

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

I Celebrate Nature's Seasonal Changes



Photo: Alanna Sowles

Fall Equinox sunset beaming across a stone circle at the home of Maeve Sowles and Dick Lamster.

Four times a year, as our earth travels around the sun, humans have for eons taken note of the changes that occur in our daylight

hours. This phenomenon affects our lives in ways that we cannot change...the seasons and length of daylight hours. In September, during the autumnal equinox, the sun shines directly on the equator, and the northern and southern hemispheres get the same amount of solar rays.

This year it occurs on Thursday, September 22 at 6:03 pm Pacific time. The autumnal equinox is an astronomical event that marks the start of autumn (or fall). During an equinox, the sun crosses what we call the celestial equator—an imaginary extension of earth's equator line into space. The equinox occurs precisely when the sun's center passes through this line. The word equinox comes from Latin aequus, meaning equal, and nox, night. On the

equinox, day and night are roughly equal in length.

After the autumnal equinox, days become shorter than nights as the sun continues to rise later and nightfall arrives earlier. From earth, one can notice the arc of the sun across the sky each day as it starts shifting south. This change is noticed by animals and plants as well, prompting birds and butterflies to migrate along with the path of our sun! The changing path of the sun begins bringing cooler temperatures, which affect all living things.

I have a garden and an orchard, so I pay attention to these events and feel connected to the cycles of our planet. They remind me that as a humans we are not in control of these cosmic forces. As harvest time nears, I feel a sense of gratitude for what the garden and orchard provide. It is an ancient connection that all humans have celebrated since our time on earth began.

Some ways to celebrate the autumnal equinox in 2022 might be to *continued on page 4*

Lane County Audubon Society

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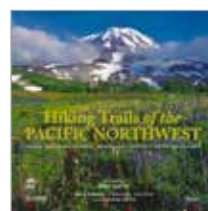
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Benefit Event 7

Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Birds That Share Our Neighborhoods

Most of us live in urban or suburban areas where we are treated to the sights and sounds of the birds that share our space. Several researchers have explored the effects of urbanization on birds. Findings differ depending on context, but unfortunately, the data shows that fewer species are able to make a living inside urban areas than outside of them. For those birds that do well in cities, the abundance or numbers of birds may be higher than in surrounding areas.

Many factors influence which birds are found in greater numbers within cities and their suburbs. Birds that have better tolerated urbanization tend to be prolific breeders and opportunists (like Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, and House Finch.) Cities support a greater proportion of cavity-nesters, birds with larger clutch sizes, and those that flock in larger numbers. Omnivores and granivores have a better chance of exploiting human resources, whereas insectivores do not fare as well in cities.

Birds such as White-crowned Sparrows may benefit from the food at our feeders. Some raptors have taken advantage of human-made structures to find good places to nest within cities. If food sources are available, such as fish for osprey, they fare well in the city and may suffer less persecution than in rural areas. One study showed that bigger-brained species (relative to their body size), such as American Crows, Black-capped Chickadees, and American Kestrels, also prosper better in cities.

Birds in cities must contend

with reduced habitat and habitat fragmentation, poor nutrition, higher levels of pollutants, pesticides and plastics, increased predation from cats and other introduced animals, noise pollution, lights pollution, increased risk of collisions with buildings and powerlines and cars, and the stress of constant proximity to people.

Studies have uncovered some of the repercussions. Artificial light and noise have been shown to negatively affect parental care and other behaviors. Noise makes it more difficult for birds to communicate and less likely to achieve predator avoidance. Birds that live in cities start singing earlier in the spring and will sing for a longer period through the season. The characteristics of their song may differ with a shift to higher-frequency songs, which can presumably be better heard over the low-frequency rumble of traffic and other urban acoustical features.

Artificial lights make it more difficult to avoid predators when resting. Nocturnal birds searching for food have dark-adapted eyes, which require long recovery times when exposed to bright light at night. This light also interferes with the biological clock or circadian rhythm, which negatively impacts physiological responses. Higher levels of air pollutants like nitrogen oxides, soot, and other chemical toxins lead to greater amounts of oxidative damage.

One study noted a larger bursa of Fabricius in city birds relative to rural birds. This is a specialized organ in birds that allows them to mount a stronger immune response. Another



House Finches



Mourning Doves

report measured significantly shorter chromosomal telomeres, which are associated with shorter lifespans. Some studies have reported lower fledgling rates for certain species and a decrease in egg size.

In Europe, researchers have noted that dark morphs in pigeons are more common in cities. Melanized feathers help detoxify the blood stream from heavy metals. Nutritional deficiencies have been noted, including less carotenoids in food sources. For example, there is a lower abundance of caterpillars, a good source of carotenoids, likely due to higher pollution levels and fewer native tree species. The decrease in carotenoids may affect mate choice and breeding success. Some city species need to expend greater amounts of energy to maintain larger territories in order to get the resources they need. Higher levels of territorial aggression have also been observed than in their rural counterparts.

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Field Notes: June/July 2022

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

Flammulated Owl, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, White-tailed Kite

June continued wet and cool, but July ushered in hot, sunny weather! In early June we continued to get birds displaced by the parched Great Basin, along with some very late migrants. As is normal, by the end of July we started to get southward-bound shorebirds from their breeding grounds in the Arctic.

Abbreviations:

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



Photo: wikimedia

Flammulated Owl



Photo: Rhododendrites, Wikimedia Commons

Ash-throated Flycatcher

Ross's Goose	.....	July 7	.....	FRR	.....	Ma,NB	.....	Summering?
Cackling Goose	.....	July 10	.....	Siltcoos River	.....	DF	.....	Summering?
Trumpeter Swan (2)	.....	June 15	.....	FRR	.....	Ma,VB	.....	Birds from the Noti/Vaughn area?
Sandhill Crane (2)	.....	June 8	.....	Gold Lake bog	.....	TM	.....	They have nested in the high Cascades
Marbled Godwit (2)	.....	July 21	.....	Heceta Beach	.....	RR	.....	Headed south
Ruddy Turnstone	.....	July 21	.....	NJSR	.....	JP	.....	Normal time for their migration south
Sanderling (400)	.....	July 21	.....	Heceta Beach	.....	RR	.....	Large numbers for so early
Pectoral Sandpiper	.....	July 19	.....	FRR	.....	JS	.....	Seems earlier than normal
Semipalmated Sandpiper	.....	July	.....	Heceta Beach	.....	RR	.....	First for the fall migration
Wilson's Phalarope	.....	June/July	.....	FRR	.....	M.ob.	.....	Breeding again this year
Wilson's Phalarope	.....	June/July	.....	Meadowlark Prairie	.....	M.ob.	.....	Breeding again this year
White-faced Ibis	.....	Early June	.....	FRR	.....	M.ob.	.....	Still in the area until mid-month
White-tailed Kite	.....	July 22	.....	Coburg area	.....	SA	.....	Rare sighting for the breeding season
Flammulated Owl	.....	July 15	.....	Taylor Burn camp	.....	JP	.....	Second report for Lane Co
Ash-throated Flycatcher	.....	June 20	.....	Westmoreland area	.....	S&SG	.....	The only report for this year
Red-eyed Vireo	.....	June 25	.....	Meadowlark Prairie	.....	VT	.....	First report for Lane this year
Red-eyed Vireo	.....	July 12	.....	Green Island	.....	DA	.....	The only other report for Lane this year
Purple Martin	.....	June/July	.....	LCC/Wild Iris Ridge	.....	M.ob.	.....	Seem to be expanding their breeding area
Bank Swallow	.....	July 17	.....	FRR	.....	VT	.....	Normally seen later in the season
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	.....	June/July	.....	Mt Pisgah	.....	M.ob.	.....	Seem to be nesting in the same area again
Western Bluebird	.....	July 3	.....	Westmoreland area	.....	S&SG	.....	Five fledged from nest box in yard
Western Bluebird	.....	July 9	.....	Cal Young area	.....	BG	.....	Nearly fledging from nest box in yard
Western Bluebird	.....	July 9	.....	West Eugene	.....	VT	.....	Seen using cavity in area
Swainson's Thrush	.....	June 16	.....	River Road	.....	RH	.....	Heard migrating overhead, later than normal
Black-throated Sparrow	.....	June 6	.....	FRR	.....	MW	.....	A late report for this species in Lane - photo
Grasshopper Sparrow	.....	June/July	.....	FRR	.....	M.ob.	.....	Again singing during the breeding season
Grasshopper Sparrow	.....	June/July	.....	Meadowlark Prairie	.....	M.ob.	.....	Again singing during the breeding season
Great-tailed Grackle	.....	June	.....	FRR	.....	M.ob.	.....	Still being seen in the area
Great-tailed Grackle	.....	July 8	.....	River Road	.....	MRu	.....	Flew over yard
Lazuli Bunting	.....	June	.....	River Road	.....	MRu	.....	Larger numbers than normal this year

BG Barbara Gleason, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, JP Jesse Pline, JS John Sullivan, Ma Maitreya, MRu Mark Rudolph, MW Madeline Wainscott, NB Neil Bjorklund, RH Rich Hoyer, RR Roger Robb, SA Scott Atkinson, S&SG Steve & Susie Gordon, TM Tim Miller, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson. M.ob. signifies many observers.



Photo: Rose Britton

AITS instructor Barb Pope, with library kids

Audubon in the Schools Team Travels to Cottage Grove Library

Barb Pope and Rose Britton gave a one-hour presentation at a kids' day event called "Off the Beaten Path" at the Cottage Grove Library the afternoon of August 4th. Twenty-eight kids, ages ranging from 4 to 11, participated. Barb and Rose divided the kids into two groups, which they took turns teaching, allowing each group to do both activities.

Barb read aloud the Robert Bateman book, *The Boy Who Painted Nature*, which was then donated to the library. Rose discussed how to identify birds and their common traits, while the kids looked at the bird specimen collection.

After instruction on using binoculars, each cluster went outside the library to practice finding cardboard birds that had been placed for them to see. Another activity was a falcon art project the kids learned from Rose. Thanks to Rose and Barb for providing a fun and educational summer activity for these young people!

Volunteer on National Public Lands Day

Sunday, September 24!

Come spend that morning in the West Eugene Wetlands helping out with public service projects. Examples include improving access and signage, maintaining the Danebo Boardwalk, increasing native plantings, and clearing out gardens around the Red House.

Bethel and Eugene community members are invited to sign up for these projects. All volunteers receive a free t-shirt, a fee-free federal lands voucher, and access to the vast wetland knowledge of BLM staff and WREN educators.

This is a free event, but registration through Eventbrite is required so organizers will know how many will be attending.

FMI and to register: eventbrite.com/e/national-public-lands-day-wetlands-workday-tickets-388256354207

From Our President

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make a gratitude list as a reminder of our good fortune. Visit a local farm or go to a harvest festival to share in the local bounty of the Willamette Valley harvest. Prepare a fall harvest celebration meal using these locally grown products and share with your friends and neighbors.

Add some earth-friendly items to your list, such as:

- Clean out bird boxes used by nesting birds during the breeding season. Some birds will roost in them over winter and will be warm and safe in the clean box! We have a Downy Woodpecker that uses a box for roosting on our property regularly!
- When tidying up your home garden, be sure to leave some overwintering habitat for pollinators, such as butterflies and bees! One of my favorite ways to help the beneficial insects is by leaving fallen leaves to decompose. This brings valuable nutrients to the soil, provides a habitat for lots of valuable insect species over the winter months, and acts as natural mulch. It also protects the soil from compacting during rains. We rake the leaves and move them to garden locations where they can overwinter.
- And celebrate! Join Lane Audubon at our Vaux's Swift event to bid farewell to this group of migrants who will be heading south for the winter! It's that time of year!

LCAS Program Meeting Tuesday, September 27, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



This Lane County Audubon Society Program will be available in person as well as via Zoom. For those wishing to see Bill's glorious photos on a big screen, the location is Campbell Senior Center, 155 High Street near Skinner's Butte. The Zoom link will be available one week before the event on the LCAS website and Facebook page.



across Oregon, *Listening for Coyote*, was chosen by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission as one of Oregon's "100 Books," the most significant books in the state's history. Sullivan also writes a monthly *Oregon Trails* column for *The Register-Guard*.

Join us in the Great Hall at the **Campbell Community Center, 155 High St.**, near Skinner Butte Park on Tuesday, September 27, at 7 pm. Parking is ample. Drive north on High Street to Skinner Butte Park; the parking lots are on the right, both in front of the Campbell Center and in an adjacent parking area slightly beyond the Campbell Center.

Lane County Audubon Society Begins Fall Season Programs in a New location

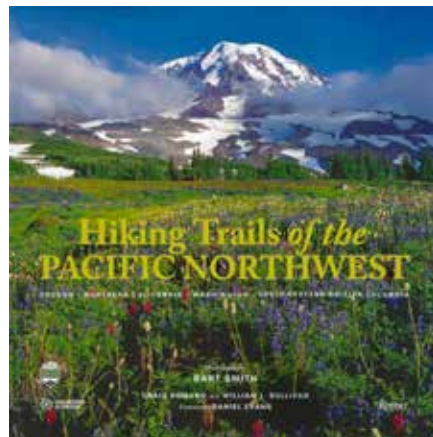


Bill Sullivan

Bill Sullivan, Oregon's hiking guru, will take us on an illustrated tour of the most spectacular trails in the entire Northwest, based on his newly released coffee-table picture book, *Hiking Trails of the Pacific Northwest*. Bart Smith, the book's photographer, has hiked every long-range trail in the country with his camera. Bill Sullivan guided him on Oregon trails and wrote the text for Oregon and

Northern California. Washington guidebook author Craig Romano wrote the text for that state, as well as Southwestern British Columbia. Featured are not only famous bucket-list destinations, but also some overlooked and under-protected beauty spots. Lace up your hiking boots and get ready to hit the trail!

Bill has written 22 books about the Northwest, including the Oregon *100 Hikes* series, *Hiking Oregon's History*, *Oregon Favorites*, and *The Case of D.B. Cooper's Parachute*. His journal of a 1,000-mile hike he took



Bi-colored Blackbird

Photo: Dennis Arendt



Marsh Wren

Photo: Cary Kerst



Yellow-Rumped Warbler

Photo: Cary Kerst

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

The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

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November: October 1

Submit material to Karen Irmscher at 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

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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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

Birds Flying Through: A Benefit Event for Lane Audubon and Cascades Raptor Center



Five local composers have created a score featuring nine poems written by Eugene poet Deborah Narin-Wells. These exciting new musical treatments explore how the roles of daughter, wife, and mother influence what it means to be a whole woman.

Andrea Halliday and Anice Thigpen of A-Squared Productions have a tradition of supporting theme-related organizations for events they create. In 2022, they have enjoyed working to increase awareness for, and support of, the Lane County Audubon Society (LCAS) and Cascades Raptor Center (CRC) as part of their upcoming show,

Birds Flying Through. This musical drama with poetry, song, and dance will be presented at Lane Community College's Ragozzino Theater at 7:30 pm on September 30 and October 1, and at 2 pm on October 2.

The production began when Anice met local poet Deborah Narin-Wells, and they began to collaborate on setting Deborah's poems to music. The poetry led Anice to study birds and their songs so that she could incorporate their influence into her music compositions. Her subsequent increased awareness of our feathered friends was life-changing. Supporting and engaging with birds has now become an essential part of her daily life. This artful inspiration has, in turn, catalyzed a new fascination with birds in the other founder of A-Squared Productions, Andrea Halliday.

We hope that the poetry, music, and dance in *Birds Flying Through* will inspire more members of our community to support our bird populations. Proceeds from the sale of the poetry collection will be donated to LCAS and CRC. Please look for the collection in our local bookstores, CRC, and in the lobby of the LCC's Ragozzino Theater. Tickets go on sale on August 16, 2022. To learn more about the show, please visit asquaredarts.com/

Please join our Bird Walk Team to help plan, organize, and implement bird walks!

Lane County has many wonderful birding sites and we want to introduce new birders to the abundance of birding options in our area.

Sharing your joy of birding with others enhances the outing for everyone.

Call Maeve at 541.343.8664 or email at audubon@laneaudubon.org

Conservation *continued from page 2*

How We Can Help Our Feathered Neighbors

About 20 percent of bird species worldwide manage to make a living in cities. This provides a community opportunity to help them. How can we better share our urban neighborhoods?

- Lobby your representatives to preserve green spaces in the city and to plant more city trees.
- Request that city planners take birds, and especially, nesting areas into account when planning new roads. Sound barriers and even improved surfaces on roads can help.
- Keep cats indoors or under supervision (for cat safety as well as wildlife).
- Urge decision makers to use bird-safe glass in building projects.
- Use window deterrents at home; suggestions at abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/stop-birds-hitting-windows/
- Be sure exterior lights are shielded, not overly bright, and minimize the amount of blue spectrum light. Here's a source for bird-friendly lights: darksky.org/our-work/lighting/lighting-for-industry/fsa/fsa-products/
- Use curtains/shades during migration to reduce light spill.
- Use less plastic and less pesticides.
- Plant native vegetation and use bird-friendly garden practices (tips on page 4 of the July-August 2022 issue of *The Quail*).
- Keep your bird feeders clean and enjoy the birds!



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



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Field trip coordinator opportunity

Masks and distancing are no longer required.

First Saturday Bird Walk, September 3

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 Sarah at 1stSatBirdWalks@laneaudubon.org to sign up.

Third Saturday Bird Walk, September 17

Our Third Saturday Bird Walk continues to be open to all participants. The leader and destination are TBD. Reservations are no longer required. Times and locations are TBA.

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

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Bon Voyage to Vaux's Swifts at Agate Hall

Lane County Audubon Society will host two of its annual fall swift events outside Agate Hall at sunset on consecutive Fridays, September 9th and 16th. It is fun to observe the swifts before they fly off to Central and South America for the winter.

Vaux's Swifts use the Agate Hall chimney to roost for the night as they gather prior to migration. We will be outdoors and well spread out to maintain social-distancing, so please be careful of your and other's safety! We may see thousands of birds entering the chimney, but there is no guarantee!

Look for the LCAS banner at the south parking lot of Agate Hall. Stop by and enjoy this annual natural phenomenon. It's free! And conveniently close to Prince Puckler's Ice Cream, which is not free, but can be a low-cost addition to your evening's fun and may entice reluctant family members and/or friends to come along.

FMI : 541.343.8664, or check out the Vaux's Swift page on our website: laneaudubon.org/vauxs-swift-information/.