

The Mal

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News from Lane County Audubon Society

From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

We Are Grateful to Our Many Supporters



Young birder

M any thanks to our members who have sent in donations in response to our November request for support! We ask once per year, and it is gratifying that our members take this to heart.

Your donations keep us going, and the money is used to enhance our outreach activities. For our Program Meetings, we are renting a room at the Campbell Center, which has Wi-Fi for Zooming as well as a projector for our live audiences. We have had a good turnout for both the live and Zoom programs!

We have also purchased another six pair of small Nikon binoculars to use for the kids' beginning birding sessions that our Audubon in the Schools instructors have been offering. These sessions for Outdoor School programs and one for the Cottage Grove Library summer program have been well received. We hope to do more in the future!

We have made efforts to remain connected through our bird walks, our Zoom programs, our *Quail* newsletter, and our swift events. As a group we have much in common, and through sharing our love of the outdoors, of nature, and especially birds, we are

happy to connect with our members through these activities!

As 2022 comes to an end and we launch into 2023, Lane Audubon continues to grow and look for new ways to have an impact in our community. If you are interested in volunteering, we have a few opportunities posted in this issue of *The Quail*. We can use your help!

Thank you to Dick Lamster

On October 4th, Dick Lamster presented a Lane Audubon birding talk at the Florence Rotary Club monthly meeting. The lunch program was attended by 54 people who had many questions and were enthusiastic about birding in their area. They asked if Dick could come again next year in the spring to discuss cavity nesting birds! We have good outreach to birders and potential birders on our beautiful Oregon coast!

Lane County Audubon Society 541.485.BIRD laneaudubon.org P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

State of the Birds 2022: Not Good News

coalition of 33 organizations and government agencies have reviewed the data and released the 2022 U.S. State of the Birds report. As expected, much of it is alarming. Over half of bird species are in decline, with three billion birds lost from the United States and Canada in the past 50 years.

Bird populations are decreasing in almost every type of habitat, with grasslands showing the steepest decline. Forest, desert, and ocean birds are not far behind. This year, the report identified 70 "tipping point" species, among them Pinyon Jays, Evening Grosbeaks, and Rufous Hummingbirds, with losses of at least 50% of their populations in the past 50 years. They are projected to lose another half in the next 50 years if no actions are taken to conserve them.

It's not all bad news though, as illustrated by an encouraging trend. Birds such as ducks and geese who live in wetland habitats are doing well. Why the contrast? Wetland birds have consistently received support and financial assistance from hunters, state and federal agencies, landowners, and corporations. We have in this example proof of a concept: conservation efforts work when we invest in them.

Why invest in birds?

Helping birds helps everyone. Drew Lanham, recently named a MacArthur "genius" fellow, had this to say: "We share the same air, same water, same soil, and ultimately the same fate." By improving habitat for birds, we improve living conditions for ourselves.

For example, restored riparian habitat will help provide flood protection, filter drinking water, and improve river flow for crop irrigation. Forest restoration will help sequester carbon, reduce fire intensity, clean the air, and filter water. One report suggested that the U.S. could achieve about a quarter of its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions just by protecting priority bird habitat.

Green space in urban areas is important for birds as refuges and migratory stopovers. An added benefit is that it provides healthy recreational opportunities for city dwellers. Further, urban green spaces help to alleviate the heat islands that occur from concrete and pavement in cities. Heat exhaustion exacerbates cardiac and respiratory problems suffered by many city dwellers. Planting and maintaining green space for birds provides shade and cover, enjoyable by bipedal humans as well as birds.

What do birds and their habitats do for us?

A partial list includes: pest control, pollination, seed dispersal (important for food, medicine, and materials), sanitation services such as scavenging, guano as fertilizer, nutrient cycling, and balanced ecosystems. They provide healthy recreation opportunities and economic benefits by boosting tourism and creating jobs. Importantly, investing in bird habitat creates habitat for other species such as plants, butterflies, bees, and bats. And these in turn, provide services like pollination, which we rely on for healthy foods.



I'm sold on these convincing reasons for collaboration, investment, and legislation that benefits birds. FMI: See stateofthebirds.org/2022/

For ways individuals can help: laneaudubon.org/handouts/

The LCAS Booth Is Back!

Seven volunteers helped staff the LCAS outreach booth at the Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Festival on October 30, 2022. The booth was back in action again after a long COVID interruption. Thanks go to the following volunteers: Connie Berglund, Steve Davis, Sally O'Donnell, Barbara Pope, Camille Stewart, Janie Thomas, and Kirstin Waldkoenig. About 200 contacts were made with festival-goers, and 17 new trial members signed up to receive The Quail newsletter.

If you're interested in learning how you can volunteer at the LCAS booth in the future, email Ron Renchler at christyandron2@gmail.com, or call 541.345.0834.

Field Notes: October 2022

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

Ferruginous Hawk, Surf Scoter, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pink-footed **Shearwater**

t was a dry and smoky month until the rains finally came toward the Lend. Bird-wise, it seemed like a pretty normal October, with most of the summering species leaving and some wintering species starting to arrive.

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



Ferruginous Hawk



Surf Scoter, male

First report for the winter

Snow Goose	Oct 5	Mt Pisgah area	DA, et al	First report for the winter
Surf Scoter	Oct 16	FRR - Perkins Pen	JL	Rarely found inland
Red-necked Grebe	Oct 10	Fall Ck Reservoir	NS	Uncommon inland
Sandhill Crane (21)	Oct 23	Pleasant Hill	MJ	Normal time for their migration
Parasitic Jaeger (8+)	Oct 2	Tokatee Klootchman	TJ, et al	Good numbers for from shore
Sabine's Gull	Oct 14	Tokatee Klootchman	ACo, TJ	Seen in small numbers from shore
Northern Fulmar	Oct 23	Tokatee Klootchman	TJ, ACo	First sighting for the season
Sooty Shearwater (2000+)	Oct 2	Tokatee Klootchman	TJ, et al	Normal time for their migration
Pink-footed Shearwater	Oct 2	Tokatee Klootchman	TJ, et al	Small numbers seen from shore
Turkey Vulture (110+)	Oct 14	FRR	ACo, TJ	Large numbers moving south
Ferruginous Hawk				
Lewis's Woodpecker	Oct 7	Creswell area	NS	Seen in small numbers during migration
Williamson's Sapsucker	Oct 3	Scott Lake	A&TM	A good time of the year to find them &
Williamson's Sapsucker				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Oct 19ish	Cottage Grove	ACe	About ten records for Lane Co
Tropical Kingbird				
Northern Shrike	Oct 16	KR Neilsen Rd	SH	First report for the winter
Lapland Longspur	Sept 30	FRR - Royal Ave	Fide LM	Normal time for their migration
Lapland Longspur	Oct 5	Tokatee Klootchman	DB	Normal time for their migration
White-throated Sparrow				
Orange-crowned Warbler	Oct 14	Coburg area	LP	Last report for breeding season
MacGillivray's Warbler	Oct 12	Obsidian Trail	VB, MO	Last report for breeding season
Yellow Warbler				
Palm Warbler	Oct 2	SJSR	TJ, et al	Normal time for their arrival
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Oct 30	SE Eugene	AM	Last report for breeding season
Hermit Warbler	Oct 28	Fox Hollow area	RF	Last report for breeding season
Western Tanager	Oct 12	Springfield millrace	DA, et al	Last report for breeding season

ACo Alan Contreras, ACe Alison Center, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, DA Dennis Arendt, DB David Bickford, JL Joshua Little, JW Jeff Ward, LM Larry McQueen, LP Lalla Pudewell, MJ Mary Johnson, MO Megan ONeill, NS Noah Strycker, RF Rachael Friese, SH Sally Hill, TJ Tye Jeske, VB Vickie Buck. Fide references a sighting reported to the listed observer.

Southern Willamette Ornithological Society (SWOC)

Eugene Birders Nights, December 21st & January 18th

December 21st Holiday Gathering will be a snack potluck. Attendees will share experiences based on the theme "How Birding Kept Me Sane During COVID."

January 18th will be "Birds in the Incredible Landscapes of Iceland" by Bitty Roy and Michael Wherley. New location! Both meetings will take place at Alluvium, on the corner of Monroe and W. 3rd Ave, 810 W. 3rd Ave, Eugene. FMI: ellencantor@gmail.com

LCAS Members Give Local Schools a Boost

T t's gratifying to see so many LCAS members boost our students' learning L by sponsoring the Audubon Adventures program. Thanks to the generosity of those who have donated, we can provide 54 Lane County classrooms with the environmental curriculum that the National Audubon Society creates for elementary schools. Every teacher who opts in can give each student three issues of a colorful newsletter with articles about conservation, recycling, bird migration, habitat, and many other topics. The program also includes online materials for educators and fun activities for kids.

Teachers are signing up now, but it's not too late to contribute to this program if you'd like to participate! Sponsorships are \$45 per classroom. FMI: Email Cecelia Hagen at audadv@laneaudubon.org. The sponsors for 2022-23

Rob and Janet Barnes

Charlotte and Dave Bontrager (2)

Beth Bridges (2)

Gaylene Carpenter

Rob Castleberry and Joyce Thomas (2)

Mary Beth Crawford (2)

Stephanie Curtis

Ruth Ann Fraley (4)

David and Evelyn Hess

Ann Hinnen (3)

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Cathy Irwin Rita Kiley

Charles and Reida Kimmel (3)

Susan McConnell

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Marilyn Rawlings (2)

Ron Renchler and Christy

McMannis

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Dr. Evelyn Sherr (2)

Mika Singer (3)

Mike Smith

Karen Svenson (2)

Michael Tanner (3)

Janie Thomas and Jon Levy (2)

Annski E. Williams (2)

Volunteers Needed!

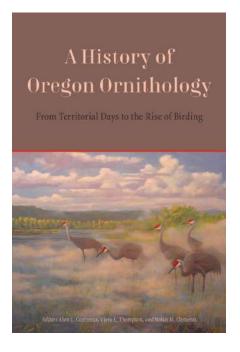
Recording Secretary

We need to replace our retiring Recording Secretary for LCAS monthly Board meetings. Generally these occur on the second 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 capabilities.

Publicity Person

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

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



A History of Oregon Ornithology: From **Territorial Days to the** Rise of Birding

Edited by Alan L. Contreras, Vjera E. Thompson, and Nolan M. Clements

Published in November of 2022 by the Oregon State University Press, A History of Ornithology is a book that Oregon birders might want to own and give as a gift, if not at least read.

It takes readers from the Lewis and Clark expedition, through the professionalization of the field, and into the mid-20th century, focusing on how birding and related amateur field observation grew outside the realms of academia and conservation agencies.

The first two editors are familiar names if you regularly read The Quail. The third one isn't from that far away either—just one county north of Lane. FMI or to order, osupress. oregonstate.edu.

LCAS Program Meeting—In Person and Zoom Tuesday, January 24, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

An Adventure to Brazil's Mato Grosso State and Argentina's Iguazu Falls



Iohn Sullivan and Laura Johnson

n August 2022, John Sullivan 👤 and Laura Johnson joined a Wings Birding Tour to Brazil with local birding leader Rich Hoyer. They explored diverse ecosystems, including Brazil's famous tropical wetlands, the Pantanal, then into the Amazon Basin and dry Cerrado tropical savanna highlands in the state of Mato Grosso. Extending



Capped Heron

their trip, they journeyed to one of the world's largest waterfalls, located in Iguazu National Park, which marks the border between Brazil and Argentina. These locations are famous for their birds, reptiles, and large cats. John will share his photo collection of birds and other wildlife to illustrate their South American wildlife safari.

John and Laura's passion for birding began where they grew up in the Midwest. John volunteered for the Nebraska Raptor Recovery Center for many years. Laura was an active birder/naturalist near her home in Galena, Illinois. In 2001, they relocated to Springfield, Oregon. Both enjoy hiking, biking, and birding



Argentine Black-and-White Tegu

locally, as well as exploring the natural world throughout Oregon. Nearly every year, they enjoy taking birding/ nature trips across the country, and occasionally, as they did this year, to locations beyond our borders.

Join us at the Campbell Center on January 24, Tuesday, at 7:00 pm.

Eugene Natural History Society Program, Co-sponsored with Lane **County Audubon Society**

Friday, December 9, 7:30 pm

Winter Raptor Surveys in the Pacific Northwest, presented by Jeff Fleischer, a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist from Oregon. He will explain how the 17-year-old project sponsored by the East Cascades Audubon Society chapter in Bend, Oregon, was developed with "citizen science" volunteers to learn more about changes in birds of prey numbers and movements.

For those wishing to experience the presentation in person, the location is Room 100 of Willamette Hall. This joint program held in-person on the UO Campus in Room 100 of Willamette Hall: map.uoregon.edu. It will also will be available via Zoom: tinyurl. com/2p8hsmt7

New Board Member

Te are pleased to welcome new Board member, Kirstin Waldkoenig, a UO Ph.D. student working toward a degree in philosophy along with a certificate in non-profit management.

She has worked with nonprofits across the United States as an environmental educator and has instructed groups of all ages in multi-week wilderness backpacking, climbing, and paddling trips. Currently, she is instructing interdisciplinary courses for undergraduates through the Wild Rockies Field Institute, headquartered in Missoula, Montana.

She discovered her passion for birding while participating in a 24-hour birding competition, and found her background in music quite useful for identifying bird calls. She also has experience handling resident birds at a raptor center in central Pennsylvania. In her academic studies, Kristin is focusing specifically on environmental and feminist philosophy. She is delighted to promote conservation and educational efforts through service to LCAS!



The Quail is the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society, a chartered chapter of National Audubon Society. Local members of National Audubon Society receive a free subscription to *The Quail* but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane County Audubon Society.

The Quail Subscriptions

Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com

The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines February: January 1 March: February 1

Submit material to Karen Irmscher at quailkaren1@gmail.com

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

Printed on postconsumer waste paper. Layout by Kerry Lutz.

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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

☐ Individual \$20\$	Name	
☐ Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15\$	Mailing Address	
☐ Family \$25\$	UILV SIGIE ZID	
☐ Lifetime Membership \$400\$	Phone	
$\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ $		
Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society)\$	E-mail	
To pay by PayPal, go to laneaudubon.org/support/join	☐ I would prefer to receive the e-Quail newsletter by e-mail.	
I am a 🔲 Current National Audubon member 🔲 Don't know	☐ I would like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.	
Please contact me regarding	☐ I would like to volunteer for Lane County Audubon activities. Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organization	
☐ Gift memberships ☐ Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program	We will use it only for Lane County Audubon Society communications.	

2022 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

by Dick Lamster, Count Coordinator

he 2022 Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) is on Sunday, January 1, 2023, our regular day within the normal three-week Count Period. This will be our 81st Christmas Bird Count. Guidelines for social distancing will be up to the Team Leaders and each team member. Please be respectful of other's safety concerns.

For the third year in a row, we will not have a Chili Feed Countdown at the end of the day. In the past, this has been a really fun ending to a long day of birdwatching. In the recent years preceding COVID, it was attended by more than 100 people. In its place, we will have a "Zoom" countdown on the Sunday evening of the Count day, similar to last year. Details will be posted on the LCAS website in mid-December. Some ECBC participants have even enjoyed chili in their homes the evening of Count Day in honor of the normal Chili Feed!

Our 27 Teams will be looking for birds in their designated areas within the 15-mile diameter circle. Each Team Leader will manage their team according to what works best for them. If you were on a team last year, the Team Leader should be contacting you with information for this year. If you have not heard from them by the first week of December, contact them or Dick Lamster, at maeveanddick@q. com or 541.343.8664. Other birders wanting to join the Count this year can also contact Dick.

If you cannot participate on an ECBC team in the field this year, consider being an ECBC Home Counter. From the comfort of your own home, you can record the birds you see at your feeder, in your yard, or overhead. Your sightings will be folded into ECBC's report to the National Audubon Society. To participate as a Home Counter:

- 1. Check to see if your home is in the official Count Area: tinyurl. com/3kusynwf
- 2. Register by December 31, 2022: tinyurl.com/mt4pumew
- 3. Download the 2022 ECBC Bird Count Checklist: laneaudubon.org/ christmas-bird-count/

For more information, contact: Marcia Maffei, 2022 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Home Count Coordinator. Email: birds2count@gmail.com; text or call 541.501.1280. Please leave a message.

Last year's EBCB weather was mild with no rain. When the lists of the 164 Field Observers and the 100 Home Counters were combined, we had identified 137 species! Three more species were seen during Count Week. The number of Home Counters was about average for our Count, while the number of Field Observers was our highest ever, surpassing the old record of 162 set the previous year. The number of species seen was a little above average for the past ten years. Our record of 140 species was set in 2005.

We recorded 60,587 individual birds last year. That number was below the average of the past 30 years, and the lowest since 1998.

You can view results of last year's ECBC as well as all the other CBCs in North America at christmasbirdcount. org. Our count code is OREU.

We hope you can join us for this year's ECBC. We look forward to sharing this fun and important endeavor with you on Sunday, January 1, 2023.



Nearby Christmas Bird Counts

In case you'd like to do more Counts, here is a listing.

Florence CBC

The 2022 Florence CBC will be Saturday, December 17th. The Count Circle includes varied habitats and elevations. Interested participants will be sent detailed information about the logistics and nature of the Count Day in advance. They can then decide whether to commit or not. Birders at all experience levels, from beginners to seasoned veterans, are welcome. FMI: Ellen Cantor, ellencantor@gmail.com.

Cottage Grove CBC

The Cottage Grove CBC will be Saturday, December 31st. All levels of bird enthusiasts are encouraged to join this Count. Participants will gather at 6:30 am for an organizational breakfast meeting, and meet again for a Countdown at 4 pm. FMI: Grace Fowler, GraceLovesBirds1@gmail.com or 817.975.4936 ASAP to optimize placement choices.

Oakridge CBC

The Oakridge CBC will be Friday, December 30th, despite recent fires. The good news is that the Cedar Creek fire only burnt its way into part of the circle, so most other sectors should be accessible. Details will be arranged closer to the date. FMI: Joel, clearwater@ peak.org, or 541.745.5821 if you are interested in joining.



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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Field trip coordinator opportunity

First Saturday Bird Walks, December 3 & January 7

Our First Saturday Bird Walk, 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 Walks, January 21

There will be no walk in December in order to avoid possible conflicts with various Christmas Bird Counts. Our Third Saturday Bird Walks continue to be open to all participants. It will be held January 21st at Alton Baker Park led by John Sullivan. 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.



Give to LCAS When You Shop Online

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



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