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# The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



## From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, audubon@laneaudubon.org

## Welcome to New Volunteers, Barbara Bryson and Lalla Pudewell!



**B**arbara Bryson has agreed to serve on the board beginning this fall! She has also volunteered to help us with the Bird Friendly City Project, as well as other conservation

projects. Additionally, she has taken on the tasks of posting on the Facebook and Instagram pages, helping to keep things current and interesting. She brings fresh enthusiasm and skill to each activity and we are happy to welcome her!

### Barbara's brief bio, in her own words:

I grew up in Eugene when there were still forest ponds in the South Eugene Hills and Western Pond Turtles crossed East Amazon. Being in the outdoors has always been important to me and formed the basis for obtaining a biology degree. After working briefly in forest research and in a shelter for abuse victims, I became a Family Nurse Practitioner and recently retired from thirty years in healthcare. I returned to birding in the

pandemic and have been fortunate to do birding tours in Texas and outside the US.

Birds are magical! Our natural world is truly unique in the cosmos and needs our help, and I look forward to working with Lane Audubon to make a difference for birds, pollinators, wildlife, and people.



**Lalla Pudewell** has agreed to taking on the Bird Walk Coordinator

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Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

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## Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, debschlenoff@gmail.com

# “Crumb Clean” Habits Help Protect Marbled Murrelets, Snowy Plovers, and Other Vulnerable Birds



photo: California State Parks

When I first heard the term “Crumb Clean,” I thought someone was making a polite suggestion after I ravished that last piece of blueberry lemon loaf. Turns out it was the name of a promising campaign that will help protect some of our most vulnerable birds on the Oregon coast, specifically Marbled Murrelets and Snowy Plovers. These birds have experienced dramatic population declines due to loss of habitat and foraging issues caused by climate change. Nesting success is essential if their populations are to recover, but their nests are subject to high rates of predation, especially by corvids and, in some cases, gulls. The Crumb Clean Campaign aims to do something about that.

Marbled Murrelets (affectionately nicknamed “flying footballs”) have a unique way of life. They forage in the ocean, feeding on small fish such as herring and anchovies, and on zooplankton such as krill. In the spring and summer, they fly inland to make their nests on the high, mossy

horizontal limbs of large, mature trees in the coastal forest. This is one of many reasons to conserve mature and old growth forests. The parents take turns with one partner sitting on the nest for a day while the other returns to the ocean to forage. They may travel up to 50 miles inland to their nesting site and do so on relatively short wings, which must continuously flap to power their flight.

This is all energetically costly. They lay only one egg at a time and evidence suggests that they don’t nest every year. A five-year study in Oregon followed 300 birds and found that just under 13% of them nested. Of those that did, the successful fledging of a chick was only about 30%. Once the chicks hatch, both parents bring food back to the nest; but the chick is left mostly unattended, making it more vulnerable to predation. Predation on eggs or young chicks was the cause of unsuccessful nesting attempts for the majority of pairs. The most common predators are corvids: crows, ravens, and jays.

You won’t ever hear me dissing corvids. They are incredibly clever birds with interesting social behavior. It is natural for them to occasionally include eggs and young chicks in their diet. What is not natural is the fact that we attract these predators to recreation areas in very high numbers, close to the nesting grounds of Marbled Murrelets. Discarded food



image: California State Parks

and other trash lure crows, ravens, and jays to gather and hang around in places where they would normally be scarce. We encourage people to enjoy birding and camping out at the coast, and now we have a program that can help alleviate this problem.

The Crumb Clean campaign educates people about cleaning up their food waste and not leaving food where animals can reach it. It instructs how to wash dishes so that food residue is not left to attract the birds, and it helps set up dishwashing stations. It ensures that there are garbage bins with animal-proof lids. The California Clean Crumb Campaign has been in effect since 2013 and was shown to have decreased the numbers of Stellar’s Jays in recreation areas where the plan was in place. Now, with the help of the American Bird Conservancy, the

*continued on page 4*

## Field Notes: August 2023

Tom and Allison Mickel, atmickel@gmail.com

# Black-necked Stilt, Long-billed Curlew, Hudsonian Godwit, Whimbrel

A warm, dry month, as is normal, but this seemed warmer and drier than our usual. Migration was just getting under way, especially with shorebirds and a few early migrants.

### Abbreviations:

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

Black-necked Stilt (2)	Aug 18	FRR	SA,HS	Unusual fall migrant
American Avocet	Aug 18	FRR	SA,HS	Unusual fall migrant – 5 the next day
Whimbrel	Aug 31	FRR	RR	Unusual away from the coast
Long-billed Curlew	Aug 19	Heceta Beach	DF,RF	Uncommon on the beach
Hudsonian Godwit (photos)	Aug 5	FRR	TJ,JG	Rare in OR; nearly annual last few years
Ruddy Turnstone	Aug 15	Siltcoos River mouth	DW	Small numbers found in early migration
Solitary Sandpiper	Aug 10	Danebo Pond	VT	More common during spring migration
Baird's Sandpiper	Aug 6	FRR	DA,RR	First report for fall migration
Wilson's Phalarope	Aug 2	FRR	M.ob.	The last report for the season
Red-necked Phalarope	Aug 8	FRR	DG	More common along the coast
Sabine's Gull	Aug 18	Heceta Beach	TJ,JG	Small numbers seen during migration
Common Tern	Aug 19	FRR	DF,RF	Small numbers seen during migration
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Aug 1	FRR	VB	Smaller numbers than normal reported
White-faced Ibis (31)	Aug 28	Delta Ponds	RM	Normally seen during spring migration
Lewis's Woodpecker	Aug 20	Blanton Ridge	NC,EC	Earlier than normal
Merlin	Aug 22	Pleasant Hill area	JC	Quite early for this wintering species
Western Kingbird	Aug 12	Benson Rd	BB	Last report – they migrate early
Horned Lark	Aug 17	FRR	JS	Earlier than normal
House Wren	Aug 13	FRR	SH	Last report – early migrants?
Vesper Sparrow	Aug 20	FRR	BK,EK	They appear to have bred here this year
Bullock's Oriole	Aug 12	Wayne Morse Park	VT,LP	Last report – they migrate early

BB Brian Broderick, BK Billi Krochuk, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, DG David Gallagher, DW Doyle Wilson, EC Ellen Cantor, EK Ethan Kistler, HS Hal Sadofsky, JC Jenna Curtis, JG Joshua Galpern, JS John Sullivan, LP Lalla Pudewell, NC Nancy Clogston, RF Rachael Friese, RM Rooze McKelvey, RR Roger Robb, SA Sue Armstrong, SH Sean Haight, TJ Tye Jeske, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson. M.ob. signifies many observers.



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

*Black-necked Stilt*



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

*Long-billed Curlew*



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

*Solitary Sandpiper*



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

*White-faced Ibis*



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

*Hudsonian Godwit*



# Audubon Adventures Seeking Teachers



**A**udubon Adventures is an environmental education curriculum that is sent, for free, to local educators—but first they have to sign up for it!

Part of what I do as the LCAS coordinator for Audubon Adventures is request donations from members who might like to sponsor one or more classrooms. The other part is inviting teachers to incorporate the materials into their lesson plans. Because teachers are busy, it's tricky to get their attention. This means that the bulk of the invitation emails I send receive no response.

If you know anyone who teaches grades 2-5 in a local school or homeschool, please encourage them to contact me at

[audadv@laneaudubon.org](mailto:audadv@laneaudubon.org) for information about the program. Or they can look at the website [audubonadventures.org](http://audubonadventures.org) to learn about all the great things the program includes, such as a copy of three issues of the 4-page “magazine” for each student, quizzes, puzzles and games, access to “Eyes on the Wild” videos and webcams, and much more.

My goal for this year is to increase participation in this amazing program. Even if teachers only find the time to hand out the magazines, there's no telling what might spark a student's interest to learn more about birds, their habitat, and what we can do to help them.

—Cecelia Hagen

## Thanks to Booth Volunteers

Thanks to **Barbara Bryson** and **Nancy Radius** for staffing the Lane County Audubon booth on Saturday, September 9, at Tugman Park in Eugene. LCAS was invited to have its booth at the Southeast Eugene Neighborhood Picnic, where hundreds of people gathered to celebrate the day.

If you have an interest in staffing the LCAS booth at local events and letting attendees know about LCAS activities, contact Ron Renschler at [christyandron2@gmail.com](mailto:christyandron2@gmail.com), 541.345.0834. No experience is necessary; you'll be paired up with an experienced booth staffer.

*From Our President continued from page 1*

position, and we are so happy to have her involvement. Lalla has become an avid birder over the past year and enjoys all aspects of the search for birds, learning more about them, and posting on eBird to share her sightings. We welcome her involvement with Lane Audubon!

### Lalla's brief bio, in her own words:

Just last year I attended my first Third Saturday Bird Walk with Lane County Audubon Society. I loved it! The people were welcoming, and I learned to identify several new birds. I became a member of LCAS later the same day. I have been fascinated with birds since I was young but have primarily watched them in my yard. Now I enjoy birding in a variety of locations. Many of you have helped me this past year, sharing bird IDs, birding tips, and scope views. I appreciate each of you. I look forward to coordinating bird walks and supporting others who love birding.

*Conservation continued from page 2*

program is coming to Oregon. They'll start by assessing busy recreation areas and surveying for corvids to prepare for implementing the campaign.

When you are out birding and enjoying other activities in beautiful coastal areas, stay “Crumb Clean” and alert a park manager or campground host if you see an issue. Consider sharing this information with other visitors to campgrounds and busy picnic sites on the coast. We need to get the word out.



## LCAS Program—In Person and Zoom Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



Photo: Steve Shunk

*Golden-fronted Woodpecker skull*

# Tongues, Toes & Tales of Oregon Woodpeckers—Anatomy & Adaptation



*Steve Shunk*

Imagine, for a moment, slamming your face into a brick wall going 16 miles per hour. This self-destructive (and foolish) act would generate a deceleration force of about 1,200 *g*. Yet, a woodpecker exerts the same force up to 20 times per second, and as many as 12,000 times per day, pounding its head into trees! How does it do this without getting concussions or retinal hemorrhages?!

North American woodpecker specialist **Steve Shunk** has the answers to these questions and so much more. Woodpeckers possess amazing adaptations that make them one of the most specialized bird families in the world, and each species' anatomy perfectly suits its unique lifestyle. Our speaker will dive deep into the secrets of woodpecker anatomy, with 3-D skeletal images, videos of signature behaviors, and historic drawings of anatomical features.

Shunk moved to Central Oregon's "Woodpecker Wonderland" in 1997. Eleven woodpecker species can be found there, breeding in areas of less than 100 square miles. This phenomenon led to his 20-year obsession with studying this charismatic family of birds, and he founded the region's woodpecker festival in 2008. Steve co-founded the East Cascades Bird Conservancy (now East Cascades Audubon), and served as its first president. Steve also co-founded the Oregon Birding Trails Program and coordinated its flagship project, the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail. Steve's woodpecker fanaticism eventually led to the 2016 release of his *Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America*. He currently guides full-time for Arizona-based Naturalist Journeys. Learn more about Steve at his website, **ParadiseBirding.com**.

### **Our Programs are open to all!**

Please plan to join us at the Campbell Center (155 High Street) near Skinner Butte. The East Hall has comfortable seating and a big screen, or you can enjoy the program from home over a zoom link, which will be available about a week before the meeting on the LCAS website. Past program meetings are posted on our website within a week or so after each meeting.



Photo: Steve Shunk

*Lewis's Woodpecker*



Photo: Steve Shunk

*American Three-toed Woodpecker nestling*



Photo: Steve Shunk

*Williamson's Sapsucker*

# 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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December/January: November 1

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

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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





Artwork by Emily Poole, featuring strawberries and cream (*Hydnellum peckii*) and Douglas squirrel (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*).

## 2023 Mushroom Festival (tickets required)

Sunday, October 29, 10 am to 5 pm

In partnership with Cascade Mycological Society and Lane Community College, Mount Pisgah Arboretum presents its 2023 Mushroom Festival. View hundreds of species of mushrooms on display in the Arboretum's

White Oak Pavilion. Enjoy guided nature tours, live music, local food, and arts and crafts vendors. Pre-purchase of tickets required (\$15/ free for Arboretum Members). For more info and ticket purchases, visit: [mountpisgaharboretum.org/festivals-events/mushroom-festival/](https://mountpisgaharboretum.org/festivals-events/mushroom-festival/)



## Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Eugene Birders Night, October 2, 7 pm

“Birding Northern Colombia: From the Caribbean to the Pacific and the Mountains in Between.”

Randy Sinnott will share his knowledge and experiences of this area, home to roughly one-fifth of the world's bird species. He joined a three-week guided tour there in April of this year. His presentation will include photos of the land, the people, the art, and, of course, birds, including a photograph of five species of antpittas in one frame!

The meeting is at 810 W 3rd Ave, Eugene. All are welcome to this free event, but donations are encouraged. Contact Ellen Cantor with any questions, [ellencantor@gmail.com](mailto:ellencantor@gmail.com)

## Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group

Tuesday, October 10, 7 pm, in the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W 13th Ave, Eugene.

Richard Hartlage, founding principal and owner of Land Morphology, will discuss how he and his firm approach designing a garden. The firm prides itself on creating human scaled spaces for people to live in and even work from. He will illustrate his ideas with projects Land Morphology has designed from a range of budgets. His award-winning, innovative designs are renowned as emotive, immersive spaces that incorporate sophisticated horticulture, artful detailing, and historical knowledge that heighten the human experience of the natural world.

FMI: [thehardyplantgroup.org](https://thehardyplantgroup.org) or [info@thehardyplantgroup.org](mailto:info@thehardyplantgroup.org)



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## LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Lalla Pudewell, [tolalla@gmail.com](mailto:tolalla@gmail.com)



### The Vaux's Swift Event on the Evening of September 8th Was a Wonderful Success!

At least 75 observers were at Agate Hall, spread out in the parking lot.

The swifts began arriving before sunset and just kept coming, giving us a great show of their wonderful aerial display.

Three volunteers counted the birds (we averaged the 3 counts) as they entered the chimney with a final total of 8367 Vaux's Swifts!

It was a beautiful evening and amazing to watch the swifts as they flew in to roost safely for the night.

**We wish them well on their fall migration.**

### First Saturday Bird Walk, October 7

Our First Saturday Bird Walks, created in celebration of the Lane Audubon Inclusivity and Diversity Statement, are meant to hold intentional space for women, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ birders. 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, contact Sarah: [1stsatbirdwalks@laneaudubon.org](mailto:1stsatbirdwalks@laneaudubon.org)

### Third Saturday Bird Walk, October 21

Our Third Saturday Bird Walk continues to be open to all participants. The leader, destination, and time are TBD.

FMI: Contact Lalla Pudewell, [tolalla@gmail.com](mailto:tolalla@gmail.com) or check the Lane Audubon website and/or the Lane Audubon Facebook page close to the walk date.