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The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, audubon@laneaudubon.org

Springtime Ushers in Board Member Changes



We want to welcome **Katie McInnis** as a new LCAS Board member! Katie has been involved in volunteering for more than two years and helps in many ways. She is most involved with the **Bird Friendly City project**, but also attends bird outings and Board meetings regularly.

Katie offers great insights, as her veterinary and wildlife medicine background give her deep understanding of the many issues threatening birds and other wildlife. Welcome to Katie and thank you for being part of the Lane Audubon Board!

Katie became interested in pursuing wildlife medicine during veterinary school. After graduating from Kansas State with her DVM, she completed a wildlife medicine and surgery internship at the Center for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife in Florida. She then began working for the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council in 2017, and has worked in course organization and

development, educational resources, and international projects.

Since Katie began birding in Oregon, her time outside with birds has only deepened her commitment to wildlife and conservation. Her two children, Benji (7) and Sophie (5), keep her busy outside of work, but she multitasks by combining activities. These include being a scout den leader, assisting at school, and bringing birds into the conversation whenever possible. She is currently working to broaden her impact by participating in the Parrot Conservation Corps and in more Oregon bird surveys, including the Breeding Bird Survey and Adopt-a-Lek.

Katie is honored to be joining the Lane Audubon Board and is excited to assist in ongoing and new projects. Outside of birding, her interests include indigenous rights, 2SLGBTQ+ rights, science fiction, Legos, and baking. She lives in Eugene with her husband, kids, an indoor cat, and a crazy dog.

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Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

laneaudubon.org

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

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Vaux Swift Watch 7

Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, debschlenoff@gmail.com

Warblers & Swallows & Kinglets, Oh My! Migrating Now



The birds are coming, and we encourage everybody to get outside and enjoy spring birding and the amazing spectacle of migration. Information about our bird outings (first and third Saturdays) can be found in our newsletter along with our website and social media pages. We have extra binoculars if you want to join us, but need to borrow a pair. Or you can check out a birding kit with binoculars and field guides from the Eugene Public Library.

Now that spring migration has begun, we want to remind our community members about our Lights Out! Program. Artificial lights at night are disruptive to the health of people and wildlife. They may disorient migrating birds, thus increasing the rate of collisions with buildings. Lights Out and Dark Skies programs have been shown to be effective and safe for involved communities. See how you can perform simple actions to protect birds and pollinators. Please Sign our Pledge at laneaudubon.org/field-notes/lights-out-eugene/take-the-pledge-lights-out/

Don't forget to add your mailing address. Pledge participants will

receive a window cling decal to help spread the word and to show your commitment to saving both birds and energy. Please help us launch this program in a big way, as we strive to be a more bird-friendly community!

Lights Out programs and window treatments can dramatically reduce bird mortality. We all dread the sound of a bird hitting a window, but it is comforting to know that there are solutions. I was saddened to read that Flaco, the Eurasian eagle-owl who escaped from the Central Park Zoo, met an untimely death after crashing into a building. Following his breakout from the zoo, he took up residence around Central Park where he captured the hearts of many people (and added to the life list of area birders).

One good thing that did come from his death was the attention brought to the issue by media forums around the country. They reported on the vast toll of bird collisions, (nearly one billion birds killed each year) and, importantly, informed the public about solutions to prevent these deaths. In New York, the Bird Safe Buildings Act will be renamed the FLACO Act ("Feathered Lives Also Count" Act) to honor the impact Flaco had on his many admirers.

This legislation requires the use of bird-friendly material in all new construction and large renovations. We hope this kind of legislation will become common in municipalities across the country. There are also things that we can all do to prevent

collisions where we work and live. Birds don't see glass, so the solution is to put something visible to the birds on our windows. Items that have proven effective when applied to the outside of the windows include "Acopian bird savers," "Feather friendly" or "Collidescape" strips, bird tape, and closely spaced decals or designs (See link below/in box for more info.)

Ways You Can Help Prevent Bird Collisions

- Make your windows visible to birds.
- 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 2000 is better) with negligible blue light.
- During migration seasons, draw blinds or curtains to reduce light spill.
- Reduce lobby and atrium lighting, where possible.
- Turn off rooftop lighting and exterior architectural lighting not used for security.
- Turn off the lights before leaving the home or office.
- FYI: birdallianceoregon.org/our-work/protect/habitat-and-wildlife/urban/reducing-wildlife-hazards/tips-for-reducing-window-strikes-at-home/
- Sign the Pledge: laneaudubon.org/field-notes/lights-out-eugene/take-the-pledge-lights-out/

Field Notes: February 2024

Tom and Allison Mickel, atmickel@gmail.com

Great Gray Owl, Costa's Hummingbird, Brown Pelican, Osprey, Swamp Sparrow

After the ice storm last month, February seemed normal! Several of the rare wintering species were around this month, so they seemed to have survived the ice storm. Some of the early breeding species (Hutton's Vireo, Pacific Wren, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, etc.) have started singing (which is normal), so spring can't be too far off.

Abbreviations:

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

Costa's Hummingbird.....	Feb	Chambers St area	M.ob.	Still being seen
Brown Pelican.....	Feb	Lane coast.....	M.ob.	Normally not around this time of year
Snowy Egret.....	Feb	FRR	M.ob.	Still being seen
Osprey	Feb 19	Alton Baker.....	RG.....	Rarely found in the area during winter
Osprey	Feb	Lane coast.....	M.ob.	Small numbers now winter in the area
Golden Eagle.....	Feb	Junction City area	M.ob.	Reported a couple times this month
Great Gray Owl.....	Feb 19	S of Eugene.....	RF	Very rare in the valley foothills
Prairie Falcon.....	Feb 20	Washburn Ln.....	FT	Small numbers winter in the valley
Mountain Chickadee.....	Feb	Eugene/Oakridge	M.ob.	Small numbers are being reported
Swamp Sparrow.....	Feb 1	FRR – Royal Ave.....	SH	Only report for the month
Spotted Towhee	Feb 6	Armitage Rd area	JO.....	All white – albino/leucistic
Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	Feb 3	FRR - Fisher Butte	JJ,KT-J	Still being seen in the area
Bullock's Oriole	Feb 5	Florence	LW	They have wintered in the past
Tricolored Blackbird.....	Feb 3	FRR – Fisher Butte	SQ, PR.....	Rarely winter away from dairies
Brown-headed Cowbird (25)	Feb 20	Creswell area.....	NS.....	In large blackbird flock at local dairy
Western Tanager.....	Feb 1	U of O area.....	BN.....	Still being seen at feeder
Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	Feb 7	Lost Creek Rd area.....	RP	Still being seen at feeder
Black-headed Grosbeak	Feb 11	Cottage Grove area.....	SS	Still being seen at feeder

BN Bruce Newhouse, FT Forest Tomlinson, JJ Jacob Jones, JO Joan Ojerio, KT-J Kellum Tate-Jones, LW Lisa Wallace, NS Noah Strycker, PR Paul Reed, RF Rachael Friese, RG Rachel Glaeser, RP Ritch Pope, SH Sally Hill, SQ Samantha Queeno, SS Susan Sheppard, M.ob. signifies many observers.

Presidents Message *continued from page 1*

We say thank you and farewell to both **Isaac Scott** and **Ramiro Aragon**, who are no longer Board members.

Isaac left town after graduation to get a job in Washington state and hoped to continue as a Board member, but life and work got in the way. While he was a part of LCAS he created the University of Oregon

Student Bird Club, for which we are very grateful. We hope this legacy continues with new students in the future.

Ramiro was a LCAS Board member for more than 5 years. We benefitted from his efforts in creating educational tools for Latinx student outreach. As a biologist he helped us with many bird



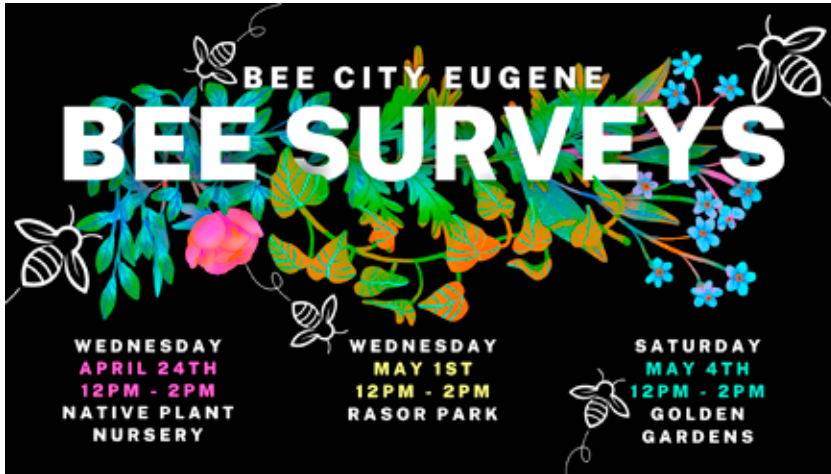
Great Gray Owl



Costa's Hummingbird

Photo: Wikimedia Commons, by Olaf Olivero Piemer

Photo: Wikimedia Commons, Alan D. Wilson



Help Us Count Native and Local Bees While Learning About Their Diversity

Bee City invites you to participate in three exciting community bee surveys this spring! Join us for three afternoons of observing our vital pollinators in their natural habitats and mastering advanced bee identification techniques with expert August Jackson. We'll provide bug nets, identification guides, and knowledgeable naturalists to assist you. All ages are welcome, and no prior experience is necessary. Bee City Eugene is sponsored by Wildcraft Cider Works.

Mark your calendars for these dates and locations:

April 24th, 12 pm-2 pm: Native Plant Nursery, 538 Day Island Rd, within Alton Baker Park. Parking available near Alton Park Community Garden.

May 1st, 12 pm-2 pm: Razor Park, 785 Stephens Dr, Eugene, OR 97404. Parking available along Stephens Drive.

May 4th, 12 pm-2 pm: Golden Gardens, Intersection of Jessen Dr. and Golden Garden St, Eugene, OR 97402. Parking available along Jessen Drive.

Come join us as we collect valuable data on pollinator diversity in public spaces. See you there!



Fun at the Bird Symposium

The Willamette Valley Bird Symposium, held on the OSU campus on February 3, gave bird enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds a day-long chance to gather and learn. LCAS co-sponsored this event, started by Oregon State University in partnership with the American Ornithological Society in 2015. This year's gathering was the biggest ever.

The keynote speaker, Tykee James, co-founder of **Amplify the Future**, shared insights about how birding is a bridge to foster community, illuminate the world, and build power for all people. The symposium offered a dozen presentations of avian research and studies, and concluded with a raffle giveaway. Several Lane Audubon members attended, and our table, staffed here by LCAS Board member Ash Berry, attracted both old and new friends.



Ash Berry

Invitation to Volunteer with LCAS

Lane Audubon hopes to engage some new volunteers as the weather warms and we can connect more easily for activities. On our website you will find a volunteer page that includes current position openings and activities, as well as a volunteer form to fill out for those interested in helping.

To see our currently available positions, go to laneaudubon.org/volunteer-opportunities-the-latest/

Then either click on the green Volunteer Page link at the top, or go to: laneaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Volunteer-Interest-Form.pdf

Complete the form and send to audubon@laneaudubon.org This will enable us to match up people with the positions most appropriate to their skills and interests!

We look forward to meeting you.

LCAS Program—In Person and Zoom Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



Margi and Tim Griffith's yard before



Margi and Tim Griffith's yard after

Landscaping for Wildlife in an Urban Environment: A Rookie's Attempt at Making a Difference



Tim Griffith

A blank slate and a desire to make a difference has allowed Margi and Tim Griffith to transform their city backyard in a new housing development into a wildlife haven. By starting over with their home's outdoor landscaping, they have created a refuge for birds, bees, and butterflies, along with rats, mice, voles, possums, raccoons, and an occasional cat or two.

They followed advice from local landscapers and programs such as Dr. Doug Talmay's "Homegrown National Parks" and The National Wildlife Federation's "Backyard Wildlife Habitat" programs. The native Oregon species they introduced now provide natural food sources and places of

refuge for the 3 B's (birds, bees, and butterflies). Thus far their efforts have resulted in visits by 78 species of birds, 11 species of bees, and 9 species of butterflies and moths.

Tim Griffith 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 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 looking diligently for Grizzly Bears and Mountain Lions. Tim holds a B.S. in Plant and Soil

Science, minors in Forestry and Wildlife Ecology, and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology, all from Southern Illinois University.

Meet your friends or make new ones at the Campbell Center (155 High) on Tuesday, April 23. The doors open at 6:30 for social time. The program starts promptly at 7:00. A Zoom link will also be available, appearing on the LCAS website about a week before the program. Past programs are posted there too, about a week after.



Cedar Waxwings in new water feature

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

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July-Aug: June 1

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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 _____

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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

Have Any Short Bird Videos You Are Willing to Share?

We are seeking short (30 seconds or less) videos of birds to use on our social media platforms. Do you have a short video snippet of birds that you are willing to share? If so, please send it to debschlenoff@gmail.com

Thank you.

Godwit Days Festival, April 18-21

The Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival in Arcata, CA, is set for April 18-21 this year. The festival celebrates the Marbled Godwit, along with the lush Redwood Coast in this sector of northwest California's Klamath bioregion. Participants will have opportunities to observe many bird species and other wildlife through field trips, lectures, and workshops led by experienced local guides during this annual festival.

FMI: godwitdays.org.

Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group Presentation

Tuesday, April 9, 7 pm

"What You Don't Know About Rhododendrons and Some Companion Plants"

Presenter Jack Olson owns and manages Rocky Knoll Farm in Fall Creek.

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

FMI: thehardyplantgroup.org

Bike Path Clean-Up!

Stay tuned as we set a date in April (or May). Check Facebook page and web page FMI. Help us clean up the West Eugene Bike Path!

3rd Saturday Bird Outing Report, February 17, 2024

By Lalla Pudewell

Dan and Anne Heyerly lead this outing, which began near the Greenway Footbridge. Skill levels of the group ranged from beginners to highly experienced birders and included a wide range of ages as well. Kudos to the 23 attending for braving the rainy forecast. Although it only sprinkled briefly, the temperature was a chilly 38 degrees. We went out on the bridge first, where we spotted a Great Blue Heron along the shore, a pair of Lesser Scaups on the river, and a Bald Eagle perched atop a tall tree. Two Downy Woodpeckers were seen together in a tree across the river.

After we headed north along the East Bank Path, two flashy Common Mergansers flew across the pond. White-breasted Nuthatches were calling and providing good views. We saw a Green-winged Teal, a Spotted Sandpiper, and an Anna's Hummingbird. A wooded area along the path offered views of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Lesser Goldfinch, and Brown Creepers. Walking back to our start location, we found a Black Phoebe, and a bit later a Cooper's Hawk in a tree across the pond. Thank you to Dan and Anne Heyerly for leading this walk, providing identification tips, and sharing scope views!

Vaux's Swift Watch—April 5 and 26 at Sunset

You are invited to attend a free real-time nature extravaganza right here in Eugene! The timing of the migration varies, so we hope the Vaux's Swifts will show up when we gather to watch them ride in on warm winds from the south. Lane County Audubon Society will staff an informational table in the parking lot on the dates above, but feel free to watch the swifts funneling down into the chimney during other sunsets close to these dates.

For decades the swifts have used the Agate Hall Chimney, on UO campus at 17th Avenue and Agate Street, to roost for the night during their stopover in the Willamette Valley. They feed and recover here during their northward migration in spring as well as their southward migration in the fall. Most of those arriving in April will continue north and east to the mountains for the nesting season.

Check for sunset time and plan to arrive early to watch them swirling across the sky as they gather before entering the chimney for the night! Non-birding family members and friends, including young children, can often be enticed by the proximity of the playground south of Agate Hall, and/or Prince Puckler's Ice Cream. Exposing children to the wonders of nature can sometimes stimulate a lifelong interest.

FMI: Lane Audubon website, Facebook page, or call the Lane Audubon phone at 541.485.2473.

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LCAS Saturday Bird Outings & Events

Lalla Pudewell, tolalla@gmail.com

First Saturday Bird Outing, April 6

Our First Saturday Bird Outings, created as part of our commitment to 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 Outing, April 20

Our Third Saturday Bird Outings continue to be open to all participants. Location and leader for April is TBA.

FMI: tolalla@gmail.com or check the Lane Audubon website, or the Lane Audubon Facebook page close to the outing date.

January Ice Storm Bird Effect Report

By Vjera Thompson

The storm started Friday night with ice and snow-like material on top. Saturday evening we got more snow and a layer of frozen rain on top. Sunday morning was in the 20s when I walked to [Danebo] pond. The path was slippery, the pond partially frozen. Shorebirds were moving around. A group of California Quail landed on the ice and ran across it (first time I've found them at this location). Pipits were in several places on the walk, one tailless. Monday and Tuesday were too icy to walk.

At home on Monday, a bedraggled Lincoln's Sparrow with a heavily iced tail showed up briefly. Lunchtime Tuesday a pipit landed briefly in the driveway with most of its tail. Some birds looked like they had lost tail feathers. A Mourning Dove dragging several bent and mostly detached tail feathers seemed very tired and reluctant to fly.

Starlings tried to get at the suet but seem to struggle (too frozen to break pieces off?). They had less ice on their tails than other birds but seemed lethargic at times. When I noticed the ice gathering on tails, I started spreading seed where there was cover. The juncos liked feeding underneath the trailer.

Tuesday it rained in the afternoon despite being 27. Birds began gathering new crystals on their backs and tails as the afternoon progressed. When I woke during the night, the trees were coated with a new layer of ice. The temperature reached 33 about 1 am and by 7 am was 40 degrees. Ice slid off the trees. I lost one large branch from the front yard tree, which the sparrows and finches reveled in.

Editor's note: Apologies to Vjera for having to severely cut her fascinating and much longer report due to space limitations.