



# 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](mailto:audubon@laneaudubon.org)

## Lane Audubon Continues Its Essential Work



photo: Nick Moyes, Wikipedia

Lane Audubon never just sits back and rests on its laurels. It can't. Knowing our work is never done, our members continue to work with a number of outreach and educational activities. Here is a brief review for 2023, and an intro to the work planned for 2024.

We are planning to extend our **Bird Friendly City** program goals by sharing with other Oregon Audubon

chapters, so each chapter can make progress in its own community using this cooperative program template. We will also be engaging with the Eugene community and others in Lane County as the opportunity arises, to expand awareness of Bird Friendly City. One component of this program is the Lights Out Eugene effort.

FMI: [laneaudubon.org/field-notes/lights-out-eugene/](http://laneaudubon.org/field-notes/lights-out-eugene/)

Lane Audubon's two educational programs, **Audubon in the Schools** and **Audubon Adventures**, are each continuing to engage with schools, teachers, and students in various ways. In 2023 the Audubon Adventures kits were provided to nine districts (Fern Ridge, Siuslaw, Bethel, Eugene 4J, Springfield, Crow-Applegate-Lorane,

Lowell, McKenzie, and South Lane), 19 schools, 36 classrooms, and 822 students. Additional kits have been ordered to start the 2024 program! Cecelia Hagen has also worked with the **School Garden Project** to help spread the word about work parties and has recruited more volunteers to help the schools with native plant gardens. **Thanks to Cecelia for your great efforts!**

In 2023, the Audubon in the Schools (AITS) team gave **20 Beginning Birding presentations** at 11 schools for 610 students!! Isn't that amazing! Requests are already coming in for the AITS team to visit libraries and schools in 2024. We will organize volunteers for those educational visits, bringing bird specimens and drawing supplies, or providing Beginning Birding sessions using kids' binoculars to help them learn bird identification skills. **Thanks to Barb Pope and her volunteer team for making this a success!**

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

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

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

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



CBC .....2-7



Field Notes .....8-9



Program Meeting .....11



Bird Outings .....12

# 2023 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Summary

By Dick Lamster, Count Coordinator

Although the weather was not ideal, the 82nd ECBC was a great success. The 190 Field Observers and 101 Home Counters saw 133 species of birds and 66,334 individual birds. Field observers spent 273 hours looking for birds while walking 192 miles, driving 444 miles, and bicycling 9 miles.

Yes, I said 190 Field Observers! That's the highest number we've ever had on our CBC, breaking the old record by 26 birders! Combine that with the 101 Home Counters and **the total number of observers also set a new record of 291, an increase of 27 more than the old high.** Each year I try to get more people to participate in the ECBC because the more eyes we have out looking for birds, the more birds we will see. I also wanted more people to enjoy birdwatching so they would perhaps work to save habitat and the environment. The number of species seen was about average for the past five years, but the number of individual birds was low. We know that the heavy fog decreased visibility, which increased the difficulty of finding birds.

Vjera Thompson's article (page 4) goes into more depth on the birds seen, but I want to share an interesting tidbit. At the end of the day for most teams, we had not seen a Western Screech-Owl. Rich Hoyer, a Team Leader for several years who was out of the country for most of Count Day, was flying home and saw on e-Bird that we had not seen a Screech Owl. He had been hearing one in the Count Circle for much of December, so when his plane landed at 10:30 pm, he went to the area where he had been hearing

the owl, heard it, and reported it to Vjera before midnight!

Marcia Maffei, Home Count Coordinator, recruited 101 Home Counters this year. That is also a high number, considering we have only had more than 100 Home Counters six times, all in the past eight years.

The ECBC is such a success because we have many active birders in the Eugene-Springfield area, in addition to the great efforts made by our 26 Team Leaders. They organize their teams and guide them all day long while looking for birds.

I have listed these Team Leaders on this page. Some have been leading teams for more than 20 years and others more than 30. We also had two new Team Leaders this year.

I want to thank the LCAS Board of Directors for sponsoring the ECBC; Vjera Thompson, the Species Compiler; Marcia Maffei, the Home Count Coordinator; and all the Team Leaders for making the 82nd ECBC fun, educational, and exciting! Thank you all!

## Team Leaders by Area

- 1: Ron Renschler
- 2: Lars Norgren
- 3A: Dan and Anne Heyerly
- 3B: Darryl Wisner
- 4: Rick Ahrens
- 5A: Donna Albino
- 5B: Marcia Maffei
- 6: John Sullivan
- 7: Roger Robb
- 8: Dave Kofranek
- 9: Josh Galpern
- 10: Lars Hovde
- 11A: David Novak
- 11B: Dick Lamster
- 12A: Steve Gordon
- 12B: Pat Boleyn
- 13A: Sarah Merkle
- 13B: Holly Hartmann
- 14: Julia Siporin
- 15: Thomas Meinzen
- 16: Linda Gilbert
- 17: no leader this year
- 18: Caryn Stoess
- 19: Vjera Thompson
- 20A: Nancy Clogston
- 20B: Bruce Newhouse
- 21: Ellen Cantor



*Area 1 Birders*

photo: Joe Graham

# Eugene Christmas Bird Count Tally

By Vjera Thompson

133 Species + 7 Count Week, 66,334 individuals

RH = Record High, RL = Record Low, CW = Count Week



Species	Total	Status	Previous High
Snow Goose .....	4		
Ross's Goose.....	0	Count Week	
Greater White-fronted Goose.....	0	Count Week	
Cackling Goose.....	19,754		
Canada Goose.....	2,574	20-Year Low	
Tundra Swan.....	103		
Wood Duck.....	81		
Cinnamon Teal.....	1	Unusual	
Northern Shoveler.....	433		
Gadwall.....	211		
Eurasian Wigeon.....	1		
American Wigeon.....	534		
Mallard.....	1,506		
Northern Pintail .....	1,241		
Green-winged Teal.....	721		
Redhead .....	3		
Ring-necked Duck.....	251		
Greater Scaup.....	0	Count Week	
Lesser Scaup .....	92		
Bufflehead .....	214		
Common Goldeneye.....	18		
Hooded Merganser.....	83		
Common Merganser.....	278		
Ruddy Duck.....	165		
California Quail.....	29	20-Year Low	
Wild Turkey.....	403		
Ring-necked Pheasant.....	1		
Pied-billed Grebe .....	109		
Red-necked Grebe.....	1	Unusual	
Western Grebe .....	24		
Clark's Grebe .....	2		
Rock Pigeon .....	504		
Eurasian Collared-Dove .....	143		
Mourning Dove .....	504		
Costa's Hummingbird .....	1	Record High	New for count
Anna's Hummingbird.....	261		
Virginia Rail.....	15		
Sora .....	1		
American Coot .....	520		
Black-bellied Plover.....	0	Count Week	
Killdeer.....	257		
Semipalmated Plover .....	7	Record High	6 (2009)
Long-billed Dowitcher.....	9		
Wilson's Snipe.....	115		
Spotted Sandpiper.....	8		
Greater Yellowlegs.....	44		
Dunlin .....	1,201		
Short-billed (Mew) Gull .....	1	20-Year Low	
Ring-billed Gull.....	256		
Western Gull.....	3		
Herring Gull .....	7		
California Gull.....	5		
Glaucous-winged Gull.....	112		
Iceland (Thayer's) Gull.....	0	Count Week	
Double-crested Cormorant.....	240		
American White Pelican.....	215		
Snowy Egret.....	1	Unusual	
Great Egret.....	109		
Great Blue Heron.....	82		

Species	Total	Status	Previous High
Turkey Vulture.....	21		
Northern Harrier .....	59		
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	10		
Cooper's Hawk.....	28		
Bald Eagle .....	59		
Red-shouldered Hawk .....	51	Record High	45 (2022)
Red-tailed Hawk .....	107		
Rough-legged Hawk .....	1		
Barn Owl .....	1		
Western Screech-Owl .....	1	20-Year Low	
Great Horned Owl.....	18		
Barred Owl .....	2		
Short-eared Owl.....	3		
Belted Kingfisher .....	35		
Red-breasted Sapsucker .....	39	20-Year High	59 (1990)
Acorn Woodpecker .....	126		
Downy Woodpecker .....	125		
Hairy Woodpecker .....	35		
Pileated Woodpecker .....	3		
Northern Flicker .....	366		
American Kestrel .....	101		
Merlin .....	10		
Peregrine Falcon.....	3		
Black Phoebe.....	60		
Say's Phoebe .....	2		
Hutton's Vireo.....	2		
Northern Shrike.....	2		
Steller's Jay.....	321		
California Scrub-Jay .....	531		
American Crow.....	1,669		
Common Raven.....	79		
Black-capped Chickadee.....	760		
Mountain Chickadee.....	2	Unusual	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee .....	94		
Tree Swallow .....	12	Unusual	
Barn Swallow .....	15	Record High	5 (2003)
Bushtit.....	850		
Wrentit.....	14		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	381		
Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	203		
White-breasted Nuthatch .....	102		
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	96		
Pygmy Nuthatch.....	0	Count Week	New for count
Brown Creeper .....	97		
Pacific Wren .....	53		
Marsh Wren .....	43		
Bewick's Wren .....	145		
European Starling.....	8,348		
Western Bluebird .....	224		
Varied Thrush .....	265		
Hermit Thrush .....	22		
American Robin.....	1,883		
Cedar Waxwing.....	61		
House Sparrow.....	336		
American Pipit .....	24		
Evening Grosbeak.....	4		
House Finch.....	608		
Purple Finch.....	59		
Red Crossbill.....	1	20-Year Low	

*continued on page 4*



Pine Siskin.....	395	
Lesser Goldfinch .....	325	.....Record High .....281 (2020)
American Goldfinch .....	213	
Fox Sparrow .....	123	.....20-Year Low
Dark-eyed Junco .....	3,957	
White-crowned Sparrow.....	260	
Golden-crowned Sparrow.....	1,181	
White-throated Sparrow.....	40	
Savannah Sparrow .....	13	
Song Sparrow.....	631	
Lincoln's Sparrow.....	50	

Spotted Towhee .....	459	
Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	2	.....Record High .....New for count
Western Meadowlark.....	160	
Red-winged Blackbird .....	5,171	
Brewer's Blackbird.....	799	
Orange-crowned Warbler .....	3	
Nashville Warbler .....	0	.....Count Week
Common Yellowthroat.....	2	.....Record High .....1 (2020)
Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	239	
Magnolia Warbler .....	1	.....Record High .....New for count
Townsend's Warbler.....	110	

## 2023 Eugene Christmas Bird Count Summary

By Vjera Thompson, Species Compiler

The 82nd Eugene CBC was held on December 31, 2023, in heavy fog. While the forecast of sunshine did not materialize, everyone was grateful for the lack of rain.

We recorded a total of 133 species, matching last year, and slightly above our average for the last five years, for a total of 66,334 individual birds. Two sightings were new for the Count: a Costa's Hummingbird at a private feeder and a surprising Magnolia Warbler, only found twice in Lane County previously. Other unusual birds were a Cinnamon Teal (16th year), a Red-necked Grebe (seen once, in 2012), a Snowy Egret (4th year), 12 Tree Swallows, 2 Mountain Chickadees (irruption year), and two Yellow-

headed Blackbirds at Fern Ridge (previously found during Count Week in 1985, 1993, and 1994).

An additional seven species were found during Count Week (the three days before and after the count): Ross's Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose, Greater Scaup, Black-bellied Plover, Iceland (formerly Thayer's) Gull, and two unusual visitors that were not re-found on Count Day: Pygmy Nuthatch (a first for the count), and Nashville Warbler (3 records). Other misses were Canvasback, Green Heron, Osprey, Prairie Falcon, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

We set some new high records, although not as many as some years. We bested our Red-shouldered Hawk

record again, with 51 (last year's record was 45). Seven Semipalmated Plovers at Fern Ridge was a new high (previously 6 in 2009), as was 15 Barn Swallows (5 in 2003). We've found a wintering Common Yellowthroat on eight different Counts, but this was the first year we found 2 (1 at Alton Baker, 1 at Stewart Pond). Lesser Goldfinches jumped from 281 in 2020 to 325 this year. We also had a 20-year high count for Red-breasted Sapsuckers, with 39 reported (our high record of 59 was set in 1990).

We had some 20-year lows: 2,574 Canada Geese, 29 California Quail, 1 Short-billed (formerly Mew) Gull, 1 Western Screech-Owl, 1 Red Crossbill, and only 123 Fox Sparrows (we've averaged 278 in the 20-year time period). Eurasian Collared-Doves peaked at 373 in 2020, but have dropped the last couple of years; this year only 143 were reported, the lowest since 2013.

The fog did not help the owling teams, with only Great Horned Owls vocalizing in the morning, and the one Western Screech-Owl tracked down at 11 pm. Thankfully we had daytime sightings of two Barred Owls, one Barn Owl, and three Short-eared Owls. We missed Northern Pygmy-Owl and Saw-whet Owl.

Thanks to all the birders that made this another successful Count, including working together to find missed birds for Count Week.



photo: Jan Morrow

ECBC Team, Area 5B, Marcia, Clare, Sue, Peter (Missing Tim)

# 2023 Home Count Summary

By Marcia Maffei, Home Count Coordinator

**O**n this year's ECBC Home Count, Dark-eyed Juncos were the most reported bird with 850 sightings, beating out those cute little Bushtits (346) by a mile!

Cackling and Canada Geese made a decent showing with 538. Impressive, but quite a downturn from last year's count of 3230! Well, who could see the sky with all that fog?! Anna's Hummingbird hovered in with 132 of those feisty, fascinating creatures.

Other species that made the 100 - 300 club were: American Crow: 297; Pine Siskin: 179; Black-capped Chickadee: 158; House Finch: 150; American Robin: 122; a flurry of Lesser Goldfinch: 120; Golden-crowned Sparrow: 119; and Mourning Dove at 103. The remaining species were in single or double digits. A Mountain Chickadee rounded out the list of less commonly spotted birds.

Two birders stood out in the Count. The Eagle Eye Award goes to the birder who reported an impressive 52 Great Egrets! Who said that we haven't had any snow this year? What a sight! And the Honorable Mention Award goes to a birder who helped neighbors identify and report birds, making birding more enjoyable for all.

Many thanks to the 101 observers who observed 74 species, for a sum total of 4845 individual birds.

Read on for Home Counters' comments, in their own words:

- As usual, my favorite day of the year :)
- Happy New Year!!!
- Never seen it so quiet! Must be the fog...
- Two plump squirrels kept themselves busy vacuuming up the seed I had scattered in my count area to make it more enticing.

- Cold, foggy day. The fewest species ever for our backyard bird count, but still so much fun to participate.
- Well, it happened again. I am mystified by whatever vortex force seems to happen where I live, and actually do have gorgeous birdlife much of the time. But not on the Count Day.
- Dark foggy day, better luck next year, I hope.
- Worst year for counting since we moved to Eugene. Must be the dark day we had. Happy New Year birders!
- Not a great day for bird watching—thick fog, no wind or weather.
- Thanks for your time and energy working on this. Usually we have more birds, so I was disappointed they didn't show up. Birders were walking up the gas pipe hill right by us, so maybe they saw them.



Photo: Cary Kerst

*Long-billed Dowitcher*



Photo: Cary Kerst

*Short-eared Owl*



photo: Val Rocco

*Taken during Cottage Grove's Christmas Bird Count*

- This year I have seen the fewest number of species at my feeders that I have ever experienced. I also haven't seen as many birds in general. Most interesting to me was how many times the two Anna's hummers visited the feeder in late afternoon; I counted 14 times in 1.5 hours!



Photo: Karen Irmischer's Feeder cam

*White-crowned Sparrow*



Photo: Karen Irmischer's Feeder cam

*Red-shafted Flicker*



Photo: Karen Irmischer's Feeder cam

*Pine Siskins*



# CBC–Florence

By Vjera Thompson, Count Compiler

The 39th Florence Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 16, 2023. We had our largest turnout ever with 57 birders in the field and 11 Home Counters (previous high was 47 and 11, respectively, in 2012). The weather was sunny with a brisk east breeze at some locations; it warmed up in the afternoon and was almost balmy on the beach. For the first time since 2019, we met together in person afterwards and had an enjoyable Countdown at Best Thai in Florence.

We recorded 128 species, down from last year's robust 138, but better than six of the last 10 years. We added an additional six species during Count Week: Eared Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Northern Fulmar, Brown Pelican, Peregrine Falcon, and Lesser Goldfinch.

We found several good birds for this count: 3 Band-tailed Pigeons (seen

on 7 previous counts of 38), 5 Brants (12), 5 Rhino Auklets (13), and 12 Marbled Murrelets, second highest count since 2005. A possible Sedge Wren was seen, but unfortunately not well enough to include in the official numbers. We found Wild Turkey for the third year in a row.

We had high numbers of Ancient Murrelets, with at least 15 seen; the South Jetty team enjoyed getting to hear the murrelets vocalizing. We doubled our high count of Ring-necked Ducks to 521, which included a flock estimated at 500 in the flooded fields of the North Fork area. We also had record highs of Greater White-fronted Geese (33), Red-necked Grebes (26), Red Crossbills (more than 2,000), and Cedar Waxwings (37).

Six teams owled and found two Barred Owls (a new record high), one Western Screech-Owl, one Northern Saw-whet Owl, and one Northern Pygmy-Owl. Barn Owl and Great Horned Owl were missed.

We were able to find some birds that are often hard to find, including 22 Snowy Plovers, one Surfbird, one



photo: Pam Reber

*Spotted Sandpiper*

Bonaparte's Gull, and one Canada Jay. We missed Greater Scaup (30 years), Black-legged Kittiwake (30 years), American Pipit (29 years), Western Bluebird (increasing in the Eugene area), Swamp Sparrow (found the last 6 years), and Orange-crowned Warbler. Also missed and not around this year: Northern Shrike, Rough-legged Hawk, and Palm Warbler.

Thanks to team leaders Hendrik Herlyn, Peter Ralph, Pat Blue Heron, Alan Contreras, Marcia Maffei, Vjera Thompson, Linda Gilbert, Neil Bjorkland, Paul Adamus, Adele Dawson, Dennis Arendt, and Tye Jeske. Thanks also to Ellen Cantor for doing the upfront coordination.



photo: Donna Albino

*Area 5A birders, Skinner Butte Park*



photo: Lars Per Norgren

*Decorated cake celebrating the 82nd ECBS*



Photo: Cary Kerst

*Red-tailed Hawk*

## CBC—Cottage Grove

By Grace Fowler-Gore, Count Coordinator and Compiler

Eight of us gathered at 6:30 am, Saturday, December 30, to enjoy a delicious hot breakfast at Vintage Inn. At the end of the day, 14 of us gathered at El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant to attempt an old-fashioned call-out-the-species Countdown. Alas, the restaurant was too noisy for us to make it through the entire list. However, we did enjoy discussing the adventures we had trying to find those hiding birds. The morning was eerily quiet for a number of us Counters. The weather was wet this year, with only short breaks from the rain. Temperatures ranged from the 40s into the 50s.

No new species were spotted since the Count started in 1971. However, we did have two Western Meadowlarks, spotted by Anne and

Dan Heyerly. None had been seen since we restarted the Cottage Grove Count in 2017.

Not surprisingly, European Starling (612) was our highest Count bird by far. Dark-eyed Junco (354), was next, followed by Mallard (262), American Crow (226), Rock Pigeon (188), Cackling Goose (180), Wild Turkey (161), and Black-capped Chickadee (147). Others in the 100 category included: Common Merganser, Double-crested Cormorant, American Robin, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Mourning Dove, California Scrub-Jay, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, Spotted Towhee, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Exciting sightings of only one or two of a species included: American Dipper, Western Meadowlark, Merlin, Mountain Quail, Lincoln's Sparrow, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, and one Great Horned Owl that landed on a roof, hooting to be counted at 4 am. We also got one additional Count Week bird: Peregrine Falcon.

We reported 95 species. This year our Count was also submitted to eBird: [ebird.org/tripreport/173133](https://ebird.org/tripreport/173133)

Rory, seen on this page birding with her doll and in another photo on page 5, is one of three students from Dorena School who participated in the Cottage Grove CBC for their third year. Of our 37 participants, six were younger than 18. A big thank you goes out to all the participants in the CBC process. It takes all of us to make a difference.

## CBC—Oakridge

By Joel Geier, Count Coordinator and Compiler

Ten volunteers enjoyed better-than-usual weather for the Oakridge CBC on December 29, with temperatures rising to 60° F in the afternoon. There was no snow or ice in most of the circle, and less than an inch of snow at the highest elevations (above 3,000 ft). Strong winds from a warm front moving through may have suppressed forest bird activity, especially along the ridge lines. But thankfully, rain held off until 3:30 pm, just a half hour before the Count ended.

Overall species diversity was good with 73 species counted. The most unusual bird was a Mountain Chickadee found by Chad Marks-Fife, Jenna Curtis, and Deb Hill up around 3,100 ft on Forest Road 2110 above Packard Creek, in a flock that also included the only warblers of the day, two Townsend's Warblers.

A record-high 24 Horned Grebes were found on Hills Creek Reservoir, despite a major drawdown to favor fish passage. Both resident grouse species (Ruffed and Sooty) were found, but Mountain Quail were missed, as some regenerating clearcuts on private forest land were closed to hiking this year.

Rock Pigeon numbers were low, perhaps due to a Peregrine Falcon that was seen hunting them around town in late fall. Other species found in most years, but missed this year, included Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, and Hutton's Vireo. We missed Evening Grosbeak on Count Day, but Amy Weih had five at her High Prairie feeder for Count Week.



photo: Val Rocco

*Rory with Cottage Grove Christmas Bird Count*



## Field Notes: November - December 2023

Tom and Allison Mickel, atmickel@gmail.com

# Surf Scoter, Costa's Hummingbird, Pine Grosbeak, Clay-colored Sparrow, Red Phalarope



Photo: Bill Boulton, Wikimedia Commons

*Surf Scoter*



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

*Costa's Hummingbird*

This season the number of unusual/rare species was quite high. Is it because of changes to our weather, an increased number of people out looking at birds, or a combination of both? It's great to see all the bird reports, especially from what we assume are new birders!

### Abbreviations:

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR)

Surf Scoter	Nov 14	Delta Ponds	SHe	Rarely found inland in Lane Co
Long-tailed Duck (2)	Nov 15	NJSR	LG,CS	The first report for the winter season
Band-tailed Pigeon	Nov 16	Florence area	AC,JG	Rarely winters
Band-tailed Pigeon	Nov 26	S Eugene area	JC	Rarely winters
Costa's Hummingbird	Dec 30	S Hills, Eugene	DP	Rare wintering species!
Sora	Nov 22	FRR – Royal Ave	SB	Winters in very small numbers
Sandhill Crane (10)	Nov 24	Dorena Res	SS	Late for this species
Snowy Plover (51)	Nov 16	NJSR	SHe	A very large flock
Surfbird	Dec 16	NJSR	AC,JG	Not nearly as common as in years past
Long-billed Dowitcher (225)	Nov 20	FRR	MP	A very large flock
Western Sandpiper (2)	Nov 14	Siltcoos Estuary	LH	Same birds that wintered last year?
Red Phalarope	Dec 28	Siltcoos River mouth	LH	Rare wintering species
Ancient Murrelet (15)	Dec 16	NJSR	NB,et al	Large numbers from shore
Black-legged Kittiwake	Nov 3	Bob Creek	RR	The first report for the winter season
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel (2)	Dec 9	NJSR	SHi,DP	Not common from shore this time of year
Brown Pelican	Dec 9	NJSR	DP, SHi	Last report for the season
American Bittern (5)	Nov 14	FRR – Fisher Butte	JS	A good number for this late in the year
Snowy Egret	Nov-Dec	FRR	M.ob.	Same bird that wintered last year?
Green Heron	Dec 16	Coburg area	VB	They winter in small numbers some years
Osprey	Nov 11	Coburg area	RS	They winter some years
Osprey (2)	Nov 17	Siltcoos River	JS,JL	They winter most years in small numbers
White-tailed Kite	Nov 17	Cox Island	LW	Numbers are slowly coming back
Golden Eagle (2)	Nov 12	FRR	LP	Occasionally winters in the valley
Rough-legged Hawk	Nov 1	Dorena Res	SS	The first report for the winter season
Short-eared Owl	Nov 7	FRR – Royal Ave	SM,LP	The first report for the winter season
Say's Phoebe	Dec 2	FRR – Fisher Butte	HS	The first report for the winter season
Northern Shrike	Nov 7	FRR – Royal Ave	SM,LP	The first report for the winter season
Tree Swallow (3)	Nov 14	FRR – Fisher Butte	DF	Getting late, or early, for this species
Barn Swallow	Dec	Valley and Coast	M.ob.	Small numbers show up this time of year
Pygmy Nuthatch	Nov 13	W Eugene	VT	Heard again or second bird
Pygmy Nuthatch	Dec 1	Glen Oak City Park	M.ob.	Up to three seen in the area
Evening Grosbeak (20)	Nov 27	Siltcoos River	LH	Last report





Photo: Ron Knight, Wikimedia Commons

*Pine Grosbeak*



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

*Clay-colored Sparrow*

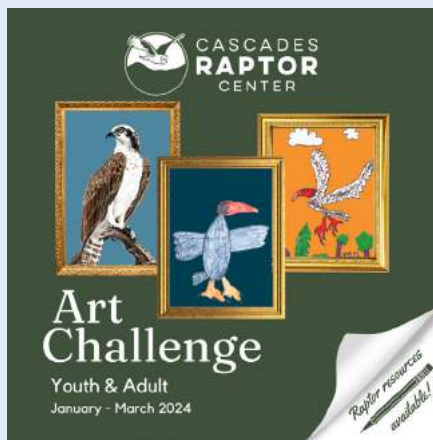


Photo: Christoph Moening, Wikimedia Commons

*Red Phalarope*

Pine Grosbeak.....	Dec 11 .....	McKenzie Bridge.....	KV .....	Rarely found in Lane Co.
Red Crossbill (2000+).....	Dec 16.....	Florence CBC.....	VT.....	Very large numbers
Snow Bunting .....	Dec 20 .....	Siltcoos River.....	GP .....	Late report for this species
Chipping Sparrow .....	Nov 27 .....	Springfield .....	SM.....	Rare wintering species
Clay-colored Sparrow .....	Nov 27 .....	Mill Race – UO area .....	JL.....	Rare in Lane Co
Swamp Sparrow .....	Dec 5.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	JM .....	First report for the winter
Orange-crowned Warbler .....	Dec 5.....	Amazon Park.....	TJ,JG.....	Winter in very small numbers some years
Nashville Warbler .....	Nov 15 .....	College Hill area.....	DA.....	Rare wintering species - still seen in late Dec
Palm Warbler .....	Dec 19.....	SJSR deflation plain .....	RS .....	Winter in small numbers along coast
Black-throated Gray Warbler.....	Nov 9 .....	Amazon Park.....	GM .....	Rarely winters, but becoming more common
Black-throated Gray Warbler.....	Nov 24 .....	Hileman Landing.....	VJ .....	Rarely winters, but becoming more common
Western Tanager.....	Dec 3.....	U of O area.....	BN.....	Same bird as wintered last year?
Western Tanager.....	Dec 25.....	U of O area.....	GM .....	Same bird as above?
Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	Dec 27 .....	Lost Creek area.....	RP .....	Rare wintering species! Photo
Black-headed Grosbeak .....	Nov 24 .....	Cottage Grove .....	RC.....	Winters in very small numbers some years
Black-headed Grosbeak .....	Dec 3.....	Cottage Grove .....	SS .....	Same bird as above?

AC Alan Contreras, BN Bruce Newhouse, CS Cynthia Stockwell, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, DP Diane Pettey, EJ Erik Johnson, GM Gerry Meenaghan, GP Glenn Pannier, HS Hal Sadofsky, JC Joanne Carlson, JG Joshua Galpern, JL Joshua Little, JM Jasper Meekes, JS John Sullivan, KV Kristen Vale, LH Lars Hovde, LG Linda Gilbert, LP Lalla Pudewell, LW Lisa Wallace, MP Magnus Persmark, NB Neil Bjorklund, PO Pam Otley, RC Ramona Campbell, RP Ritch Pope, RR Roger Robb, RS Randy Sinnott, SB Selena Blick, SHe, Steve Heintz, SHi Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, SS Susan Sheppard, TJ Tye Jeske, VB Vickie Buck, VJ Victoria James, VT Vjera Thompson. **M.ob.** signifies many observers.



## Cascades Raptor Art Challenge for Youth and Adults January – March 2024

Cascades Raptor Center is excited to announce our new Raptor Art Challenge, a community project to inspire creativity, curiosity, and conservation. The art challenge is a fun way to creatively showcase the importance and wonder of raptors. Submission is free and open to all Oregon residents. This activity is great for classroom teachers and community groups.

FMI: Visit Cascades Raptor Center's website for guidelines to participate or contact Melissa Green, Creative Engagement Designer, at [melissa@cascadesraptorcenter.org](mailto:melissa@cascadesraptorcenter.org) or [cascadesraptorcenter.org/programs/raptor-art-challenge/](https://cascadesraptorcenter.org/programs/raptor-art-challenge/)

# 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**

March: February 1

April: March 1

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

©2024 Lane County Audubon Society. All rights reserved.

## Lane County Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President	Maeve Sowles.....541.343.8664..... <a href="mailto:audubon@laneaudubon.org">audubon@laneaudubon.org</a>
Treasurer	Ron Renschler.....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>
	Ash Berry..... <a href="mailto:ashb@uoregon.edu">ashb@uoregon.edu</a>
	Barbara Bryson..... <a href="mailto:bbryson150@gmail.com">bbryson150@gmail.com</a>
	Cecelia Hagen..... <a href="mailto:audadv@laneaudubon.org">audadv@laneaudubon.org</a>
	Debbie Schlenoff.....541.685.0610..... <a href="mailto:debschlenoff@gmail.com">debschlenoff@gmail.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 Renschler.....541.345.0834..... <a href="mailto:christyandron2@gmail.com">christyandron2@gmail.com</a>
Conservation	Debbie Schlenoff.....541.685.0610..... <a href="mailto:debschlenoff@gmail.com">debschlenoff@gmail.com</a>
Education	<b>Volunteer Opportunity</b>
Field Notes	Allison & Tom Mickel..... <a href="mailto:atmickel@gmail.com">atmickel@gmail.com</a>
Field Trips	Lalla Pudewell..... <a href="mailto:tolalla@gmail.com">tolalla@gmail.com</a>
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 \_\_\_\_\_

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



## LCAS Program—In Person and Zoom Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



### Gardening for the Bees (and the Birds)



Dave Kollen

By now you've probably heard about the "insect apocalypse" and how many of our pollinators are in decline, some seriously so. Don't miss the opportunity to learn more about this subject at our February 27 program meeting. This presentation will be given by a Xerces Society Ambassador: Dave Kollen.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is a 51-year-old, global organization devoted to the conservation of invertebrates with active programs focused on pollinators, pesticide-use reduction, pollinator-friendly agricultural practices, and outreach and education. February's

program will provide you with valuable information about our most important pollinators and how you can select plants and adopt practices that maximally support them. The major topics to be discussed are:

- Introduction to pollinators and their importance in natural systems and our food system
- Native bee diversity and natural history
- Some butterfly and moth natural history
- Threats facing pollinators
- How we can play a role in pollinator conservation, both in general and in our own landscapes and communities

For those interested in going above and beyond these topics, opportunities to get involved in community science activities will be covered.

Dave Kollen grew up east of Salem (Mount Angel), but spent much of his time in Austin, Texas. He and his wife moved to Brookings nine years ago. With a B.S. in Physics and an M.B.A

in International Business, Dave may seem like a surprising choice to talk about pollinators. However, from a young age he always loved nature and biology, being particularly fascinated by ants and their complex societies.

After retiring from the tech industry, Dave earned an Oregon Master Naturalist certification and participated in community science in the areas of beached-bird surveys and the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas. Subsequent to that he was accepted into the Xerces Society Ambassador program. A growing interest in bees led him to become a certified Master Melittologist through OSU Extension and the Oregon Bee Atlas, where he continues as a volunteer. In his "spare" time he also writes pollinator-focused articles for the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs newsletter, *Mahonia*.

Join the Lane County Audubon Society for this informative presentation on February 27 at the Campbell Center, 155 High Street, at 7:00 (6:30 doors open for some social time).

This program will also be available via a Zoom link, which will appear on the LCAS website about a week before the meeting.

### Upcoming Programs

On March 26th, the energetic Ram Papish will be back, with a presentation on "The Art of Ram Papish."

Our April 23th Program will feature Tim Griffith once again. This time he will cover a topic that many of our Board members requested: the bird friendly native plant garden.

On May 28th we will welcome Sue Anderson, a butterfly expert, to talk about butterflies in the Willamette Valley.



# Lane County Audubon Society

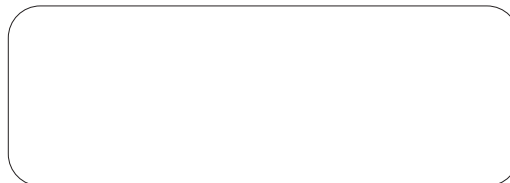


P.O. Box 5086, Eugene OR 97405

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
EUGENE OR  
PERMIT NO. 258

OR CURRENT  
RESIDENT

Check your mailing label. Has  
your *Quail* subscription expired?  
See page 10 to renew!



## LCAS Saturday Bird Outings & Events

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

### First Saturday Bird Outing, February 3

Our First Saturday Bird Outing, created in celebration of the Lane Audubon Inclusivity and Diversity Statement, is 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 Outing, February 17

Our Third Saturday Bird Outing continues to be open to all participants. February's outing is TBA.

FMI: [audubon@laneaudubon.org](mailto:audubon@laneaudubon.org) or check the Lane Audubon website and/or the Lane Audubon Facebook page close to the walk date. You can also contact Lalla Pudewell, [tolalla@gmail.com](mailto:tolalla@gmail.com).



photo: Val Rocco

*Taken during the Cottage Grove Christmas Bird Count*

## Encourage Your State Legislators to Support the Wildlife Coexistence Package

Please let your state representatives know that you support the wildlife-related legislation package that will be introduced by Representative Ken Helm in the 2024 Oregon legislative session. The package is slated to include:

1. Wildlife and zoonotic disease prevention and response
2. Invasive species prevention and response
3. Wildlife coexistence and conflict reduction
4. Wildlife corridors and road crossings

The Wildlife Coexistence Package would provide funding for five ODFW Wildlife Coexistence Biologists, an ODFW Coexistence Campaign Outreach Coordinator, and a Coexistence / Living with Wildlife Campaign, as well as small grants for Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers.

This will prove to be a very impactful piece of legislation. We came close to passage in 2023. Let's get it done this session. Find your representative: [gov.oregonlive.com/legislators/](http://gov.oregonlive.com/legislators/)

— Debbie Schlenoff, Conservation Chair