



The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

Please consider receiving The Quail electronically

From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, audubon@laneaudubon.org

Gabriella Smith: Inspired Composer and Environmental Activist



Gabriella Smith

In early December, I had the good fortune of meeting with Gabriella Smith, a musical composer and environmentalist who was in Eugene for a composer residency with the Eugene Symphony. The December symphony concert featured a

10-minute piece she wrote called *Field Guide*. Hearing *Field Guide*, I felt transported out of the Hult Center into a wild tropical forest. The orchestral instruments made unique sounds that were evocative of being outdoors, and I was thrilled with that experience.

In March, Gabriella will be back in Eugene for the Eugene Symphony performance of the Pacific Northwest Premier of her *Symphony No. 1, ONE, for Orchestra*. Gabriella is a rising star in the musical world, inventing new sounds and voices for classical instruments, and composing works that explore a rich new vocabulary for creating music. As an environmentalist, her inspiration is in

the natural world, and as her work is performed globally, she travels often and explores new places as she goes.

Other than creating new music, Gabriella has a mission of advocacy for local natural spaces wherever she is working. In December she met with folks at Green Island to arrange a restoration work party when she returns to Eugene in March. When I spoke with Gabriella, she told me that as a child she grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area playing and writing music, hiking, backpacking, and volunteering on a songbird research project. She idolized the avian researchers and thought she would pursue that career path. Birds are in her music and on her mind, and she has not lost that sense of wonder about wildlife.

In my conversation with Gabriella, I was struck by both her humanity and concern for our natural world. She is living a life that allows her to influence people throughout the world. Along with her incredible musical creativity, she is dedicated to connecting people

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Lane County Audubon Society

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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

Home Grown National Parks; Create Habitat Where You Live



Our National Parks are beautiful places that provide habitat for a host of plants and animals. But they are too few and too small to provide enough resources for biodiversity to thrive. The solution: the Homegrown National Parks movement.

Wildlife refuges and parks work as sanctuaries for the birds and other wildlife that can access them. But they are too distant from one another to provide the connectivity needed for biodiversity to thrive. The solution: the Homegrown National Parks movement.

Many of us are concerned with biodiversity decline and want to help. But we are frustrated by how we, as individuals, can provide relief for the wildlife that we love. The solution: the Homegrown National Parks movement.

As development has expanded across the land, we have left few remnants to support wildlife populations, many of which are in sharp decline. Doug Tallamy, among others, recognized the conservation

potential in our own backyards and spearheaded the Homegrown National Parks movement. By providing resources where we live, we can work together to provide more habitat and more connectivity to support wildlife. The movement challenges members of communities across the country to plant native vegetation and take steps to support wildlife. Don't have a backyard or garden? No problem. Public parks are an integral part of the Homegrown National Park system. Consider volunteering. Heaps of helpful information can be found at the website including articles and webinars. homegrownnationalpark.org/tallamys-hub-1 (or just search "Homegrown National Parks").

The website has an easy-to-use map feature, and you can join. Take steps to foster nature, then register your spot on the map. How cool will it be to look at the map and see Lane County strewn with havens for birds and other wildlife! map.homegrownnationalpark.org/Plantings/Map

Among the suggestions for actions to take:

- Shrink the lawn.
- Don't mow early in the spring. Set your mower height no lower than 3 inches. Better yet, leave some grassy areas unmowed.
- Remove invasive species.
- Plant abundantly and diversely. This may include native blooming flowers that attract butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds, as well as berry-producing plants, fruit trees, and nut trees. Support plants of different heights that bloom throughout the season.
- Reduce your nighttime light pollution. Artificial light at night adversely affects birds, pollinators, and insects that form the foundation of the food web.
- Where appropriate, install cheap window well covers to reduce the needless deaths of frogs and other small critters.
- Install a bubbler or other water feature.
- Leave the leaves. Stay messy to support wildlife.
- Do not spray any pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides, or insecticides. They kill the very things that will help wildlife.

Resources & Native Plant Lists

Pollinator and bird friendly plants: laneaudubon.org/pollinator-friendly-gardening/
National Audubon's native plant list by zip code: audubon.org/native-plants

Keystone native plants (such as oaks, asters, and sunflowers) identified by Tallamy's group, see: tinyurl.com/yhwv2sez

Field Notes: January 2023

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



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

White-tailed Kite



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Harris's Sparrow

White-tailed Kite, Harris's Sparrow, Swainson's Hawk, Summer Tanager

January started off wet for the first couple weeks, then turned dry and cooler. A number of the rare/unusual birds found at the end of last year lingered through the month. Obviously they've found a good location to spend the winter.

Abbreviations:

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

Snow Goose.....	Jan 3.....	Waite Ranch.....	AC.....	Not common at the coast
Clark's Grebe	Jan 10.....	West Lake.....	TMe,et al.....	Not common at the coast
Red Phalarope.....	Jan.....	Along coast.....	M.ob.....	Not commonly found this time of year
Osprey	Jan 6.....	Mt Pisgah.....	PW.....	The only reports for the month
Osprey	Jan 6.....	Delta Ponds.....	JK.....	All the same bird or not?
Osprey	Jan 6.....	Alton Baker Park.....	SR.....	All the same bird or not?
White-tailed Kite.....	Jan 9.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	SH.....	Rarely found in the last few years
Swainson's Hawk.....	Jan 14.....	Junction City area.....	JS.....	Rare in the winter in the US
Say's Phoebe.....	Jan 10.....	SJSR.....	TMe,et al.....	Not common at the coast
Winter Wren.....	Jan.....	Skinner Butte Park.....	M.ob.....	Continuing, started singing mid-month
Cedar Waxwing (45).....	Jan 14.....	River Road area.....	RH.....	Only large flock reported
Evening Grosbeak (11).....	Jan 2.....	Mt Pisgah area.....	FT.....	Only large flock reported
American Tree Sparrow.....	Jan.....	KR Neilsen.....	M.ob.....	Continuing
Harris's Sparrow.....	Jan 20.....	River Road area.....	TG.....	Rare in Lane Co - reported every few years
Orchard Oriole.....	Jan.....	Florence area.....	M.ob.....	Continuing
Common Yellowthroat.....	Jan 5.....	FRR.....	RH.....	Rare during the winter
Common Yellowthroat.....	Jan 17.....	Springfield millrace.....	JS,FT.....	Same bird as found on Dec 20?
Hermit Warbler.....	Jan 1.....	Oak Hill Cemetery.....	VT.....	Rare during the winter
Hermit Warbler.....	Jan 1.....	West Lawn Cemetery.....	PB,et al.....	Rare during the winter
Hermit Warbler.....	Jan 6.....	Skinner Butte.....	JS.....	Rare during the winter
Western Tanager.....	Jan 15.....	Near U of O.....	PB,BN.....	Returning bird from Nov?
Late Report from last year				
Summer Tanager.....	Dec 9.....	Florence area.....	LL.....	Fourth record for Lane Co

AC Alan Contreras, BN Bruce Newhouse, FT Forest Tomlinson, JK Jeff Krueger, JS John Sullivan, LL Lise Luce, PB Peg Boulay, PW Patrick Wegner, RH Rich Hoyer, SH Sally Hill, SR Samuel Rodgers, TG Tim Griffith, TMe Thomas Meinzen, VT Vjera Thompson. M.ob signifies many observers.

Community School Garden Project Continues

Lane Audubon and other volunteers are working at two area elementary schools to support gardens for pollinators, birds, and school children. A small grant from National Audubon is funding the purchase of native plants. We plan to get more native plants in the ground to support pollinators and birds this spring. Join us on the second Sunday of each month at Adams. Planting party dates at El Camino del Rio school to be announced. Check out our website and Facebook page for more details.

LCAS Members Boost Local Schools

The Dec/Jan issue of *The Quail* included thanks to several people who sponsored the Audubon Adventures program. The following folks also made contributions that will help students in Lane County classrooms learn more about birds: Doris Wimber (2); Denice Rogers (2); Richard Miller (2); Kathryn Kemp; Liz Hall; Susan Markley (2); Judith Richwall; Judy Horstman and Howard Bonnett.

Thanks to this support, teachers in 35 classrooms (representing 16 schools in the Springfield, South Lane, 4J, and Fern Ridge school districts) will be able to share these award-winning materials with their students.

For more information about Audubon Adventures, please contact Cecelia Hagen at audadv@laneaudubon.org.

Elementary School, Grade, and Number of Classrooms

Adams.....	1st (1)
Adams.....	3rd (1)
Adams.....	5th (3)
Awbrey Park.....	4th (1)
Awbrey Park.....	5th (1)
Charlemagne.....	2nd (2)
Charlemagne.....	3rd (2)
Edison.....	3rd (3)
Elizabeth Page.....	3rd (1)
Elizabeth Page.....	4th (1)
Harrison	2nd (1)
Holt Elementary	3rd (1)
Howard.....	3rd (1)
London School.....	4/5 (1)
McCornack.....	2nd (3)
Mount Vernon.....	3rd (1)
Mount Vernon.....	4th (2)
River Road/El Camino del Río ..	5th (2)
Riverbend	4th (1)
Thurston.....	5th (1)
Veneta.....	4th (1)
Yolanda.....	4th (4)

Be a Part of the Team of Lane Audubon Volunteers!

If you have an interest in being involved and have skills you would like to put to work in support of our goals, we would like to hear from you! Volunteers are needed for these specific positions now! Join the fun and lend a helping hand!

Join our Bird Walk Team to help plan, organize, and implement bird walks. Help respond to requests from out-of-town visitors to show them our wonderful local birding locations! We would really like to have multiple birders involved in this fun and rewarding effort. See page 8 for more details.

“Office” Assistant: Lane Audubon needs assistance with typical office work, such as acknowledging members’ renewals and donations. We also need help with announcement flyers and social media postings designed to recruit volunteers for community activities. Excel, Publisher, Word, and internet skills required, while working from your computer. We do not have an office space.

FMI or to volunteer, please contact Maeve: audubon@laneaudubon.org or 541.343.8664.

Interested in Sharing Your Love of Nature with Children?

Mount Pisgah Arboretum is looking for a few more volunteers interested in the natural world and in engaging youth in the outdoors! After training in local ecology, teaching tips, and nature topics, the Nature Guides will lead groups of elementary school-age children on weekday field trips at the Arboretum this spring and summer. Volunteer orientation night is March 20, 5-7 pm at the Arboretum’s White Oak Pavilion.

FMI and/or to sign up, email Sara Spoden, education@mountpisgaharboretum.org, or call 541.741.4110.

Thank You!

Lane Audubon is thankful to A-Squared Productions founders Anice Thigpen and Andrea Halliday, who created and produced the *Birds Flying Through* production and held it as a benefit for Lane Audubon and Cascades Raptor Center. Prior to the three performances last fall, we were present to inform attendees about our work. They were also selling the book, *Birds Flying Through*, by local author Deborah Narin-Wells. We received a generous donation from Anice and Andrea after the event was held. It was an exciting collaboration with local talent and most thoughtful of them to include Lane Audubon and Cascades Raptor Center as recipients of their generosity!

Pollinator Paradise License Plates Coming Soon

Oregon’s gardens, agricultural lands, high deserts, natural areas, and forests are home to roughly 600 species of bees, so it’s not surprising that Oregon is a national leader in bee research. Special license plates honoring and supporting bees and pollinator research will soon go into production. In the new-themed license plate, a honeybee hovers above hives and a native bumble bee visits a pink clover flower.

Marek Stanton created the art for this plate. At age 16, he is the youngest member of the Oregon State University Extension Service’s Master Melittologist program and a lifelong artist. Your purchase of a Pollinator Paradise license plate will help safeguard bees now and into the future. You can sign up to receive an email notification when the plates become available. (Please do not contact the DMV.)

FMI or to sign up: agsci.oregonstate.edu/home/oregon-pollinator-license-plate-presale

LCAS Program Meeting—In Person and Zoom Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



Photo: Magnus Persmark

Southern Royal Albatross



Photo: Magnus Persmark

King Penguins



Photo: Magnus Persmark

Adele Penguins

Antarctica and the Sub-Antarctic Islands with Magnus Persmark



Magnus Persmark

Antarctica is a continent of superlatives: the driest, the coldest, the harshest, least inhabited, the most remote, the last explored. The South Pole was reached just over 100 years ago. It has lured adventurers for centuries and it continues to draw explorers, scientists, and naturalists. For naturalists, however, the surrounding islands, particularly South Georgia and Falkland Islands, are equally appealing, thanks to an astonishing concentration of marine mammals and birds.

The Antarctic region is home to such charismatic mammals as whales, seals, and sea lions. Its avian fauna abounds with species that breed nowhere else: penguins, albatrosses, petrels, prions, sheath bills, and even a few passerines. Though fur seals and whales were driven nearly to extinction by hunting populations in the past, they have rebounded, some to pre-exploitation levels. Today the region's environment, flora, and fauna enjoy

protection under the Antarctic Treaty, yet its ecosystems are facing stress from global warming.

Against this backdrop, Magnus Persmark and his wife, Rosie Hammond, joined a January cruise to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic peninsula. At the height of the Austral summer, this is the “warmest” time of year and the infamous Drake’s Passage is at its calmest. Alas, “The Drake” wasn’t entirely calm! Nevertheless, wandering among thousands of baying penguins and barking Fur Seals, admiring the effortlessly soaring great albatrosses, masterfully arching prions, and petrels, and sailing among bergs of ancient ice was an extraordinary natural history experience.

In this presentation Magnus will share some impressions and photos of extraordinary birds and scenery. While this program will be available on Zoom, the wondrous photography, welcoming auditorium, and interactions with friends make going to the Campbell Center a good choice for many of you.

Magnus Persmark

Magnus was born in Gothenburg, Sweden, and grew up in a small town on the country’s southern coast. Much time was spent with family outside: rambling through forests, looking for wildflowers in springtime, picking mushrooms or berries in the fall, along with skiing, and ice skating on frozen lakes in winter. The ancient Swedish

law of common access to private lands made it easy and safe for kids to roam. It was inevitable, perhaps, that birds would pose a particular fascination, and Magnus got his first binoculars from his grandparents at age 10. Excepting a brief teenage hiatus, he has been birding ever since. As part of biochemistry graduate school, he moved to California for a year in the late 80s, and 30-plus years later he still calls the USA home. He and his wife have enjoyed living in Eugene since 2005.

This LCAS Program will be available in person as well as via Zoom. 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.

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 Godsil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com

The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

April: March 1
May-June: April 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

I am a Current National Audubon member Don't know

Please contact me regarding

Gift memberships Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

Midwinter Eagle Counts at Dorena and Cottage Grove Reservoirs in 2023

By Alison Center

Midwinter eagle counts have taken place continuously at Dorena Reservoir and Cottage Grove Reservoir over the past 30-plus years. For the last decade, a dedicated group of volunteers from the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council has conducted the counts. This data is then shared with the Army Corps of Engineers, who track Bald Eagle populations on the reservoirs throughout the Willamette Valley. This year, the counts were held on January 15.

We started the day around 10 am at Dorena Reservoir, where it rained at the beginning and sprinkled now and then throughout the survey. A total of four adults and one immature Bald Eagle were observed. Other



Photo: Steve Berardi, Wikicommons

Bald Eagle

raptors seen were a Red-tailed Hawk, an American Kestrel, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Northern Harrier.

We surveyed Cottage Grove Reservoir in the afternoon, where coincidentally, we also saw four adults and one immature Bald Eagle. Other raptors observed were a Red-tailed Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawks. One of the observers, an 8-year old boy, tried to make the sound of a Red-tailed Hawk but a Red-shouldered Hawk answered him! We also saw Ruddy Ducks. Northern Shovelers were in the sewage pond.

Our volunteers enjoyed the day, and our final tally for both reservoirs was eight adults and two immature Bald Eagles.

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

March 15, 7 pm

“Do-It-Yourself Birder” Forest Tomlinson will present “From High to Low and In-between: Traversing the Elevational Ecosystems of Ecuador,” encompassing his solo two-week swing through Ecuador. Traveling between the Western Rainforests of Mindo, the highland páramo around Papallacta Pass, and the foothills of the Amazon Rainforests, he saw almost 400 species. He’ll offer travel information and tips, beautiful photos, and a few funny stories.

The meeting is at the Alluvium, in the Whiteaker area of Eugene. It’s on the corner of Monroe and W 3rd Ave, 810 W 3rd Ave, Eugene, in a spacious room suitable for COVID-safe protocols. All are welcome to this free event, but we encourage donations to help pay the rent.

FMI: Contact Ellen Cantor, ellencantor@gmail.com.

From Our President *continued from page 1*

to natural spaces wherever they live. When she comes in March, she will be putting shovel in the ground during a work party for habitat restoration, then the next day we will be hearing the Eugene Symphony perform her very first symphony! Gabriella’s incredible talents and passion for the environment and her work on a global scale can truly make a difference! She provides hope for the future through her commitment to our natural world and her ability to touch hearts and minds through her music.

Some excerpts from her website: gabriellasmith.com

Many of Gabriella’s works address

the climate crisis and participation in climate solutions.

Her first full-length album, *Lost Coast*, deals with the grief, loss, rage, and fear experienced as a result of climate change, as well as the exhilaration, beauty, and wonder she has felt in the world’s last wild places, and the joy and hope in getting to work on climate solutions.

Gabriella has also written many works inspired by field recordings she has made of terrestrial and underwater soundscapes, including the sounds of dawn choruses, trees, cacti, tide pools, and coral reefs.

When not composing, she can

be found hiking, backpacking, birding, recording underwater soundscapes with her hydrophone, and volunteering on ecosystem restorations.

FMI, Eugene Symphony: eugenesymphony.org/events/concerts/2022-2023-season

FMI: Green Island, MRT work party and tour details – TBD.

Thank you to Katy Vizdal for setting up our meeting. Katy is the Eugene Symphony’s Education & Community Engagement Director, as well as an active LCAS member.



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



LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Field trip coordinator opportunity

First Saturday Bird Walk, March 4

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.

FMI: Email Sarah at 1stSatBirdWalks@laneaudubon.org to sign up.

Third Saturday Bird Walk, March 18

Shinai Grz will lead a walk at Golden Gardens Park, starting at 8 am. Park along Jessen Drive on either side of the street, then meet at the park's main entrance, at the corner of Jessen Drive and Golden Gardens Street. No bathroom locations are nearby, but some may be found at the many stores on Barger, not far from the park.

FMI: audubon@laneaudubon.org

Bike Path Cleanup: Save the Date, Saturday, April 8

Details will be published in *The Quail's* April edition, and available on the LCAS website and Facebook page.



Mourning Doves

Photo: Steve Gordon, CBC

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 responsibilities 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