

The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

Please consider receiving The Quail electronically



From Our Treasurer

Ron Renschler, 541.345.0834, christyandron2@gmail.com

Fall Is Here!



Photo: Wikimedia Commons, National Archives and Records Administration

Fall birders

Fall. It's many people's favorite season. Birding picks up again after a relatively quiet summer, and many of us get back to our normal routines. Speaking of routines, it's in November of each year when Lane County Audubon Society (LCAS) asks for your financial support.

Your LCAS membership and support continue to offer many benefits. *The Quail* newsletter (which you're probably reading right now) and

web pages at laneaudubon.org are filled with details on our many programs and activities, old and new. Two monthly bird outings, programs by expert presenters, and education in and out of the classroom are just a few of the activities we offer. You're welcome to participate in any or all of them.

This year, we started a new program called **Habitat Haven** that focuses on landscaping your yard with native plants, benefiting the birds, pollinators, and you! More info about this program can be found at laneaudubon.org/habitat-haven/ or on page 2 of this issue.

Of course, there are several other ways you can help our organization. You can volunteer to assist with any of our programs. See our online Volunteer page at laneaudubon.org/volunteer-opportunities-the-latest.

You can also save us paper, printing, and postage costs by choosing to receive your *Quail* newsletter online instead of in print. (Photos in the online version are in glorious full color!) You'll automatically receive an email notification and link each time a new issue appears. To opt for this, just check the appropriate box on your **membership form or online submission**.

And, of course, you can support LCAS financially by renewing your local membership and making a donation. Your donation is tax-deductible, and it's easy to make—just use the envelope you'll find in this issue or go to laneaudubon.org and click on the Memberships and Donate links.

Whether you plan to renew your membership and/or donate now, or have recently done so, we thank you heartily for your ongoing support.

Save the Date!
2024 Christmas Bird Count
Sunday Dec 29, 2024

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

Habitat News

Good news from the Elliott State Research Forest

At their September meeting, the board of the Elliott voted unanimously to add 10,000 acres to the existing 32,000 acre “Big Block Reserve,” expanding it to >42,000 acres (more than half the forest). Strong protections in this reserve will allow for growth of older, more complex forests, providing more habitat and biodiversity. This also increases carbon sequestration capacity in this state forest, lowering harmful greenhouse gas emissions by storing carbon dioxide in trees and enabling the potential to sell those benefits as carbon credits.

Sad news from the Klamath Basin

A devastating outbreak of botulism at the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge in the Klamath Basin, near the California-Oregon border, has killed more than 75,000 birds. This is the worst botulism outbreak in the recorded history of the refuge, surpassing the 2020 outbreak. The Klamath Basin wetlands act as critical habitat for nesting and migrating birds along the Pacific Flyway. In August, along with 15 other conservation

groups, we requested the release of more water to the refuge. Although the delivery of this additional water provided some short-term relief, hot and dry conditions through the end of the summer continued to shrink the wetlands. Bird Ally X, a nonprofit organization that rescues injured birds in the region, set up an avian botulism response team and successfully treated some of the affected birds, but most could not be saved. Although autumn’s coming cold will stop the outbreak, the number of deaths is unacceptable. Long-term solutions must be enacted to prevent massive outbreaks in the future. We hope that the time is right for tribes, farmers and other water users, agencies, and conservation organizations to form a productive partnership that works to restore resiliency, hydrologic connectivity, and function in the Klamath Basin.

Habitat at home

We strive for a community that can provide resources for birds and insects where we live. If enough of us plant natives and take other steps to support wildlife, we can create the connectivity needed for successful coexistence. Check out the great information in our resources list at laneaudubon.org/habitat-haven or join our Habitat Haven program.



Photo: Barb Bryson

Sheila Klest, founder of Trillium Gardens with Barb Bryson. Trillium gave HH participants a 34% discount off of retail prices.

Habitat Haven update

By Barb Bryson, Habitat Haven Director

Since its beginnings in mid-May, the Habitat Haven team has completed 44 site reports! Thank you all for caring about our local ecology and supporting birds and pollinators!

We will be continuing our program through the winter. Please submit an application if you are interested.

We have a new gold star certified yard! Strata and Mike have removed their front lawn and transformed it into 1,540 square feet of natural habitat! (see photo below).

Happy fall! Be sure to leave your leaves for wildlife and soil enhancement.



Photo: Barb Bryson

Strata and Mike are gold star certified



Receive *The Quail* electronically

Help us lower costs and reduce our carbon footprint.

Email audubon@laneaudubon.org to receive the eQuail!



Field Notes: September 2024

Tom and Allison Mickel, atmickel@gmail.com

White-faced Ibis, Black-and-White Warbler, Sabine's Gull, Snow Goose, Eared Grebe

The season is changing, obvious both in the weather and the birds. Winter residents are arriving, and summer breeders are leaving, as you can see from the reports below.

Abbreviations:

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

Snow Goose.....	Sept 23.....	SE Eugene.....	JG.....	Earlier than normal
Cackling Goose.....	September.....	Willamette Valley.....	M.ob.....	Earlier than normal
Red-breasted Merganser.....	Sept 6.....	Siltcoos River.....	AK.....	First report for the winter
Horned Grebe.....	Sept 18.....	Tokatee Klootchman.....	SM,LP.....	First report for the winter
Eared Grebe.....	Sept 7.....	SJSR.....	RA.....	First report for the winter
Common Nighthawk.....	Sept 2.....	Florence area.....	DP.....	Last report for the breeding season
Sora.....	Sept 20.....	FRR – Royal Ave.....	SH.....	Last report for the breeding season
American Golden-Plover.....	Sept 11.....	FRR – Royal Ave.....	NS.....	Last report for the fall migration
Pacific Golden-Plover.....	Sept 24.....	Sutton Beach.....	LH.....	Last report for the fall migration
Sabine's Gull.....	Sept 7.....	FRR.....	NS.....	Seen in small numbers most falls
White-faced Ibis.....	Aug 27.....	FRR.....	VT.....	Unusual for fall migration
Merlin.....	September.....	FRR & Coast.....	M.ob.....	Arriving for the winter
Western Kingbird.....	Sept 3.....	Bob Creek.....	AC,JG.....	Later than normal
Western Kingbird (photos).....	Sept 27.....	S Canary Rd.....	JG.....	Very late for this species
Cassin's Vireo.....	Sept 10.....	SE Eugene.....	M.ob.....	Last report for the breeding season
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	September.....	Eugene area.....	M.ob.....	Arrivals began first part of the month
House Wren.....	Sept 3.....	FRR Perkins.....	LM.....	Last report for the breeding season
American Pipit.....	Sept 7.....	FRR- Royal Ave.....	NS.....	First report for the winter
White-throated Sparrow.....	Sept 24.....	Dorena Reservoir.....	MA.....	First report for the winter
Yellow-breasted Chat.....	Sept 6.....	FRR.....	MN.....	Last report for the breeding season
Bullock's Oriole.....	Sept 8.....	Meadowlark Prairie.....	VT.....	Last report for the breeding season
Black-and-White Warbler.....	Sept 1.....	River Rd area.....	MM.....	Less than twenty records for Lane
Black-and-White Warbler.....	Sept 15&19.....	Siltcoos River.....	LH,JK.....	Less than twenty records for Lane
Black-headed Grosbeak.....	Sept 17.....	River Rd area.....	JC.....	Last report for the breeding season
Lazuli Bunting.....	Sept 10.....	Finn Rock Reach.....	JO.....	Last report for the breeding season

AC Alan Contreras, AK Aaron Katz, DP Diane Pettey, JB Justin Bright, JC Joe Castino, JG Joshua Galpern, JK John Kingeter, JO Jeff Oaks, LH Lars Hovde, LM Luke McAlister, LP Lalla Pudewell, MA Mathias Anderson, MM Marcia Maffei, MN Mark Nikas, NS Noah Strycker, RA Ramiro Aragon, SH Steve Heinl, SM Sylvia Maulding, VT Vjera Thompson. **M.ob.** signifies many observers.



White-faced Ibis

Photo: USFWS Mountain-Prairie, Wikimedia



Black-and-white Warbler

Photo: Iwolfartist, Wikimedia



Snow Goose

Photo: Frank Schulerburg, Wikimedia



Sabine's Gull

Photo: Ómar Rudolfsson, Wikimedia



Eared Grebe

Photo: Bohuš Čížek, Wikimedia



photos by Holly Knight

Unkempt feeders at Pete Moore Hospice; Feeders and seed donated by Wild Birds Unlimited, co-owner Barbara Gleason.

Bird Feeders and Seed Needed

By Holly Knight

When I first began tending the feeders at Pete Moore Hospice House, many were in a state of disrepair and the seed was either sprouting or of poor quality. I enlisted the support of **Wild Birds Unlimited**, which generously donated some feeders and seed. Now, even more birds are visiting, which means additional donations are needed!

Our wish list includes: new or used supplies like cylinder feeders, dome covers, and pole systems; No-mess Northwest seeds, black oil sunflower seeds, and suet; and gift certificates to WBU. If you drop me a line at the same time, I can ensure that you receive a donation receipt for tax purposes. Questions? Contact Holly at hollytom@gmail.com.

The goldfinches, chickadees, and hummingbirds at Pete Moore Hospice House now provide joy to the residents and staff alike. Thank you for your support!

LCAS at SE Eugene Picnic and Springfield Public Library

LCAS joined numerous nonprofits at the Southeast Eugene Neighborhood Picnic event on September 7. Several Lane Audubon booth volunteers were on hand to answer questions and talk to Eugene residents who attended the event.

Thank you to LCAS booth volunteers **Connie Berglund**, **Barbara Bryson**, and **Jan Jamieson**. One LCAS booth volunteer wished to remain anonymous.

LCAS also currently has an educational display of its taxidermied birds at the Springfield Public Library. The library is located at 225 5th Street (inside City Hall) in Springfield. Stop by and look at the display if you get a chance.

Birds can't vote, but you can.

Take the pledge:
audubon.org/IBirdIVote

Scan here

Save the Date!
2024 Christmas Bird Count — Sunday Dec 29, 2024

LCAS Program—In Person and Zoom Tuesday, November 26, 2024, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



Fringed Leaf Frog

Bolivia: Birds, Bugs and Boas



John Sullivan

Join us Tuesday, November 26, for a spectacular program about unusual creatures in areas of South America where travelers rarely go. **John Sullivan** has presented programs for us many times. Every time we have been educated and amazed!

John and his wife, **Laura Johnson**, joined a herpetology-focused tour of Bolivia in early 2024. The group explored many diverse ecosystems across the country, from the semiarid tropical lowland in the southeast

corner to the Amazon Rainforest in the extreme north and Lake Titicaca on the Peruvian border in the high Andes. John will present a photo collection of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, insects and spiders captured during their Bolivian wildlife adventure.

John and Laura's passion for nature began where they grew up in the Midwest. They relocated to Oregon together in 2001. Both enjoy hiking, biking, and birding locally, as well as exploring the natural world throughout Oregon. Annual birding/nature trips across the country are taken regularly, along with occasional international trips.

You can see John and Laura's photos and hear details of their adventures on Tuesday, November 26, at 7 pm at the Campbell Center, 155 High Street. Doors open at 6:30 for some social time. The zoom link for this program will be posted on the Lane County Audubon Society website several days before the event. This program will also be recorded and posted on our website within a week, for members who cannot attend the meeting in-person.



John Sullivan and Laura Johnson



Photo: John Sullivan

Chlorosoma laticeps



Photo: John Sullivan

Fringed Leaf Frog



Photo: John Sullivan

Pinktoe Tarantula

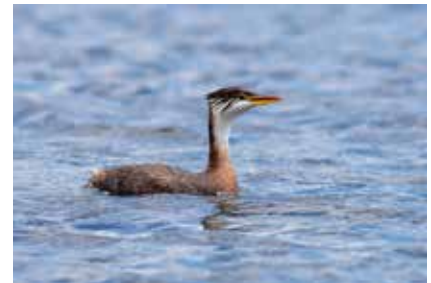


Photo: John Sullivan

Titicaca Grebe



Photo: John Sullivan

Eighty Butterfly

Lane County Audubon Society



The Quail is the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society, a chartered chapter of National Audubon Society. Local members of National Audubon Society receive a free subscription to *The Quail* but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane County Audubon Society.

The Quail Subscriptions

Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com

The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

December-January: November 1
February: January 1

Submit material to Karen 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

Lane County Audubon Society Yearly Membership

- Individual \$20.....\$ _____
- Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15.....\$ _____
- Family \$25.....\$ _____
- Lifetime Membership \$400.....\$ _____
- I want to do more. Here's my tax-deductible contribution for\$ _____
- Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society).....\$ _____

To pay by PayPal, go to laneaudubon.org/support/join

I am a Current National Audubon member Don't know

Please contact me regarding

Gift memberships Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I would prefer to receive the e-Quail newsletter by e-mail.

I would like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

I would like to volunteer for Lane County Audubon activities.

Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organizations. We will use it only for Lane County Audubon Society communications.

Mail this form and your payment to: Lane County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

Volunteer Spotlight: LaRue Rodgers

By Cecelia Hagen

Following the Trail of *The Quail*



LaRue and Robert with their pal Toto

Paper issues of *The Quail* don't fly into readers' hands—they arrive thanks to **LaRue Rodgers** and her husband, **Robert Piersol**. After it's printed, they label and distribute each issue, while enjoying the happy companionship of their white terrier, Toto.

The number of mailed *Quails* has decreased as more readers are opting to enjoy reading the electronic version (in vibrant color!), sparing LCAS the expense of printing while cutting down on the amount of paper used. Still, LaRue notes, the number of mailed copies “has not gone down significantly—it's definitely more than 1,000.”

When the mailing labels and newsletters are ready, LaRue picks them up at InstaPrint. Back at home, it takes the couple two or more hours to affix the labels. They then bring the trays of labeled *Quails* to the post office. From her home, LCAS president **Maeve Sowles** fills out the electronic order form.

The Quails that are not mailed are distributed to various spots in Eugene

and Springfield. This is the part Toto likes best, because he loves to ride along as LaRue and Robert take copies to **Down to Earth**, **UO's Museum of Natural & Cultural History**, **Gray's Garden Center**, **Sundance**, **Wild Birds Unlimited**, and the **Eugene and Springfield Public Libraries**. Eugene's downtown library is the most popular pick-up spot, so the team typically goes there twice or more each month.

LaRue started her *Quail* volunteering in 2014. Back then, a small group of women who called themselves “the Quail Mailers” enjoyed tea and sweets after their monthly task was done. LaRue remembers them all fondly and says that **Janet Jernberg's** homemade apple pie “was the best ever.” (See the November 2020 *Quail* to read “Remembering Janet Jernberg.”)

When Covid hit, LaRue's partner Robert became “a big player,” in her

words, and the two of them have been handling it on their own ever since, without fail or fanfare.

Although she's always been fond of birds, LaRue didn't get serious about birding until she retired from working for 20 years as a nurse. She started looking for birds and went to some birding festivals. Memorable sightings include a Resplendent Quetzal in Costa Rica, a flock of White-winged Crossbills foraging for grit in the firepit of her campsite in Montana, and an American Bittern (typically a secretive bird) that she encountered at Summer Lake. She recalls it standing “in the middle of the road, stretching its neck and head toward the noonday sun.” These days, LaRue prefers seeing the birds that live near where she does, rather than going to look for them elsewhere.

We're grateful for LaRue's significant and long-time contribution to LCAS, and hope that her story will inspire more *Quail* readers to seek out ways to get involved in helping us spread the word about birds and the world we share with them.



Habitat Haven volunteers, maintaining the roadside area next to Mt. Pisgah's native plant nursery.



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, November 2

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, November 16, 8 am

Our Third Saturday Bird Outings are open to all participants. **Vjera Thompson** will lead this one. Meet at the **Booth Kelley Path Trailhead**, 307 S 5th St. in Springfield. The path is a flat, paved, multi-use path with a couple of benches. We will probably cover 2-3 miles. Those who wish to can return on a flat gravel road, allowing views of the pond from a different angle. Beaver activity over the past year has resulted in some notable habitat changes.

Attendees with accessibility requests can contact Vjera, nemesisquail@gmail.com or talk to her at the start of the walk. The restroom at the parking lot is often closed. To get to the parking lot, turn south on 5th St, then left (east) on South B St.

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

September Third Saturday Bird Outing

By Lalla Pudewell

Eastgate Woodlands and Alton Baker Park—prairie, September 21, 7:50 am - 11:35 am

John Sullivan led our walk on this perfect fall-like morning. Our group of 20, equipped with binoculars and cameras, met at Heron Playground in Springfield. Canada Geese flew in and landed on the lawn to help get our bird list started. We stopped by the river and observed a Spotted Sandpiper bobbing its tail as it moved on logs in the water. A Western Grebe, a less common bird for this location, was also viewed nearby. As we headed through the Eastgate Woodlands, Richard saw and photographed a Lewis's Woodpecker flying over!

Great Blue Herons posed for photos along the canal as well as at the pond in Alton Baker Park. A Green Heron teased us by flying ahead several times to stay just out of clear view. As we walked along the river, John spotted a Peregrine Falcon perched in a distant tree. Returning through the woodlands, we stopped to enjoy a Western Tanager and a group of Cedar Waxwings feasting on elderberries.

Thank you to John Sullivan for once again leading a wonderful Third Saturday Bird Outing! Our list of 44 species can be seen on the web site report.