

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

Volunteers Are Needed, Appreciated, And Enjoy Their Involvement



Photo: Rebecca Waterman

Volunteers

Volunteers are the “green energy” that drives the activities of the Lane Audubon chapter. The only way we are able to keep our projects running is with folks who have some time, talent, and initiative to help. The work done by Lane Audubon is ALL because of our wonderful volunteers. We have a

small and committed Board that steers our various projects and lends a hand when needed. The Board will help new volunteers with advice, support, and experience. We care about wildlife and their habitats, and we also care about people. Lane Audubon’s work is important in the community. We advocate for environmental education and conservation programs throughout Lane County. We are also committed to a community free of any kind of discrimination based on race, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, and national or ethnic origin.

We welcome your involvement in helping us advocate for the birds.

Building our core group of volunteers is our most powerful means for reaching out to the community and engaging the public with our goals of education and conservation. Lane Audubon currently has 1,416 membership households that participate in many community events to share their interest in birds and nature.

Our many and varied outreach activities include:

- Program meetings eight times a year. Over the past two years, we have adapted to Zoom Program meetings. Moving forward, we have begun a hybrid version (in-person plus Zoom), continuing in May and planned for this fall. An added bonus is that previous Zoom Programs are now available for viewing on YouTube!!
- Audubon Adventures educational kits for school classrooms.
- Audubon in the Schools, our own drawing instruction modules that use bird specimens to teach children both art technique and natural history. This group is also

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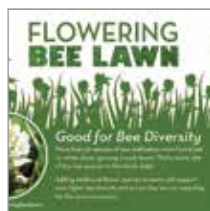
Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/



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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Smaller Lawns, Less Frequent Mowing Benefit Pollinators, Birds and People

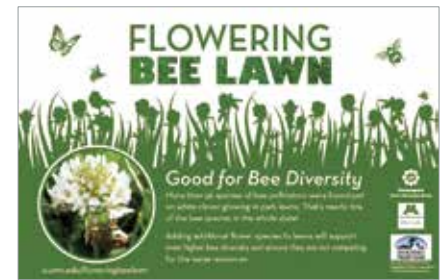
Many years ago, when we were renting a house in a town outside of Seattle, some neighborhood kids came over to ask if they could mow our lawn. They let on that their parents had put them up to it because the grass was getting a bit too long. I knew the benefits of holding back on mowing, but confess to feeling a bit embarrassed. After all, we live in a culture that promotes “neat” lawns as the neighborhood standard. I’m long over the embarrassment and happy to report that more and more people are changing their attitudes, as research documents the benefits of reducing mowing frequency and shrinking our lawns.

There are several drawbacks to lawns, which cover about 50 million acres in the United States. These monocultures (one type of plant) do little to provide habitat or support wildlife. They lack floral resources and structural diversity. Native bees and birds are left with few food choices, little shelter, and a dearth of nesting sites. Lawns require a lot of water, especially problematic in the drought-stricken West. Nitrogen-rich fertilizer is applied in large enough quantities to contaminate groundwater. Pesticides and herbicides may directly harm birds and bees or cause indirect effects, as they kill non-lawn flowers and devastate the insect population and other food resources on which birds and bees rely. The chemical run-off has far flung effects on aquatic ecosystems, contributing to the decline of species

like freshwater mussels, which we rely on for water filtration. In addition, most lawn mowers use fuel and contribute to CO2 emissions. Not to mention noise pollution.

Mowing early in the spring reduces pollinator populations. A promising initiative is No Mow May which is being promoted in the US by groups such as the Xerces Society. By avoiding mowing in May, habitat and forage for early season pollinators is protected and greater food abundance is available for nesting birds. In 2020, Appleton, Wisconsin, became the first city in the US to officially adopt No Mow May. A 2022 study examined the effects of No Mow May in Appleton and found that participating yards had three times as many bee species and five times greater abundance (or number) of bees. This effect multiplies when you consider that the protection of these spring-emerging native bees means better pollination for the flowers, which in turn, creates more abundant food resources for birds, other wildlife, and people.

On an agricultural scale, mowing causes mechanical destruction of nests, with one study showing that 25 percent of grassland species’ nests were destroyed by spring mowing. The report determined that a delay in mechanical mowing of just two weeks until early June would have allowed all destroyed nests to have a successful nesting season. Studies have documented indirect effects of mowing during the nesting season as well, mostly due to increased predation on more exposed nests, or



nutritional failure from lack of plants (mowed down), and lack of insects.

Cutting back on the frequency of mowing is another effective strategy. An experiment by Lerman et al. (2018) measured the effects when lawns were mowed once a week, once every two weeks, and once every three weeks. Lawns mowed less often had 2.5 times more lawn flowers than lawns mowed once a week and had higher bee abundance. Overall, the researchers documented 111 species of bees using lawn flowers in western Massachusetts.

You Can Help

Less mowing and fewer lawns are practical and economical solutions that allow many of us to directly contribute to the health of pollinators and birds that rely on insects and the plants they pollinate. Please consider not mowing or, possibly, mowing less frequently during the month of May and subsequently, less regularly throughout the season. Reduce or eliminate the use of synthetic chemicals including herbicides, pesticides, and rodenticides. The latter poison owls and other birds of prey. Native plants require much less water, chemicals, and maintenance than turf grass. Replace some existing lawn areas with useful flowering native plants and/or a “bee lawn” that may contain plants such as clovers, violets, and creeping thyme. Together, we can transform our urban and suburban barren landscapes into beneficial habitat for bees, birds, and others.

Field Notes: March 2022

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



Photo: Ilana Nimz/USFWS, wiki commons

Ancient Murrelet



Photo: DickDaniels, wiki commons

Rhinoceros Auklet

Ancient Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Orange-crowned Warbler, Western Tanager

The month seemed a little warmer and drier than normal. By the time you read this, migration should be in full swing, given that some of the early neotropical migrants have already started to arrive. So, get out and enjoy it while you can, and let us know what you're seeing!

Abbreviations:

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

Ross's Goose	Mar 24	Dillard Rd area	RR	Rare wintering species
Black-necked Stilt (2)	Mar 26	FRR - Royal Ave	SH,VB	A few days later than normal
Ancient Murrelet	Mar 11	Tokatee Klootchman	RR,DA	Uncommon in Lane Co
Rhinoceros Auklet (20)	Mar 11	Tokatee Klootchman	RR,DA	Higher than usual number for this early
Caspian Tern	Mar 19	NJSR	MF	Earlier than normal
Bald Eagle (20)	Mar 28	FRR	SH	High numbers for the area
Purple Martin (4)	Mar 27	FRR - Royal Ave	RF	About a week and a half early
No. Rough-winged Swallow	Mar 24	Alton Baker Park	NS	About a week earlier than normal
Cliff Swallow	Mar 10	FRR - Royal Ave	TL	A couple weeks earlier than normal
Mountain Bluebird	Mar 10	Pleasant Hill area	MJ	Rare visitor to the valley
Evening Grosbeak	Mar 18	Creswell area	NS	A couple weeks earlier than normal
White-winged Crossbill (10)	Mar 18	Gold Lake	CC,CKJ	Still in the area after last fall's "invasion"
Chipping Sparrow	Mar 22	Creswell area	NS	About a week earlier than normal
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Mar 28	FRR - Perkins	SH	A few days earlier than normal
Orange-crowned Warbler (15+)	Mar 26	Skinner Butte	VT,et al	Normal time for good numbers
Common Yellowthroat	Mar 26	Junction City area	CS	Right on time
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Mar 26	Skinner Butte	VT,et al	About a week and a half early
Wilson's Warbler	Mar 27	FRR - Royal Ave	RW	A couple weeks earlier than normal
Western Tanager	Feb 27	Hendricks Park area	TJ,JG	Very rare wintering bird
Western Tanager (photo)	Mar 12	Hendricks Park area	JS	Most likely the same bird as above
Orange-crowned Warbler (8+)	wintering	Eugene/Springfield	M.ob	An amazing number *See below

*Kit Larson asked if anyone had this species wintering in their yard; six people said yes. Five were counted in the Eugene CBC, along with one known bird that wasn't seen that day. Two were in Springfield, outside the count area, so this number would be a minimum for the area. An amazing number considering they were very rare in winter just a few years ago!

CC Caleb Centanni, CKJ Courtney Kelly Jett, CS Craig Strobeck, DA Dennis Arendt, JG Joshua Galpern, JS Julia Siporin, MF Michael Fanuzzi, MJ Mary Johnson, NS Noah Strycker, RF Rachael Friese, RR Roger Robb, RW Rebecca Waterman, SH Sally Hill, TJ Tye Jeske, TL Terry Little, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson. M.ob signifies many observers.

LCAS at MNCH Event Honoring Herb Wisner

Lane County Audubon Society's information table will be part of the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History's "Nature Night: Birds of Oregon" event on Thursday, May 26, from 5:30 pm to 7 pm. The event honors long-time LCAS board member Herb Wisner, who passed away on February 20, 2022. Full information is available at mnch.uoregon.edu/events. We hope you can attend.

Memorial Gifts Honor Herb Wisner

Memorial gifts in honor of Herb Wisner were sent to Lane Audubon by several people. These gifts totaled about \$500 and have been used to purchase several pairs of small Nikon binoculars to use in our Audubon in the Schools beginning birding sessions at Outdoor School programs. Thanks to those who donated in Herb's honor. We think he would be pleased with this use of the money!

From Our President

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participating in some Beginning Birding Outdoor School sessions.

- Twice-monthly bird walks. Join in the outdoor birding fun with our group. See page 8. FMI: laneaudubon.org/bird-walks/
- Twice-yearly events at the Agate Hall chimney, highlighting the spring and fall migrations of Vaux's Swifts.
- Our annual year-end Christmas Bird Count; the 2022 count will be January 1, 2023.
- Booth events, where we interact with the community, answer questions, and provide bird and natural history handouts.
- Conservation activism focused on preserving habitat diversity. Our

efforts to protect habitat can make a difference in the long-term survival of the birds we enjoy watching. This is a never-ending challenge!

- Our Lane Audubon phone, 541.485.BIRD, is answered by volunteers who give birding advice and help people with bird IDs and other questions.
- Our monthly newsletter, *The Quail*, provides Field Note reports of interesting bird sightings, conservation reports on issues that need attention, and announcements of Lane Audubon activities.
- The LCAS Facebook, Instagram, and Website help us reach out to the online community with current topics and events. Our Website is updated frequently and includes a wealth of helpful and interesting historical resources.

- A newly established University of Oregon Student Bird Club, thanks to Isaac Scott's efforts.
- Monthly Board meetings, which are a great way to learn about all these activities and get to know us. If you are interested in attending a Board meeting, just ask!

Be a part of the team of Lane Audubon volunteers! Please step up to help us keep our energy and forward momentum going!

If you have an interest in being involved and/or have skills you would like to put to work in support of our goals, we would like to hear from you! Call 541.485.2473 or email audubon@laneaudubon.org.

Volunteers Sought for LCAS Booth

As the COVID pandemic wanes, Lane County Audubon Society is hoping to resume hosting an information booth at local gatherings and festivals this spring and summer, when local organizations restart their events. None are scheduled yet, but we are seeking volunteers to staff our booth when opportunities arise. No firm commitment is necessary at this time, but if you think you might be interested in helping to provide information about LCAS programs at local events, this is an excellent way to get involved.

Past volunteers have found it both enjoyable and rewarding to help LCAS spread the word about the importance of birds and their habitats. We provide orientation and training, along with advance notice about events, to all potential booth volunteers.

If you'd like to learn more about volunteering for booth staffing, please e-mail Ron Renchler, LCAS booth coordinator, at christyandron2@gmail.com, or call him at 541.345.0834.

Volunteers Needed for These Positions Now!

"Office" Assistant: Lane Audubon needs assistance with typical office work such as acknowledging members' renewals and donations. We also need help with announcement flyers and social media postings designed to recruit volunteers for community activities. Excel, Publisher, Word, and internet skills required while working from your computer. We do not have an office space.

Join our **Bird Walk Team** to help plan, organize and implement bird walks and respond to requests from out-of-town visitors to show them our wonderful local birding locations! We would really like to have multiple birders involved in this fun and rewarding effort.

amazon smile

Give to LCAS When You Shop Online

Go to smile.amazon.com and select Lane County Audubon Society

LCAS Program Meeting Tuesday, May 24, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



This Lane County Audubon Society (LCAS) Program will be available in person as well as via Zoom. For those wishing to see Bob's glorious photos on a big screen, the location is 100 Willamette Hall at the University of Oregon. It holds 216 people, so social distancing can be easily arranged. The Zoom link will be available one week before the event on the LCAS website and Facebook page.

LCAS Board Elections Notice

Lane County Audubon Society Board elections will be held at the May 24th program meeting.

The slate of candidates are :
Ramiro Aragon, Ron Renchler,
Debra Schlenoff, Isaac Scott,
Maevie Sowles, and Rebecca
Waterman.

The Himalayas Presented by Bob Fleming



Photo: Dennis Arendt

Bob Fleming

The Himalayan System, consisting of east-west trending ranges sandwiched between the Asian and Indian continental plates, features a plethora of lofty peaks, with thirty-seven summits rising to above 25,000 feet.

Besides the stunning crests of mountains, where mountaineers still detect countless unclimbed faces, these mountains have much more to offer. Artists will see the beauty of the peaks framed by rhododendrons; linguists will salivate at the many languages spoken; religious scholars will visit the famous pilgrimage sites; and

naturalists will take note of the various biological zones ranging from the tropics to the mountain tundra and above. Yes, the superb summits are the Himalayas' best known feature, but do join us for an overall look at this magnificent mountain system.

Bob's interest in the Himalayas began early in life. He was born in Mussoorie in the western Himalayan foothills and lived there through high school. After graduate school in Michigan, he moved to Kathmandu, in the central Himalayas, where he continued his exploration of the mountains by organizing and participating in extended camping treks that covered most parts of the mountain system. He, along with his father, wrote the first bird guide to Nepal. He now lives along the McKenzie River, east of Springfield.

As a zoologist-naturalist, he has organized and led natural history tours to many biological regions of the world and has worked as a guide for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, one of the most highly regarded birding and nature tour companies in the world. In the last few years, he has organized tours focused on birds and general nature in Australia, Ecuador,

Costa Rica, and Panama. Bob is well known for his photography and engaging stories, and over the years, he has presented many programs for us. This promises to be another Audubon Program that you won't want to miss.

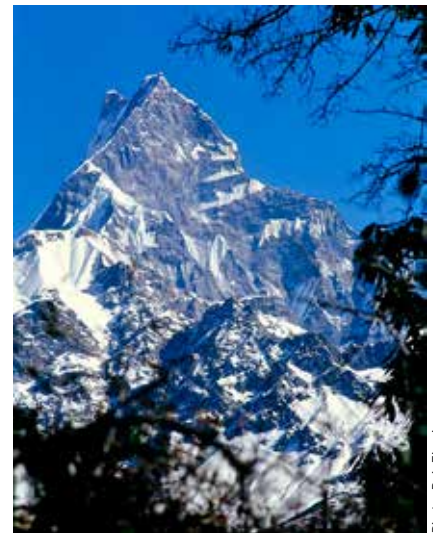


Photo: Bob Fleming

Machapuchare 23,000'



Photo: Bob Fleming

Nilgiri 23,168'

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

July/August: June 1
September: August 1

Submit material to Karen Irmscher at quailkaren1@gmail.com

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

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	Isaac Scott..... iscott6@uoregon.edu
	Rebecca Waterman.....541.653.3354..... fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org

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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

I am a Current National Audubon member Don't know

Please contact me regarding

Gift memberships Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

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

Enthusiasm Expressed for Audubon Adventures

Dear Cecelia Hagen,

My students loved the Audubon Adventures Magazines and learned many facts from them.

First, they liked learning about climate change and what they can do to protect our important ozone layer. They loved hearing about the young activists Greta Thunberg and Jerome Foster II. In the second magazine they learned about our water. Many were surprised that the United States uses the most water. And some had never heard of a watershed before. In the last magazine they learned about native plants and how important plants are to birds.

As you will read and can see from my students' letters, they really learned many fun facts and knowledge from these magazines. I greatly appreciate the Audubon Society giving them this opportunity to learn these exciting topics.

Sincerely,

Ashley Baker, 4th Grade English Teacher
Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion School



Helen Riddell (second from left)

LCAS Volunteer Helen Riddell Has Died

We are sorry to announce that Helen Riddell, a long-time LCAS volunteer, died on March 11, at the age of 98. She was a part of our long-standing *Quail* mailing crew. The group gathered each month to stick more than 1,000 mailing labels on the *Quail* newsletters, then take them to the Post Office for mailing. She was the last of that dedicated group of volunteers who did this work for more than 35 years until, one by one, they could no longer do it! They always attended our annual volunteer potluck with smiles and bowls of food to share. Originally from Portland, Helen retired after teaching at Clear Lake School, in the Bethel area. In addition to birding with her close friends, she enjoyed doing local theater, dancing, and swimming.



Razor Park Bee Survey, Wednesday, May 4, Noon-2 pm

Bee City Eugene is hosting a native bee survey at Razor Park, in the River Road area. Join us for an afternoon of observing and identifying bees and contributing to the Oregon Bee Atlas, organized by the Oregon Bee Project. All are welcome, no experience necessary, and we especially urge photographers to join us so we can upload images of the bees to the iNaturalist app. We will provide bug nets, identification guides, and naturalists to assist.

Meet at the bee icon in Razor Park in the River Road area. Street parking is available on Stephens Dr., along the north side of the park. This event is sponsored by **GloryBee**, **Lane County Audubon Society**, and **Beyond Toxics**. Learn more about the statewide effort to catalogue bees here: oregonbeeproject.org/citizen-scientist.



Check your mailing label. Has
your *Quail* subscription expired?
See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org

Masks and distancing are no longer required.

First Saturday Bird Walks, May 7 and June 4

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. Location and leader TBA. Please email Bex at fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org to sign up for either of these.

Third Saturday Bird Walk, May 21 and June 18

Our Third Saturday Bird Walk continues to be open to all participants. Bjorn Kristensen will lead in May; Tye Jeske will lead in June. Reservations are no longer required. Times and locations are TBA.

FMI: Email fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org, or check the Lane Audubon website and/or the Lane Audubon Facebook page close to the walk date.

Drones Can Cause Harm to Birds

Please do not use drones for bird photography or videography as they may cause harm to birds. The birds are likely to perceive the drone as a predator and leave their roosting or nesting area. Drones could disturb them to the point of wasting energy, putting their nestlings at risk, and perhaps causing mortality. Note that the harassment of species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is specifically prohibited.

National Audubon's *Guide to Ethical Bird Photography and Videography* clearly states that drones should not be used: tinyurl.com/mr3bx86z

Birding-By-Canoes-and-Kayaks Trip

Maeve and I hope to lead the popular Birding-by-Canoe field trip to Fern Ridge Lake this year on June 18, with specific plans yet to be determined. The water in Fern Ridge Reservoir is already low and expected to get lower as the summer progresses, so we are "wait and see" about scheduling. We have cancelled in the past due to low water at Fern Ridge (2005, 2013, 2020, and 2021).

In 2005 and 2013 we went to Gold Lake instead. It is off Highway 58 near Willamette Pass. It is a fun lake to paddle (no motors allowed) and a good place to bird watch, so if Fern Ridge isn't possible in June, we will consider going there. If we decide to do this, notices will be posted closer to June 18 on the LCAS website, Facebook, and Instagram. — Dick Lamster