Bishop, C.A., Wilson, S. *et al.* Current contrasting population trends among North American hummingbirds. *Sci Rep* 11, 18369 (2021). doi:
[org/10.1038/s41598-021-97889-](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-97889-)

Thank you for your support!

We want to express our gratitude for the many levels of support Lane Audubon receives from our members and volunteers. In November we send our annual donation request to support our education, conservation, and outreach programs. Once again, our members have responded generously to this request and we are deeply grateful for the continued support of so many people. Lane Audubon members, THANK YOU for your financial support!

Field Notes: October 2021

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

Orchard Oriole, Dusky Warbler, Brambling, Snow Bunting

Weather for the month seemed cooler and wetter than normal, but that may have been because of the warmer and drier summer. The “bomb cyclone” that passed offshore during the third week of the month pushed a number of pelagic birds closer in (e.g., shearwaters, fulmars, storm-petrels, etc). Lastly, with the addition of two new species to the Lane list, the species total for Lane is now at 430 species. Lane has had the largest list of any Oregon county for some time!

Abbreviations:

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



Photo: Dominic Sherony, wiki commons

Orchard Oriole



Photo: Jason Thompson, wiki commons

Dusky Warbler

GREBES TO VULTURES

Red-necked Grebe	Oct 4	Hills Ck Res.	AC,TJ	An unusual location
Eared Grebe (12)	Oct 5	Dorena Res.	NS	Large number for one Lane location
Vaux's Swift (3)	Oct 25	Lily Lake area	AC, et al	About two weeks later than normal
Red Phalarope	Oct 22	Tokatee-Klootchman	AC	Normal time for southward migration
Black-legged Kittiwake	Oct 9	NJSR	A&GB	First report for the winter season
Common Tern (12+)	Oct 5	Dorena Res.	NS	Annual at FRR in the fall
Northern Fulmar (3)	Oct 14	Tokatee-Klootchman	AC,MP	Normal time for southward migration
Short-tailed/Sooty Shearwater	Oct 14	Tokatee-Klootchman	AC,MP	Hundreds seen moving south
Pink-footed Shearwater	Oct 21	Tokatee-Klootchman	RR	Uncommon to see from shore
Leach's Storm-Petrel (2)	Oct 27	Tokatee-Klootchman	AC	Rarely seen from shore in Lane
American White Pelican (35)	Oct 23	Cottage Grove Res.	DB	Larger number than normal
Snowy Egret	Oct 6	FRR	SH	The last report
Turkey Vulture (214)	Oct 5	SW Eugene	SG	Kettles moving south

WOODPECKERS TO TANAGERS

Lewis's Woodpecker	Oct 21	Dorris Ranch	VB,MO	First report from the valley this fall
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Oct 11	Lily Lake area	JK	About two weeks later than normal
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Oct 25	Mt Pisgah	SD	About two weeks later than normal
Northern Shrike	Oct 23	FRR	DF, et al	First for the winter season
Dusky Warbler	Oct 7	Stonefield Beach	AC	First Oregon record
Mountain Bluebird	Oct 26	Sher Khan Rd	NS	Unusual in the valley
American Pipit (150)	Oct 5	Dorena Res.	NS	Normal time of year for large flocks
Brambling	Oct 29	Deadwood area	KB	Fourth record for Lane
Lapland Longspur (2)	Oct 4	FRR - Royal	JS	Never common in the valley
Snow Bunting	Oct 31	FRR - W Royal	LG	Never common in the valley
Brewer's Sparrow	Oct 12	Waite Ranch	AC, TJ	Rare record for the coast
Vesper Sparrow	Oct 25	KR Neilsen Rd	SH	Unusual this late
Swamp Sparrow	Oct 14	Waite Ranch	AC, et al	First report for the winter season

continued on page 4

Orchard Oriole.....	Oct 14.....	Waite Ranch.....	MP, AC.....	First Lane record
Yellow Warbler.....	Oct 18.....	Florence.....	AC, et al.....	A little later than normal
Palm Warbler (2).....	Oct 27.....	Deflation plain SJSR.....	JS.....	Normal location during fall migration
Wilson's Warbler.....	Oct 19.....	FRR - W Coyote.....	RW.....	About two weeks later than normal
Western Tanager.....	Oct 21.....	River Rd area.....	RH.....	Last report for the breeding season

A&GB Aaron & Gloria Beerman, AC Alan Contreras, DB Dave Barclay, DF Daniel Farrar, JK John Kingeter, JS John Sullivan, KB Kaki Burruss, LG Linda Gilbert, MO Megan O'Neill, MP Magnus Persmark, NS Noah Strycker, RH Rich Hoyer, RR Roger Robb, RW Rebecca Waterman, SD Steve Dignam, SG Steve Gordon, SH Sally Hill, TJ Tye Jeske, VB Vickie Buck

Audubon Adventures Takes Wing for 2021-22

Thanks to the generous donations of LCAS members, Audubon Adventures curriculum kits will soon be arriving in 34 classrooms at 15 different Lane County schools. This all adds up to approximately 820 students learning more about birds, wildlife, and the habitat they need to survive. An environmental education curriculum created by the National Audubon Society for grades 3-5, Audubon Adventures gives teachers print and online materials that help them present standards-based science content to their students. Many teachers have enthusiastically signed up for several years running, and we're excited to welcome a number of new educators to the flock.

If you have any questions or would like to sponsor a classroom, email Cecelia Hagen at audadv@laneaudubon.org.

The sponsors for 2021-22 are:

Anne Hollander, Beth Bridges (2), Betsy Parry, Beverly Rosenow, Camilla Pratt (3), Cathy Irwin, Charles & Reida Kimmel (2), Charlotte Bontrager (2), Denice Rogers (3), Doris Wimber (2), Elizabeth Hall, Elna Robinette, Gaylene Carpenter, Janet Barnes, Jim & Connie Regali (2), Jon Levy and Janie Thomas (2), Karen Svenson, Kathryn Kemp,

Mary Beth Crawford (2), Michael Tanner (2), Mika Singer (3), Mike Smith, Rita Kiley, Rob Castleberry & Joyce Thomas (2), Robin Gage, Ron Renchler, Ruth Anne Fraley (3), Sara Brownmiller (2), Susan Markley (2), Valerie Close

Schools Elementary

& Immersion	Grade
Adams.....	3rd (3 sets)
Adams.....	1st
Adams.....	SPED, K-5th
Awbrey Park.....	4th (3 sets)
Buena Vista-Spanish.....	3rd (3 sets)
César Chávez.....	3rd (2 sets)
César Chávez.....	K
César Chávez.....	2nd-5th
Edgewood.....	2nd (3 sets)
Edgewood.....	3rd
Edgewood.....	4th-5th
Gilham.....	3rd
Howard.....	SPED, K-8th
London.....	4th-5th
Mount Vernon.....	5th
Riverbend.....	4th
Riverbend.....	SPED, K-5
Thurston.....	5th
Twin Oaks.....	1st-2nd
Veneta.....	3rd
Willagillespie.....	3rd
Yujin Gakuen-Japanese.....	4th (2 sets)
Yujin Gakuen-Japanese.....	5th (2 sets)

Jointly sponsored presentation by Lane County Audubon Society and Eugene Natural History Society

December 10 at 7:30 pm via Zoom

Zoom link below will open approximately 30 minutes prior to Program start: zoom.us/j/97499095971



Snowy Owl: A Visual Natural History

Join award-winning author and photographer Paul Bannick on an intimate visual exploration of the life history of the Snowy Owl, based upon his 2020 book, *Snowy Owl: A Visual Natural History*. Through dozens of never-before-published images of this Arctic owl, Paul will help us understand how they survive, breed, and live alongside other wildlife on the Arctic tundra and in wintering areas further south. He will also look at how they compare to other North American owls and what we can do to help them thrive. Paul's startling photographs illustrate behaviors, such as courtship displays, that are heretofore only available as illustrations. These images are complemented by decades of first-hand experience with these birds during all seasons of the year and reflect the latest science.

LCAS Program Meeting Tuesday, January 25, 7:00 pm, Zoom only

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



Tune in to this zoom-only program meeting at 7:00 pm on January 25, 2022. Check the LCAS website and/or Facebook page for the Zoom link.

Fighting Crime with Feathers: The Casebook of a Forensic Ornithologist



Pepper Trail

Have you ever wondered what happened when you see a pile of feathers along the trail? Perhaps a crime has been committed! To solve cases like this, what you need is a forensic ornithologist. Pepper Trail is that guy. “I have a strange job - I identify the victims of wildlife crime when the victim is a bird,” he says. “I’m one of only two people in the world who do this.” His presentation will shed some light on how he goes about unraveling these feathery mysteries.

Pepper’s interest in birds began early. By age 10 he had already started his life list. Now he is soon to retire from his job as the senior forensic scientist in ornithology at the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon. In this position, he identifies bird species from evidence obtained in connection with criminal investigations by federal Special Agents, Wildlife Inspectors, and state and international wildlife agencies. He has completed more than 2,000 requests for analysis, involving over 80,000 identifications of bird parts belonging to more than 900 different species. This work has included all the evidence types that are examined in forensic ornithology: live birds, whole and partial carcasses, individual feathers, crafted items, bones, and bird remains from oil pits and spills. In recognition of his experience and expertise, he has been certified as a Wildlife Forensic Scientist by the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science since 2014, when their certification program began.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Cornell University, a master’s degree from the University of California at Davis, and returned to Cornell for a Ph.D. in ornithology. In his post-doctoral research he studied behavior, zoogeography, and taxonomy of the three Panamanian forms of Thrush-like Manakin, a primitive passerine of uncertain affinities. In Surinam he studied the

operation of sexual selection in a sexually monomorphic lek-breeding species, the Capuchinbird. Another focus was a study of the food storage behavior and communal breeding of Acorn Woodpeckers in the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona. He is also an accomplished poet and published author, and has been known to channel his inner explorer by performing in the persona of Charles Darwin for local clubs and events.

From Our President continued from page 1

observe. I am unwilling to give up hope that we can make a difference in the world around us.

As Audubon members who value nature and wildlife, we need to increase our efforts to connect, inform, and educate our youth about how cool and amazing nature is. We need to share our awe and reverence for the natural world around us. Share the wonder of both the complexity and simplicity of natural ecosystems. Even after generations of study by humans, we still know and understand only a small part of how underlying natural processes work to support our life systems on the earth.

Humans need a sense of urgency that our own survival as a species depends upon how we care for the earth we inhabit. If we nurture, protect, and preserve the earth’s natural places, it will be our own species we save, as well as the other species with whom we coexist.

While I am a realist, I cannot give up the hope that a future generation will be able to breathe in clean air, drink clear water, and gaze out at lovely natural wonders for inspiration. Please remember, humans need nature and nature depends on us to cherish and protect it.

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

February issue: January 1
March issue: February 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

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Gift memberships Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

Name _____

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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

2021 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

by Dick Lamster, Count Coordinator



The 2021 Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) is Sunday, January 2, 2022, our regular day within the three-week Count Period. This will be our 80th Christmas Bird Count. National Audubon Society (NAS) guidelines for conducting this year's CBC are similar to last year's. They include wearing masks, social distancing, and large gatherings only in accordance with the State rules.

So, for the second year in a row, we will not have a Chili Feed Countdown at the end of the day. In the past, this was a really fun ending to a long day of birdwatching. In recent years, it has been attended by more than 100 people. Instead we'll have a Zoom countdown similar to last year. Details will be posted to the LCAS website in mid-December. Last year, some ECBC participants even had chili at home the evening of Count Day, in honor of the normal Chili Feed!

Our 27 Teams will be looking for birds in their designated areas within our 15-mile-diameter circle. Each Team Leader will manage their team according to what works best for them. If you were on a team last year, the Team Leader should have already contacted you with information for this year. If you have not heard from them by the first week of December, contact them, or Dick Lamster at maeveanddick@q.com or 541.343.8664. Other birders wanting to join the count this year can also contact Dick.

If you cannot participate on a Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) team in the field this year, consider being an **ECBC Home Counter**. From the comfort of your

own home, you can record the birds you see at your feeder, in your yard or overhead. Your bird count will be included in the final report to the National Audubon Society. To participate as a Home Counter:

- Check to see if your home is in our official Count Area: laneaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Eugene-CBC-A-Count-circle.pdf
- Please register by January 1, 2022: form.jotform.com/210076440114138
- Download ECBC Bird Count Checklist: laneaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ECBC-Checklist-2020.pdf

For more information, please contact: Marcia Maffei, 2021 Eugene Christmas Bird Home Count Coordinator. Email: birds2count@gmail.com. Cell: 541.501.1280. Please leave a message.

Last year the weather was very nice for the ECBC, especially an Oregon day in early January. When the lists of the 140 people in the field all day were combined with the 122 Home Counters, we had identified 134 species! Four more species were seen during Count Week. The 122 Home Counters set a new record for our count, surpassing the previous high of 111, set in 2016. The number of Field Observers was about average for the past ten years, while the number of species seen was a little above average. Our record high is 140 species, set in 2005.

We recorded 74,646 individual birds last year, about average for the past ten years. You can view results of last year's ECBC as well as all the other CBC's in North America at

christmasbirdcount.org. Our count code is OREU.

We hope you can join us for this year's ECBC. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, January 2, 2022.

Cottage Grove CBC

Due to COVID-19, only experienced bird enthusiasts are invited to take part in the Cottage Grove CBC on Saturday, January 1st, 2021. FMI: GraceLovesBirds1@gmail.com or 817.975.4936. Please leave a contact phone number or email address.

Florence CBC

The Florence CBC will be held on Saturday, December 18th. This Count Circle includes both inland and coastal areas, covering diverse habitats which support a wide-ranging species of birds. Anyone who might be interested can contact Ellen Cantor. A firm commitment at this point is not necessary. FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com.

Oakridge CBC

Volunteers are welcome for the Oakridge Christmas Bird Count, scheduled for Tuesday, December 28th. This count surveys a 15-mile-diameter circle roughly centered on the town of Oakridge. FMI: joel.geier@peak.org or 541.745.5821.

For more details on each of these Counts, visit our website at laneaudubon.org.



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your *Quail* subscription expired?
See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org



photo: Rebecca Waterman

Masked birders

Due to the holidays and the Christmas Bird Count, we don't lead Saturday bird walks in December. Masks and distancing may still be required throughout walks, depending on evolving COVID-safety guidelines. Please check our website and/or Facebook page closer to the date for updated information.

First Saturday Bird Walk, January 1

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. Rebecca Waterman will lead this walk. Location TBA.

Third Saturday Bird Walk, January 15

Our Third Saturday Bird Walk continues to be open to all participants with no pre-sign-up required. Tom Munger will lead this walk at Finley Wildlife Refuge. We will meet at McFadden Marsh and begin the walk at 8:30 am. Tom is a wildlife professional and amateur photographer with a passion for birding who works for the Forest Service.

Bird Sits

Bex has been planning to start a regularly scheduled Birding Sit (an hour or so) for birders who have mobility challenges. However, no one has yet contacted her to express interest. If you're interested, or know someone who might be, email her. If no one responds, she will shelve this idea for now. Times would be based on the availability of interested participants.

Participation continues to be limited due to the ongoing pandemic, so please email Bex at rebecca.waterman@gmail.com for more information or to sign up for the First Saturday Walk or the Sit.

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