

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

and succession planning discussions, which were very helpful to our small group. We will miss her positive energy, productive advice, and help to our Board! See pages 4 and 5 for more volunteer thank yous.

Volunteers! Welcome and Farewell



Photo: Ron Renchler

Wildflower Festival booth staffers left to right, at the rear: Gary Hersh, Debbie Schlenoff, and Kirstin Waldkoenig

Audubon Society for many years. We are grateful that she has stepped up, knowing she brings experience and dedication to this position. It is great to have your help, Jan!

On May 30, we said farewell to our board member and UO PhD student **Kirstin Waldkoenig**. Kirstin has completed her coursework and is returning to her home state of Pennsylvania to complete the writing of her doctoral thesis. She served on the board for 18 months and for most of that time was the Board's Recording Secretary. She participated in bird outings, staffed booths, and also took part in projects such as Bird Friendly City, Habitat Haven, and School Garden work parties. Kirstin also led us through some recruitment

Audubon in the Schools

Beginning Birding session with binoculars



Photo: Barbara Pope

5th grade birders, Jujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion School

Welcome to **Jan Rising**, who is our new Board Recording Secretary! Jan moved to Eugene from Bend, Oregon, where she was deeply involved with East Cascades

Lane County Audubon Society

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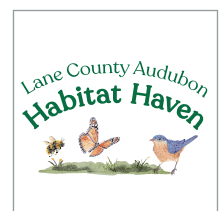
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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, debschlenoff@gmail.com

To Boost Your Mental Health, Go Birding!



Photo: Pacific Southwest Region USFWS from Sacramento, US, Wikimedia Commons

Family celebrating International Migratory Bird Day

A recent study, *Birdwatching linked to increased psychological well-being on college campuses: A pilot-scale experimental study*, published in June, adds to the growing body of evidence that being outside is good for you. Nature-based experiences, and birdwatching in particular, were shown to increase well-being and reduce distress.

You can join Lane Audubon at one of our two bird outings each month. Or explore birding and outdoor opportunities alone or with other local groups. New to birding? Check out the “Resources” section of our webpage for beginning birders’ basics: **Tips for Beginning Birdwatchers** and **Birding Basics**. Thanks to a partnership between Lane Audubon and the Eugene Public Library, you can check

out a birding backpack that contains everything you need to get started. These are available at any Eugene Library branch. Their contents include binoculars for adults and children, field guides, and bird ID guides. FMI: eugene-or.gov/4720/Library-of-Things (under Science and Technology category).

Conservation Updates:

Our UO Environmental Studies intern, Rosa Schaffner, did an outstanding job this spring term. She helped with the UO student bird club, our Vaux’s Swift count, and preparing documents for outreach and invasive plant identification for our backyard habitat program. She helped spread the word about the importance of reducing unnecessary light at night and conducted area monitoring of lighting practices. Thank you, Rosa!

Migration season may be over but, unfortunately, **the ill effects of over-lit urban spaces are not seasonally confined**. Artificial lighting at night has been shown to decrease successful nesting, decrease pollination, and play havoc with wildlife physiological responses. Taking steps to improve your lighting? Sign the Lights Out pledge: laneaudubon.org/field-notes/lights-out-eugene/

Our backyard certification program, **Habitat Haven**, is off to a fantastic start. Community members are discussing plans on how to create better habitats for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife, and receiving

advice from an enthusiastic corps of volunteers. Join the program and help practice wildlife stewardship where we live: laneaudubon.org/habitat-haven/

The Biden administration has adopted an important new rule to conserve and protect America’s public lands managed by the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This federal rule puts conservation and recreation on equal footing with natural resource extraction. The BLM and US Forest Service were directed to identify threats to mature and old-growth forests, and to develop and implement policies to protect and restore them. Sadly, we do not always see these protections in place in Oregon’s public forests.

This spring, in response to a legal complaint brought by a coalition of environmental groups, a federal district court found that the **Bureau of Land Management violated the law with its “Integrated Vegetation Management”** program. This program proposed aggressive logging in areas that had been set aside for forest conservation and included mature and old-growth forests important for wildlife habitat and fire resilience. We hope the court’s recognition as well as the federal directive will lead to better proposals in future. We are keeping our eyes on other forest issues including the proposed Amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan. The next round of public comments will be for the draft Environmental Impact Statement, currently estimated to be released this summer.

LCAS joined a large coalition of beaver protectors (the mammal, not the sports team) in calling for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to close beaver trapping and hunting on federally managed public lands. This request is in

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Field Notes: April/May 2024

Tom and Allison Mickel, atmickel@gmail.com

Sandhill Crane, Northern Mockingbird, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Vesper Sparrow

It seemed like a fairly normal spring with a few unusual sightings and good numbers of normal migrants. Now that the breeding season is in full swing, it's always interesting to watch the young learn the ropes from their parents—learning to get their own food from the feeder instead of begging from the top of the feeder.

Abbreviations:

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

Sandhill Crane (6)	April 2	FRR - Royal Ave	FT	Rarely seen at this location
Black-necked Stilt	April/May	FRR	M.ob.	Good numbers – breeding again?
Pacific Golden-Plover	May 7	SJSR	PT	Rarely found in the spring
Long-billed Curlew	April/May	Coast & valley	M.ob.	More sightings than normal
Marbled Godwit	April 15	FRR – Royal Ave	MJ	Unusual for inland
Wilson's Phalarope	May 21	Florence area	JK	Unusual for the coast
Wilson's Phalarope	May	FRR – Royal Ave	M.ob.	They have bred in the past
Willet	May 5	NJSR	LH	Unusual for Lane
Ruddy Turnstone	Early May	Coast	M.ob.	Rare in the spring
Pectoral Sandpiper	May 9	SJSR	CA, SMa	Rare in the spring
Heermann's Gull	April/May	Florence area	M.ob.	Earlier than normal
Yellow-billed Loon	April 4	NJSR	LH	Rare spring sighting
Great Egret	May	Eugene/Springfield	M.ob.	Where are they breeding?
Golden Eagle	April 10	Berggren Watershed	SMe	Rare during the breeding season
Lewis's Woodpecker (2)	Early May	Blue River area	AB	Rare during the breeding season
Gray Flycatcher	May 9	Skinner Butte	M.ob.	Small numbers seen during migration
Ash-throated Flycatcher	May 24	Mt Pisgah	DA	They've summered in the past
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	April/May	Mt Pisgah	M.ob.	They've bred the past number of years
Northern Mockingbird	April 13	FRR – Royal Ave	HS	Rare spring sighting
Cassin's Finch	April 23	River Rd area	RH	Normally only found in the high Cascades
Grasshopper Sparrow	May 19	FRR – Royal Ave	NC, LP	Have bred in the area for many years

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Sandhill Crane

Photo: Gary Leavens, Wikimedia Commons



Northern Mockingbird

Photo: Captain-tucker, Wikimedia Commons



Marbled Godwit

Photo: Derek Keats, Wikimedia Commons



Willet

Photo: Derek Keats, Wikimedia Commons



Vesper Sparrow

Photo: Tim from Ithica, Wikimedia Commons

Clay-colored SparrowMay 13.....FRR – Royal Ave.....SMa,CA..... Rare spring sighting
 Vesper SparrowMay 23.....Mt PisgahA&DH..... Have been absent from the area for years
 Great-tailed GrackleMay 21N Eugene.....A&DH..... An unusual location for this rare sighting
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....April 2.....Lost Creek Road areaLP,SMa Last report for this winter bird
 Indigo BuntingMay 21Mt. PisgahAT,et al..... A species that has summered in the past

AB Aquiles Brinco, A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, AT Alex Tierney, CA Cindy Armstrong, DA Dennis Arendt, FT Forest Thomlinson, HS Hal Sadofsky, JK John Kingeter, LH Lars Houde, LP Lalla Pudewell, MJ Mary James, NC Nancy Clogston, PT Phil Thompson, RH Rich Hoyer, SMA Sylvia Maulding, SME Sarah Merkle. M.ob. signifies many observers.



Photo: Barbara Bryson

Evelyn Sherr

Volunteer Spotlight: Evelyn Sherr

By Barbara Bryson

Meet our new **Habitat Haven** volunteer! Evelyn Sherr has joined Lane Audubon’s Habitat Haven Backyard Certification team and is excited to be doing site visits for our new participants who want to have their yards certified. Welcome Ev!!

When did you become interested in native plants, birds, and pollinators?

I’ve been a longtime birdwatcher and have enjoyed photographing Oregon birds and wildflowers. A more

recent fascination with butterflies was my gateway to growing native plants. After moving from Central Oregon in 2021, I started altering my yard, adding native shrubs and perennials that are nectar sources and host plants for butterflies and moths. I was spurred on by Douglas Tallamy’s Homegrown National Park project, which advocates growing locally native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to benefit the entire natural food web. The Oregon Bee Project and the Xerces Society also made me aware of the importance of specific plants and nesting habitat for native bees and other pollinators.

How has that interest played out in your life? I love learning about the insects—butterflies, moths, bees, flies, and other bugs—that visit my yard. I log my photos on iNaturalist to add data for research. Watching my garden change for the better as native plants bloom and fruits mature is a constant pleasure.

What made you want to get involved in Lane Audubon’s Habitat Haven Backyard Certification program?

I knew about the Bird Alliance of Oregon’s Backyard Habitat program. I am excited to participate in a similar program here.

What are you getting out of being a volunteer?

I am continuing to learn about gardening with native plants and am

enjoying helping others transform their yards into wildlife havens.

Anything else you want to add, such as where you grew up, childhood interests, etc...?

I grew up in Florida in the 1950s when much of the state was still fairly wild. In the 1970s and 80s I lived on a mostly pristine island off the Georgia coast with abundant birds (including Wood Storks and Painted Buntings!) and other wildlife. These experiences deepened my interest in the flora and fauna of natural habitats. When my family moved to Oregon in 1990, there were entirely new landscapes to explore. My maternal grandmother was a master gardener and loved birds, so I likely got my enthusiasm for plants and nature from her.

Thank you, Ev!!

Note: As interest in Habitat Haven grows, we can use more help from those of you who know native plants! Please send in a Volunteer Interest Form from our website and we will contact you. You can make a difference for birds and pollinators in our community!



Photo: Cary Kerst

Marsh Wren, Fern Ridge, May 2024

Lane County Audubon Habitat Haven



Habitat Haven Update

By Barbara Bryson

Our Habitat Haven volunteers have begun site visits and been enthusiastically received! At the start of our program, we planned on 20 households as a pilot, but we have 35 folks signed up so far, in just our first month, with more enrolling daily. By planting native plants, creating habitat for birds and pollinators, managing water use, practicing eco-friendly yard care, improving soil, and removing invasive plants, we can all make a difference for biodiversity! We look forward to this being an on-going effort to help people “heal nature one yard at a time.”

People are saying: “I am so happy this program is being offered here!” And “It is apparent from all the materials prepared for the visit, what was done during the visit, and what took place for the follow-up, that a great deal of time and effort is being given by the volunteers. Amazing.”

Why is this important? Aren't we a bird-related organization? Of course,

our main focus is on birds, but ask yourselves, what do birds need? They need shelter, layers of native vegetation to hide in, and for protection from extreme weather, like ice storms. They need caterpillars and other insects to feed their young. They need nest cavities in snags. They need water, seed and berry producing plants, and less clear windows so birds don't injure themselves trying to fly into tree reflections. We are helping to address all of these things and more.

Thanks to **Cecelia Hagen** for helping with Canva coupon design; to **Hilary Dearborn** for Website changes; and to **Debbie Schlenoff**, for helping with the scheduling of site visits! We are grateful for support from Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District for their start-up grant, **Cynthia Lafferty of Doak Creek Nursery** for generous coupons and discounts on native plant purchases. We are also grateful to **Sheila Klest of Trillium Gardens**, **Wild Birds Unlimited**, and **Lane Forest Products** for their support!

If you are a native plant/bird/pollinator enthusiast and wish to help our community in this endeavor, please see our Volunteer Interest Form on our website and join us! laneaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Volunteer-Interest-Form-5.6.24.pdf

We are so appreciative of our amazing volunteers!!



Photo: Debbie Schlenoff

Ron Renchler talking to booth visitors

Thank You, Booth Volunteers

By Ron Renchler

Thanks to **Ash Berry**, **Cecelia Hagen**, and **Kirstin Waldkoenig** for staffing the LCAS table at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History on Earth Day, April 22, and to **Barbara Bryson** for staffing the LCAS table at the Hult Center on April 25.

A hearty thanks also goes out to those who staffed the LCAS booth at the Mt. Pisgah Wildflower Show on May 19. Booth staffers at the popular event included **Connie Berglund**, **Ash Berry**, **Barbara Bryson**, **Karen and Tim Fielder**, **Gary Hersh**, **Debbie Schlenoff**, and **Kirstin Waldkoenig**. An estimated 300 contacts were made at the Wildflower Show!

LCAS depends on our volunteers to staff our table and booth at various events around the area. Orientation and training for the 2-hour time slots are provided. If you're interested in participating, contact Ron Renchler at christyandron2@gmail.com or 541.345.0834.

FMI on volunteering with Lane Audubon go to: laneaudubon.org/volunteer/

To Boost Your Mental Health, Go Birding! *continued from page 2*

keeping with the many well-known benefits “to humans and other wildlife through improved ecosystem services, increased economic benefits, increased climate resilience, and enhanced biodiversity conservation benefits” of

having beaver-inhabited floodplains (documented in the Commission's Beaver Management Work Group report). We will continue our advocacy for wildlife coexistence through legislation and policy.

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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Submit material to Karen Irmscher 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

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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



Golden Gardens Bird Trip

By Olivia Farnham, Environmental Justice Youth Programs Coordinator for Beyond Toxics.

Fifteen Eugene and Springfield students and community members joined us on a rainy morning at Golden Gardens Park to witness the lively bird life and learn more about the importance of protecting this natural space. LCAS Board member **Katie McInnis** served as trip leader.

These students had researched the sports complex proposed for construction near the ponds as part of Beyond Toxic's Environmental Justice Rise as Leaderships program. After learning of the impacts this would have on the wildlife and environment, the students were excited to experience this hidden gem of Bethel firsthand.

The Evolution of Bird Feeders

By Debbie Schlenoff

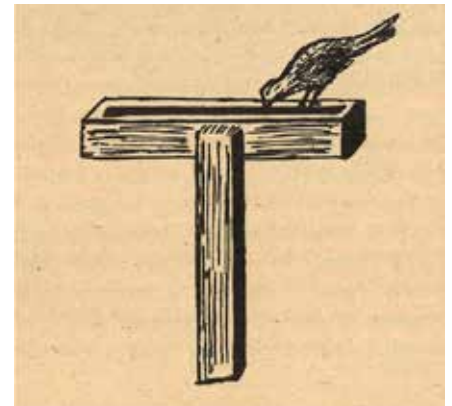
I've always been interested in the evolution of birds from their ancestral line of feathered dinosaurs (Long live the dinosaurs!), but recently found myself captivated reading about the evolution of bird feeders. It illustrates the creativity and practical attention to detail we can apply when we strive to help birds.

If all we wanted was to supply food to birds, we could just throw some seed on the ground, but in the twentieth century feeders became quite popular and underwent a rapid series of design changes. Roofs were added to protect from rain and snow. It became clear over time that other animals (squirrels, cats, rats) might get more than their fair share, so feeders were designed to be hung and mounted away from the ground. Then competition from larger birds (and

acrobatic squirrels) encouraged designs that made it more difficult for larger animals to access the seed.

In addition to weather, mammals, and large birds, another unwelcome visitor was bacteria. Feeders are designed to keep bird excrement from accumulating on top of the food. And we now consider a good bird feeder to be one that is easy to take apart and clean. One of my favorite birding activities is enjoying their antics at the feeders. But keeping those feeders clean is essential!

Info and pictures from: Lähdesmäki et al. (2024). *Bird feeding devices exclude unwelcome visitors*. More-than-humans shaping the architecture and technology of birdfeeders in twentieth-century Finland. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 0 (0)



Circa 1924



Source: Kameleontti (1981) *Etelä-Suomen Sanomat*



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See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Saturday Bird Outings & Events

Lalla Pudewell, tolalla@gmail.com

First Saturday Bird Outings, July 6 & August 3

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 Outings, July 20 & August 17

Our Third Saturday Bird Outings continue to be open to all participants. Leaders and locations are TBA. Details of each will be posted on our website and Facebook page as we get closer to the dates.

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

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May's Third Saturday Bird Outing

By Outing Coordinator Lalla Pudewell

May's Third Saturday Bird Outing on May 18 was led by Rachael Friese at Skinner Butte Park.

Two Red-breasted Sapsuckers were seen in the RiverPlay parking lot where we met, one drumming enthusiastically on a metal sign. As our group of 26 began walking up the road to the summit, Northern Flickers called from upslope and California Scrub-Jays were viewed near the columns. Wilson's Warblers and a Yellow Warbler sang from concealed locations in the shrubbery.

On the mid-elevation trail at the south meadow, the group spread out. Many saw a pair of Lazuli Buntings in the tall grass. Lesser Goldfinch were also seen and heard. Western Tanagers called from the treetops but stayed hidden from view. A Western Wood-Pewee on the edge of the east meadow provided scope views for many of the group. Cedar Waxwings flew in flocks across the summit.

It was a beautiful morning! Thank you, Rachael for sharing your time and expertise. We covered about two miles and identified 42 species.