

# 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

## Bats Are Amazing, and Beneficial to Humans



Photo: Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren, Wikimedia Commons

Little Brown Bat

As summer takes hold, we see bats each evening feasting on insects under our deck overhang. As the light fades they cruise back and forth to capture insects that have lingered under the deck's shady roof. Bats have always amazed me. These little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) are small flying mammals that eat

only insects—as many as one to two thousand per bat every night!

In the Pacific Northwest (PNW), most bats roost in big old trees and snags. This is their home and critical habitat for our local bats. Some do use wood piles and eaves with openings in them to stay warm and safe. Bats are not only threatened by loss of habitat due to logging, but also by use of pesticides. As insectivores they are exposed to insects that may have been sprayed but not yet killed, or they may not find the juicy bugs they need and prefer in their diet. Female bats nurse their young, and the little family is susceptible to disturbance as the young are unable to survive on their own.

These small bats have a 9-inch

wingspan and can fly between 12 and 21 miles per hour. They are the most common type of bat in the PNW, seen in all types of habitats, including towns. Bats have historically been maligned and persecuted by poorly informed humans. Healthy bats are actually harmless and non-aggressive. As a species, bats are the only mammal capable of true flight and are immensely important globally as pollinators and insectivores, helping our agricultural needs on both ends of the spectrum. Several other species of bats are found throughout the PNW, in some cases migrating to or from their preferred feeding sites.

Late in the summer we have seen bats flying in pairs, which appear to be mothers with their young flying close behind, learning the art of catching insects with their unique sensory radar. It is their superpower! We happily watch the bats catching insects, especially mosquitos, as we sit outside enjoying the summer evenings. To encourage more of them to live nearby, we installed a bat box on the back

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Lane County Audubon Society

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## Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

### LCAS Community Activities Enhance the Environment for All

At Lane County Audubon Society, we love to see our community working together to make a better place for birds, people, and other biological beings. We believe strongly in supporting wildlife while connecting people to nature. One way to achieve this is to help with the creation and maintenance of native plant gardens in our area. This year, we obtained a small grant from National Audubon Society to help fund the improvement of school native plant gardens. An early connection with nature has been shown to promote health and an appreciation for the natural world in children. Our first project is at Adams Elementary School.

Cecelia Hagen, our LCAS Audubon Adventures coordinator, has been instrumental in getting the program going and providing on-the-ground support. At Adams School, the school garden parent coordinator, Angela McDonald, provides assistance and expertise. We held two work parties at the school garden this spring. More are planned for the fall, when we can rely on nature to water what we plant. The spring sessions, focused on weeding out invasive plants and planting some native bloomers, were fun and productive.

Check out the pictures of our multi-generational volunteers. It was especially gratifying to see children, parents, grandparents, and UO students working together to make it happen. Some of the UO students were from the nascent student

bird organization on campus. This group, “Ducks of a Feather,” are also collaborating with LCAS to create bird- and pollinator-themed activity kits for handing out to community children through the Eugene Public Library program. Other UO students were from my conservation biology class, which had a service-learning component that resulted in students helping throughout town. Activities included cleaning up trash along the river, weeding out invasives, and planting native flowers in places such as Alton Baker Park, Hendrick’s Park, Mt. Pisgah, and on campus.

Using native plants in gardens provides many benefits. Birds and pollinators have co-evolved with these plants, creating a win-win situation. The plants provide cover, food, and shelter for the birds and other wildlife. Native bees and birds supported by these gardens are best equipped to provide effective pollination for the plants. Plants that are native to the area are easier to care for. Better suited for the local climate, including our dry summers, they need less watering as well as less application of synthetic chemicals, such as fertilizers and pesticides. The birds and beneficial insects supported by these plants also provide pest control.

**We seek volunteers to provide assistance in tending the school gardens and helping kids learn the benefits of bird and pollinator-friendly gardening.** This project is part of a wider LCAS initiative to promote a more bird-friendly community. We



*Cecelia Hagen with school gardeners*



*More school gardeners*

want to raise awareness about how to best support birds and pollinators and how to reduce bird mortality in our community. There’s so much to do, and we can do it if we work together. Please join us.

Contact Debbie: [dschlenoff@msn.com](mailto:dschlenoff@msn.com)

*continued on page 4*

## Field Notes: Spring 2022

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

### White-faced Ibis, Red-naped Sapsucker, Great-tailed Grackle, Baird's Sandpiper

Spring season this year was about as opposite of last year as you can get— cool temperatures, lots of rain, and rare snow! That local weather was reflected in the birds seen during the season. Wintering species stayed later than normal and migrants piled up on their way north because of cold rain. Another observation was the unusually large influx of Great Basin breeding species that showed up here due to the lack of water/breeding sites there. We decided not to include arrival dates in this year's spring fieldnotes, because that data can be easily found in other places (i.e., eBird).

#### Abbreviations:

Amazon Prairie Mitigation Bank (APMB), Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR)



Photo: Mike's Birds, Wikimedia Commons

*White-faced Ibis*



Photo: Matt MacGillivray, Wikimedia Commons

*Red-naped sapsucker*

Greater White-fronted Goose.....	May 22.....	Coburg Hills.....	TM.....	Later than normal, flying overhead
Snow Goose.....	May 16.....	FRR.....	M.ob.....	Later than normal
Ross's Goose.....	April 24.....	APMB.....	M.ob.....	Later than normal
Trumpeter Swan (2).....	May 27.....	FRR.....	SH.....	Resident birds?
Eurasian Wigeon.....	May 17.....	FRR.....	RR,JH.....	Later than normal
Long-tailed Duck.....	May 3.....	Heceta Beach.....	JS,et al.....	Later than normal
Band-tailed Pigeon (54).....	May 14.....	N River Rd.....	MRu.....	Higher numbers than they've had before
Vaux's Swift (11,000+).....	April 30.....	Agate Hall, UO.....	LCAS.....	A high count for the spring
Calliope Hummingbird.....	Apr/May.....	Eugene/Springfield.....	M.ob.....	Numerous reports from the area
Sandhill Crane.....	May 20.....	FRR.....	NS.....	Much later than normal
American Avocet.....	May 27.....	FRR.....	M.ob.....	Will they breed again?
Long-billed Curlew.....	May 18.....	Siltcoos River mouth.....	DF.....	Uncommon in Lane Co, especially spring
Baird's Sandpiper.....	April 22.....	FRR.....	JS.....	Very rare spring migrant
Baird's Sandpiper.....	May 1.....	APMB.....	SH.....	Very rare spring migrant
Solitary Sandpiper.....	Apr/May.....	Eugene/Springfield.....	M.ob.....	Smaller numbers than normal
Willet.....	May 18.....	Siltcoos River mouth.....	DF.....	Rare in Lane Co
Common Tern (2).....	May 25.....	SJSR.....	JM.....	Not commonly seen during spring migration
White-faced Ibis (9).....	May 23.....	Meadowlark Prairie.....	RR.....	Rare spring "over-shoot" from the Great Basin
White-faced Ibis (80+).....	May25-30.....	FRR.....	M.ob.....	Numbers increasing through end of period
Swainson's Hawk.....	May 1.....	Springfield.....	A&DH.....	First of three sightings, numbers increasing
Lewis's Woodpecker (2).....	May 11.....	Creswell area.....	JG.....	Getting to be later for this wintering species
Lewis's Woodpecker.....	May 27.....	Creswell area.....	JG.....	Attempting to breed in the area?
Red-naped Sapsucker.....	May 1.....	Marcola area.....	NP.....	Rare for Lane Co
Olive-sided Flycatcher (6+).....	May 16.....	Friendly St area.....	DA.....	Very large numbers for "in town"
Gray Flycatcher.....	May.....	Eugene/Springfield.....	M.ob.....	Larger numbers than usual
Dusky Flycatcher.....	May 27.....	Creswell area.....	JG.....	Singing in good breeding habitat - breeding?
Bank Swallow.....	May.....	Eugene/Springfield.....	M.ob.....	More reports than usual - do they nest here?
Western Bluebird.....	May 26.....	N Eugene.....	B&DG.....	Attempting to breed in backyard!
Brewer's Sparrow.....	May 3.....	Heceta Beach.....	JS,et al.....	Rare spring sighting
Fox Sparrow.....	May 5.....	UO area.....	BN.....	Later than normal for this wintering species

*continued on page 4*



White-throated Sparrow (9) .....	April 19 .....	Skinner Butte.....	RR,SH.....	Very large number for one location in Lane
Tricolored Blackbird.....	May 12.....	FRR .....	RR.....	First spring sighting for Lane Co; breeding?
Great-tailed Grackle .....	May 24.....	FRR .....	HS.....	Rare for Lane Co
Western Tanager.....	May 13/21.....	River Rd area.....	RH.....	Very large numbers in yard
Neotropic migrants.....	April 25/May 5	Skinner Butte.....	SH,RR.....	Both mornings in the rain, hundreds of warblers, flycatchers, vireos, etc were observed on the top of the butte – a rare sight these days!

A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, B&DG Barbara & Dan Gleason, BN Bruce Newhouse, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, HS Hal Sadofsky, JG Joel Geier, JH John Houle, JM Joseph Mooney, JS John Sullivan, MRu Mark Rudolph, NP Nic P., NS Noah Strycker, RH Rich Hoyer, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, TM Tom Mickel. M.ob signifies many observers.

*Conservation continued from page 2*

## Bird Friendly Gardening Tips

- Plant native plants for food and cover
- Plant native blooming flowers that attract butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds
- Plant berry-producing plants, fruit trees, and nut trees
- Have a diversity of plants at different heights and that bloom throughout the season
- Use alternatives to pesticides
- Leave snags
- Create brush piles and old log or wood piles
- Have a rock pile with larger rocks that have spaces between them
- Reduce or eliminate lawns
- Leave some grassy areas unmowed
- Leave some bare patches for ground-nesting solitary native bees
- Have a messy yard and garden
- Create one or more water features for wildlife drinking and bathing
- Keep your cat indoors
- Clean bird feeders



*Audubon in the Schools volunteers offered Outdoor School sessions*

## Outdoor School Sessions Were a Success!

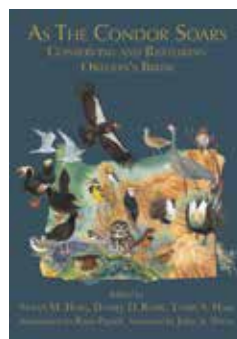
On April 26th and 28th at Bauman Tree farm near Veneta, we put on beginning birding class sessions for students from Agnes Stewart Middle School. We focused on how to use binoculars and what to look for when birding. All of their 6th grade classes—144 energetic, enthusiastic and mostly very well-behaved 6th graders—joined in.

Audubon in the Schools volunteers Rose Britton, Jane Holloway, and Barb Pope spent 4 ½ hours each day teaching. Teamwork made the experience so much better for both the presenters and the kids. Only about 6 different species of birds were seen. The deep forest isn't the easiest place to go out birding.

Our 6 new sets of binoculars worked wonderfully. We hope we created some new birders!

## Art by Ram Papish Graces This Book Cover

Editor's note: Ram Papish has been a recurring, and always entertaining, presenter at our LCAS Program Meetings. For months I have kept an Oregon's Birds poster that he created on my computer's desk top just because I liked it so much. This month, I thought I might have space to print it in *The Quail*. So I wrote to ask permission, and for a higher resolution file. He let me know that it



appears on the cover of a recent book which he illustrated: *As The Condor Soars: Conserving and Restoring Oregon's Birds*. See for yourself. — Karen Irmscher

FMI: [osupress.oregonstate.edu/books](http://osupress.oregonstate.edu/books)

## From Our President

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corner of our house, about 30 feet off the ground. At dusk we can see bats fly up to the box as if waiting to have those inside come out. Our hope is that the young ones will thrive and eat insects under our deck roof as well!

This summer, if you want to try to see bats, go out just before sunset. Look for lots of flying insects and pull up a chair. Many times ponds or slow-moving water are an attraction, but don't forget your insect repellent.



Photo: Robin Corcoran, USFWS

## Marbled Murrelet Survey at Cape Perpetua

July 27, 6:30 pm - July 28, noon

You are invited to join the 17th annual Marbled Murrelet community science survey on a spectacular stretch of Oregon's coast. After two years of hosting this event virtually, the Portland Audubon Society is excited to return in person!

FMI: [audubonportland.org/get-involved/community-science/marbled-murrelet-training-and-survey/](https://audubonportland.org/get-involved/community-science/marbled-murrelet-training-and-survey/)

[audubonportland.org/event/marbled-murrelet-survey-at-cape-perpetua/](https://audubonportland.org/event/marbled-murrelet-survey-at-cape-perpetua/)

## Rivers to Ridges Parks and Open Space 20-Year Vision “Refresh” Process Underway

The Rivers to Ridges Partnership is a voluntary association of 19 organizations working collaboratively to advance the protection, restoration, and management of open space resources in the southern Willamette Valley. The Rivers to Ridges planning area focuses on the Eugene-Springfield area, surrounding rural lands and small cities, and the confluences of four major watersheds —Coast and Middle Fork Willamette, Long Tom, and McKenzie. The name Rivers to Ridges emanates from a regional open space vision which was endorsed by numerous stakeholder groups including Lane County Audubon in 2003.

FMI: If you are interested in helping to shape the visions of this project, go to [rivers2ridges.org](https://rivers2ridges.org).



Photo: City of Eugene

*Delta Trail*



Photo: Paul Gordon

*Thurston Hills*



Photo: Phillip Richardson

*View from Rock Hill toward Spencer Butte*

## LCAS Bird Specimens Visit Classrooms!

Three of our bird specimens have visited three classrooms during the final months of the school year, thanks to the efforts of LCAS's Audubon Adventures Coordinator, Cecelia Hagen.

Our American Kestrel went to Adams Elementary, our Northern Flicker went to Yujin Gakuen, and our Wood Duck visited César E. Chávez Elementary. Students in these classrooms have been very enthusiastic about using the Audubon Adventures kits, and we hope this helped enrich their bird learning experience!

Teacher Sasha Welch at César E. Chávez Elementary says that the male Wood Duck has “been a great topic of discussion for our English Learners,” and the school looks forward to borrowing a different species in September, if possible.

# 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 [tgodsfil@gmail.com](mailto:tgodsfil@gmail.com)

### The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

July/August: June 1  
September: August 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 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
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To pay by PayPal, go to [laneaudubon.org/support/join](http://laneaudubon.org/support/join)

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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



# YOU'RE INVITED TO A HERB WISNER

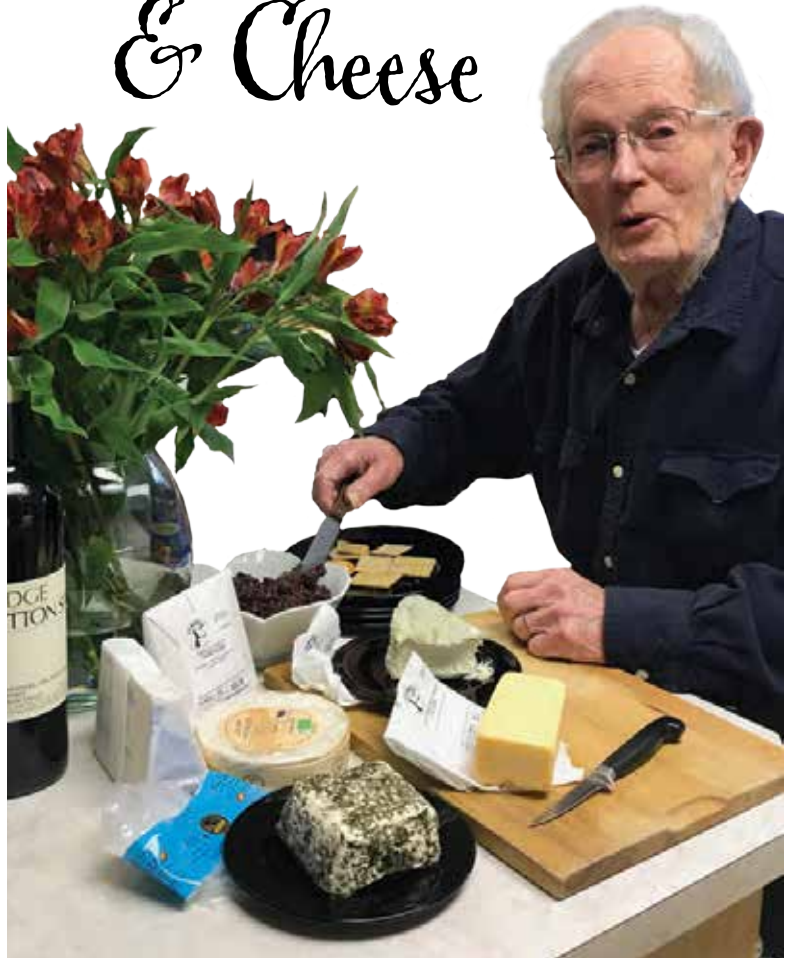
# Celebration of Life & Cheese

Herb Wisner loved many things—his family, his friends, teaching, bird watching, singing, writing...and he especially loved cheese.

We lost him on Sunday, February 20, 2022. Please join the family for a celebration of his life (and our Mom's):

**SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2022**  
**3 PM - 6 PM**  
**MOUNT PISGAH ARBORETUM**

We'll gather in the Pavilion, share stories, sip wine or other beverages, sample some favorite desserts... and eat cheese.



*Herb enjoying cheese on his 99th birthday*



*You'll want to visit the bench that now commemorates both Herb and Ruth Wisner, down near the wildflower garden. Our whole family, together for what would have been Herb's 100th birthday, posed there in March.*

Lane County  
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## LCAS Bird Walks & Events

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

Masks and distancing are no longer required.

### First Saturday Bird Walks, July 2 and August 6

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](mailto:fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org) to sign up for either of these.

### Third Saturday Bird Walk, July 16 and August 20

Our Third Saturday Bird Walk continues to be open to all participants. July's leader and destination are TBD. Daniel Farrar will lead in August, at the coast. Reservations are no longer required. Times and locations are TBA.

FMI: email [fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org), or check the Lane Audubon website and/or the Lane Audubon Facebook page close to the walk date.

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#### Give to LCAS When You Shop Online

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select Lane County Audubon Society

## 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 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](mailto:audubon@laneaudubon.org).

Volunteers needed for these specific positions now! Lend a Helping Hand!

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.

**"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.