

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

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The Quail
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From Our Treasurer

Ron Renchler, 541.3450834, christyandron2@gmail.com

The World of Birding

From my veranda, I watch in amazement as Anna's Hummingbirds hover, then flit from blossom to blossom. I witness a group of California Scrub-Jays squabbling in my yard, chasing each other around to protect their territory or food source. At sunset, I observe hundreds of American Crows flying silently across the sky to their evening roosting place.

Because I'm not particularly good at birding by ear, I can use the Sound ID feature on my Merlin app to either confirm the identification of birds I have seen in my yard (e.g., Lesser Goldfinch) or to identify birds that are likely around, but not always easily visible (e.g., Bewick's Wren).

While none of these sights or sounds are particularly remarkable, I would not be aware of them were

it would not for the ongoing efforts of Lane County Audubon Society (LCAS). It's only through the encouragement and education that LCAS provides that I've come to recognize the vast world that makes up birds and birding.

The organization's central mission is to make it possible for everyone to enjoy and learn about the world of birds and their habitats. We sponsor school programs that nurture young people to learn about birds and the environment, and put on monthly program meetings where we hear from experts about their latest birding adventures and discoveries. This is in addition to our conservation efforts, bird walks, Christmas Bird Count, newsletter (*The Quail*), website, Facebook page, and Instagram postings.

Throughout the pandemic, we were able to continue offering outdoor activities, such as bird walks, and we staged our program meetings virtually, with on-demand viewing available on our website, laneaudubon.org. Now we're returning to in-person program meetings at a new location (Campbell Community Center), while still Zooming the programs for those who can't make it to the live presentations. Our bird walks continue unabated, and we're beginning to make booth appearances again. Our education programs are gradually revving up as students return to school.

As LCAS's treasurer, I can also report that through it all, LCAS has remained financially healthy thanks to your annual support. Once a year, in November, we ask members to renew their memberships and/or make a tax-deductible donation to our cause. It's easy—just use the envelope you'll find in this issue of *The Quail*, or go online to our website at laneaudubon.org and click on Memberships and/or Donate.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

[facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/](https://www.facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/)



Conservation..... 2



Field Notes..... 3



Program Meeting..... 5



Explore Ecuador..... 7

Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Mitigating the Dangers of Migration

Guest column by Mary Coolidge

BirdSafe & Lights Out Campaign Coordinator, Audubon Society of Portland

Migration is among the most astonishing and challenging stages in any bird's life—a metabolically demanding journey riddled with perils, from hazardous weather and food shortages to human-caused impacts like light pollution. Fully 80% of our terrestrial migrants in North America migrate at night, including warblers, thrushes, sparrows, kinglets, siskins, and grosbeaks. Migrating at night provides a number of benefits, including: avoiding daytime predators, preserving daylight hours for foraging, taking advantage of a less turbulent atmosphere, and using the stars to navigate!

Unfortunately, birds are increasingly exposed to light pollution along their migratory pathways from unshielded and overly bright fixtures on our homes, streets, buildings, billboards, and empty parking lots. All of these sources combine to produce “sky glow”—the hazy dome of light over our cities which drowns out the stars that birds use to navigate. It can pull them off course and into lit areas where they can become entrapped in light, hit buildings directly, or face other urban hazards like cats and cars. Thankfully, there are tools to help us reduce light pollution during peak migration season.

Though peak songbird migration spans more than three months in both spring and fall, most of the birds that pass over Oregon do

so during a one-month period in each season. In spring, that's from mid-April to mid-May; in fall, it's between mid-September to mid-October. Researchers at Colorado State University's AeroEco laboratory are using radar technology to track movements of birds in migration, and they post user-friendly alerts for peak movement nights on their website aeroecolab.com/. Red, orange, and yellow alerts signal large movements of birds, with red alerts representing the highest forecasts relative to total historic peaks of bird migration. Audubon chapters across Oregon have been coordinating efforts to help broadcast these alerts, so that people know when it is most important to turn off any unnecessary outdoor lights to help keep birds aloft. Lane County Audubon often posts these on our Facebook page.

Bear in mind, light pollution doesn't just impact migrating birds. It impacts entire ecosystems, including nesting birds, fish, mammals, amphibians, invertebrates, and plants, as well as human health, safety, and culture. Completely darkening our cities during migration isn't practical or safe, but we can take actions to ensure that our lighting is better by design. We can minimize unnecessary light at night, and keep the light that we need on the ground where it's useful rather than sending it up into the sky where it isn't. It's a sound practice in the age of climate change, and it saves



This image is from a Lights Out Alert from the night spanning Sept 19-20 when 5.1 million birds were forecasted to pass over Oregon. This triggered a Red Alert for nearly the whole state.

money, saves birds, protects human health, and affords us a better view of the stars! Audubon is working to raise awareness about the importance of this natural resource that is slipping away, little by little.

Simple things that we can all do at home to help save our night skies:

- Watch for Lights Out Alerts both spring and fall and turn off your unnecessary lighting!
- Check out CSU's AeroEco Lab for alerts in various cities and statewide
- Turn lights off when you're not using them
- Make sure that all your lights are shielded and aimed down
- Switch to motion sensors (or motion sensor bulbs)
- Use bulbs only as bright as you need!
- Choose warm light bulbs (yellower>whiter)!
- Close blinds/shades at night during migration seasons
- Help advocate for good lighting standards in your city

Field Notes: September 2022

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

Long-eared Owl, Ruff, Acorn Woodpecker, Prairie Falcon

September was mostly warm, with some smoke in the Eugene/Springfield area from the Cedar Creek fire in the Waldo Lake area and dense smoke in the Oakridge area. We got a little precipitation in the latter part of the month. Shorebirding was again good at Fern Ridge Reservoir, as has been the case for a number of years. The neotropical migrants have started heading south, now that the breeding season is over. Our wintering species have begun arriving.

Abbreviations:

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR)

Cackling Geese	Sept 29	Florence area	TJ, et al	Large flocks moving south along the coast
Western/Clark's Grebe	Sept 8	FRR	JM	Displaying/Dancing
Ruff	Sept 8	FRR - Fisher Butte	DG	Almost annual in the fall
Ruff	Sept 10	FRR - Royal Ave	VT, RF	Same bird as above?
Ruff	Sept 21	FRR - Royal Ave	JS, et al	Same bird as above?
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Sept 11	FRR - Fisher Butte	DG	Almost annual in the fall
Stilt Sandpiper	Sept 2	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	Found every few years
Sabine's Gull	Sept 5	FRR	AP	Almost annual at this location
Snowy Egret	Sept 12	Florence area	SH	Becoming more common in the fall
Turkey Vulture (70)	Sept 22	Creswell area	NS	Migrating south
Long-eared Owl	Sept 26	Scott Lake area	DF, RF	Rarely found in Lane
Lewis's Woodpecker	Sept 7	Diamond Peak area	JP	Not uncommon in the high Cascades in fall
Acorn Woodpecker	Sept 23	SJSR	LW	Very unusual location for this species
Prairie Falcon	Sept 13	FRR	TG-T, TM	Very early for this wintering species
Say's Phoebe	Sept 17	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	First report for the "winter"
Cassin's Vireo	Sept 21	Springfield	MG	Last sighting for the breeding season
Clay-colored Sparrow	Sept 29	Baker Beach access	AC, et al	Found in small numbers most falls
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Sept 18	Vida area	PA	First report for the "winter"

AC Alan Contreras, AP Ash Ponders, DF Daniel Farrar, DG David Gallagher, JM Jewel Murphy, JP Jesse Pline, JS John Sullivan, LW Lisa Wallace, MG Marissa Gibson, NS Noah Strycker, PA Paul Adamus, RF Rachael Friese, SH Sally Hill, TG-T Torrey Gage-Tomlinson, TJ Tye Jeske, TM Thomas Meinzen, VT Vjera Thompson



Long-eared Owl



Ruff

Eugene Birders Night Returns In a New Location

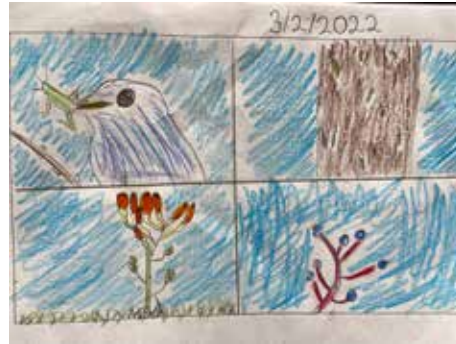
November 16th, 7 pm, at the Alluvium, 810 W. 3rd Ave., Eugene, corner of 3rd and Monroe.

The Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC) is resuming its gatherings after a long COVID hiatus. Ellen Cantor and Nancy Clogston will share photos and information about their recent experiences birding the varied habitats of the state of Veracruz, Mexico, including

time spent at the River of Raptors Hawk Count, the largest migration of hawks in the world.

All are welcome in the Alluvium's spacious, well-ventilated room. Admission is free, and the no parking signs don't apply after 6 pm.

FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com



2022 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

Save the Date!

Our 81st Eugene Christmas Bird Count will be on Sunday, January 1, 2023, which is our normal date during the three-week Count Period. We still have some COVID concerns, so the decision on whether to have the Chili Feed is still being discussed. Social distancing on the 27 Field Teams will be determined by the Team Leaders, with input from the team members. Carpooling will be an individual choice.

All previous ECBC participants are encouraged to participate again this year and new birders are always welcomed. We will find a team for anyone who wants to look for and count birds on January 1st. If you cannot be out with a Field Team, we encourage you to be a Home Counter by observing the birds in your yard and reporting your sightings to us at the end of the day.

Complete details will be in the December *Quail* and posted on the LCAS website. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Count Coordinator Dick Lamster at maeveanddick@q.com, or call him at 541.343.8664.

AITS Crew Revving Up for 2022-2023 School Year

The LCAS Audubon in the Schools (AITS) group met for lunch to discuss the potential for AITS school sessions in this school year. Our volunteer team is eager to begin engaging students once again! Whatever the current status of COVID is in the community, our instructors will do what they can to accommodate.

We want school teachers who are interested in having class sessions to contact us! We can also offer resources, such as our bird displays and feather specimens, that can be checked out by schools for a time.

The AITS team has also been offering beginning birding sessions for kids' groups, which can be held outdoors. Kids are instructed in the use of binoculars, and taught how to look for and ID birds. Some of these sessions have been part of Outdoor School sessions and the kids seem to enjoy them!

FMI: contact Barb Pope at aitsbirds@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed

Recording Secretary

We need to replace our retiring Recording Secretary for LCAS monthly Board meetings. Generally these occur on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the early evening. This volunteer attends the Zoom board meeting, takes notes, then emails the minutes to Board members. Duties require about three hours of time per month, and the volunteer needs their own computer and email equipment and capabilities.

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

Publicity

We need help spreading the word about our upcoming activities. Experience with Instagram, Facebook, and other popular electronic media is a plus.

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

LCAS Program Meeting Tuesday, November 22, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



This LCAS Program will be available in person as well as via Zoom. For those wishing to experience the 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.



Photo: Ram Papish

Frizzle and Grumpy



Photo: Ram Papish

Spoonbill Family

The Reverse Bucket List: How I Learned to Love Alligator Farms



Ram Papish

In Florida, roadside attractions can be surprisingly great places to enjoy birds. This program explores unexpected locations for experiencing Florida's fabulous bird life where you might not think to look for them.

Ram Papish is a professional wildlife enthusiast whose varied career includes tour guide, biologist, educator, author, photographer, and wildlife artist.

For over 20 field seasons, Ram worked as a wildlife biologist studying birds and other wildlife, primarily

in Alaska. He also authored and illustrated two children's books: *The Little Fox* and *The Little Seal*, published by University of Alaska Press. His illustrations appear in many books and publications, including the *History of Oregon Ornithology*, *As the Condor Soars: Conserving Oregon's Birds*, *Handbook of Oregon Birds*, *Northwest Birds in Winter*, *Oregon Birds*, and *Seabirds of Alaska*.

Ram regularly presents on science and nature topics at bird festivals, local bird clubs, and in public schools. He combines his background in art, science, and public speaking to engage

and educate on environmental topics.

For fun, Ram appears regularly onstage as an active member of his local theater community. An avid traveler, Ram has a passion for observing and photographing wildlife worldwide.

Ram lives in Toledo, Oregon, with his fabulous wife, on a stream-side property that features eight bird feeders, eight parrots, 28 nest boxes, 18 chickens, 800 rhododendrons, and one chia pet. His major achievements include winning second runner-up in the 2009 Aleutian Beard and Mustache Contest.



Photo: Ram Papish

Wood Stork making a beautiful landing

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

Dec/Jan: November 1
February: January 1

Submit material to Karen Irmscher at quailkaren1@gmail.com

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Lane County Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President	Maeve Sowles.....541.343.8664..... maeveanddick@q.com
Treasurer	Ron Renchler.....541.345.0834..... christyandron2@gmail.com
Members	Ramiro Aragon..... aragon.nw@gmail.com
	Debbie Schlenoff.....541.685.0610..... dschlenoff@msn.com
	Isaac Scott..... iscott6@uoregon.edu

Lane County Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Audubon Phone.....	Dick Lamster.....	541.485.BIRD
Audubon Adventures.....	Cecelia Hagen.....	audadv@laneaudubon.org
Audubon in the Schools.....	Barb Pope.....	aitsbirds@gmail.com
Booth.....	Ron Renchler.....	541.345.0834..... christyandron2@gmail.com
Conservation.....	Debbie Schlenoff.....	541.685.0610..... dschlenoff@msn.com
Education.....	Volunteer Opportunity	
Field Notes.....	Allison & Tom Mickel.....	541.485.7112..... tamickel@riouisa.com
Field Trips.....	Volunteer Opportunity	
FRESH.....	Art Farley.....	541.683.1186..... art@cs.uoregon.edu
Membership Data.....	Tim Godsfil.....	541.915.8852..... tgodsfil@gmail.com
Program Coordinator.....	Dennis Arendt.....	541.221.3691..... dennisarendt@gmail.com
Quail Editor.....	Karen Irmscher.....	quailkaren1@gmail.com
Recording Secretary.....	Kathy Wilson.....	kfred1953@yahoo.com
Webmaster.....	Hilary Dearborn.....	hcdearborn@gmail.com

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

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Gift memberships Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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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



Photo: ©Javier Zurita E. from puebobirdingarden.com

Puembo is a town a few miles outside of Quito and 20 miles away from the airport.

Planning on Exploring Ecuador? Dennis Recommends Starting Here

By Dennis Arendt

I returned from Ecuador in September after recording more than 300 species in 11 days. Ecuador has more species per square mile than any other country in the world, plus many very good lodges and guides to help you find the birds.

My birding friends and I arrived at the Quito airport near midnight after flights that began in Eugene. This is a normal arrival time when traveling from Oregon. Our return flights also departed the Quito airport near midnight. Arriving and departing in the middle of the night makes it important to find a good place ahead of time for spending your first and last nights.

We discovered the Puembo Birding Garden in 2015. This lodge is 25 minutes from the Quito airport, in a quiet neighborhood with lots of birds you can watch from the breakfast table. The owner, Mercedes Rivadeneira, is an avid birder. She sent a driver to meet us at the airport, then greeted us at the door slightly after midnight. It was a good thing we had arranged for a 7:30 breakfast, as we were too excited to sleep late. We saw Scrub and Blue-and-yellow Tanagers, Croaking Ground-Doves, Golden-rumped Euphonias, many hummingbirds, and more, all before breakfast—eggs any way you wish, fruit, cereal, yogurt, coffee, juice, and



Photo: Dennis Arendt

Sparkling Violetear



Photo: Dennis Arendt

Scrub Tanager

lactose-free milk for me.

We also arranged to stay at the Puembo Birding Garden the night before leaving Quito. We were able to use the same rooms to shower and rest before being driven to the airport for our middle-of-the-night flight back to Eugene.

The Puembo Birding Garden is an eBird hotspot. Mercedes, was one of the discoverers of the reclusive Jocotoco Antpitta. She can arrange for your whole tour of Ecuador, if you wish, as well as and other destinations, such as Peru, Bolivia, Costa Rica, and Spain.

This place was so much better than arriving in Quito and staying in a noisy, busy city hotel, so I thought I ought to share this gem.

FMI: reservas@puebobirdingarden.com, puebobirdingarden.com, or WhatsApp: +593 997591313.

Thank You

To **Dick Lamster**, who presented a Lane Audubon birding talk at the Northwest Steelheaders monthly meeting in September 2022.

Many thanks to **Susanne Twight-Alexander** for being our Publicity/Outreach person for many years! Susanne tracked our upcoming public activities and provided the information to media in our community. She helped LCAS with outreach by posting our activities in the *Register-Guard*, the *Eugene Weekly*, and on TV and radio stations in our community. Susanne has diligently and reliably performed this task for about 20 years. Thank you Susanne!



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your *Quail* subscription expired?
See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Field trip coordinator opportunity

First Saturday Bird Walk, November 5

Our First Saturday Bird Walks, created in celebration of the Lane Audubon Inclusivity and Diversity Statement, are reserved for women, BIPOC, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Birders of all levels and backgrounds are welcome to join, particularly those who may have felt intimidated at the thought of birding alone or on other guided walks. Location and leader TBA. Please email Sarah at 1stSatBirdWalks@laneaudubon.org to sign up.

Third Saturday Bird Walk, November 19

Our Third Saturday Bird Walk continues to be open to all participants. The November leader is Donna Albino. 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.

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photo: Virginia State Parks, Wikimedia

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