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# The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



## From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

## One Welcome and Two Farewells

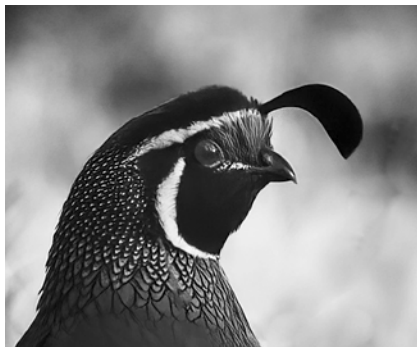


photo: Bob Bremall

California Quail

We are pleased to welcome new Board member, Isaac Scott! Isaac is a UO grad student in Nonprofit Management. As part of his course work, he serves on a board of directors to learn about non-profit organizations first-hand. Isaac grew up on a property owned by the Massachusetts Audubon and has interned with them as well.

Familiar with the story and mission of Audubon Societies, he hopes to learn more about working at the local level. He began attending our Board meetings in October and the Board approved his position as a member later that month. Isaac is working with Maeve and Ron on revising the Lane County Audubon Society By-Laws along with other administrative function improvements. His undergraduate degree is in Environmental Science and Policy, and he worked in elementary schools for three years in Colorado prior to coming to the UO for his master's degree. We are happy he has joined our board. He is contributing to improvements we need to make in these basic but important Board business functions.

Jim Maloney resigned his long-term Board position in September 2021 to spend more time on his building projects and personal pastimes. Jim became a Lane County Audubon Society Board member in September of 2009! Over the past 12 years Jim has shared his deep passion for environmental causes and was our advocate on wind energy issues as well as other energy-related topics. Jim and his wife, Charlotte, have been eager participants in most Lane Audubon activities. He presented programs detailing the impacts of wind energy farms on bird and bat mortality. He also gave a great program about their trip to Alaska, illustrated with wonderful wildlife photos. In 2010, Jim began co-leading field trips with a walk at that year's Wings and Wine Festival. In summer of 2013, he became our field trip coordinator (along with Charlotte). They did this job until October of 2017! Over the years, Jim has also contributed a number of photos and book reviews for the newsletter and helped with

*continued on page 2*

Lane County Audubon Society

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# Lane County Audubon Society's 2021 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

By Dick Lamster, Count Coordinator

The 80<sup>th</sup> Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) was held on Sunday, January 2, 2022. The weather was good, considering it was the first week of January, and we were rewarded with finding 137 species (see the Count Tally on page 3). This is the second highest species total recorded for our Count, tied with the same number in 2007. It came close to our record of 140 species, seen in 2005. Our teams counted 60,587 birds, the lowest number seen in the past two decades. Still, it's a lot of birds. A more detailed summary by Species Compiler Vjera Thompson can be found on page 4.

We had teams in the usual 27 Areas inside our Count Circle, each led by an expert birder. The 164 Field Observers on these teams set a new record for our Count. The previous high of 162 was set last year. These Field Observers spent 278 hours looking for birds while walking 170 miles, driving 495 miles, and bicycling 10 miles.

In addition, we had 100 Home Counters, who spent 300 hours looking for birds in their yards. They identified 67 species and recorded 3,829 individual birds. Marcia Maffei was the Home Count Coordinator for the second time this year. Again, she did a great job organizing the Home Counters and her report is on page 5.

We also set a new record for number of total ECBC participants. With 164 Field Observers and 100 Home Counters, this year's total of 264 total participants beat the old record of 262 set last year.

For the second year, due to COVID restrictions, we could not have our traditional end-of-the-day Chili Feed Countdown. We did have a Zoom Countdown viewed by approximately 75 people. I really hope we can have the Chili Feed Countdown next year, as it has always been a fun event attended by over 100 birders.

In recognition of the 80<sup>th</sup> ECBC, each participant received a special patch for their efforts. The patch is shown above.

One of the main reasons the ECBC is so popular and successful is because of the efforts of the Team Leaders listed below. They assemble their teams well before Count Day, guide them through the day, and then report the results.

Speaking of great efforts, last year our Count was the 7<sup>th</sup> largest in number of participants in the 2,459 CBCs in North America and Central America. That is quite remarkable for a little town in Oregon!

I am very pleased that we conducted a safe and very successful 80<sup>th</sup> ECBC. Thanks to all of you who participated. It was fun!

It's not too early to mark your calendar for the 81<sup>st</sup> ECBC on January 1, 2023!

## Team Leaders by Area

- 1: Ron Renschler
- 2: Rich Hoyer
- 3A: Dan Heyerly
- 3B: Darryl Wisner
- 4: Rick Ahrens
- 5A: Donna Albino
- 5B: Marcia Maffei
- 6: Ramiro Aragon

- 7: Roger Robb
- 8: Dave Kofranek
- 9: Tom Mickel
- 10: Alan Contreras
- 11A: David Novak
- 11B: Dick Lamster
- 12A: Steve Gordon
- 12B: Pat Boleyn
- 13A: Rebecca Waterman
- 13B: Holly Hartmann
- 14: Julia Siporin
- 15: Thomas Meinzen
- 16: Linda Gilbert
- 17: John Sullivan
- 18: Caryn Stoess
- 19: Barbara Combs
- 20A: Vjera Thompson
- 20B: Bruce Newhouse
- 21: Ellen Cantor

## From Our President continued from page 1

Facebook postings. Jim served on the Board as a trusted, caring, smart, experienced, and committed member of our team. He has looked for solutions and supported our mission over the past 12 years with his many talents. Jim continues to help Lane Audubon with Facebook postings, and we value his input on this important outreach effort! Thank you for everything, Jim!

Rachael Friese resigned from the Lane Audubon Board in November 2021. As a busy mom with a full-time job, her time became filled to the brim, so she had to resign from Board obligations. Rachael continues to attend bird walks and is supportive of our outreach activities. She will continue to volunteer when time allows. Previously Rachael also served as the Audubon Adventures Coordinator (May 2016 – Feb. 2021). Thank you, Rachael, for your commitment to Audubon Adventures and your contributions as a Lane Audubon Board member!

# Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally

By Vjera Thompson

137 Species + 3 Count Week, 60,587 individuals  
 RH = Record High, RL = Record Low, CW = Count Week



photo: Rick Ahrens

ECBC Team at Delta Ponds

Species	Total	Status	Species	Total	Status	Species	Total	Status
Snow Goose.....	3		Western Gull.....	10		Common Raven.....	157	
Greater White-fronted Goose.....	1		California Gull.....	31		Black-capped Chickadee.....	914	
Cackling Goose.....	12,853	RL	Herring Gull.....	56		Chestnut-backed Chickadee.....	142	
Canada Goose.....	3,255		Iceland (Thayer's) Gull.....	4		Barn Swallow.....	1	
Tundra Swan.....	390		Glaucous-winged Gull.....	125		Bushtit.....	1,009	
Wood Duck.....	225		Double-crested Cormorant.....	455		Wrentit.....	18	
Cinnamon Teal.....	2		American White Pelican.....	47		Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	324	
Northern Shoveler.....	320		American Bittern.....	1		Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	196	
Gadwall.....	354		Great Blue Heron.....	100		Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	84	
Eurasian Wigeon.....	6		Great Egret.....	61		White-breasted Nuthatch.....	65	
American Wigeon.....	708		Snowy Egret.....	1		Brown Creeper.....	89	
Mallard.....	1,599		Green Heron.....	0	CW	Pacific Wren.....	83	
Northern Pintail.....	955		Turkey Vulture.....	93	RH	Marsh Wren.....	16	
Green-winged Teal.....	2,637		Osprey.....	1		Bewick's Wren.....	141	
Redhead.....	3		Northern Harrier.....	80		European Starling.....	7,042	
Ring-necked Duck.....	222		Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	12		Western Bluebird.....	302	RH
Greater Scaup.....	1		Cooper's Hawk.....	26		Varied Thrush.....	62	
Lesser Scaup.....	66		Bald Eagle.....	120	RH	Hermit Thrush.....	17	
Bufflehead.....	185	RH	Red-shouldered Hawk.....	43	RH	American Robin.....	1,651	
Common Goldeneye.....	11		Red-tailed Hawk.....	199	RH	Cedar Waxwing.....	219	
Hooded Merganser.....	66		Rough-legged Hawk.....	14		House Sparrow.....	256	
Common Merganser.....	425		Barn Owl.....	5		American Pipit.....	267	
Ruddy Duck.....	272		Western Screech-Owl.....	4		House Finch.....	459	
California Quail.....	104		Great Horned Owl.....	15		Purple Finch.....	32	
Ring-necked Pheasant.....	1		Northern Pygmy-Owl.....	2		Red Crossbill.....	0	CW
Wild Turkey.....	391		Barred Owl.....	1		Pine Siskin.....	416	
Pied-billed Grebe.....	99		Short-eared Owl.....	2		Lesser Goldfinch.....	230	
Horned Grebe.....	2		Northern Saw-whet Owl.....	1		American Goldfinch.....	127	
Western Grebe.....	10		Belted Kingfisher.....	24		Fox Sparrow.....	277	
Rock Pigeon.....	515		Red-breasted Sapsucker.....	32		Dark-eyed Junco.....	2,729	
Eurasian Collared-Dove.....	180		Acorn Woodpecker.....	96		White-crowned Sparrow.....	284	
Mourning Dove.....	346		Downy Woodpecker.....	117		Golden-crowned Sparrow.....	953	
Anna's Hummingbird.....	348		Hairy Woodpecker.....	33		White-throated Sparrow.....	12	
Virginia Rail.....	9		Pileated Woodpecker.....	4		Savannah Sparrow.....	16	
Sora.....	3	RH	Northern Flicker.....	346		Song Sparrow.....	619	
American Coot.....	105		American Kestrel.....	140		Lincoln's Sparrow.....	18	
Black-bellied Plover.....	36		Merlin.....	9		Spotted Towhee.....	485	
Killdeer.....	928		Peregrine Falcon.....	6		Western Meadowlark.....	219	
Dunlin.....	3,759		Prairie Falcon.....	2	RH	Red-winged Blackbird.....	1,678	
Least Sandpiper.....	620		Black Phoebe.....	59		Brown-headed Cowbird.....	5	
Western Sandpiper.....	5		Say's Phoebe.....	3	RH	Tricolored Blackbird.....	0	CW
Long-billed Dowitcher.....	14		Hutton's Vireo.....	10		Brewer's Blackbird.....	712	
Wilson's Snipe.....	146		Northern Shrike.....	4		Orange-crowned Warbler.....	5	
Spotted Sandpiper.....	10		Canada Jay.....	3		Wilson's Warbler.....	1	RH
Greater Yellowlegs.....	48		Steller's Jay.....	398		Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	169	
Short-billed (Mew) Gull.....	15		California Scrub-Jay.....	567		Townsend's Warbler.....	68	
Ring-billed Gull.....	190		American Crow.....	1,794				

# 2021 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

By Vjera Thompson, Species Compiler



Photo: Donna Albino

*ECBC Team at Skinner Butte*

The Eugene CBC, held on January 2, 2022, was mild with no rain, but the wind picked up in the afternoon. The Field Counters, in small groups due to continuing COVID-19 safety guidelines, were rewarded with birds and even a few glimpses of the sun.

A total of 137 species and 60,587 individual birds were reported by the field teams and Home Counters on Count Day. An additional three species were found during Count Week. A Snowy Egret, possibly the same one as last year, is wintering here again and was during the Count. Other unusual finds were a Wilson's Warbler, found

on the Count once, and three Soras, found twice previously.

Count Week additions were Red Crossbill, a Green Heron (usually 1 or 2 are found on the Count), and Tricolored Blackbirds, which have been wintering at a dairy farm in small numbers the last couple years. Expected birds we didn't see were White-tailed Kite (no longer wintering in the area), Swamp Sparrow, and Clark's Grebe.

Just like last year, the COVID-19 safety precautions led teams to split into smaller groups, which may have resulted in more thorough coverage, especially on foot. There were record high counts of several raptors, which

may have been more visible due to the rainless day and high winds: 93 Turkey Vultures (seen by 14 teams), 120 Bald Eagles, 43 Red-shouldered Hawks, 199 Red-tailed Hawks, and 2 Prairie Falcons. We also had record highs of Buffleheads (185) and Western Bluebirds (302).

Observers commented that it was harder to find small birds than usual, perhaps due to the winds. But some uncommon small birds were sighted, such as 5 Orange-crowned Warblers (and 2 more wintering that weren't found on Count Day), and 3 Say's Phoebes.

As in the Florence CBC, Eurasian Collared-Doves were down, from 373 last year to only 180 this year. And despite the good visibility, we had a record low of Cackling Geese at 12,853.

The weather cooperated for a few intrepid owling teams, and we were able to find all the expected species of owls. One team enjoyed seeing a Barred Owl on a neighborhood roost mid-morning. Same team as last year, but a different roost!

Thanks to all the birders that made this another successful Count.

# Cottage Grove Christmas Bird Count

By Grace Fowler-Gore, Count Coordinator and Compiler

The 19<sup>th</sup> Cottage Grove CBC took place on January 1, 2022. Of our 51 participants, 14 were youths. On Count Day we identified 86 species and counted 5,952 individuals. A big thrill was having a wonderfully sunny, rain-free day that started cold at 28 degrees and topped out at 41 degrees. Five more species were seen during Count Week. Special thanks go to K/1 teacher, Beck McCoy, of Dorena School for gathering 32

people together, of which 14 were kids, allowing us to thoroughly cover Dorena Lake.

Two birds, a Brown-headed Cowbird and a Greater White-fronted Goose (Count Week) have only been seen once before, in 1981 during the CBC or Count Week. One Snow Goose, first reported in the 2020 Count, was seen again this year. The same was true of Eurasian Wigeon. Black Phoebes were not just hanging around ponds; they appear

to be broadening their habitat. Only one individual saw a lot of American Robins. A pair of Barn Owls, seen on the last 4 counts, were not seen during this Count. However, a fresh pellet was found on January 6.

We had new high counts of 407 for Cackling Geese, 38 for Wood Ducks, 5 for Ruffed Grouse, 250 for Double-crested Cormorants, 31 for American White Pelicans, 40 for Anna's Hummingbirds, 50 for Western Bluebirds, and 19 for Black Phoebes. Brewer's Blackbirds hit a new low of 37.

To all participants—**Thank you!** This couldn't happen without your efforts.



# Oakridge Christmas Bird Count

By Joel Geier, Count Coordinator and Compiler

After postponement due to deep, fresh snow on the originally scheduled Count Day, the Oakridge CBC went ahead on January 3, and broke all previous records for most continuous precipitation throughout the day.

Volunteers started off in pre-dawn heavy rain and winds, which eased to a drizzle with local fog as the day grew light (in comparative terms) around 8 am. All types of drizzle were encountered—fine drizzle, medium drizzle, and miserable drizzle—sometimes alternating with cold, heavy rain. Mid-afternoon brought a welcome change in weather as rain changed to snow mixed with freezing rain, or in some areas, rain mixed with snow, or just plain snow. During all of

the daylight hours, never was there a moment without some variety of rain or snow falling from above. We only missed hail and graupel (pellet snow) as other possibilities.

Road conditions varied from wet to slushy, to packed snow made slippery by rain, to completely snow-covered with more than a foot of snow on the ground. Driving access above 2,500 feet was impossible on High Prairie, and generally lower than 2,000 feet elsewhere in the circle. Steady rain dampened any ambitions of post-holing on foot up snow-covered roads to higher elevations.

Despite these very challenging conditions, and despite getting skunked on owls and grouse, 13 volunteers managed to find 64

bird species plus one striped skunk scampering through the snow. Highlights included eight Mountain Quail, two Virginia Rails, two Horned Grebes, eight wayward Killdeer, a Red-shouldered Hawk, a Peregrine Falcon, three Wrentits, nine American Dippers, six Hermit Thrushes, and hundreds of American Robins and Varied Thrushes (it was their kind of day). The thrushes were concentrated around madrones, which had a good berry crop this year.

There might well be some rare finch flocks up there, but Count Day was not the day to find them. We had no crossbill detections, small numbers of Purple and House Finches, and just two flocks of Pine Siskins plus one lonely Pine Siskin seen on its own. Despite finding an even 100 Golden-crowned Sparrows, once again we were unable to find any White-crowned or White-throated Sparrows among them.

# Eugene CBC Home Counters Summary

By Marcia Maffei

*(numbers in parentheses represent 2020 Counts)*

This was “The Year of the Dark-eyed Junco” for the 2021 Home Counters! A little over 700 juncos showed up this year beating out last year’s number of 575! Bushtits made a decent showing with 433 (621) of them flocking the yards, and American Crows were not far behind with 327 (456). Canada Geese flew in with 202 (585).

Other species that made the 100 - 200 club were: Black-capped Chickadees: 174 (263); Anna’s Hummingbirds: 150 (152); Pine Siskins: 147 (459); European Starlings: 129 (299); House Finches: 138 (183); California Scrub Jays: 109 (140); and Golden-crowned Sparrows: 100 (116).

The rest of the species were in single or double digits.

All in all, the individual numbers were down from 2020. Especially the American Robins! Last year, 276 robins made a showing and only 62 this year! Where have all the robins gone? However, a few of our Home Counters had some great finds.

A Canada Jay showed up with its passport, while Northern Saw-whet Owls and Northern Pygmy-Owls rounded out the not-so-common list.

Many thanks to the 100 (122) observers who reported 67 (64) species with a total of 3,829 (5,988) individual birds. Many Home Counters blamed the wet, cold,



Photo: Rebecca Waterman

*Pine Siskin*

and windy weather for the lower numbers...or maybe... just maybe it was the hawk? Here’s what some of them had to say:

- I’m surprised at how few birds I saw today.
- Really slowed down once the wind started blowing.
- Very sparse and uneventful this year! No Dodos.
- I usually see more birds in a given morning and couldn’t figure out

*continued on page 9*

## Field Notes: November/December 2021

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

### White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Lapland Longspur, Brown Thrasher

The weather seemed a little warmer and drier than normal until the cold and snow moved in the last week of the year. Birding, though, didn't seem too unusual, except for the large numbers of White-winged Crossbills and Common Redpolls in the high Cascades. Those species have been reported even earlier some years. Someone has to hike into the high Cascades to find them, which is often difficult or impossible in December.

#### Abbreviations:

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Lane Community College (LCC), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR)



*White-winged Crossbill*

Photo: Dominic Sherony, wiki commons



*Common Redpoll*

Photo: D. Gordon E. Robertson, wiki commons

#### GREBES TO STORM-PETRELS

Snow Geese (11)	Nov 21	Cox Butte Rd.	RR	Flock in the area for some time
Greater White-fronted Goose (12)	Nov 21	Cox Butte Rd.	RR	Rare winter visitor
Trumpeter Swan (8)	Nov 21	Cox Butte Rd.	RR	A large number for Lane
Tundra Swan (5)	Nov 21	Cox Butte Rd.	RR	Not many reported this year
Cinnamon Teal (6)	Dec 14	West Lake	LW	Known to winter in very small numbers
Eurasian Wigeon	Dec 1	LCC ponds	DA, et al.	Same wintering bird as last year?
Redhead (3)	Nov 16	Kirk Pond	NS	Wintering on the pond?
White-winged Scoter (100s)	Nov 23	Heceta Head area	RH	Very large numbers for Lane
Long-tailed Duck	Dec 18	Florence CBC	Fide VT	Singles winter most years
Rufous Hummingbird	Nov 1-11	Creswell area	NS	Very rare winter visitor
Black Oystercatcher (14)	Nov 19	Bob Creek	JS,VB	Very large number for Lane
Black-bellied Plover (150)	Nov 17	FRR	KS, et al.	Flocks are known to winter
Dunlin (2583)	Nov 17	FRR	KS, et al.	Large flocks can winter
Western Sandpiper	Nov 17	Siltcoos River mouth	TJ&AC	Normally gone by the first of Nov
Red Phalarope	Dec 18	Florence CBC	Fide VT	A few weeks later than normal
Ancient Murrelet (3)	Nov 19	SJSR	JS,VB	Found in very small numbers in winter
Cassin's Auklet (6)	Nov 19	Tokatee Klootchman	JS,VB	Found in very small numbers in winter
Cassin's Auklet (2)	Nov 19	SJSR	JS,VB	Found in very small numbers in winter
Sabine's Gull	Nov 10	Siuslaw River mouth	DF	Not commonly seen from shore
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Nov 9	Tokatee Klootchman	RR	Rarely seen from shore

#### WOODPECKERS TO TANAGERS

Lewis's Woodpecker	Nov 10	Sher Khan Rd.	CT	Late migrant or wintering?
Lewis's Woodpecker	Nov 18	Rest Lawn Mem Park.	RH	Very small numbers winter some years
Gyr Falcon	Nov 18	High Pass Rd area	RH	Rare winter visitor to Lane
Prairie Falcon	Nov	Valley	M.ob.	Very small numbers winter most years
Say's Phoebe	Dec 2	Edenvale Rd	MJ	Becoming a wintering species
Barn Swallow (5)	Nov 17	Siltcoos River mouth	TJ&AC	Normally gone by the third week of Oct
Brown Thrasher	Dec 5	Hayden Bridge Rd.	DAI	Fourth record for Lane
Brambling	Nov 4	Deadwood area	KB	Last day seen
Common Redpoll (2)	Dec 5	Erma Bell Lakes area	CC,CKJ	Rarely found in Lane
White-winged Crossbill (6)	Dec 1	Gold Lake	JS,LJ	Rare visitor to Lane

White-winged Crossbill (168).....	Dec 5.....	Southern Three Sisters.....	CC,CKJ.....	An amazing number!
White-winged Crossbill (48).....	Dec 18.....	Otter Lake area.....	AC,JG.....	Rare visitor to Lane
Lapland Longspur.....	Nov 2.....	SJSR.....	Ma.....	Rare migrant in Lane
Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	Dec 4.....	Lehman Dairy.....	DF.....	Very small numbers found in wintering blackbird flocks
Tricolored Blackbird.....	Dec 4.....	Lehman Dairy.....	DF.....	Small numbers wintering in blackbird flocks
Orange-crowned Warbler.....	Nov-Dec.....	Valley & Coastal.....	M.ob.....	Being reported in larger numbers than normal
Palm Warbler.....	Nov 21.....	SJSR.....	RH.....	Rare wintering species
Common Yellowthroat.....	Dec 18.....	Florence CBC.....	Fide VT.....	Rare wintering species
Black-throated Gray Warbler.....	Nov 3.....	Alton Baker Park.....	DA,et al.....	Normally gone by the third week of Oct
Western Tanager.....	Nov 14.....	River Road area.....	RH.....	Normally gone by the middle of Oct

AC Alan Contreras, CC Caleb Centanni, CKJ Courtney Kelly Jett, CT Craig Turner, DA Dennis Arendt, DAI Donna Albino, DF Daniel Farrar, JG Joshua Galpern, JS John Sullivan, KB Kaki Burruss, KS Kathleen Smith, LJ Laura Johnson, LW Lisa Wallace, Ma Maitreya, MJ Mary Johnson, NS Noah Strycker, RH Rich Hoyer, RR Roger Robb, TJ Tye Jeske, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson. **Fide** references a sighting reported to the listed observer. **M.ob** signifies many observers.

## LCAS Program Meeting Tuesday, February 22, 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 February 22, 2022. Check the LCAS website and/or Facebook page for the Zoom link.

## eBird Tools – Terrific Technologies



Vjera Thompson

Vjera Thompson grew up in Springfield, in a homeschooling family that encouraged her interest in birding. Early on, her mom connected her to Audubon walks, counts, and supportive birders; Vjera recently participated in her 26th Eugene Christmas Bird Count. She graduated from Eugene Bible College (now New

Hope), and spent a winter working on 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; last summer she found a Short-billed Dowitcher at her local pond for bird #150 for her one-mile patch.

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. In addition to being an expert user, she is also a volunteer reviewer for eBird. eBird is a worldwide database that thousands of birders and scientists contribute to. It has powerful listing and search tools, but more importantly

it collects sightings by citizen scientists (that’s us!) that researchers have used in fascinating new ways. 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/](https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/).

For her presentation, she’ll introduce us to additional eBird tools not covered in last year’s presentation. Want to report your bird sightings on the go? Walk a non-birder through an identification? Record a song and see live bird song identification recommendations? There’s an app for that! The featured apps are eBird and Merlin. There will also be time to highlight new features on the eBird website and answer your questions.



# 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](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com)

### The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

March issue: February 1  
April issue: March 1

Submit material to Karen Irmscher at [quailkaren1@gmail.com](mailto: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](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

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Gift memberships  Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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



# A New Big Year Record for Lane County

By Alan Contreras



Photo: Tye Jeske

Alan Contreras

Lane County's previous Big Year record of 289 was set by Dave Irons in 2008. I finished at 296 in 2021! In doing this, I birded in Lane County away from my house on 150 days. Sally Hill and John Sullivan also broke the old record with 292.

How many places did I go? eBird kept track of my visits to each site. Most visited were the Florence jetties, north coast sites, Cantrell-Neilsen Rd area, Fern Ridge sites, and the Scott Lake and Waldo Lake regions.

As the year went by, unexpected birds fell from the sky while "easy" birds put up unexpected resistance. My worst misses

among birds were Cassin's Finch (probably seen twice but "probably" doesn't count), Pomarine Jaeger (missed on the pelagic and no late-season blow-ins), White-tailed Kite (a ten-minute wonder—John was in the right place), and Long-eared Owl, which I just never quite looked for even though I knew a pair was around. I was out of the county at a writing residency (rescheduled from 2020) from October 28 - November 8 and missed a Snow Bunting and Brambling that Sally and John both saw.

My total of 296 hangs a very large bait in front of the next person to set another new record in Lane County: 300 in a year is possible. It was a great year and had at least one side benefit—I lost ten pounds, no doubt from walking the beaches and trails with friends. I also ventured out on my first pelagic trip in forty years.

## Thanks!... And It's Not Too Late to Give to LCAS

We thank everyone who generously donated this year to Lane County Audubon Society's once-a-year, November fundraising request in *The Quail*. We value each contribution we receive, large or small.

In case you forgot to respond to the fundraiser, it's not too late to donate and/or renew your local membership to LCAS. We gratefully accept donations throughout the year, but only directly solicit funding for our operations in our newsletter once each year.

If you haven't yet done so, just mail your tax-deductible donation and/or membership check to LCAS, PO Box 5086, Eugene OR 97405. If you prefer to donate online, you can do so through our website at [laneaudubon.org/donate/](http://laneaudubon.org/donate/). You can also renew your local membership online at [laneaudubon.org/memberships/](http://laneaudubon.org/memberships/).

Again, thanks to those who have contributed already. We appreciate your support.

## Home Counters Summary

*continued from page 5*

what was going on. When the neighborhood hawk made an appearance in the neighbor's tree, I understood. He/she must have moved on because then I started to see a few birds. Was fun though. Thanks!

- It was a very windy and wet day. Not a lot of action from our feathered friends.
- Rather cold and windy today. Kept the birds tucked away.
- Fun as always to spend some quality time with the backyard birds.
- What I found interesting is that the birds didn't start showing up until the afternoon. I think this happened with them knowing the storm was on its way. Also, this is one of the smallest count of birds and varied types I have done in the last 5 years.
- It was a dismal turnout compared to a day or two before.
- Kind of disappointing day. Birds were somewhere else! Still glad I did it.
- I plan to improve my yard this spring with bird-friendly trees and shrubs, so hopefully will have more species next year.
- Great to do this for my second year! Much better at recognizing species than last year. Sorry I couldn't do more than 2 hours. Looking forward to doing it again.



photo: Ellen Cantor

Acorn Woodpecker



Check your mailing label. Has  
your *Quail* subscription expired?  
See page 8 to renew!



## 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, February 5

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. The time, place, and leader of this walk are to be arranged.

### Third Saturday Bird Walk, February 19

Our Third Saturday Bird Walk continues to be open to all participants. The time, place, and leader of this walk are to be arranged.

Participation continues to be limited due to the ongoing pandemic, so please email Bex at [fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org) to sign up for any of these walks.

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photo: Rich Hoyer

*Bushtit*



photo: Ellen Cantor

*Rough-legged Hawk*