At the beginning of each year, the Lane County Audubon Board of Directors meets to review the previous year’s activities, plan for the coming year, and develop an operating budget. This meeting is always a satisfying process because it reminds us of how much we accomplish with relatively few financial resources.

None of Lane County Audubon’s long list of activities—bird walks, program meetings, The Quail newsletter, public outreach at local events and festivals, conservation initiatives, classroom education programs (Audubon in the Schools and Audubon Adventures), 541.485.BIRD (the Audubon bird questions phone line), bike path cleanups, and much, much more—would take place without the tireless effort of several dozen cheerful and devoted volunteers. The positive effect of these programs reaches thousands of Lane County residents and others beyond our county borders.

Even if you’re a member who simply enjoys the pleasures of birding and may not be directly involved in planning and carrying out our activities, you’re still an essential part of the organization. Why? Because in addition to sustaining your membership in National Audubon or in our local chapter (or both), many of you respond generously each November when we ask for a small, tax deductible gift to help with the material expenses it takes to sustain our successful education and conservation programs.
As the season of consumer spending climaxes during the holiday season, shoppers need to put their wallets behind their eco-values. Look at the packaging and consider how far it traveled to get to you from where it originated.

There is a domino effect created when we analyze our purchases. A smaller amount of packaging can save thousands of trees and barrels of oil by reducing the trucking costs. Using recycled plastics can provide an equally effective package at a much lower environmental cost. Using less toxic and more concentrated laundry detergents can reduce the amount of packaging and save on water for production; plus, it costs less to ship a more concentrated product.

Even though many of us want to “buy green” the actual number of dollars spent on those products is a tiny fraction of the overall market. Organic food sales have grown $24 billion in the last 10 years, but that accounts for less than 4% of all US food sales. General Electric's energy-efficient line of products and Clorox's less-toxic products are earning profits higher than expected, but the revenue for those “green” products is only 10% of GE’s total revenue and an even smaller portion of Clorox’s.

Making informed decisions when shopping is a priority for those of us who care about our health and the health of the planet, and smart customers want information about the entire life cycle of a product. There are websites and even phone apps to help you find environmental ratings, label debunkers, and toxic detectors to give you tools to make informed choices when shopping.

The average family throws out more than 20% of the food it buys, wasting edibles, money, and creating greenhouse gas emissions from landfills (landfills are the nation’s largest emitter of methane). Turn your food waste into healthy garden soil by composting. For more information go to [deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/compost/](http://deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/compost/).

Each person that purchases greener more efficient products and services makes a strong statement to businesses and policy makers. When you buy environmentally preferable products, you tell the business world that you want “efficient and healthy” to be the rule, not the exception. This helps us all move toward a more efficient and sustainable future. If you must shop, please do it wisely.

A recent Oregon Environmental Council publication compiled the following list of websites to help you make shopping decisions:

- [Goodguide.com](http://goodguide.com) for environmental ratings
- [Eco-labels.org](http://ecolabels.org) to make sure the product labels are true
- [Healthystuff.org](http://healthystuff.org) and [safecosmetics.org](http://safecosmetics.org) to find out toxicity of products
A few things you can do to amplify your voice through your purchases:

- Choose recycled goods and packaging. “Post-consumer” content means the material has been used before in products, and your re-use completes the recycling circle.
- Look for ingredients on cleaning supplies. Most don’t list them, which can mean they’re hiding toxic chemicals that pose a health risk. Buy those that tell what they are made of (and aren’t toxic).
- Buy products that use less packaging and avoid single-use items. Durable, one-time materials make up more than half of the typical household’s garbage.
- Purchase shade-grown “bird-friendly” coffee. It supports tropical residents, retains natural habitat for neotropical migrants, and requires less chemical pesticides and fertilizers.
- Buy sustainable seafood to support fisheries and the ocean environment and stay healthier too. A Seafood Watch Guide can be found at www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA_SeafoodWatch_WestCoastGuide.pdf.
- Eat lower on the food chain. Raising large numbers of livestock degrades habitat and waterways, is resource and water intensive, and contributes to global warming through methane emissions.
- Acquire a reusable water bottle to decrease the plastic waste management burden and save energy by using a local water source.
- When in the market for appliances, look for the Energy Star label. Replace conventional light bulbs with energy efficient ones.
- Many paper goods are the products of clearcut logging throughout Canada’s boreal forest. Buy recycled paper and tissue products with a high recycled content. A shopper’s guide to home tissue products from NRDC can be found at www.nrdc.org/land/forests/gtissue.asp.
- Look for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified products. These products come from forests that have been harvested using good environmental practices.

New observation deck at Kirk Pond

Cody Watson of Troop 54 in Veneta spent his August and September working on an Eagle Scout Project. He built an observation deck by Kirk Pond near Fern Ridge Lake. The deck is 12 x 14 feet, includes a picnic table, is handicap accessible, and has a safety rail around it. He chose this project because of the benefit it will have to our community by enabling people to enjoy the variety of birds and wildlife in that area.

Cody worked with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Army Corps of Engineers to design the deck and find an appropriate location to build it. He solicited donations to fund the construction of the approved project. The total cost of materials was approximately $2,000. Local companies such as Pacific Corrugated, Parr Lumber, Coyote Steel, Eugene Fasteners, and Knife River donated approximately $1,650 worth of materials. ODFW provided a load of gravel, advice, and expertise. Lane Audubon donated $344 cash for supplies to help finish this project.

Good job, Cody! We are sure that many people will use this new observation platform for bird and wildlife watching!
Field Notes: September 2010

- Parasitic Jaegers at Fern Ridge
- Greater White-fronted Geese migrate through Eugene
- Red-necked Grebes makes rare inland appearance
- Baird’s and Semipalmated Sandpipers still hanging around

Tom and Allison Mickel  541.485.7112  tamickel@riousa.com

September is normally the month when most of the neotropical migrants return to Central and South America, and the arctic breeding birds begin to return to Lane County for the winter. As the reports below indicate, this year was no different. Fern Ridge Reservoir hosted a number of unusual species this month, which is normal during migration. Fall migration observations were better than normal at Skinner Butte, and an increased number of bird watchers may have contributed to that.

WATERBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Goose  Sept. 26  Eugene area  m.ob.  Numerous flocks were seen and heard migrating south over the area all day!

Cackling Goose  Sept. 29  FRR  LM,et.al.  First report for the winter season

Harlequin Duck  Sept. 1  Siuslaw River  DHn  Uncommon away from the rocky shore

Horned Grebe (2)  Sept. 18  FRR  JS  Rare on the reservoir

Red-necked Grebe (2)  Sept. 25  Siuslaw River  B&ZS  First report for the winter season

Black-crowned Night Heron (6)  Sept. 26  FRR  JS  Increasing numbers at this roost

RAPTORS to TERNS

Merlin  Sept. 9  SJSR—Crab Dock  B&ZS  First report for the winter season

Peregrine Falcon  Sept. 1  NJSR  B&ZS  Good numbers seen throughout the month

Sandhill Crane  Aug 27  Waldo Lake  DL&KC  They nest in small numbers in the Cascades.

Black-bellied Plover  Sept. 26  FRR  JS  First report for the winter season

Pacific Golden Plover  Sept. 2  FRR—south end  TM  Not common inland

Snowy Plover (19)  Sept. 29  Siltcoos River  B&ZS  Using area of dumped oyster shells

Whimbrel (4)  Sept. 4  FRR—Royal Ave  JS,LJ  Uncommon inland

Marbled Godwit  Sept. 6  SJSR—Crab Dock  B&ZS  Their normal migration time

Red Knot  Sept. 3  SJSR—Dog Pond  RN  Never common in Lane County

Sanderling  Sept. 2  FRR—south end  TM  Not common inland

Semipalmated Sandpiper  Sept. 2  FRR—south end  TM  Getting late for this species

Semipalmated Sandpiper  Sept. 5  Deflation Plain  A&CH  Getting late for this species

Baird’s Sandpiper  Sept. 5  Deflation Plain  A&CH  Getting late for this species

Buff-breasted Sandpiper  Sept. 12  Deflation Plain  A&DHy  The only report this fall

Short-billed Dowitcher (5)  Sept. 12  FRR  JS  Only found in small numbers inland

Red Phalarope  Sept. 1  Siuslaw River  DHn  An early report for this species

Parasitic Jaeger (immature)  Sept. 20  FRR—Shore Lane  JS  Always rare inland, but to see two different birds in two days is really rare!

Parasitic Jaeger (adult)  Sept. 21  FRR—south end  JS  The number increased to three on Sept. 27 (SM).

Sabine’s Gull  Sept. 22  FRR—Perkins Pen.  BB,JM  Found in very small numbers inland this time of year

Sabine’s Gull (adult)  Sept. 25  Siltcoos River  DF  Not commonly found on the beach

Common Tern (19)  Sept. 3  FRR  DI  Normal occurrence each fall in small numbers

Common Tern (2)  Sept. 22  Siuslaw River  DF&LC  Not common along the river

Arctic Tern  Sept. 27  FRR  JD  Maybe the first inland record for Lane Co.

Black Tern (immature)  Sept. 17  FRR  DI,JS  About a month after the breeding birds had left the reservoir

continued on page 7
We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. All of 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!

Lane Audubon welcomes you—join or renew today!

Lane County Audubon Society needs your local membership dues to keep our various programs alive! This means that your membership dues for National Audubon Society no longer support a membership in your local chapter. Become a member of Lane Audubon today to help us continue our educational programs and our work in protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats in Lane County. We appreciate your support.

**Lane Audubon membership dues**

- 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) $ _____

- Current National Audubon member □  Don’t know

Name __________________________________________________________

Mailing address __________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ________ Zip _____________

Phone ______________________ E-mail ____________________________

□ Check here if you prefer to receive your newsletter by e-mail.

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

**Please contact me regarding**

- Gift memberships
- Volunteering for Lane Audubon activities
- Lane Audubon’s Living Legacy program
- I’d like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

Mail this form and your payment to:

Lane County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 5086
Eugene, OR 97405
Asking for your support, continued

Even though we have no paid staff, we must still cover the rising costs of paper and printing, venue rental fees, phone bills, and many other incidental costs. All your local membership dues and a very small portion of the dues from your National Audubon membership help cover the majority of our expenses, but we depend on your gifts during our once-a-year fundraiser to help us get “over the hump” and keep our budget balanced.

We hope you are able to support us again this year. We recognize that these are hard economic times, so we welcome whatever level of giving you can afford. Be assured that we keep our expenses low and spend our resources locally whenever possible.

A reply envelope is included in this issue of The Quail for your convenience. Thank you in advance for supporting Lane County Audubon. And . . . the birds will thank you as well!

Female Wood Duck
Photo by Cary Kerst

Deadlines
Dec/Jan issue: November 13
February issue: January 8
Submit material to Rob Hoshaw, editor
rhoshaw@gmail.com

The Quail is the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society, which is a chartered chapter of National Audubon Society. Nine issues are published per year (May/June, July/Aug., and Dec./Jan. are double issues). Local members of National Audubon Society receive a free subscription to The Quail, but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane Audubon (see page 5).

Subscriptions: Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com.
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### OWLS to GROSBEAKS

**Northern Pygmy Owl**
- Sept. 12
- Lowell Butte
- LJ
- With an alligator lizard in its bill!

**Vaux’s Swift (3,000)**
- Aug 29
- SHMC—University
- RA
- Chimney roost not commonly known about

**Vaux’s Swift (12,000)**
- Sept. 5
- U of O—Agate Hall
- NN-P
- The normal chimney roost

**Vaux’s Swift (3,500)**
- Sept. 29
- N. Willamette St.
- DHy
- Using the chimney at the back of the Smith Family Book Store building

**Rufous Hummingbird**
- Sept. 27
- N. Eugene
- DHy
- Last report for the breeding season

**Lewis’s Woodpecker**
- Sept. 13
- Creswell area
- DHy
- They normally migrate through in small numbers.

**Acorn Woodpecker**
- Sept. 30
- Morse Ranch Park
- CQ
- An area where they’re not normally found

**American Three-toed Woodpecker**
- Sept. 4
- Summit Lake area
- NS
- Always present in small numbers in the High Cascades

**Pileated Woodpecker**
- Sept. 1
- NJSR
- B&ZS
- Not an area where they’re normally found

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**
- Sept. 23
- Skinner Butte
- TM.
- Last report for the breeding season

**Western Wood-Pewee**
- Sept. 1
- Klamath Mountains
- B&Z
- Not an area where they’re normally found

**Warbling Vireo**
- Sept. 15
- Skinner Butte
- TM
- First report for the winter season

**Bank Swallow (2)**
- Sept. 7
- FRR—dam
- DI
- Normally seen in very small number in the fall

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**
- Sept. 15
- Skinner Butte
- LM,et.al.
- First report for the winter season

**Wilson’s Warbler**
- Sept. 23
- Skinner Butte
- TM
- Last report for the breeding season

**Golden-crowned Sparrow**
- Sept. 12
- Florence area
- DI
- First report for the winter season

**Yellow-breasted Chat**
- Sept. 18
- Long Tom River
- DM,et.al.
- Last report for the breeding season

**American Three-toed Woodpecker**
- Sept. 4
- Summit Lake area
- NS
- Always present in small numbers in the High Cascades

**Cassin’s Vireo**
- Sept. 3
- SE Eugene
- TM
- First report for the winter season

**Yellow Warbler**
- Sept. 24
- FRR—Royal Ave
- TM
- Last report for the breeding season

**Black-throated Gray Warbler (20)**
- Sept. 27
- N. Eugene
- DHy
- Last report for the breeding season

**Hermit Thrush**
- Sept. 10
- Skinner Butte
- TM
- Last report for the breeding season

**MacGillivray’s Warbler**
- Sept. 3
- Skinner Butte
- TM
- Last report for the breeding season

**Wilson’s Warbler**
- Sept. 23
- Skinner Butte
- TM
- Last report for the breeding season

**Yellow-breasted Chat**
- Sept. 18
- Long Tom River
- DM,et.al.
- Last report for the breeding season

**Western Tanager**
- Sept. 25
- Skinner Butte
- TM
- First report for the winter season

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**
- Sept. 23
- Skinner Butte
- TM
- First report for the winter season

**Hermit Warbler**
- Sept. 25
- Skinner Butte
- DM
- First report for the winter season

**Bank Swallow (2)**
- Sept. 15
- FRR—dam
- DI
- First report for the winter season

**Fox Sparrow**
- Sept. 12
- Florence area
- DI
- First report for the winter season

**Golden-crowned Sparrow**
- Sept. 6
- Long Tom River
- DI&SF
- First report for the winter season

**Black-headed Grosbeak**
- Sept. 17
- Skinner Butte
- TM
- Last report for the breeding season

**Evening Grosbeak**
- Sept.
- Eugene/Springfield
- m.ob.
- Flocks have been seen throughout the area all month in larger numbers than are normally seen at this time of year.

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**Abbreviations**

Deflation Plain: Deflation Plain at the South Jetty of the Siuslaw River, FRR: Fern Ridge Reservoir,
NJSR: North Jetty of the Siuslaw River, SHMC: Sacred Heart Medical Center, Sillcoos River: Sillcoos River mouth,
Siuslaw River: Siuslaw River mouth, SJSR: South Jetty of the Siuslaw

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**Thank you, contributors!**

Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

Back to Basics: Enhancing your Nature Sketchbook
Mount Pisgah Arboretum
Saturday, November 6, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Join natural science illustrators Kris Kirkeby and Katura Reynolds for a workshop on basic drawing techniques and field sketching. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitors Center. Registration required. Fee: $25 members, $30 non-members. FMI: 541.747.1504

Fall Fruits and Foliage
Mount Pisgah Arboretum
Saturday, November 6, 10 a.m.–noon
Join botanist Rhoda Love and enjoy the fall colors while learning about the adaptive strategies of plants for dealing with the coming of winter. Meet at the Arboretum Visitors Center rain or shine. Registration required. Fee: $5 (donation for MPA members). FMI: 541.747.1504

A Beaver’s Tale
Willamette Resources & Educational Network (WREN)
Saturday, November 6, 4:30–6:00 p.m. (refreshments at 7:00 p.m.)
Explore the West Eugene Wetlands at dusk to learn about these awesome animal architects and their habitat. Meet at the WREN education yurt, 751 S. Danebo Ave., north of West 11th Ave. Fee: $5 members, $7 non-members. FMI: 541.683.6494 or info@wewetlands.org

Color Vision and Color Blindness in Admirals, Coppers, and Metalmarks
North American Butterfly Association
Monday, November 6, 7:30 p.m. (refreshments at 7:00 p.m.)
University of Washington professor Gary Bernard will present a program based on the complex eyes of butterflies. FREE! Meet in the EWEB Training Center, 500 E. 4th Ave. FMI: woodnymph3000@gmail.com

Wetland Wander at Meadowlark Prairie
WREN
Tuesday, November 9, 9:00–10:00 a.m.
Wetland Wanders are casual walks through various areas in the West Eugene Wetlands each 2nd Tuesday of every month. Free! WREN will provide binoculars. FMI: 541.683.6494 or info@wewetlands.org

No School Day Program: Forbs in the Forest
Nearby Nature
Friday, November 12, 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
How do animals build their homes? Make deer beds, a bird nest, and your own fort from the forest during this building adventure. Ages 6–9, maximum 12 children. Registration required. Fee: $30 members, $35 non-members. FMI: 541.687.9699

Nearby Nature Quest: Get Squirrely
Nearby Nature
Saturday, November 13, 10:00 a.m.–noon
Find out who’s getting ready for winter on this late fall wander through park meadows and woodlands. Also enjoy a craft and snacks. Registration required. Fee: $30 members, $35 non-members. FMI or to register: 541.687.9699 or www.nearbynature.org/learnscape/lessons-in-the-learnscape-workshop

Mushrooming on the Mountain
Mount Pisgah Arboretum
Saturday & Sunday, November 13, 14, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. each day
Marcia Peters instructs this two-class for beginners on mushroom identification, ecology, picking, cooking, and more. Meet at the EPUD Building. Registration required. Fee: $75 ($70 for MPA members). FMI: 541.747.1504

Lessons in the Learnscape Workshop: Backyard Habitats
Nearby Nature
Sunday, November 14, 1:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Join instructor Bruce Newhouse in this fall workshop if you’re interested in creating habitat for backyard birds, bees, and butterflies. Meet at Alton Baker Park host residence. Registration required. Fee: free for members (non-members: $2/person, $5/family). FMI: 541.687.9699 or info@nearbynature.org

Strange Days on Planet Earth
Eugene Natural History Society
Friday, November 19, 7:30 p.m.
Bill Ripple, OSU professor of forest science, will talk about the relationship between aspens and wolves in Yellowstone. Meet in 100 Willamette Hall at the University of Oregon. Free. FMI: jmclarkson@Q.com

Play in the Rain Day
WREN
Saturday, November 20, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Join the Youth in Nature Partnership for a free day of outdoor fun in the sun—or rain! Variety of outdoor activities hosted by WREN, Nearby Nature, Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, and many others. Meet at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. FMI: www.youthinnature.org

Mushroom Walk
Mount Pisgah Arboretum
Saturday, November 27, noon–2:00 p.m.
Take a walk through the Arboretum’s forested trails with experienced mycologists Molly Widmer and Chris Meloitt of the Cascade Mycological Society. Meet at the Arboretum Visitors Center rain or shine. Fee: $5 (donation for MPA members). FMI: 541.747.1504

Visit us on Facebook
Visit Lane Audubon on Facebook for a link to a heartwarming article printed in a recent edition of the Register-Guard about Kris Kirkeby and Audubon in the Schools. The article highlights how Kris uses her love of both art and science to create an enriching curriculum for local elementary students.

www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824
Victor Emanuel has traveled the world for over 35 years, ranging over every continent multiple times. At November’s program meeting, Victor will share some of his favorite birding regions and discuss why he likes those areas. He will also discuss why birds have attracted the interest of more people than any other animal category, and how watching birds changes people’s lives.

Victor started birding in Texas 61 years ago at the age of eight. He is the founder and chief compiler of the record breaking Freeport Christmas Bird Count—now in its 50th year. Victor is among the people who started the birding and eco-tourism travel company, VENT, 33 years ago, and he derives great pleasure from seeing and hearing birds and sharing these avian sights and sounds with others.

Victor holds a B.A. in zoology and botany from the University of Texas, and an M.A. in government from Harvard. In 2004 he received the Roger Tory Peterson Award from the American Birding Association, and later, the Arthur A. Allen award from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Victor is on the board of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the American Bird Conservancy. Join us on Tuesday, November 23 at 7:30 p.m. for Victor’s remarkable presentation.

2010 Christmas bird count

Please mark on your calendar for Sunday, January 2, 2011 as the date for the 2010 Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC). This will be the 69th ECBC and the 111th National Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count. Dick Lamster will act as Coordinator again this year, supported by a Steering Committee of Herb Wisner, Dan and Barbara Gleason, and Becky Uhler—plus 26 great bird watchers as Team Leaders. Watch for more information in the December Quail.
Third Saturday Bird Walk—Royal Avenue Oak Woodlands

The 60-acre oak woodlands site off Royal Avenue was studied by a summer class taught by Dave Bontrager, who has visited the site over 60 times. On this trip, he will share what the class learned about the 90 bird species observed, including 30 breeding species and the 95 nests found. This is a great opportunity to learn in-depth information about a specific birding area.

All levels of birders are welcome, from first timer to expert. We will meet at South Eugene High at 19th and Patterson, rain or shine, at 8:00 a.m. and return by 12 noon. A $3 donation is suggested, as well as a share of gas costs for carpooling. Please note: As a precaution, do not leave valuables in your parked car.

Questions? Contact Leila at leilas@ori.org or 541.968.5533.