



The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

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From Our President: Seasonal Transitions

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

Seasonal Transitions Offer Simple Pleasures, Peace of Mind

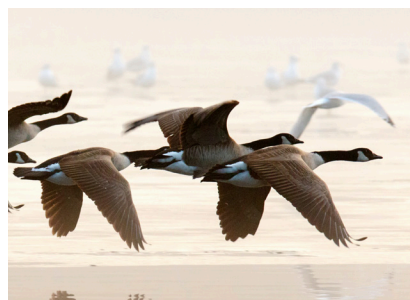


Photo: WikiCommons

Canada Geese

The Pacific Northwest has enjoyed a superb summer. As October arrives, we still have trees full of leaves thanks to the heavy spring rains in the Willamette Valley. Fall colors in Oregon are not as famous as those of the northeast, but the stately backdrop of fir trees creates a contrast for the yellows and oranges

of our deciduous canopy of ash, alder, oak, willow, and big-leaf maple. The understory of vine maple and poison oak adds colorful splashes of reds.

Fall's transition into winter begins first in the higher elevations, where the dropping temperatures not only change leaf color, but also push mountain birds to the lower elevations. Some birds migrate south obviously, but others move into lower altitudes like ours. This is true of Belted Kingfisher, Varied Thrush, Northern Flicker, Pacific (Winter) Wren, the two kinglets and Harlequin Ducks (who return to coastal waters). We will also see the return of some of the northern-breeding birds, such as Golden-

crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, many ducks, shorebirds, and Bald Eagles who will remain in the Willamette Valley until next spring.

Hearing the honking approach of a big flock of geese defines fall for me. We can also look to the skies to watch for the southward migrating Sandhill Cranes and Canada Geese. If I am lucky enough to also hear Sandhill Cranes high overhead, I always stop to watch and listen to these majestic birds, so big yet so graceful and beautiful. Pausing to appreciate such passing moments of a flock overhead or of a hillside of colorful leaves gives me both pleasure and peace of mind, a rare experience these days.



Photo: WikiCommons

Geese in a V

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

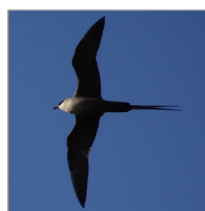
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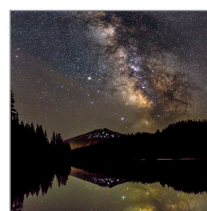
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Rewilding the American West

"Rewilding the American West," an article published in the August 2022 journal *Bioscience*, argues that to conserve ecological function, we must remove problematic invasive species and work to conserve important native species. The authors, a group of twenty prominent scientists, analyzed federal lands and proposed the Western Rewilding Network, consisting of 11 large reserves across the American West. The reserves would be interconnected to allow for gene flow and healthy populations.

The focus of the article is on two keystone species, the gray wolf and the North American beaver. The article (and journal) is not politically motivated, with the authors declaring that "a principled commitment to the natural world and a sense of moral urgency underpins the motivation for our proposal." Some key points follow.

How will helping wolf and beaver populations help the environment? Beaver populations have been reduced by a whopping 90% to 98%. When beavers engineer their environment, the benefits include better water and sediment quality, improved water flows during drought, wet fire breaks, and a boost in carbon sequestration.



Photo: WikiCommons

Beaver

Importantly, their presence provides habitat for fish and many riparian plant and animal species. In fact, riparian areas provide habitat for up to 70% of wildlife species although they make up less than 2% of the land.

Several studies have shown that the restoration of wolf populations also has cascading benefits. Their presence decreases grazing by ungulates, such as elk and deer, near rivers. This allows for the restoration of riparian vegetation which, in turn, supports other species, such as songbirds. Wolves currently occupy only about 14% of their historical range here. While the proposal restores just a limited amount of range, it does so in areas that include 92 threatened and endangered species across nine taxonomic groups. Therefore, multiple species will benefit from protection.

The most common threats to species in the area include livestock grazing, mining, logging, and oil and gas drilling. Livestock grazing is surprisingly common on federal lands, even in areas that have been designated as wildlife refuges and protected wilderness areas. The problems of livestock grazing include degraded streams and wetlands, suppression of some native plants, alteration in fire regimes, and hindering the growth of woody species such as willows. This, in turn, affects other species, including birds and pollinators. In addition, livestock emit methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Together with logging, they drastically decrease carbon storage, and thus the potential to mitigate climate change on federal



Photo: WikiCommons

Wolf

lands.

The article suggests phasing out **grazing**, which could be achieved with a fair federal compensation program for those who give up grazing permits. This would be followed by recovering and protecting wolves, and then reintroducing beavers to appropriate habitat, once some woody vegetation has had a chance to grow. It calls for cooperation between all stakeholders including ranchers, indigenous peoples, outdoor recreationists, local governments, and community members.

The establishment of the proposed network reserves would provide outsized benefits. I hope we can look forward to the day when this scientifically based proposal becomes real-world policy.



Photo: WikiCommons

Beaver Lodge

Field Notes: August 2022

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

Loggerhead Shrike, Long-tailed Jaeger, Grasshopper Sparrow, Ash-throated Flycatcher

The month was warm, dry, and sunny, as is normal for August. The southward migration started and will continue for at least the next couple months. So, now is a good time to be out and about to observe the spectacle, and remember to let us know what you're seeing. With your help, this list could easily be longer and more inclusive.

Abbreviations:

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



Photo: WikiCommons

Loggerhead Shrike



Photo: WikiCommons

Long-tailed Jaeger

Greater White-fronted Goose	Aug 26	UO area	BN	Headed south already
Red-breasted Merganser	Aug 20	NJSR	A&DH	Seems early for this wintering species
Red-necked Grebe	Aug 23	Tokatee Klootchman	RR	Seems early for this wintering species
Eared Grebe	Aug 24	FRR - Perkins	SH	Found in small numbers this time of year
Common Nighthawk (3)	Aug 10	Hampton Rd	BK	Also a good yard bird
Vaux's Swift (3000)	Aug 22	Agate Hall, UO	BC	Good numbers for this early
Pacific Golden-Plover	Aug 12	FRR - Royal Ave	LG,CS	Found in small numbers most falls
Long-billed Curlew	Aug 3	Sutton Beach	DF,MLS	Found in very small numbers most falls
Marbled Godwit	Aug 13	NJSR	MS	They migrate through in small numbers
Ruddy Turnstone	Aug 17	NJSR	MS	Always an early fall migrant
Baird's Sandpiper	Aug 11	FRR, Royal Ave	RR	First sighting for the fall migration
Pectoral Sandpiper	Aug 9	FRR, Royal Ave	SH,et al	Seems early for this fall migrant
Solitary Sandpiper	Aug	FRR, Royal Ave	M.ob.	Good numbers seen this fall
Wandering Tattler	Aug 1	NJSR	BW	Seems early for this migrant
Long-tailed Jaeger	Aug 31	FRR, Royal Ave	DA,et al	Rarely found inland
Black Phoebe	Aug 24	Diamond Pk Wilderness	JP	Very high elevation for this valley breeder
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Aug 10	Sea Lion Caves	MS	Strange location for this rare Lane breeder
Loggerhead Shrike	Aug 23	Diamond Pk Wilderness	JP	Unusual migrant for the Lane Cascades
White-breasted Nuthatch	Aug 9	U O area	KL	Yard 1st in 45 yrs; numbers increasing
Western Bluebird (5 young)	Aug 21	Westmoreland area	S&SG	Second brood of the year fledged
Swainson's Thrush	Aug 31	SE Eugene	TM	Heard call overhead at first light
Grasshopper Sparrow	Aug 4	FRR - Royal Ave	RR,DA	Fledged young; 1st confirmed breeding
Yellow-breasted Chat	Aug 12	FRR - Royal Ave	RF,EB	Last sighting for the breeding season

A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, BC Barbara Combs, BK Betty Keele, BN Bruce Newhouse, BW Brandon Wagner, CS Cynthia Stockwell, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, EB Elliott Bury, JP Jesse Pline, KL Kit Larsen, LG Linda Gilbert, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, MS Martin Sheehan, RF Rachael Friese, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, S&SG Steve & Susie Gordon, TM Mickel. M.ob. signifies many observers

Seeking Sponsors - Our Schools Need You!

Schools are back in session, and it's time to invite teachers to sign up for Audubon Adventures. The Audubon Adventures curriculum kits are designed by the National Audubon Society to help students learn about the natural world and increase their environmental awareness. Students receive three issues of a full-color magazine, and teachers have access to a variety of online materials and lesson plans that meet language arts and science standards.

Audubon Adventures classrooms also receive a year's membership to

the National Audubon Society and Lane County Audubon Society. What's not to love? Each year, LCAS members have generously sponsored kits for local classrooms. Use the donation information below if you are interested in continuing this tradition. If you'd like to sponsor a specific school or classroom, please include that information so we can do our best to accommodate your request.

Educators interested in receiving an Audubon Adventures kit for their classrooms can email audadv@laneaudubon.org.

The earlier sponsorships are received, the earlier materials can be delivered to our local schools.



Baltimore Oriole

Mail your donation of \$45 per classroom (payable to LCAS) to:

Audubon Adventures
PO Box 5086
Eugene, OR 97405

or go to

laneaudubon.org/education/audubon-adventures, and make your donation online via our secure PayPal server.

Kid Art from Audubon Adventures Classroom

Students of Eugene Bird Society: A Newly Formed Club on the University of Oregon Campus

Exciting things are happening on the University of Oregon campus! A team of committed environmental- and avian-conscious students have formed the Students of Eugene Bird Society.

This ragtag group of conservationists and birders has already made its impact felt on the community. Its first major project was assembling 600 activity bags for the Eugene Public Library to distribute to Lane County youth. Inside these bags were pollinator-themed coloring pages/trading cards, stickers, wildflower seeds, and info sheets about how to sow them.

The club is seeking recognition from the National Audubon as part

of their initiative to support the next generation of environmentalists. Emma Koelbl, one of the club leaders, has high aspirations for the club next year, and we here at LCAS can't wait to be a part of the meaningful work they accomplish.

Books, Beers, and Belted Kingfishers! Saturday, October 29, 4 pm Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St, Eugene.

Halcyon Journey is the first book to feature North America's beloved bird of waterways. Its author, Marina Richie, is a biologist and nature writer from Bend, OR. Her kingfisher explorations and research spanned more than a decade. At this event, she will showcase her recently published book, which is illuminated with sixteen illustrations by Oregon artist Ram Papish, a popular repeat

presenter at LCAS Program Meetings.

Marina will be hosted by local writer Tom Titus, who will also read selections from *Palindrome*, his own collection of essays and poems that celebrate natural wonders of Pacific Northwest, the bloodshot stare of a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and other topics. Tom is a retired research biologist and free-range philosopher who says he enjoys writing "at the messy interface of human experience and the natural world."



Kingfisher

Photo: Marina Richie

LCAS Program Meeting Tuesday, October 25, 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 experience Mary Coolidge's presentation in person, the location is Campbell Senior Center, 155 High Street near Skinner's Butte. If you prefer attending via Zoom, the link will be available one week before the event on the LCAS website and Facebook page.

Back to the Night: Why Preserving the Stars Is Not Just for the Birds

Mary Coolidge comes to us from the Portland Audubon Society to share ideas about helping night flying migrants as they pass through our local skies.

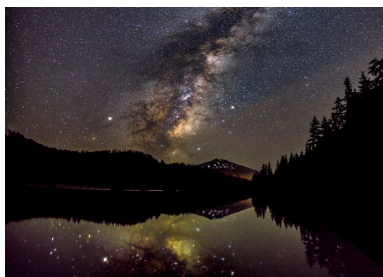
For eons, the night was lit only by the moon and stars, and life on this planet evolved under regular cycles of bright days and dark nights. All that has changed in the last 130 years. The night we know now is liberally colonized with artificial light. Most of us live in cities that are ablaze with light, from billboards to parking lots to street lights, even while we sleep. Not only does this obscure the Milky Way from 80% of North Americans where they live, but the overabundance of light at night also has dire ecological consequences, not just for the millions of migrating birds that use the stars to navigate, but also for mammals, amphibians, fish, and plants, as well as for human health.

Join us for an exploration of the night's wondrous mysteries and the impacts of light pollution, and to learn about how you can help in the effort to preserve our starry skies while simultaneously maintaining safety and vibrant nighttime cityscapes. Mary Coolidge has been on Portland Audubon's Conservation team since 2008. Today she serves as Audubon's BirdSafe Campaign Coordinator, working to reduce hazards for birds in the built environment.

Mary is dedicated to improving efforts to make urban environments more hospitable to wildlife, and helping connect people to nature and place, right in their own cities. Mary splits her time between Portland Audubon and the Oregon Zoo's California Condor breeding program.



Mary Coolidge



Milky Way over Todd Lake

Photo: Tim Lyden



You can help protect birds and conserve our view of the stars by choosing well-designed lighting

Low Color Temperature

Blue-rich white light (over 3,000K) obscures the stars and is dangerous at night for migrating and nesting birds, plants, wildlife, and humans alike.

The easiest way to control this is to select exterior lighting that is below 3,000K. This is also better for human health, as night-time exposure to blue-rich white light has the potential to disrupt our circadian rhythms.

Converting to LED is great for energy efficiency, and today, LED's are efficient across the range of color output.



Low Intensity Light

Don't overlight! Overly bright lights waste money, waste energy, create glare, and result in light pools adjacent to areas of deep shadow. Glare creates a safety issue for people when the dilated pupil has to re-adjust to dark areas after leaving an overlit area on foot or while driving.

Good Directionality

Lighting should also have good shielding and point down to where light is needed and not up into the sky. This is a smart choice for reducing light pollution and preserving our view of the stars. Look for the term "full cut-off" to identify exterior fixtures that don't send any light in an upward direction.

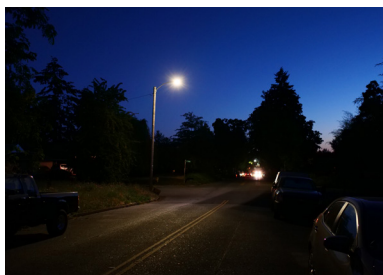


Photo: Dennis Arendt

Light Pollution

<http://bit.ly/portlandaudubonlightsout>

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

November: October 1

December-January: November 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



Artwork by Emily Poole, featuring oak mazegill (*Daedalea quercina*) and Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*)

2022 Mushroom Festival

Sunday, October 30, 10 am-5 pm, Mount Pisgah Arboretum

View hundreds of species of mushrooms on display in the Arboretum's White Oak Pavilion. In partnership with Cascade Mycological Society and Lane Community College, Mount Pisgah Arboretum presents their 2022 Mushroom Festival. Enjoy guided nature walks, live music, local food, and arts and crafts vendors.

Pre-purchase of tickets required, \$15. Children under 12 free. Attendance is limited.

Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours required for entry of anyone 12 and older.

Thank You!

To **Dick Lamster** who presented a birding talk featuring Hummingbirds Seen in Oregon at the Kiwanis Club group at The Springs at Greer Gardens in May 2022. Twenty-four people attended.

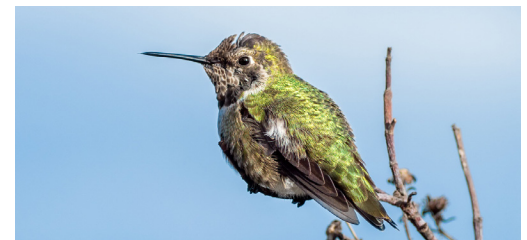
To **Rebecca Waterman** (Bex) who has been organizing the monthly bird walks since October of 2017. We want to thank Bex for the time and effort planning the bird walks, finding trip leaders, and welcoming people in attendance. Bex's own enthusiasm for birding is evident. She also deserves credit for creating the First Saturday Bird Walks to provide safe and welcoming experiences for women, BIPOC, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. And she set up the WhatsApp bird group for Lane County birders.

Bex is also leaving her Lane Audubon Board position, which she has held since May 2018. We will miss her input on our various activities, plus her enthusiasm, energy, and commitment to making birding a fun activity for all! Bex, thanks for your leadership and encouragement to bring the joy of birding to more folks and to a younger generation! And to Bex, good luck in your own fall migration!



Photo: Karen Imscher

Birdwalk



Anna's Hummingbird

Closing Down Oregon Shorebird Festival

By Harvey Schubotho

Sad news. Cape Arago Audubon has reluctantly decided it is time to put the Oregon Shorebird Festival to rest, after 34 successful runs. Once upon a time, we had truly awesome shore birding here in the fall, but that has changed radically in the last 15 years. People who come from afar expect to see a variety of shorebirds, which we can no longer guarantee.

We are exploring a replacement festival, but it can't be put together for this year. To those interested in helping plan and organize a new festival on the south coast, please let us know. We will need the volunteers.

FMI: Harv Schubotho, Cape Arago Audubon, ninerharv2@msn.com



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See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Field trip coordinator opportunity

Masks and distancing are no longer required.

First Saturday Bird Walk, October 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, October 15

Our Third Saturday Bird Walk continues to be open to all participants. The October leader is Vjera Thompson. Destination and time are TBD. Reservations are no longer required.

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

Bird Walk Coordinator Needed!

Lane Audubon is looking for a volunteer to plan our monthly Third Saturday Bird Walks. This is a fun opportunity to meet and learn from birding experts. Best of all, you get to be out birding!

Lane Audubon has the traditional dates set, a network of willing field trip leaders, and a list of past birding locations to choose from. Your responsibility would include contacting field trip leaders, deciding on a location, emailing the field trip publicity, and meeting the birding group on the day of the walk to get things started.

Please help maintain this wonderful Lane Audubon tradition!

FMI: Contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or audubon@laneaudubon.org



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