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The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, audubon@laneaudubon.org

- Answering phone calls
- Managing incoming email questions
- Publicity for events

If you are interested in the work we do but would like more specific information about any of these needs, email audubon@laneaudubon.org or call 541.343.8664. If you already know you'd like to help, please let us know by going to the volunteer tab at the top of our website (laneaudubon.org/volunteer/) and enter your information.

We Need More Volunteers!



with the work needed to keep our organization running smoothly.

Please consider signing up as a volunteer for our group. We need help with basic operational activities such as:

- Program room set up (monthly, nine times per year)
- Program Zoom hosting (monthly, nine times per year)
- Tracking and documenting calendar activities that need to be reported for annual reports, plus documenting activity numbers
- Overseeing *The Quail* printing timeline once *The Quail* goes to the printer, plus enter data into the Post Office's bulk mailing system prior to mailing
- Picking up and sorting mail (background check is required)

Lane Audubon is a relatively small all-volunteer organization. Our operational work, that which keeps everything moving along month to month, needs some new folks to help. We are asking for a few members to get in touch and share enough information about themselves so we can align their skills and interests

The Impossible

Bats can hear shapes.
Plants can eat light.
Bees can dance maps.

We can hold all these ideas at once and feel both heavy and weightless with the absurd beauty of it all.

From *Field Guide to the Haunted Forest* by Jarod K. Anderson

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

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/)



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Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, debschlenoff@gmail.com

Let's Help Birds!



Photo: ndbirds.org



Photo: birdsavers.com

Example of tie-down cords for Acopian BirdSavers

Why? There is no way to put a value on the joy that birds bring to us, the wonder that we experience when we see or hear them, the creativity fostered by their presence, and the fulfillment that they bring to our lives. Yet, many have recognized the economic value of the services that they provide for the natural world.

Birds act as pollinators. They provide pest control for both pesky insects and rodents, which helps to allow for better crop growth, protect our gardens, and decrease disease transmission. They also provide weed control. They disperse seeds. They scavenge carrion. They help to cycle nutrients. They transform the environment in ways that are beneficial to other species.

How?

- Birds need habitat: food, water, and shelter.
- Garden with native plants. Plant a diversity of native vegetation – flowers, shrubs, and trees.
- Check out the great resources in our Habitat Haven Program: laneaudubon.org/habitat-haven/
- Provide cover. Shrubs, brush piles, leaves, dead trees (snags) are great sources of shelter.
- Reduce or eliminate lawns. Leave some grassy areas unmowed.
- Leave some bare patches for ground-nesting solitary native bees.
- Provide food and fresh water. Feeders and bird baths are enjoyed by birds and by the people who get to watch them.
- Keep your bird feeders and water source clean. (Immerse feeders for a couple of minutes in a solution of one part household chlorine bleach to nine parts water, rinse well, then air dry.)
- Help keep birds safe and healthy.
- Don't poison the birds and the food that they rely upon—avoid the use of chemical pesticides, rodenticides, and herbicides.
- Birds don't see glass. Help prevent window collisions. Provide external screens. Parallel, vertical strings spaced 4 inches apart can be placed on the outside of windows. Use closely spaced decals on the outside of the window. FMI: flap.org/stop-birds-from-hitting-windows/
- Migrating birds are disoriented by artificial lighting. Shield outdoor

lights and direct them downward. Use timers and motion sensors to reduce unnecessary light. Close curtains and blinds in the evenings. FMI: laneaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/lights_out_campaign.pdf

- Outdoor cats kill billions of birds each year. Allowing your cats to roam outdoors can significantly shorten their lives. Keep cats indoors for their health as well as the safety of native wildlife. FMI: humanesociety.org/resources/home-sweet-home-how-bring-outside-cat-indoors
- Spread the word: use lead-free ammunition. Birds of prey scavenge carcasses and are poisoned by lead shot. Water birds are poisoned by lead sinkers used for fishing.
- Don't feed waterfowl. Despite good intentions, it increases transmission of disease, conflict, stress, and malnourishment. Especially, don't feed them bread.

Consumer choices matter:

- Reduce use of plastics.
- Recycle, reduce, reuse.
- Your meal choices affect the overall health of the environment. Consume more plant-based meals. Buy local. Buy organic.
- Drink shade-grown/organic coffee to help improve habitat for migratory birds.

Bring your friends and family outside. Enjoy the color, sound, and splendor of birds!



Photo: Cary Kerst

Yellow-breasted Chat, Fern Ridge

Field Notes: August 2024

Tom and Allison Mickel, atmickel@gmail.com



Photo: Yerpo, Wikimedia Commons

Mute Swan



Photo: JMike Baird, Wikimedia Commons

Long-billed Curlew eating sand crab

Manx's Shearwater, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Mute Swan, Long-billed Curlew, Horned Puffin

This was a very different August weather-wise, with a cool period and thunderstorms toward the end of the month and a hot spell at the very end. August is always a quiet month. With the breeding season over, the fields and forests don't resound with bird song as they did in the previous few months. But as birds start to move away from their breeding grounds, you are never sure what you might find while birding. Also, it's the start of fall migration, especially for birds that breed in the far north. Consequently, the coast and inland mudflats can host quite a diversity.

Abbreviations:

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

Mute Swan	.....Aug.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	M.ob.	.....	Rarely seen in Lane Co
Red-necked Grebe	.....Aug 3	NJSR.....	LH.....	.....	Many more reports; earlier than normal
Black Swift (2)	.....Aug 25.....	NJSR.....	SH,DP .....	.....	Rarely found in fall, especially at the coast
Calliope Hummingbird	.....Aug 17.....	Creswell	CC,MG .....	.....	Rarely found in the valley except for spring
Sandhill Crane	.....Aug 6	FRR	SMa.....	.....	Rarely found in the valley except for spring
Sandhill Crane (4)	.....Aug 18.....	Quaking Aspen swamp.....	KK.....	.....	Appear to be breeding at this location
American Golden-Plover	.....Aug 13	FRR - Royal Ave.....	RR,DA.....	.....	Found in small numbers most fall migrations
Pacific Golden-Plover	.....Aug 6	FRR - Royal Ave.....	SD .....	.....	Found in small numbers most fall migrations
Long-billed Curlew (2)	.....Aug 18.....	NJSR.....	CS,MC .....	.....	Rare migrant to the coast
Marbled Godwit	.....Aug 1	SJSR.....	RS .....	.....	Small numbers found during migration
Red Phalarope (20)	.....Aug 21.....	Ocean Beach SP	MP .....	.....	Very early for this species
Willet	.....Aug 1	SJSR	RS .....	.....	Small numbers found during migration
Ruddy Turnstone	.....Aug 2	SJSR	JB .....	.....	Small numbers found during fall migration
Red Knot	.....Aug 22	FRR - W Coyote.....	NS .....	.....	Small numbers found during migration
Surfbird	.....Aug 17.....	Heceta Head.....	SH,DP .....	.....	Earlier than normal
Baird's Sandpiper	.....Aug 23	FRR - Royal Ave.....	RR.....	.....	Small numbers found during migration
Horned Puffin	.....Aug 12	NJSR.....	DP,SH.....	.....	Less than fifteen records for Lane Co
Cassin's Auklet	.....Aug 15.....	Tokattee Klootchman.....	TJ,et.al. ....	.....	Earlier than normal
Short-billed Gull	.....Aug 15.....	NJSR.....	TJ,et.al. ....	.....	Earlier than normal
Common Tern (23)	.....Aug 31.....	FRR - Perkins Pen.....	AC .....	.....	Normally occur this time of the year

continued on page 4



Photo: US Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters Wikimedia Commons

Horned Puffin pair



Photo: James St. John, Wikimedia Commons

Leach's Storm-Petrel



Photo: Chiswick Chap, Wikimedia Commons

Two Manx Shearwaters shearing the water

Leach's Storm-Petrel.....	Aug 17.....	Siltcoos River beach	LH.....	Very rare from land
Sooty Shearwater.....	Aug 12.....	NJSR.....	DP,SH.....	Earlier than normal
Manx's Shearwater	Aug 9.....	Bray Point.....	NS.....	About the third report for Lane Co
White-faced Ibis (18).....	Aug 2.....	Westmoreland area.....	SG.....	Flying over headed NW
White-faced Ibis.....	Aug 6.....	FRR – Royal Ave.....	SD.....	Around most of the month
Gray Flycatcher.....	Aug 29.....	Sutton Campground.....	LH.....	Rarely found along the coast
Horned Lark.....	Aug 23.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	JS.....	Earlier than normal
Bank Swallow	Aug 13.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	DA,RR.....	Small numbers found in the fall
American Pipit.....	Aug 3.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	SMe.....	Earlier than normal
Lark Sparrow.....	Aug 10.....	Heceta Head.....	DAI.....	Rarely found along the coast
Lark Sparrow.....	Aug 24.....	SJSR.....	SH,DP.....	Rarely found along the coast
Great-tailed Grackle.....	Aug 3.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	MP.....	Last report of this bird

AC Alan Contreras, CC Cindy Carson, CS Chaney Swiney, DA Dennis Arendt, DAI Don Alford, DP Diane Pettey, JB Justin Bright, JS John Sullivan, KK Kayla Kumle, LH Lars Hovde, MC Matt Cahill, MG Maureen Geiger, MP Magnus Persmark, NS Noah Strycker, RR Roger Robb, RS Rob Santry, SD Steve Dignam, SG Steve Gordon, SH Sally Hill, SMa Sylvia Maulding, SMe Sarah Merkle, TJ Tye Jeske. **M.ob.** signifies many observers.

End of Summer Habitat Haven Update

By Barbara Bryson

We are delighted with how quickly participation in Lane Audubon's backyard certification program has grown. Our first site visit was on May 23 of this year, and by August 31, our terrific volunteers had already completed 44 more!

We continue to enroll participants and have received appreciative and positive responses from the community. It is heartening to see people embracing the concept of microhabitat creation, with native plants benefiting our birds and pollinators so much more than ornamental shrubs and flowers. It is more important than ever that we strive to heal nature one yard at a time! With more participation, we will see greater green space connections that provide corridors of safety and sustenance to wildlife.

In my own yard, when we cut down some dead Douglas firs, we left standing snags that now house nesting Northern Flickers, Downy Woodpeckers, chickadees and even Pileated Woodpeckers! Native

wildflowers host several different kinds of native bees, and we spotted our first Monarch caterpillar on a patch of Milkweed! You, too, can make a difference!

Besides helping to choose appropriate native plants, we advise enrollees in the program about soil health, eliminating pesticides, water conservation, wildlife stewardship, and which invasive plants to remove. Yes, folks do get passionate about removing ivy and Herb Robert!

What are some next steps?

While we continue with our residential program, we are in the beginning stages of collaboration with BIPOC community leaders to help with native pollinator gardens at larger, more public spaces in our area. Translation of our webpage into Spanish is a goal as well.

Science tells us that people benefit mentally from spending time among bird song and in green spaces. Shade equity is also important as “heat islands” become dangerously hot for less advantaged people in our

community. These are issues we hope to impact positively in the future.

I want to give a shout out to our wonderful volunteers: **Steve Soltesz, Ev Sherr, Jackie Johnson, Alan and Janet Butler, Aryana Ferguson, and Cammi Ganshert.** Thank you for your passion and commitment to helping our community!!

If any of this calls to you, and you have experience with native plants, consider applying to become a volunteer. Forms are available on our website at laneaudubon.org.



Ev Sherr's side yard, before and after

LCAS Program—In Person and Zoom Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



Pet Peeving Our Way Through Paradise: Brazil's Atlantic Rainforest and Pantanal



Ram Papish and Roy Lowe

Join the Lane County Audubon Society (LCAS) on Tuesday, October 22, for a program by two of our favorite story tellers and photographers: Ram Papish and Roy Lowe. They will take us along on their recent adventures in Brazil. Participants will have the opportunity to get to know individual wild jaguars in the Pantanal, our world's largest tropical wetland. And to enjoy visiting southeast Brazil and the world's greatest bird feeding station in the Mata Atlantica, a unique and endangered ecosystem of great biological diversity.

Ram Papish worked for more than 20 field seasons as a wildlife biologist studying birds and other

wildlife, primarily in Alaska. As a writer and artist, he has authored and illustrated two children's books: *The Little Fox* and *The Little Seal*, published by University of Alaska Press. His illustrations appear in many other books and publications, including the *History of Oregon Ornithology*; *As the Condor Soars: Conserving Oregon's Birds*; *Handbook of Oregon Birds*; *Northwest Birds in Winter*, *Oregon Birds*; and *Seabirds of Alaska*. He regularly presents on science and nature topics at bird festivals, local bird clubs and in public schools. In his presentations, he combines his backgrounds in art, science, and public speaking to engage and educate on environmental topics. As this will be his sixth program for us, Ram is well known to our local Audubon members. He lives with his wife, Dawn, in Toledo, Oregon.

Roy Lowe is an avid photographer and birder who resides in Waldport, Oregon. Employed with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more than 37 years, he retired in 2015.

You can see and hear their presentation at the Campbell Center (155 High Street) at 7:00 pm on October 22, Tuesday. Doors open for social time at 6:30. This program will also be recorded and available via Zoom for members who cannot attend the meeting in person. The Zoom link will be available on the LCAS website a week before the event.



A Jabiru Stork pair

Photo: Ram Papish



A tapir

Photo: Ram Papish



A jaguar, swimming

Photo: Ram Papish



Yellow-fronted Woodpecker

Photo: Jim Regali



Red-necked Tanager

Photo: Jim Regali

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

November: October 1
December-January: November 1

Submit material to Karen Irmischer at quailkaren1@gmail.com

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Lane County Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President	Maeve Sowles.....541.343.8664..... audubon@laneaudubon.org
Treasurer	Ron Renchler.....541.345.0834..... christyandron2@gmail.com
Members	Barbara Bryson bbryson150@gmail.com
	Cecelia Hagen audadv@laneaudubon.org
	Katie McInnis katminrin@gmail.com
	Debbie Schlenoff.....541.685.0610..... debschlenoff@gmail.com

Lane County Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Audubon Phone	volunteer needed .....541.485.BIRD
Audubon Adventures	Cecelia Hagen audadv@laneaudubon.org
Audubon in the Schools	Barb Pope aitsbirds@gmail.com
Booth	Ron Renchler.....541.345.0834..... christyandron2@gmail.com
Conservation	Debbie Schlenoff.....541.685.0610..... debschlenoff@gmail.com
Field Notes	Allison & Tom Mickel..... atmickel@gmail.com
Bird Outings	Lalla Pudewell..... tolalla@gmail.com
Membership Data	Tim Godsil.....541.915.8852 tgodsil@gmail.com
Program Coordinator	Dennis Arendt .....541.221.3691 dennisarendt@gmail.com
Quail Editor	Karen Irmischer quailkaren1@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Jan Rising janrising47@gmail.com
Webmaster	Hilary Dearborn..... hcdearborn@gmail.com

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

Swifties' Night Outside Agate Hall; Not a Single Sequin in Sight!



Nature-loving swifties on a warm summer evening

Close to sunset on Friday, September 6, (and several nights before and after), countless bird-lovers could be found gazing up at the sky above Agate Hall. On this beautiful late summer evening, they were fascinated by a real-life nature show: watching thousands of Vaux's Swifts circling overhead, waiting for them to funnel down the Hall's iconic chimney. And keeping an eye on the hungry Cooper's Hawk perched on the chimney's edge, awaiting its dinner delivery.

This show goes on twice a year for a number of days in the spring and again at summer's end as the swifts make their long-distance migrations back and forth between the Pacific Northwest and Central America. They spend their entire day on the wing, devouring thousands of insects daily. Thousands of the birds stop to rest in the Agate Hall Chimney every night, as well as in other chimneys or tree snags along the way. The Agate Hall

Chimney on the UO campus has been a major nighttime migration roosting site for more than 40 years.

This particular night was special in two ways: the Lane County Audubon Society was staffing an information table, and KLCC's Brian Bull was gathering images and information for KLCC's radio show and official YouTube channel. Maeve Sowles and Dick Lamster shared information with Brian for his stories. His YouTube video went online soon after, and his audio story was aired on KLCC as well. He has graciously shared links to those stories with us, as well as sharing some of his photos and permission to use them.

Here they are.

klcc.org/arts-culture/2024-09-05/vauxs-swift-roosting-ritual-demonstrates-adaptation-congregation-and-sacrifice
youtube.com/watch?v=u_WSonNM_D4



Cooper's Hawk, dinner shopping



Swift watchers



Vaux's Swifties

Thanks to Birds

Birds are dinosaurs who shrugged off a couple apocalypses. Some eat bone marrow. Some drink nectar. They outswim fish in the sea. They smile politely at gravity's demands. I am grateful to see them. I am grateful to feed them. I am grateful to know them.

From *Field Guide to the Haunted Forest* by Jarod K. Anderson



Check your mailing label. Has
your *Quail* subscription expired?
See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Saturday Bird Outings & Events

Lalla Pudewell, tolalla@gmail.com

First Saturday Bird Outing, October 5

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, October 19

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

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



Pix taken by Lalla Pudewell during a previous outing

Third Saturday Bird Outing, August 17

By Barb Bryson

We met at the so-called Walterville Ponds, which were essentially dry. Nevertheless, we had a nice morning under almost clear skies. At the outset we heard an Osprey calling. Soon we also heard Wrentits among the willows. A Black-throated Gray Warbler sat uncharacteristically still in a shrub several feet away, giving us good looks. Thank you to **Katie McInnis** for guiding our group of 13 on this outing!

All in all, we encountered 29 species on our 1.35-mile loop.

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Help us lower costs and reduce our
carbon footprint.

Email audubon@laneaudubon.org to
receive the eQuail!

