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The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, audubon@laneaudubon.org

April Invites Us to Savor and Nurture the Natural World



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Spring river

April is a great month to get outside and watch the natural world come alive after winter. Dig in the garden. Breathe in the spring air. Watch the plants sprout leaves and flowers while the pollinators search for open blossoms. Watch the

arriving migrant birds that will set up breeding territories and sing to attract a mate. Let yourself feel the joy in nature and foster other living things that surround us and share our precious planet.

As climate change and weather instability loom in our consciousness, each of us can make changes in our lives that can help. Planting a garden, even one in pots on a balcony, can provide good food grown through your own nurturing. Plant trees, which, through their respiration take in carbon and release oxygen, offsetting the carbon accumulation in our atmosphere. The more trees and forests we have, the better for carbon sequestration.

Create compost from your organic kitchen waste. It, too, can help mitigate the accumulation of carbon in the atmosphere. Spreading your mature compost around your garden plants gives them a natural boost in growth. Composting creates another natural carbon sink, as well as promoting growth without the use of chemical fertilizers. Chemical products can make your soil a chemical soup that is inhospitable to the living microbiota that are needed to make your soil a healthy plant ecosystem.

While doing this work outside, you can watch for birds and know that insect-eating migratory birds will help keep your garden free of unwanted insect pests that might harm your garden plants. Humans can create a balanced ecosystem within our own communities and yards. This natural healthy landscape work benefits us as well as all the co-inhabitants that we share our space with.

Please plug into nature rather than fearing and destroying it. The earth is

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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

LCAS Sponsors and Participates in Many Community Projects



At Lane County Audubon Society, we believe in the power of a bird-friendly community that benefits birds (and other wildlife) as well as people. We work to support wildlife and act on their behalf to protect habitat and ecological health. The birds pay us back! Birds help pollinate plants, disperse seeds, control pests, and act as health indicators for the environment. They provide beauty and delight

and wonder. Several studies have documented that connecting to nature improves human health and well-being.

Even just the sound of birdsong was shown to have a positive effect on us. An appreciation of nature, in turn, encourages people to help support birds and wildlife. When we connect people to nature, it's a win-win. Among the goals of our bird-friendly community initiative: support the protection of birds and their habitat, and provide educational resources and opportunities to enjoy nature with a commitment to promoting diversity and inclusivity.

To include more members of our community, we have partnered with the Eugene Public Library to create Birding Kits that anybody with a library card can borrow. Starting this spring, three kits will be available to check out from the Downtown Library and one kit each at the Bethel Branch and Sheldon Branch. The kits can be checked out at eugene-or.gov/4720/Library-of-Things

Contents of Library Birding Kit

- A backpack for carrying supplies to get out in the field
- A pair of binoculars
- Sibley's Birds West field guide
- Sibley's Backyard Birds of the Pacific Northwest (laminated folding ID guide)
- Birds of Lane County (edited by Alan Contreras)
- Birds of Lane County Checklist. (Digital copies available at our website).
- Two double-sided laminated information sheets
 - Guide to basic birding with links to suggested resources.
 - How we can help birds with links to suggested resources

Links for these information sheets can be found at: laneaudubon.org.



River Road School cleanup

Want to learn more about birding, where to find birds, and how to identify them? Join us for a bird walk. Please check out the announcements on our website and social media about our two bird walks each month.

Want to join us, but don't have binoculars? No problem; we have a few binoculars that can be borrowed during the field trips. Contact us.

Early opportunities to connect with nature are critical. Our community school garden project brings together multiple generations of people. Lane Audubon and other volunteers are working at two area elementary schools to support gardens for pollinators, birds, and school children. A grant from National Audubon has funded the purchase of native plants from local native plant nurseries. Volunteers have helped to spruce up the gardens and plant native vegetation, which will provide food and shelter for birds and pollinators, as well as educational opportunities for schoolchildren. This spring, we plan to get more native plants into the ground, and we need volunteers.

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Field Notes: February 2023

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

Sandhill Crane, Red-breasted Merganser, Rufous Hummingbird, Nashville Warbler

The month started and ended cool, with snow in the middle and at the end, and it seemed like less rain than normal. It will be interesting to see if the cold weather and snow at the end of the month will have any effect on the less hardy wintering species (i.e., phoebes, warblers, etc.). I know we had a cold snowy period a few winters ago that really dropped the numbers of White-tailed Kites and Black Phoebes. The phoebe's numbers have bounced back, but kite numbers are still very low.

Abbreviations:

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

Red-breasted Merganser.....	Jan 31	Dorena Reservoir.....	SS	Rarely found away from the coast
Rufous Hummingbird	Feb 19	Sutton Lake	SK.....	First report with many to follow
Sandhill Crane (2)	Feb 12	Marcola area	RR,DA.....	First report of north-bound cranes
Surfbird (9).....	Feb 16	Stonefield Beach	LG.....	It's getting more difficult to find this species
Western Sandpiper.....	Feb 15.....	Siltcoos River mouth.....	LG.....	Always rare during the winter
Black-legged Kittiwake (30).....	Feb 9	Tokatee Klootchman.....	RR.....	Very large number for Lane Co
Brown Pelican.....	Feb 4	Heceta Beach.....	TB,KK.....	Rare winter sighting
Swainson's Hawk.....	Feb 4	Junction City area	KY.....	Last sighting – gone or is no one looking?
Turkey Vulture.....	Feb 13	Junction City area	MG	First report of vultures away from FRR area
Great Gray Owl	Feb 10	Pheasant Hill area	CA.....	Sporadic reports over the years
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Feb 19	Florence	DB,JRB.....	Last sighting – gone or is no one looking?
Northern Shrike.....	Feb 25	FRR	SH.....	Last sighting – did they all leave?
Violet-green Swallow (4).....	Feb 25	River Road area	RH.....	First report away from local ponds
Mountain Chickadee (2)	Feb 19	McKenzie Bridge area	LP.....	Rarely found away from the high Cascades
Winter Wren	Feb 16	Skinner Butte.....	JS.....	Last sighting – gone or is no one looking?
American Tree Sparrow	Feb 3	KR Nielsen Rd	JS,et al.....	Last sighting – gone or is no one looking?
Harris's Sparrow	Feb	River Road area	TG	Seen throughout the month
Orchard Oriole.....	Feb 20	Florence	JS.....	Last sighting – gone or is no one looking?
Nashville Warbler	Feb 26	Eugene - Friendly St.....	DA.....	Rarely found in the winter
Hermit Warbler	Feb 2	Skinner Butte.....	SD	Rarely found in the winter

CA Chrissy Anderson, DA Dennis Arendt, DB Don Berg, JRB Jonathan Reimer-Berg, JS John Sullivan, KK Kelly Koopman, KY Kaplan Yalcin, LG Linda Gilbert, LP Leah Pipkin, MG Mary Garrard, RH Rich Hoyer, RR Roger Robb, SD Steve Dignam, SH Sally Hill, SK Steve Klemp, SS Susan Sheppard, TB Trent Bray, TG Tim Griffith



Sandhill Cranes



Red-breasted Mergansers

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC), April 19, 7 pm

“It’s Not Just About the Warblers: Chasing Spring Migration Across the Central and Mississippi Flyways.” Ellen Cantor and Nancy Clogston will tell tales and show photographs from their epic 6-week, 6,000 mile roadtrip to witness the cacophony of song and color of spring migration.

The meeting is at the Alluvium, on the corner of Monroe and West 3rd Ave, 810 West 3rd Ave, Eugene. All are welcome to this free event, but we encourage donations to help pay the rent.

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

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: One person (or two, working together) is needed to plan, organize, and implement our monthly Third Saturday Bird Walks. LCAS 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. This is a fun opportunity to meet and learn from birding experts. Best of all, you get to be out birding!

We also need people to respond to requests from out-of-town visitors, by showing them our wonderful local birding locations! We would really like to have multiple birders involved in this fun and rewarding effort.

“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.



Photo: by Melanie Griffin

Spring Bike Path Clean Up, April 8

April 8 falls on a Saturday, and we’re scheduled to clean our 2-mile section of the West Eugene Wetlands bike path from 10 am to 1 pm. We’ll have support from the Bureau of Land Management staff, plus be able to watch for birds and other wildlife along the way. Past participants have said they enjoyed both the activity and the camaraderie. This is an all-volunteer effort and we’d love to have you join us.

We will meet near the Euphoria Chocolate Company at Stewart Road and Bertelsen, just north of West 11th.

FMI or to volunteer: please email Katy Vizdal at katyvizdal@gmail.com.



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Mason Bee

Come Help Us Count Some of Eugene’s Various Bees

Lane Audubon is proud to be a member of the Pollinator Protection Committee to support the City of Eugene as a Bee City USA member. Eugene has been part of this effort since 2018. Join us for our annual bee surveys at Rasor Park on **Wednesday, April 26**, 12 pm - 2 pm and at Westmoreland Park, **Wednesday, May 10**, 12 pm - 2 pm. Nets and collecting jars will be provided as well as people to help identify our native bees.

Excerpted from Bee City Website:

When people hear the word “bee” they often think of the European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*). However, the United States is also home to just over 3,600 native (wild) bee species such as bumble bees, leafcutter bees, sweat bees, mason bees, longhorn bees, and mining bees. Native pollinators are particularly important because they evolved alongside native plants and in many cases are the most effective pollinators — and in a few cases, the only pollinators.

Pollinators are keystone species in essentially every terrestrial ecosystem on earth, assisting in plant reproduction and supporting other species of wildlife. Pollinators touch our lives in numerous ways each day, including being responsible for approximately one third of the food and drink we consume. The value of crop pollination has been estimated between \$18 and \$27 billion annually in the U.S.

Research has shown significant declines in native pollinator population sizes and ranges globally. In fact, up to 40% of pollinator species on earth may be at risk of extinction in the coming years as a result of habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change.

FMI: contact Emily Steel, Eugene Parks and Open Space Ecologist, at esteel@eugene-or.gov or 541.682.4874.

LCAS Program Meeting—In Person and Zoom Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



Dive Into the World of the Belted Kingfisher



Marina Richie

Come to the Lane County Audubon Society program meeting on Tuesday, April 25, for a special program about the amazing Belted Kingfisher.

Secrets of the Belted Kingfisher

Marina Richie will take us on a headfirst dive into the world of North America's jay-sized angler: the Belted Kingfisher. This big-billed bird is the subject of her 2022 award-winning book, *Halcyon Journey, In Search of the Belted Kingfisher*, with 16 illustrations by artist and birder Ram Papish. The Belted Kingfisher is the 2023 Bird-of-the-Year by the American Birding Association.

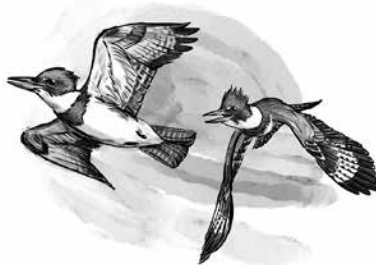
Marina's photo-filled presentation will explore why the female kingfisher is more colorful than the male and other secrets of a skittish yet familiar

bird. Throughout, Marina will read brief excerpts from her book, a first-person narrative threading natural history, memoir, and myth.

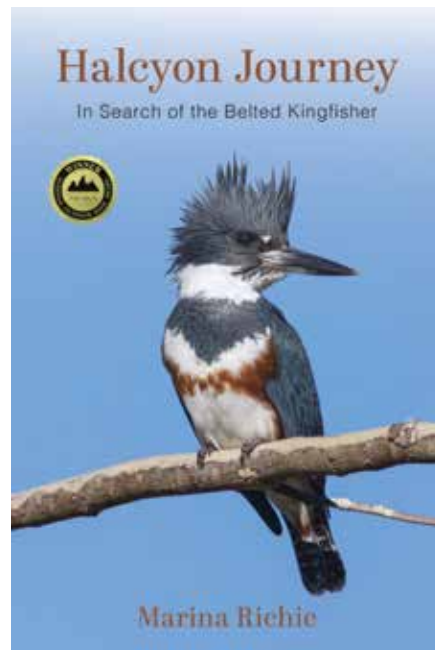
Marina Richie is a nature writer living in Bend. She has a master's degree in Journalism from the University of Montana and an undergraduate degree in Biology from the University of Oregon. She serves as board president for the Greater Hells Canyon Council. In addition to *Halcyon Journey, In Search of the Belted Kingfisher* (winner of a 2022 National Outdoor Book Award), she is the author of the children's books *Bird Feats of Montana* and *Bug Feats of Montana*. Her articles and essays have



Parent feeding drawing by Ram Papish



Aerial chase drawing by Ram Papish



appeared in *Birdwatching Magazine*, *A. T. Journeys*, *Post Road Magazine*, books, blogs (*National Wildlife* and *Audubon*), and other publications. She pens a bi-monthly nature blog on her website: marinarichie.com.

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.

From Our President *continued from page 1*

our home AND home to every other living thing. We need to learn to share and make choices that can sustain us all. Each of us can have some positive impact on the earth with the lifestyle choices we make.

Remember... Let yourself feel the joy in nature and foster other living things that surround us and share our precious planet. Breathe in the spring air!

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

May-June: April 1

July-August: June 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

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



Adams first-grader Hatcher Kathol and his mom, Summer, planted this cascara tree, which is a favorite of birds, during the January 22 work party at Adams.

Join us on the second Sunday of each month at Adams Elementary School. Planting party dates at El Camino del Rio school to be announced. Check out our website and Facebook page for more details.

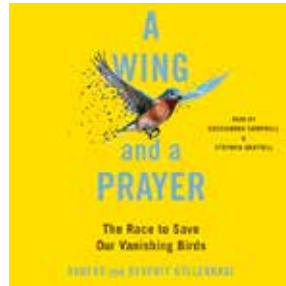
Supporting Fire Resiliency and Water Security

LCAS has joined a coalition of 30 non-profit supporters of Oregon HB 3464: Enhancing Oregon’s Fire Resiliency and Water Security through Common-Sense Wildlife Management.

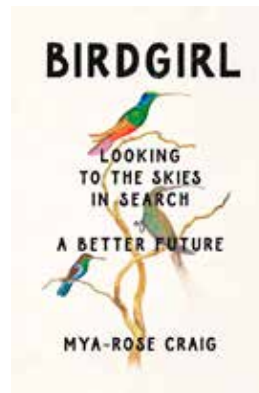
Currently, beavers are classified in Oregon as “predatory animals” on private lands, despite the fact that they are biologically not predators. As a result, they can be killed with little to no regulation or monitoring.

HB 3464 is common-sense legislation that would remove the predatory animal designation from beavers in Oregon. It allows ODFW to begin to manage beavers on private land in Oregon, as it does other wildlife species. Doing the same for beavers creates possibilities to improve Oregon’s resilience to wildfire, water security, habitat for wildlife, and overall ecological health.

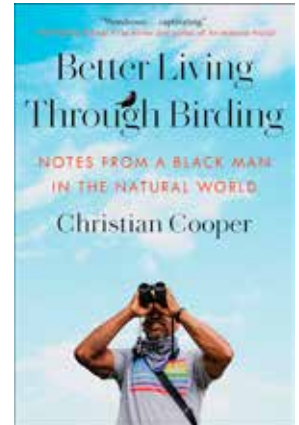
New Bird/Birding Books to Watch for in 2023, and One Local Author Climate Book



A Wing and a Prayer: The Race to Save Our Vanishing Birds – April 2023, by Anders Gyllenhaal



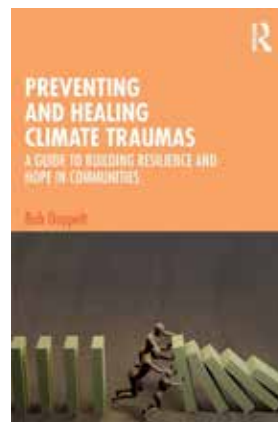
Birdgirl: Looking to the Skies in Search of a Better Future Hardcover – March, 28, 2023, by Mya-Rose Craig



Better Living Through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World Hardcover – June 13, 2023, by Christian Cooper



The Wise Hours: A Journey into the Wild and Secret World of Owls Hardcover – February 7, 2023, by Miriam Darlington



Preventing and Healing Climate Traumas, 1st Edition, by Bob Doppelt



Turkey tracks

Photo: Thalia Sharp

Bike-Path Clean Up

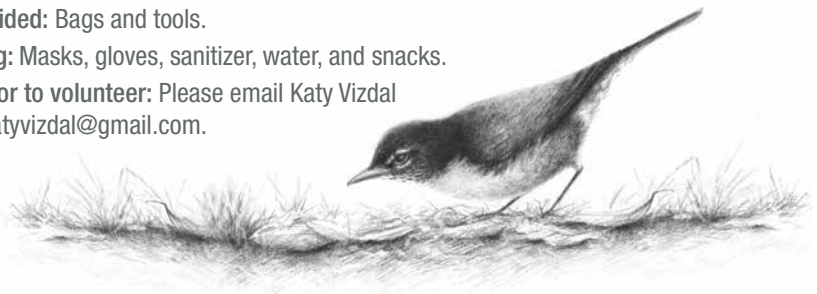
Sunday, April 8, 2023, 10 am - 1 pm

Where: We will meet near the Euphoria Chocolate Company at Stewart Road and Bertelsen, just north of West 11th.

Provided: Bags and tools.

Bring: Masks, gloves, sanitizer, water, and snacks.

FMI or to volunteer: Please email Katy Vizdal at katyvizdal@gmail.com.



With support from the Bureau of Land Management



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, April 1

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 or to sign up: email Sarah at 1stSatBirdWalks@laneaudubon.org

Third Saturday Bird Walk, April 15, 8:30 am

Gerry Meenaghan will lead a walk around Lane Community College and its sewage ponds, two of Lane County's best birding hot spots! We'll meet near the south entrance to Building 16. Participants should be comfortable walking – 2 miles over a mixture of paved and unpaved surfaces and some moderately hilly terrain. Rain gear and water-proof or -resistant footwear is highly recommended for an April walk.

FMI: audubon@laneaudubon.org; LCC map: inside.lanecol.edu/pg/lcc-maps

Vaux's Swift Watch – April 14 and 28 at Sunset

We hope to welcome the Vaux's Swifts back in April as they arrive with a warm wind from the south. The timing of the migration varies, so we hope they will show up when we gather to watch the birds ride in on the wind. The swifts use the Agate Hall Chimney to roost for the night, funneling in to rest and recover after their long migration from the south. Most will continue north and east to the mountains for the nesting season.

Come join us at Agate Hall, on UO campus at 17th Avenue and Agate Street. Reluctant family members will often join in, if you promise ice cream at nearby Prince Pucklers.

FMI: Lane Audubon Facebook page or web site or call the Lane Audubon phone at 541.485.2473. FMI: about Vaux's Swifts: vauxhappening.org/Vauxs_Happening_Home.html



Photo: Cary Kerst

Northern Pintail Duck



Photo: Cary Kerst

American Coot displaying odd toes