

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



Please consider receiving
The Quail
electronically

From Our Treasurer

Ron Renchler, 541.345.0834, christyandron2@gmail.com

Volunteer and Donate!

Lane County Audubon Society (LCAS) has had another eventful year. We've added new board members to our roster (see the listing on page 6). Our **two monthly bird outings** continue to be popular. Our **monthly** series of fascinating, informative **programs** are provided live at the Campbell Center and simultaneously broadcast on Zoom. They can also be streamed after the programs for on-demand viewing on our website, laneaudubon.org.

LCAS's member-sponsored **Audubon Adventures** program is stronger than ever, supplying educational materials to about 46 local classrooms. The **Audubon in the Schools** program, which brings bird and conservation educators to

local classrooms for art and science instruction, is gearing up again for this school year. In addition, you're likely to see the **LCAS booth** at several local events and festivals in the coming months. And then there is *The Quail* and **our website**, both of which keep you updated on these and many other chapter activities.

We're working on several new **conservation initiatives**, including a **Lights Out campaign** and a **Bird Friendly City designation** for Eugene. You'll hear more about these initiatives as they progress, along with our long-running annual **Christmas Bird Count**.

All this activity is due to a **dedicated core of volunteers**. We have no paid staff or central facilities. That

means that your contributions go fully to funding the costs of providing the services we offer. If you'd like to get involved in these or other activities at any level, just contact **Maeve Sowles**, LCAS president. Her email and phone number appear on page 6.

In addition to volunteering, **you can support LCAS financially** by renewing your local membership and by donating in support of our many bird-related causes. We ask for your tax-deductible contribution only once each year in the November *Quail*. It's easy to give—just use the envelope you'll find in this issue, or go online to our website at laneaudubon.org and click on the Memberships and Donate links.

Whether you've recently renewed your membership and/or donated, or plan to do so now or in the near future, **we thank you heartily for your ongoing support**.

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

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



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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, debschlenoff@gmail.com

Lights Out Eugene Campaign Protects Migratory Birds & Pollinators



Lane Audubon is pleased to launch our **Lights Out Campaign**. Mayor Lucy Vinis has signed on for the city with a proclamation that encourages community members to reduce unnecessary light at night. Artificial light at night has been shown to be deadly to birds and insect pollinators. In addition, it deleteriously impacts human health and wastes energy. This proclamation recognizes the devastating effect of artificial light on birds, pollinators, and human health, and outlines the steps we can take to make a difference. FMI: eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/71332/Lights-Out-Eugene

North America's bird population has declined 30 percent since the

1970s. Every spring and fall, millions of birds migrate through Oregon at night. Light pollution is known to disorient birds, causing death by exhaustion and building collisions. An estimated *one billion birds* die annually from building collisions alone. Similarly, pollinators attracted to artificial light sources may fail to pollinate, and become easy prey for nocturnal insectivores. This negatively impacts agriculture, as approximately 80 percent of our flowers and 40 percent of our crops are pollinated by native insects, one third of which are threatened with extinction. Artificial light at night is one major cause of this decline. While most people may not consider light pollution hazardous to humans, studies have linked it to

disruptions in melatonin secretion, sleep disorders, and an increased risk of diabetes, depression, and breast cancer.

Lights Out offers simple steps we can all take, as a community, to improve our environment. Eugene now joins more than 45 cities with a Lights Out program, which has been shown to decrease bird mortality by 70 percent. Plus, there's no downside. Multiple research studies show no causal relationship between reduced lighting and increased rates of crime. We hope community members will reduce the use of decorative and unnecessary lighting throughout the year and take actions to further reduce light spill each night of the critical migration periods. Periods of reduced light, from September through October and April through June, between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am, help ensure safe passage for migratory birds.

Lights Out programs help reduce the impacts of light pollution on birds, insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, plants, and mammals, including humans. They also save energy and money, reduce our carbon emissions and preserve our view of the night sky. We are asking residents, businesses, and building owners to Take the Pledge and do a simple lighting audit.

- Turn off unnecessary and decorative lighting
- Make sure that outside lights are aimed down and are well-shielded
- Install motion sensors or timers so that lights are on only when needed
- Choose warm bulbs (under 3,000 Kelvins; closer to 2,000 is better) with negligible blue light
- During migration seasons, draw blinds or curtains to reduce light spill
- Turn off lights before leaving home

continued on page 4

Field Notes: September 2023

Tom and Allison Mickel, atmickel@gmail.com

Broad-winged Hawk, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Rock Wren, Brown Pelican, Turkey Vulture

It was a warm and dry month until the last few days when we got some much-needed rain. As is normal for this time of the year, our wintering species have started to show up. This includes large numbers of waterfowl and some of the species of sparrows (Fox, Golden-crowned, and White-throated), plus many other species.

Abbreviations:

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), Oregon Bird Records Committee (OBRC), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR)



Photo: Julie Waters, Wikimedia Commons

Broad-winged Hawk



Photo: Wikimedia Commons Alpsdake

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

White-fronted Goose.....	Sept 5	S Eugene	WL.....	First report for the fall migration
White-fronted Goose.....	Sept 20	Eugene	M.ob.	Flocks reported all around town
Cackling Goose.....	Sept 20	Eugene	VT,RH	Flocks heard flying over – earlier than normal
American Avocet (5)	Sept 7	FRR	DG.....	Not common in the fall
American Avocet.....	Sept 26.....	FRR	RR,DA.....	One still around
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (2)	Sept 28.....	FRR	HK,M.....	Rare fall migrant
Sabine’s Gull.....	Sept 23.....	FRR	NS.....	Not common inland
Brown Pelican (1203)	Sept 28.....	Tokatée Klootchman.....	RR.....	An amazing number moving south
Turkey Vulture (675)	Sept 30.....	Skinner Butte.....	NS.....	An amazing number moving south
Broad-winged Hawk (photo).....	Sept 30.....	Skinner Butte.....	NS.....	Would be first Lane record if OBRC accepts it
Pygmy Nuthatch.....	Sept 19	W Eugene	VT.....	About the sixth record for Lane
Rock Wren.....	Sept 27	Lowell Butte	JS,LJ	Getting late for this uncommon breeder
Palm Warbler	Sept 14	SJSR.....	AC,et al	Earlier than normal
Palm Warbler	Sept 30	FRR	NS.....	Unusual inland
Western Tanager.....	Sept 29	River Rd area.....	LM.....	Enjoying grapes & suet – getting late

AC Alan Contreras, DA Dennis Arendt, DG David Gallagher, HK Holly Knight, JS John Sullivan, LJ Laura Johnson, LM Libbie Marshall, M Maitreya, NS Noah Strycker, RH Rick Hoyer, RR Roger Robb, VT Vjera Thompson, WL Whitey Lueck. M.ob. signifies many observers.



Photo: Gregory "Stobird" Smith, Wikimedia Commons

Rock Wren



Photo: Félix Uribe, Wikimedia Commons

Brown Pelican



Photo: Charles J Sharp Wikimedia Commons

Turkey Vulture

Welcome to New Board Members Cecelia Hagen and Ash Berry!



Cecelia Hagen

Cecelia is a familiar face, having volunteered for three years as the Coordinator of Audubon Adventures. Ash is a UO graduate student in the Non-Profit Management program, who reached out to serve as a Board member through their course work.

We are thrilled to have each of these talented people on our Board! Volunteers keep our functions running and are the lifeblood of our organization. We are thankful for their help and commitment.

Cecelia Hagen was raised in Norfolk, Virginia, graduated from Connecticut College in New London, and then moved to Eugene for her MFA in poetry at the UO. She has worked as a magazine editor and writing teacher. Her poems have appeared in *New Ohio Review*, *Guesthouse*, *On the Seawall*, and *EcoTheo Review*. She is the author of "Entering" and two chapbooks, "Among Others" and "Fringe Living." Now retired, she teaches writing, volunteers as a community recycling coordinator, spends time with her



Ash Berry

extended family, and participates in two poetry groups. She also enjoys hiking, playing in various gardens, and thinking of ways to help future generations.

Short bio by Ash Berry, in their own words.

"Hello, my name is **Ash Berry**, I am a second-year Master of Nonprofit Management student at the University of Oregon and still fairly new to the Eugene area. Before moving here for graduate school, I worked for New York State in the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities as an Assistant Contract Management Specialist. My connection to the work of LCAS is personal to my childhood in New Mexico, where my late grandfather and I regularly took trips to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge to go birdwatching. I'm excited to be a member of the Lane County Audubon Society's board and look forward to helping progress the mission of promoting education and the enjoyment of Lane County's natural environment."

Conservation *continued from page 2*

or the office

Taking the Pledge for sensible lighting helps make our region safer and healthier for wildlife and humans, while raising awareness about the growing impact that light pollution has on the world around us. Pledge participants will receive a window cling to help spread the word and to show commitment to saving birds and energy.

Find resources and/or sign the pledge at laneaudubon.org/field-notes/lights-out-eugene/take-the-pledge-lights-out/ FMI: contact Debbie Schlenoff, debschlenoff@gmail.com.



Audubon
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

**Save the Date for
This Year's Eugene
Christmas Bird Count**

The date of the upcoming 82nd Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) has been set for **December 31, 2023**. More information will be posted on the LCAS website soon, and in the December/January issue of *The Quail*.

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

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



GYE map

Birding the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE)—It's Not for the Faint of Heart



Photo: Margi Griffith

Tim Griffith

Say the word “Yellowstone” and most people immediately think of Yellowstone National Park. However, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) makes up almost 35,000 square miles in the states of Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. The state of Indiana would fit very comfortably in the GYE. It is the largest intact temperate ecosystem in the lower 48 states and home for almost 300 species of birds. It also offers many challenges for the avid birder. During the dead of winter, a birder may only find three or four species of birds during a hard day of birding. At the peak of spring migration, that same birder might be rewarded with more than 100 species after a moderate day of chasing birds.

Join the Lane County Audubon Society for a program about this incredibly rich land. Tim Griffith will present information that he has gleaned from years of birding in the

vast ecosystem. His program will take us through an average year of birding in the national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands that make up the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Tim is a recent transplant to Eugene from Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He spent eight years working with wildlife and avian biologists from several wildlife conservation organizations, as well as both Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. A rabid birder from the age of 10, he has spent many hours hiking, floating, and driving the backroads, mountains, and forests of the entire Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. He participated in many research projects from tracking Great Gray Owls to doing Breeding Bird Surveys, while always keeping his eyes out for Grizzly Bears and Mountain Lions. Birding in the GYE is not for the faint of heart! Tim holds a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science, with minors in Forestry and Wildlife Ecology, and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology, all from Southern Illinois University.

Our programs are free and 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: Tim Griffith

Sage Grouse



Photo: Tim Griffith

Big Ram



Photo: Tim Griffith

Flammulated Owl

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

December/January: November 1
February: January 1

Submit material to Karen Irmischer 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

Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)



Eugene Birders Night, Monday,
November 6, 7 pm
“Birding Southern Africa, from
Namibia to South Africa and
Beyond”

Presenter Tim Griffith holds a graduate degree in Wildlife Ecology and has birded in all 50 states and over 40 foreign countries. His presentation will provide a broad-stroke view of the birds he encountered while traveling through South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and the Okavango Delta of Botswana.

Tim says that most people go to Southern Africa as part of a large tour group, eager to see the big five: lion, leopard, rhino, elephant, and African buffalo. He travels to Africa to bird, and prefers looking out the other side of the bush vehicle at the Lilac-breasted Rollers, Secretary Birds, White-backed Mousebirds, Fishing Eagles, and Southern Carmine Bee Eaters.

The meeting is at 810 W 3rd Ave, Eugene. All are welcome to this free event, and donations are encouraged. FMI: contact Ellen Cantor, ellencantor@gmail.com

Many LCAS Members Eagerly Sponsoring Audubon Adventures Classroom Kits

Sponsors of our Audubon Adventures program started signing up even before we asked! It's heartening to see the support for our local schools, and our community's willingness to contribute to a program that helps students better understand and appreciate the wonders of the natural world.

To date, these LCAS members have sponsored 46 classrooms: Rob & Janet Barnes (2); Charlotte & Dave Bontrager (2); Beth Bridges (2); Gaylene Carpenter (1); Rob Castleberry & Joyce Thomas (2); Mary Beth Crawford (2); Stephanie Curtis (1); Ruth Anne Fraley (4); Liz Hall (1); Ann Hinnen (3); Linda & Dennis Howard (1); Cathy Irwin (1); Kathryn Kemp (1); Rita Kiley (1); Charles & Reida Kimmel (2); Susan Markley (1); Susan McConnell (1); Richard Miller (1); Betsy Parry (2); Marilyn Rawlings (2); Jim & Connie Regali (2); Elna Robinette (1); Denice Rogers (2); Evelyn Sherr (4); Mika Singer (2); Mike Smith (1); Karen Svenson (2); Doris Wimber (2).

Thanks to all of you! If you wish to sponsor or want more information, contact Cecelia Hagen, Audubon Adventures Coordinator, at audadv@laneaudubon.org



Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group Presentation

Tuesday, November 14, 7 pm,
“New Developments in Tree and Shrub
Breeding at Oregon State University”

Presenter Dr. Ryan Contreras will share some of the methods and considerations for selecting the next generation of landscape plants.

The meeting is at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W 13th Ave, in Eugene.

FMI: thehardyplantgroup.org, or email info@thehardyplantgroup.org

September's 3rd Saturday Bird Outing Report, Led by John Sullivan

by Walk Coordinator Lalla Pudewell

The 3rd Saturday Bird Outing on September 16 began at Heron Park Playground on a beautiful day. Our group of 13 admired the many sapsucker holes placed in perfect rows on a hazelnut tree near the parking lot. We briefly looked for owls seen recently along the river path, but we did not find any. The group then headed west through the Eastgate Woodlands, which were active with Western Tanagers, chickadees, Brown Creepers, Steller's Jays, and Cedar Waxwings. We observed Great Blue Herons flying along the canal, one landing in a tree nearby. A few minutes later it caught a trophy-sized trout. We watched the heron turn the fish and then, in one big gulp, it was gone. Some of the group saw a Cedar Waxwing hovering to glean a spider from its web after missing it on its first attempt. The Woodlands held our attention, and we did not have time to venture far into the Alton Baker prairie area. Thank you to John Sullivan for leading this walk!



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your *Quail* subscription expired?
See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Saturday Bird Outings & Events

Lalla Pudewell, tolalla@gmail.com



First Saturday Bird Outings, November 4

Our First Saturday Bird Outings, 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

Third Saturday Bird Outings, November 18, 8 am

Our Third Saturday Bird Outings continue to be open to all participants. Vjera Thompson will lead a walk, which starts at Booth Kelley Path Trailhead, 307 S. 5th St., Springfield. The walk will cover 2-3 miles on a flat paved multi-use path with a couple benches. Beavers have been active here for the last year and we will be able to see related habitat changes. Those who want to can return via a flat gravel road and observe the pond from a different angle. Attendees with accessibility requests can contact Vjera at nemesisquail@gmail.com, or talk to her at the start of the walk.

To get to the parking lot, turn south on 5th St, then left (east) on South B St. The parking lot's restroom is often closed. For more detail, punch the address into your Google maps app. FMI: tolalla@gmail.com or check the Lane Audubon website and/or the Lane Audubon Facebook page close to the walk date.



Osprey

Photo: Lalla Pudewell



Great Blue Heron with fish

Photo: Lalla Pudewell



Great Blue Heron

Photo: Lalla Pudewell