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# The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



## From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, audubon@laneaudubon.org

## LCAS Thoughts on Audubon Name Change Conundrum



Photo: Horia Varfan, Wikimedia Commons

Co-authored by President Maeve Sowles and Conservation Chair Debbie Schlenoff

The Lane County Audubon Society has been advocating for birds and connecting people with nature since 1971...52 years!

Those of us who joined the Audubon team did so because the name was recognizable as an organization that made a difference for birds. Recently, we have learned a great deal about the man whose name the organization bears. Although John James Audubon was famous as an illustrator of birds, his legacy is abhorrent. He was a racist, anti-abolitionist, a slave owner, a slave trader, and somebody who dug up indigenous remains. And he committed fraud.

Over the last year, there has been much discussion about a possible name change for various Audubon entities. Each chapter around the nation is an independent organization with the right to take whatever name

it chooses. Many of the larger chapters have decided to change their names including Seattle, Portland, Chicago, New York, Wisconsin, Georgia, and Washington, DC., as well as the union representing the workers at National Audubon. After reviewing the possibility of a name change over the last year, National Audubon recently announced that they will not change their name. If you are interested in their process, please see: [audubon.org/news/national-audubon-society-announces-decision-retain-current-name](https://audubon.org/news/national-audubon-society-announces-decision-retain-current-name).

Locally, we place high value on building an organization that is inclusive and that makes everybody feel welcome. Our Mission Statement and Inclusivity, Equity and Diversity Statement can be found at: [laneaudubon.org/about-mission/](https://laneaudubon.org/about-mission/). We also adopted the First Saturday Bird Walks to create a safe space for women, BIPOC, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. We want to keep protecting birds and other

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Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

[laneaudubon.org](https://laneaudubon.org)

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

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



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## Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com

# What Our Chapter Has Been Up to This Winter and Spring



Co-authored by LCAS President Maeve Sowles and Conservation Chair Debbie Schlenoff

- Monthly hybrid-Zoom **Program Meetings** with fascinating presentations, averaging 100 attendees!
- **Two monthly bird walks** that are always well attended and show folks the wonderful birding opportunities in our area.
- **Christmas Bird Counts** in Eugene, Oakridge, Cottage Grove, and Florence. Eugene has been in the top 10 Christmas Bird Counts in number of participants in North America!
- **Submitted our annual report to National Audubon.**
- Booth Outreach at **Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Show**.
- Completed an **Audubon Collaborative Grant report** for funding obtained for our School Garden Project.
- **School Garden Project** continued helping to restore and plant native vegetation in bird- and pollinator-

friendly gardens in two area schools.

- Our **Audubon in the Schools (AITS)** team is offering beginning birding classes at various schools and outdoor programs.
- Purchased **22 children's binoculars for kids'** birding classes.
- Collaborated with the **Eugene Public Library to create Birding Backpacks** that can be checked out by anybody with a library card.
- Our members sponsored 38 classrooms at 17 area grade schools to receive **Audubon Adventures kits**.
- Continued our work on the **City of Eugene Pollinator Committee** and helped complete the 2022 Bee City USA annual report.

Conservation efforts include comments, letters, or testimony to advocate for birds locally, in the state, and on federal legislation. Here's a sampling:

- Collaborated with other stakeholder on **statewide anti-poaching campaign**.
- Collaborated with Oregon chapters on **strategizing for environmental**

**action** around the state.

- Discussed the importance of **bird friendly building and lighting** when considering Eugene's riverfront development. Submitted comments on Greenway development.
- Advocated to **protect oak and riparian habitat** when drawing the new Urban Growth Boundary map (with county and city officials).
- Provided resources on **how we can be a bird-friendly community**: [laneaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Ways-we-can-help-birds-QR-library-kit.pdf](https://laneaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Ways-we-can-help-birds-QR-library-kit.pdf).
- Supported bill to create **pesticide-safe schools**.
- Supported **Rocky Shore habitat protection**.
- Supported the **Recovering Oregon's Wildlife Fund bill**.
- Supported **bill to remove designation of "predator" for beavers** and educate about the benefits provided for wetland habitat, wildfire barriers, and climate protection that beavers supply.
- Supported **federal bill to protect beavers on federal land**.
- Applauded the designation of two new National Monuments and **encouraged the consideration of the Douglas Fir National Monument here in Oregon**.
- Urged protection of investment in **climate-smart agriculture** and conservation technical assistance in Farm Bill.



*Binoculars for kids' birding classes.*

Photo: Maeve Sowles

## Field Notes: March 2023

Tom and Allison Mickel, atmickel@gmail.com

# Sandhill Crane, Palm Warbler, Golden Eagle, Black-legged Kittiwake

Well, what can we say about the month, except it's been cooler than normal and wet! That wet included snow at least twice during the month, depending on where you live. In SE Eugene, we had about an inch of hail on our deck toward the end of the month. Some of the early migrants started showing up and some of the wintering species started leaving, as is typical for March. Normally, April is when the flood gates open up for migrants, so study up on your identification skills, both by sight and song!

### Abbreviations:

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)



Photo: Andrew C., Wikimedia Commons

*Sandhill Cranes*



Photo: Yathin S. Krishnappa, Wikimedia Commons

*Black-legged Kittiwake*

Cinnamon Teal.....	Mar 16.....	Meadowlark Prairie.....	RMH.....	A little later than normal for the valley
Long-tailed Duck.....	Mar 16.....	Tokatee Klootchman.....	SM,LP.....	So far, the only sighting for this year
Sandhill Crane (3).....	Mar 17.....	FRR.....	JM,TG.....	Rare in the area, even during migration
Semipalmated Plover.....	Mar 25.....	FRR.....	DGa.....	First report for spring migration
Western Sandpiper (5).....	Mar 18.....	FRR.....	JS.....	First report for spring migration
Golden Eagle.....	Mar 18.....	Leaburg Lake.....	CM.....	Rarely found here, away from the valley
Swainson's Hawk.....	Mar 9.....	Junction City area.....	MP.....	Last report for this rare wintering bird
Rough-legged Hawk.....	Mar 19.....	Eugene airport area.....	BG.....	Last report for the winter
Black-legged Kittiwake (250+).....	Mar 7.....	Tokatee Klootchman.....	RR.....	Very high number to be seen from shore
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	Mar 17.....	Florence.....	JS,NB.....	Last report for this rare wintering bird
Mountain Chickadee.....	Mar.....	Oakridge.....	MLS.....	Has been a regular at her feeder
No. Rough-winged Swallow.....	Mar 18.....	Cougar Reservoir.....	SH,DP.....	A couple weeks earlier than normal
Winter Wren.....	Mar 12.....	Skinner Butte.....	VT,LP.....	Last report, but maybe no one's looking
Western Bluebird (pair).....	Mar 22.....	North Eugene area.....	B&DG.....	Back checking out nest boxes
Red Crossbill.....	Mid-Mar.....	Willamette Valley.....	M.ob.....	Starting to be reported in the area
Pine Siskin.....	Mar.....	Willamette Valley.....	M.ob.....	Small numbers being reported
Chipping Sparrow.....	Mar 27.....	McKenzie Bridge.....	VB.....	A little earlier than normal
Chipping Sparrow.....	Mar 28.....	Awbrey Park.....	KL.....	A little earlier than normal
Harris's Sparrow.....	Mar 4.....	River Rd area.....	TG.....	The last report for this species
Swamp Sparrow (2).....	Mar 22.....	Creswell area.....	NS.....	Only report for the month
Orchard Oriole.....	Mar 9.....	Florence.....	BT,AB.....	The last report for this rare species
Common Yellowthroat.....	Mar 29.....	FRR.....	AO.....	First report for the breeding season
Common Yellowthroat.....	Mar 30.....	Springfield mill race.....	VT.....	Reported sporadically this winter
Palm Warbler.....	Mar 3.....	Alton Baker Park.....	RR.....	Rarely found inland
Palm Warbler.....	Mar 11.....	Alton Baker Park.....	M.ob.....	Last date it was seen
Hermit Warbler.....	Mar 24.....	Creswell area.....	NS.....	Rarely found during the winter
Hermit Warbler (photo).....	Mar 27.....	SE Eugene.....	PC.....	Rarely found during the winter
Western Tanager.....	Mar 1.....	College Hill area.....	JM.....	Rare late winter sighting

### Late Report

Snow Goose (200+)..... Feb 16..... Coburg area..... RB..... A very large flock for Lane Co

AB Aaron Beerman, AO Andy Orenstein, B&DG Barbara & Dan Gleason, BT Bill Tice, CM Craig Miller, DGa David Gallagher, DP Diane Petthey, JM Jasper Meeke, JS John Sullivan, KL Kai Lindland, LP Lalla Pudewell, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, MP Magnus Persmark, NB Neil Bjorkland, NS Noah Strycker, PC Patrick Chinn, RB Robin Bloomgarden, RMH Ricardo Martinez Hernandez, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, TG Tim Griffith, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson. M.ob signified many observers.

## Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

May 17, 7 pm

Gerry Meenaghan will give a presentation entitled “Birding Borikén: Around Puerto Rico in Seven Days,” detailing his one-week solo birding journey around the island of Puerto Rico in December, 2021. In addition to viewing wildlife photos and hearing entertaining stories, attendees will learn a bit about the geography and history of the US’s largest territory, and gain inspiration on how to travel and bird a new and exotic location without a guide.

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

SWOC’s June meeting is TBA.

FMI: Contact [ellencantor@gmail.com](mailto:ellencantor@gmail.com).

wildlife and their habitat. We want to connect people with nature and enable them to take actions that help our feathered (and other) friends. We want to continue to have educational activities for children and adults and to foster an enjoyment of the natural world. We truly believe that it is only by all of us working together that we can achieve results.

We are cognizant of the name recognition of “Audubon” and of our association as a chapter of National Audubon. We think the connectivity of chapters across the nation has a real impact and wish to keep that affiliation. Likewise, within our state as the Oregon Audubon Council, we have worked with our fellow Oregon chapters to unite our voices for legislation and other actions that benefit wildlife and protect nature. We are in communication with other Oregon chapters in an endeavor to keep our coalition together as the various chapters make their independent decisions about what name they will use. Locally, it has also become a topic of discussion that the person named Lane, for which our county was named, was also a slave holder. This creates a blank slate for

potential naming possibilities, if we decide to make that change.

As our Board and our membership grapple with the various possibilities this discussion entails, we hope our community understands that this will be a slow process for us. We are an all-volunteer organization with no staff and no headquarters. In addition to the process of deciding on a name change, we have many administrative and legal tasks to undertake. We are solvent and careful with our money, but limited in funding. Name changes are expensive. For example, changing the name on a webpage is not that difficult, but changing the domain name costs money. As does web hosting, changing letterheads, reprinting materials, revising our non-profit status with the state and federal bureaucracy, and many other items to maintain our functions. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3), and as such must be diligent in taking the necessary steps for taxes, banking, receiving donations, writing checks, and other organizational matters.

We welcome ideas from members, as well as suggestions for processing a potential name change. You can share them at [audubon@laneaudubon.org](mailto:audubon@laneaudubon.org).

## Audubon in the Schools Is Presenting Both Outdoor Birding and Indoor Classroom Sessions

Our Audubon in the Schools (AITS) team has several school sessions scheduled through the final months of school. In April and May, teachers from nine different schools have requested programs. Some of these are Beginning Birding outdoor sessions and some are the classroom sessions using our bird specimens.

To help accommodate the increasing popularity of birding classes for kids, the LCAS Board approved the purchase of another 10 pairs of kid’s binoculars! We are happy to have our community schools requesting these activities and very thankful for our team of volunteers doing the planning and presentations involved.



*Black Phoebe*

Photo: Cary Kerst

## LCAS Program Meeting—In Person and Zoom

Tuesday, May 23, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



# Tufted Puffins and Their Habitat on the Oregon Coast



Photo: Carina Kusaka

Carina Kusaka

For our May program, Carina Kusaka, a graduate student at Oregon State University, will give a presentation on the focus of her master's degree: researching Tufted Puffins on the Oregon Coast. Using a combination of field-collected data and aerial photographs taken over the past 30 years, she conducted spatial analyses to examine changes in suitable breeding habitat over time. She related these changes to climate and environment. Her research will offer better information for land managers on which actions will be most effective in conserving the population of Tufted Puffins on Oregon's coast. In the hopes of

prioritizing outreach and education efforts, she is also writing and illustrating a children's book, using Tufted Puffins as a flagship species to catalyze excitement about coastal ecology conservation.

Originally from Hawai'i, Carina Kusaka received a B.S. in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology from Colorado State University, where she studied behavioral and movement ecology of reptiles. Her graduate research at Oregon State University has focused on the Tufted Puffin, partially due to its designation as one of the Species of Greatest Conservation Need along the Oregon Coast.

Gather for the Lane County Audubon Society (LCAS) meeting at the Campbell Community Center (155 High) at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 23. The program meeting will also be available on Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted on the LCAS website a week before the meeting.



Photo: Tom Ingram

Tufted Puffin



Photo: Carina Kusaka

Fieldwork involves measurements,



Photo: Carina Kusaka

Camaraderie,



Photo: Carina Kusaka

Hiking along coastlines,



Photo: Carina Kusaka

And carefully scrambling up steep slopes.

# 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](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com)

### The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

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Submit material to Karen Irmscher at [quailkaren1@gmail.com](mailto:quailkaren1@gmail.com)

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## Lane County Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President	Maeve Sowles.....541.343.8664..... <a href="mailto:maeveanddick@q.com">maeveanddick@q.com</a>
Treasurer	Ron Renchler.....541.345.0834..... <a href="mailto:christyandron2@gmail.com">christyandron2@gmail.com</a>
Members	Ramiro Aragon..... <a href="mailto:aragon.nw@gmail.com">aragon.nw@gmail.com</a>
	Debbie Schlenoff.....541.685.0610..... <a href="mailto:dschlenoff@msn.com">dschlenoff@msn.com</a>
	Isaac Scott..... <a href="mailto:isaacscott3764@gmail.com">isaacscott3764@gmail.com</a>
	Kirstin Waldkoenig..... <a href="mailto:kirsinw@uoregon.edu">kirsinw@uoregon.edu</a>

## Lane County Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Audubon Phone.....	Dick Lamster.....	541.485.BIRD
Audubon Adventures.....	Cecelia Hagen.....	<a href="mailto:audadv@laneaudubon.org">audadv@laneaudubon.org</a>
Audubon in the Schools.....	Barb Pope.....	<a href="mailto:aitsbirds@gmail.com">aitsbirds@gmail.com</a>
Booth.....	Ron Renchler.....	541.345.0834..... <a href="mailto:christyandron2@gmail.com">christyandron2@gmail.com</a>
Conservation.....	Debbie Schlenoff.....	541.685.0610..... <a href="mailto:dschlenoff@msn.com">dschlenoff@msn.com</a>
Education.....	<b>Volunteer Opportunity</b>	
Field Notes.....	Allison & Tom Mickel.....	541.485.7112..... <a href="mailto:atmickel@gmail.com">atmickel@gmail.com</a>
Field Trips.....	<b>Volunteer Opportunity</b>	
Membership Data.....	Tim Godsil.....	541.915.8852..... <a href="mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com">tgodsil@gmail.com</a>
Program Coordinator.....	Dennis Arendt.....	541.221.3691..... <a href="mailto:dennisarendt@gmail.com">dennisarendt@gmail.com</a>
Quail Editor.....	Karen Irmscher.....	<a href="mailto:quailkaren1@gmail.com">quailkaren1@gmail.com</a>
Recording Secretary.....	Kirstin Waldkoenig.....	<a href="mailto:kirsinw@uoregon.edu">kirsinw@uoregon.edu</a>
Webmaster.....	Hilary Dearborn.....	<a href="mailto:hcdearborn@gmail.com">hcdearborn@gmail.com</a>

## 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](http://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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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



The Cascades Raptor Center is offering a number of opportunities for close-up meetings with some of their raptors while enjoying finger foods and beverages. Ninkasi Brewing is co-sponsoring these events.

Events in May are the 5th and 19th. June events are the 2nd and 23rd, with the 2nd designated as Queer Night. More will take place in August, September, and October. All proceeds directly benefit the birds.

FMI or to register: [cascadesraptorcenter.org/night-at-the-raptor-center/](https://cascadesraptorcenter.org/night-at-the-raptor-center/)

## World Migratory Bird Day 2023

We are pleased to present the 2023 World Migratory Bird Day global campaign poster. This poster expands on the Americas poster released last month and shows twelve species, each illustrated by Nicaraguan artist Augusto Silva, that help tell the story of the importance of water to migratory birds globally.

The poster supports the theme of this year's World Migratory Bird Day, which is "Water: Sustaining Bird Life," a call for attention to the importance of water and its associated habitats to migratory birds. Unfortunately, increasing human demand for water, as well as human-driven pollution and climate change, threaten many of the water areas on which migratory birds depend. World Migratory Bird Day raises awareness of these issues and serves as a call to action for the protection of birds and their habitats.

The two peak days of World Migratory Bird Day 2023 will be May 13th and October 14th, reflecting the cyclical nature of seasonal bird migrations. Events will take place all over the world in parks, nature centers, museums, libraries, schools, and other locations on those two peak days as well as throughout the year. To find an event near you, to register your own event, or to download this year's campaign poster in multiple languages, go to [worldmigratorybirdday.org](https://worldmigratorybirdday.org).

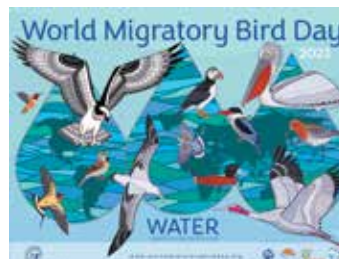


Photo: Katy Vizdal



Photo: Katy Vizdal

## Spring Bike Path Clean Up

On April 8th we held our spring bike path clean up and 26 folks showed up to help out!

It was a cloudy day but the absence of rain made it very pleasant.

We owe a very big thank you to our great volunteers, who were enthusiastic and hard-working. I know several folks stopped in to Euphoria Chocolate after we were done, so they got an added reward for their efforts.

We thank Katy Vizdal for her amazing work organizing and even recruiting new volunteers from her workplace!

We did see several birds during our time there, including 5 pair each of Green-winged Teal and Northern Shovelers, plus courting Downy Woodpeckers. Our bird list totaled 25 species!

We also thank the Bureau of Land Management for making the event possible. They brought supplies for us to use and hauled away the trash at the end of our event. It was a great benefit to have their support!

Good job to all who came out and helped!



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See page 6 to renew!



## LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Field trip coordinator opportunity

### First Saturday Bird Walks, May 6 and June 3

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

FMI contact Sarah: [1stsatbirdwalks@laneaudubon.org](mailto:1stsatbirdwalks@laneaudubon.org)

### Third Saturday Bird Walks, May 20 and June 17

Daniel Farrar will lead the May 20 walk into the section of Fern Ridge Reservoir that begins at the west end of Royal Avenue. Anne and Dan Heyerly will lead the June 17 walk at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Start time 8 am.

FMI: [audubon@laneaudubon.org](mailto:audubon@laneaudubon.org)

## 30th Annual Hardy Plant Sale May 13

The Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group is sponsoring its 30th Annual Hardy Plant Sale on Saturday, May 13, 2023, from 9 am to 2 pm at the Lane County Fairgrounds in the Auditorium Building.

This indoor sale will feature specialty vendors from throughout Oregon plus non-profit groups. On offer will be perennials, trees, shrubs, grasses, hostas, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, succulents, air plants, ferns, natives, herbs, vegetables, fruit and rock garden plants, birdhouses, and beautiful garden-related art.

FMI: [info@thehardyplantgroup.org](mailto:info@thehardyplantgroup.org) or Marian Talen, 541.556.0330

## 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.

You can help in other ways, too. Scroll down the page at [laneaudubon.org/volunteer/](http://laneaudubon.org/volunteer/) for a complete listing of opportunities.