I wanted to write about winter birding for this issue of The Quail, and decided to ask a few birding friends for their thoughts. The wonderful responses capture many aspects of what makes winter birding special. We hope it will help inspire you to get into the outdoors, or tuck in and watch from a window. Read and enjoy!

Maeve

Dave Bontrager wrote about field trips with bird classes: “I remember a winter trip to Dexter Lake. It was raining part of the morning, and the wind chill factor made conditions barely tolerable. Everyone, including the instructor, was miserable. but we were seeing so many great birds that we couldn’t leave. We’d bird, we’d complain, we’d jump in the cars and warm up, and then we’d go back for more.

Two winters ago I took another group to Dexter Lake. It was snowing so hard that visibility was 100 feet or less. Most of the birds on the lake may as well have been a mile away. In some areas, the snow was 8–10 inches deep. Nearly every person stayed to the very cold but beautiful end. We saw very few birds but sensed that we would likely never experience this again. Why? It was April!

One more winter memory is from December of last year. On a morning trip to Kirk Pond the temperature at starting time was a brisk 12 degrees! But the weather had improved by the following Sunday when the second section of the class enjoyed a balmy 18 degrees. And what was the name of this course? You guessed it, ‘Birds in Winter.’ Sometimes you can’t help but question your sanity.”
Winter birding perspectives, continued

Leila Snow wrote: “There are so many great places to bird in winter and birds are much easier to see and observe for long periods of time.

I love anywhere on water—Delta Ponds and the bike path north of Valley River are always productive. Water birds seem, well, more used to water. They don’t disappear in our rainy weather and will often let you look at them a good long time. If you boat, it’s a good time to put the kayak out on local streams and lakes; many birds can be observed as you paddle along.

When the winter cloud cover is dense and oppressive, I long for the wide open spaces and head to grasslands for sparrows, Horned Larks, raptors, and other birds. My favorite is Diamond Hill Road—Stop #6 on the Santiam birding loop. After birding the grasslands, move on to Brownsville to bird the county parks and have a cup of hot tea at the bakery.

When the valley gets to be too grey and cloudy, it’s time to head over the hill to the Fort Rock area for raptors galore in February. By the end of the weekend I can tell a Rough-legged Hawk from a Red Tail from a Ferruginous or Swainson’s while zipping along in the car. One of my favorite sights in this area was a huge flock of robins in the snow. While robins aren’t an unusual bird, their red breasts against the white snow was visually stunning, and we stopped to watch the behavior of the group for quite a while.

You can have a sumptuous sparrow moment at almost any thicket of blackberry or other dense vegetation. Find a quiet place, park the car in the weak winter sun, and watch the birds hop out, scratch a bit, then run for cover. In even the weakest sun, the interior of your car will warm to a comfortable temperature, and you can watch for hours. You’ll be a sparrow expert in no time!

If you’re dying of winter boredom, head over to the coast and try your hand at identifying gulls by species, gender, and age. Always entertaining!”

Steve Gordon wrote: “Winter is a birding season with its own highlights. The days are shorter (for both birders and birds) with feeding activities more concentrated than in other seasons. The weather is colder and wetter, which means a season of survival for birds and a temptation for birders to stay indoors. What a mistake, for winter is a time to layer up, don warm socks and boots, put on rain gear, and take advantage of the avifauna that live here in the southern Willamette Valley for the next three months, including the Christmas Bird Counts.

Winter is a perfect time to study concentrations of gulls and water birds. The coast, local lakes, rivers, and ponds are worth visiting—especially with a spotting scope. I have two favorite habitats for winter birding. First, the fencerow and hedgerow habitats are refuge to juncos, sparrows, and finches. You never know what special visitor may pop up in these areas—from White-throated Sparrows to a rare winter warbler. These habitats are great places to study the various plumages, subspecies, and non-breeding season sounds of little brown birds; second, forest birding offers mixed flocks traveling together. Here you can...
listen for sounds from such a flock, locate them, and stand and watch as six or more species consisting of chickadees, creepers, nuthatches, kinglets, and warblers feed above your head and at your feet. One of the best parts of winter birding is that it blends February and March into spring. Light green leaves open on the Osoberry bushes, the days grow longer, and you ache for the first swallow to appear. Without winter, no such ache could occur.

Winter is the time that you need to remain physically active. For birders, it just takes a little extra effort to find that excuse to get outdoors.”

Susan Gordon wrote: “Years of planning and tending the backyard with an eye to attracting birds and butterflies provide me with more opportunities for winter birding after the butterfly season is over. I see more birds in the backyard during winter than in any other season. What is more, the solarium provides a full view of seven feeders and two bird baths. New landscaping is in place to benefit birds and provide for indoor watching. Snuggled up with a fire in the wood stove, a cup of herbal tea, and a good book, I can pause when movement catches my eye. The juncos are usually the earliest to arrive in the morning and the last to leave at dusk . . . except when the Varied Thrush visits. Black-capped Chickadees are fun to watch and are hopefully the survivors who fledged from my nest box in early summer. Nuthatches roam the tree trunk and limbs in search of a tasty morsel. The Scrub Jays are the winter bullies. The Anna’s Hummingbirds pair up during the winter and cease chasing each other from the feeder. Golden-crowned Sparrows from the north spend the winter with me. All the bird activity will attract the garden ghost, a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Even when I don’t see it, I find fluffs of feathers under its favorite plucking post. A White-throated Sparrow joins the other crowned-sparrows. On the Christmas Bird Count, I am amazed at the number of Bushtits at the suet feeder. Once in a while a rare bird shows up. Last year a female Western Tanager graced the yard on count day and stayed for a week.

Years of providing black oil sunflower, thistle seeds, and suet pay off. I once cleaned up the Black-eyed Susan patch in the fall, but now leave the stems and flower heads for the goldfinches; they sway atop the stalks and pick at the tiny seeds. I like to think that some of the same individual birds return to my yard from years past, just because they find it such a safe and inviting sanctuary. For many of us, winter birding happens from the comfort of home.”

Lane Audubon booth at Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Festival October 31

The annual Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Festival is popular each year with festival-goers and LCAS booth staffers alike. The event showcases our many resident mycological treasures and gives LCAS a chance to connect with festival attendees about local birds and our organization’s many educational activities.

The booth was a busy place again this year. A big thank you goes to Rick Ahrens, Flo Alvergue, Connie Berglund, Jane Rodin, Debbie Schlenoff, Phil Smyser, Dave Stone, Janie Thomas, and Herb Wisner for helping staff the booth.

If you’d like to participate in this fun and important volunteer opportunity in the coming months, contact Ron Renschler, LCAS Outreach Coordinator, at 541.345.0834 or at christyandron@qwest.net.
The 69th Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC) and the 111th National Audubon Society (NAS) Christmas Bird Count will be on Sunday, January 2, 2011. Our 15-mile diameter count circle is centered in the Danebo area and is divided into 27 areas, each with a Team Leader who organizes the team, leads the group through the area during the count day, and submits the results to the ECBC Committee.

**Count Coordinator**

Dick Lamster is the Count Coordinator this year (officially called the Count Compiler); he will be working with NAS on the Count administrative tasks. He will also be coordinating with the Team Leaders as well as handling publicity, assembling the packets for the Team Leaders, and writing part of the post-count narrative.

**Volunteers**

Barbara Gleason is the Volunteer Coordinator with Becky Uhler assisting. If you would like to participate on one of the teams that searches for birds on Count Day, please call Barbara (541.345.3974) or Becky (541.729.5947). They will match you up with a team. If you have been on a team in the past, feel free to call that Leader and get “hooked up” for this year.

**Birds**

Dan Gleason (541.345.0450) will be accepting the Bird Checklists from the Team Leaders at the end of the Count Day. He will also review rare and unusual bird sightings and then submit all the results to NAS. Dan also works with Dick in preparing the post-count narrative.

**Feeder Watchers**

If you cannot participate on a Count Team but would like to count the birds that visit your yard, please call Herb Wisner (541.344.3634). He will send you a form to help you record the birds you see. He will coordinate your sightings with the leader of the Count Area you live in and will submit your sightings to Dan to be included in the official results. Please call Herb by December 27 if you would like to be a Feeder Watcher.

**Chili Feed**

All Team Leaders and Count Participants are invited to gather at the Eugene Garden Club at 1645 High Street after the Count for the traditional Chili Feed. Allison Mickel will again make homemade vegetarian chili. We will tally results at the Garden Club and swap stories of the day’s sightings. Doors to the Garden Club will open around 3:30 p.m. The Chili Feed will start around 5:00 p.m. Chili, salad, dinner rolls, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share with others and your own table service including plate, bowl, cup, and silverware. If you would like to drink something other than what we furnish, then please bring that also. I really encourage you to join us for this delicious ending to a day full of birding.

**Last year’s results**

Last year we had the third largest number of participants in the Christmas Bird Count out of the 2,160 official NAS counts in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Caribbean, and Pacific Islands. This is an amazing accomplishment for all of us, including the committee, Team Leaders, team members, and Feeder Watchers! We had 144 birders in the field and 91 feeder watchers for a total of 235 participants. The entire group identified 135 species and 92,476 individual birds. You can see the results of last year’s Count as well as all the other Christmas Bird Counts in North America at: [www.christmasbirdcount.org](http://www.christmasbirdcount.org). Our Count code is OREU.

We hope you can join us for this year’s ECBC. Please call Dick (541.343.8664) or any of the other committee members listed above if you have questions. We are looking forward to seeing you on January 2!
Audubon Adventures supplies everything needed to deliver an enriched environmental science and language arts curriculum using nature-based learning. Designed for students in third through sixth grades, Audubon Adventures’ materials are easy to use in any classroom. The content and activities allow teachers to successfully adapt the materials to students’ different skills and learning styles.

“Wildlife on the Move” is this year’s curriculum. It focuses on three types of animal migration—birds, monarch butterflies, and marine animals.

Thanks to the generous support of our members through a program called “Adopt a Classroom,” our local teachers have been able to utilize this curriculum in their classrooms at no cost to the school system. If you would like to sponsor a classroom, please send a check for $45 to Lane County Audubon Society, PO Box 5086, Eugene OR 97405. Your contribution is tax deductible. Below is a list of sponsored schools and schools still needing sponsors.

School/Grade | Sponsor
--- | ---
Agnes Stewart Middle School/6 | Freeman Rowe
Awbrey Park Elementary/4 | Charles and Reida Kimmel
Charlemagne Elementary/3 | Margot Fetz
Fairfeild Elementary/4 | Edrey Anker
Gilham Elementary/3 | Charles and Reida Kimmel
Gilham Elementary/3 | Marge Vinton
Gilham Elementary/4 | Elizabeth Hall
McCornack Elementary/5 | Herb and Ruth Wisner
River Road Elementary/3 | Herb and Ruth Wisner
Riverbend Elemetrary/4 | Robin Gage
Thurston Elementary/5 | The Quail mailing crew
Walterville Elementary/3 | Robin Gage

School | Grade
--- | ---
Adams Elementary | 3
Arts and Technology | 5
Camas Ridge Elementary | 3
Charlemagne Elementary | 3
Chavez Elementary | 4
Fairfeild Elementary | 4
Gilham Elementary | 3
Guy Lee Elementary | 4,5 blend
McCornack Elementary | 3
River Road Elementary | 3

Thank you sponsors!

Schools needing sponsors!

Audubon Adventure Kits

Audubon Adventures Classroom Resource Kits include:

→ Nature News for Kids: 32 copies

→ Classroom Resource Manual for Teachers: a 64-page guide complete with background information on selected topics and themes, detailed lesson plans, tips for outdoor study, ideas for hands-on activities, research material, duplicating masters, links to relevant websites, glossaries, and more.

→ Full-color posters and brochures: These can be used to supplement the information in the classroom.

In addition to the kit, participating classrooms receive program and member benefits through the Lane County Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society.

continued on next page
Audubon Adventures, continued

Seeking New Coordinator

I have appreciated having the opportunity to coordinate the Audubon Adventures curriculum for the last few years. It has been a joyous and rewarding experience for me. The teachers and the sponsors have been great to work with, and I am glad that I have been able to keep things organized for them. I feel that there is a vital need for this curriculum in our community of educators.

I am looking for a replacement as the demands upon my time are ever increasing. If you have a computer and a little time, I would love to share with you how I have coordinated this program. It takes flexibility, organization, and a sense of timing to make things work well for the teachers and sponsors.

Outreach to schools needs to be completed in August and orders placed with National Audubon Society in a timely manner so that teachers receive their kits as they return to school in the fall. Maintaining contact with the teachers over the school year is crucial to making sure they are receiving their material, to see if they need any additional help, and to check in with them at the end of the school year.

We alert our wonderful sponsors of the need from schools through The Quail, at program meetings, and with an annual mailing.

Please feel free to contact me if you would find this position an interesting and fulfilling experience. We’ll be happy to provide you with all the information and training you’ll need to manage the program.

IBA Fern Ridge Reservoir and Wildlife Area

The Fern Ridge Wildlife Area (FRWA) Important Bird Area is located west of Eugene along both sides of Hwy 126. In 2006 Oregon’s state wildlife action plan, the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS), was created to ensure the preservation of our statewide natural resources, identifying both target species and habitats. The OCS includes mapping of priority focus areas known as Conservation Opportunity Areas, of which Fern Ridge Reservoir is one. Over 286 species of birds have been documented here in this 12,780-acre complex of wetland, grassland, wet prairie (lowland grasses), oak woodland, and freshwater aquatic habitats. The Army Corps of Engineers owns the property, with 5,261 acres of it licensed to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to manage as a Wildlife Area. ODFW manages FRWA with three explicit goals in mind: to attract and support waterfowl; to protect, enhance, and restore habitat diversity; and to provide recreational and educational opportunities to the public (including hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing).

New “Important Bird Area” sign at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area
Photo by James Maloney
A Message from Lane Audubon Board of Directors

Maeve Sowles, President  541.343.8664  president@laneaudubon.org

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
Join us on Facebook

Visit Lane Audubon on Facebook. Please join our page and stay informed about events, bird walks, news, and conservation issues. Share bird sightings, photos, links, events, nature news, and stories at www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824.

2011 Winter Wings Festival
February 18–20, Klamath Falls, OR

Attention birders! The 2011 Winter Wings Festival is coming to the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls. Hear distinguished keynote speakers and participate in photography workshops for all skill levels. Check out the festival’s website at www.WinterWingsFest.org for the latest planning information. Online registration will begin in early or mid-December. For more information, please contact info@winterwingsfest.org or call 1.877.541.BIRD.

The Quail

Deadlines
February issue: January 8
March issue: February 12
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 7).

Subscriptions: Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com.

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Representatives from around the state gathered in Portland this November for the annual Oregon Audubon Council (OAC) meeting to discuss conservation efforts, including a workshop presentation on the Wild Bird Conservation Act (see below). The many local Oregon Audubon chapters are located in diverse geographical regions, and it is our hope that in working together we can better represent people from all over the state who care about birds and other wildlife. We will strive to keep members informed as we gather more information. Conservation priorities discussed included: actions to support important bird areas (IBAs), legislation to regulate wind power, helping to improve and endorse the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (ODFW) plan to protect Sage Grouse, forest protection, and bird-related legislation.

The Wild Bird Conservation Act calls for a fee of a nickel per pound on wild bird seed to be collected at the wholesale level. Proposed projects range from improving suburban and rural backyard habitat for songbirds to restoring rare native prairie and oak savanna habitats. A full list of these proposed projects can be found at the online conservation section of the Lane Audubon website. We are requesting feedback from our members, both positive and negative, suggestions for improvement, and ideas for projects that could be funded through the Act. Please e-mail Debbie Schlenoff with your comments.

Wild Bird Conservation Act: “A Nickel for the Birds”

Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director at Portland Audubon

During the 2011 legislative session, bird lovers will have a chance to support a bill which will help ensure that conservation of native bird species in Oregon receives adequate funding in Oregon. The Wild Bird Conservation Act places a five cents per pound fee on birdseed—a “nickel for the birds”—to fund our state’s most important bird-related priorities. The Wild Bird Conservation Act was developed by a coalition of conservation organizations and the Backyard Bird Shops.

What would the Wild Bird Conservation Act do?

By paying an extra nickel for each pound of birdseed, bird lovers would directly generate nearly $2 million per year to fund wild bird conservation initiatives in Oregon. This funding would be matched 1:1 with federal funds, effectively doubling the impact to $4 million. Less than $100,000 per year would go towards funding an Avian Conservation Coordinator at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), with the rest (minus administrative costs) going directly towards funding wild bird education and restoration projects on both urban and rural landscapes across Oregon. Priority would be placed on projects involving partnerships benefiting birds.

Why is it important that Oregon bird lovers help fund this initiative?

Many of Oregon’s bird populations are in trouble. Recent reports show as many as 25% of Oregon species experiencing serious long-term declines. The ODFW Non-Game program manages all species that are not hunted or fished in Oregon, 88% of which, including most of the bird species, are found in Oregon! Historically, the program has been woefully underfunded. The non-game program currently receives less than 2% of the ODFW budget and may see even further cuts in the face of an unprecedented budget crisis.

The reason for the disparity between funding levels of game and non-game species is that for decades, hunters and fishermen have paid a 10% tax on hunting and fishing gear, which directly funds conservation of game species. It is no

continued on next page
Wild Bird Conservation Act, continued

Coincidence that in the recent State of the Birds report released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, waterfowl, most of which are hunted, were cited as an example of species which have made a tremendous comeback over the past several decades, while almost all other categories of birds (forest, coastal, aridland, and grassland) have seen major declines.

The Wild Bird Conservation Act represents a critical step toward providing a permanent, stable source of funding for wild bird conservation efforts in Oregon.

Accountability

Funding from the Wild Bird Conservation Act would be managed by the ODFW with oversight from a stakeholder group, including representatives from conservation organizations and birdseed retailers. The Wild Bird Conservation Act has a sunset clause which would require evaluation of the program in 2018 prior to renewal.
October turned out to be a good month for migrants, including lingering neotropical migrants and arctic or taiga breeders arriving or migrating through, as well as birds wandering in from other parts of the state. Some of these included the first Rusty Blackbird record for Lane County, Clay-colored Sparrow, Common Poorwill, Mountain Chickadee, and Sage Thrasher.

**WATERBIRDS**

**Eurasian Wigeon**
Oct. 11 Delta Ponds SH First report for the winter season

**Cinnamon Teal (2 males)**
Oct. 6 FRR—south end TM Last report for the breeding season

**Black Scoter (3)**
Oct. 31 Kootchman SW AC Always a good place for this species

**Goldeneye spp. (female/imm)**
Oct. 31 FRR—Orchard Point JS First report for the winter season

**Ruddy Duck**
Oct. 13 SJSR—Crab Dock B&ZS Rarely found near the ocean

**Horned Grebe**
Oct. 19 Siuslaw River mouth B&ZS First for the winter season

**Horned Grebe**
Oct. 31 FRR—Shore Lane JS Rare on the reservoir

**Red-necked Grebe**
Oct. 8 FRR—Jeans Rd ES Rarely found inland in Lane County

**Eared Grebe**
Oct. 23 FRR—Shore Lane JS Becoming more regular during migration

**American White Pelican (56)**
Oct. 6 FRR—Royal Ave LM, et.al. Last report for the summer

**Brown Pelican (140)**
Oct. 27 SJSR DP Roosting on the jetty

**Green Heron**
Oct. 6 Alton Baker Park EC Small numbers winter most years

**Black-crowned Night Heron(3)**
Oct. 9 FRR—Royal Ave area EC Flushed from the reeds while kayaking

**VULTURES to TERNS**

**Turkey Vulture (23)**
Oct. 15 Alton Baker Park AM Headed south together

**Osprey**
Oct. 6 FRR—south end TM Last report away from the river in Eugene

**Rough-legged Hawk**
Oct. 30 Eugene airport area DC First report for the winter season

**Merlin**
Oct. 9 FRR—south end JS First report for the winter in the valley

**Merlin (2)**
Oct. 19 Eugene—College Hill MP Rarely found together

**Black-bellied Plover (70)**
Oct. 23 FRR—Shore Lane JS Normal wintering numbers

**Lesser Yellowlegs (4)**
Oct. 9 FRR—south end JS Last report for fall migration

**Western Sandpiper (6)**
Oct. 9 FRR—south end JS Last report for fall migration

**Least Sandpiper (50)**
Oct. 23 FRR—Shore Lane JS Normal wintering numbers

**Pectoral Sandpiper (2)**
Oct. 23 FRR—Royal Ave JS Last report for fall migration

**Dunlin**
Oct. 6 SJSR B&ZS First report for the winter season

**Dunlin (500)**
Oct. 23 FRR—Shore Lane JS A wintering species in even larger numbers

**Long-billed Dowitcher (150)**
Oct. 23 FRR—Shore Lane JS Normal wintering numbers

**Red-necked Phalarope**
Oct. 2 FRR—south end JS Last report for fall migration

**Red Phalarope**
Oct. 26 Siuslaw River mouth B&ZS A normal time for their southward migration

**Pomarine Jaeger (probable)**
Oct. 31 Kootchman SW AC Never common from shore

**Heermann’s Gull (80)**
Oct. 31 N Lane Co coast AC Later than normal

**Mew Gull**
Oct. 16 Siuslaw River mouth B&ZS First report for the winter season

**Herring Gull**
Oct. 9 FRR—south end JS First report for the winter season

**Sabine’s Gull**
Oct. 27 NJSR DP Not normally seen from shore

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The Quail
December 2010–January 2011
Printed on 100% post-consumer, recycled paper with soy-based ink
### VULTURES to TERNS, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Abbrev.</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black-legged Kittiwake</td>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>Klootchman SW</td>
<td>AC</td>
<td>First for the winter season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Tern (2)</td>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>NJSR</td>
<td>DP</td>
<td>Later than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassin’s Auklet</td>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>Klootchman SW</td>
<td>AC</td>
<td>Not commonly found from shore anymore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Tern (immature)</td>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>FRR</td>
<td>DI,JS</td>
<td>About a month after the breeding birds had left the reservoir</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OWLS to GROSBEAKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Saw-whet Owl (6)</td>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>Spencer Butte</td>
<td>JS</td>
<td>Large numbers for a few hours of calling!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Poorwill</td>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Florence</td>
<td>DP</td>
<td>Rarely found during the day and even more rarely found at the coast!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaux’s Swift (300+)</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Skinner Butte</td>
<td>TM</td>
<td>Last report for the breeding season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Flycatcher</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Alton Baker Park</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>Last report for the breeding season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Shrike</td>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>SJSR road</td>
<td>B&amp;ZS</td>
<td>First report for the winter season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violet-green Swallow (1,000)</td>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>FRR—south end</td>
<td>JS</td>
<td>Last report for the breeding season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn Swallow</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>FRR—Royal Ave</td>
<td>LM, et.al.</td>
<td>Last report for the breeding season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Chickadee (2)</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>River Road</td>
<td>B&amp;KA</td>
<td>Rarely found in the Eugene/Springfield area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Wren</td>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>N Eugene</td>
<td>BMc</td>
<td>Christmas—last report for the breeding season and later than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Bluebird</td>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>SJSR overlook</td>
<td>B&amp;ZS</td>
<td>Not common along the coastal plain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swainson’s Thrush</td>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Alton Baker Park</td>
<td>LM, et.al.</td>
<td>Last report for the breeding season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Mockingbird</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Neptune State Park</td>
<td>DS</td>
<td>Show up for the winter season during this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Mockingbird</td>
<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>Washburn Lane</td>
<td>PS</td>
<td>time of year—reports increasing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sage Thrasher</td>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>SJSR road</td>
<td>AC,DF</td>
<td>First record from the coast and in the fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Pipit (200)</td>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>FRR—Royal Ave</td>
<td>JS</td>
<td>Normal numbers during migration/winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-throated Gray Warbler</td>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>N Eugene</td>
<td>BG</td>
<td>Last report for the breeding season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Warbler</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Alton Baker Park</td>
<td>JS</td>
<td>Found in very small numbers during the winter, normally at the coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Yellowthroat (2)</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>FRR—south end</td>
<td>TM</td>
<td>Last report for the breeding season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Tanager</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>River Road</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Last report for the breeding season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chipping Sparrow</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Skinner Butte</td>
<td>TM</td>
<td>A larger number of reports than normal this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chipping Sparrow</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>N Eugene</td>
<td>DH</td>
<td>late in the season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chipping Sparrow</td>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>N Eugene</td>
<td>BG</td>
<td>Last report for the breeding season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay-colored Sparrow</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>N Eugene</td>
<td>A&amp;DH</td>
<td>About a dozen records for Lane County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-throated Sparrow</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>River Road</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>First report for the winter season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-headed Blackbird</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Eugene airport area</td>
<td>DL,SF</td>
<td>Rarely found after the end of September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rusty Blackbird</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Eugene airport area</td>
<td>DL,SF</td>
<td>The first record for Lane County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Finch</td>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>River Road</td>
<td>B&amp;KA</td>
<td>Second time in yard in eight years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Late report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White-breasted Nuthatch</td>
<td>summer</td>
<td>River Road</td>
<td>B&amp;KA</td>
<td>A pair fledged three young in the area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Abbreviations

FRR: Fern Ridge Reservoir, NJSR: North Jetty of the Siuslaw River, SJSR: South Jetty of the Siuslaw River, SW: State Wayside

### Thank you, contributors!

Residents of the Eugene/Springfield area have long treasured the Willamette River for the natural, recreational, and visual qualities it offers in close proximity to the urban environment. The river provides the community with a sense of place and contributes greatly to the quality of life for all who call this area home. Jeff Krueger, a landscape architect with Lane Council of Governments, will present an inspiring long-range vision for the Willamette River corridor that will help lead the way for coordinated efforts to further improve this outstanding resource in the coming years and decades. Numerous elected officials and interest groups, including Lane County Audubon Society, have endorsed the open space vision. This 30-year vision calls for significant habitat improvements, the addition of multiple paths, trails and recreational facilities, and outlines concepts for eco-friendly, river-oriented development. For more information on this effort, visit www.lcog.org/willamette.

Lane Audubon and the Eugene Natural History Society will team up to present a joint program meeting on Friday, December 10. Doug Robinson will talk about why so many birds have disappeared from a tropical island in Panama. The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in Willamette Hall, Room 100 at the University of Oregon.
Third Saturday Bird Walk

No December Bird Walk—instead, we’ll be joining the Christmas Bird Count.

Eugene Christmas Bird Count

If you are new to the area or have not been on our Christmas Bird Count recently, please contact Dick at 541.343.8664 to get more information or to sign up. See page 4 for details.

Third Saturday Bird Walk—Royal Avenue Oak Woodlands

Tom Mikel has been birding since the mid-1970s and has led numerous field trips. He’s been a Christmas Bird Count leader for at least two decades! Barbara Butzer has been organizing birders in the Cottage Grove area for the past year. In January, they’ll team up to take us to some of the most interesting winter bird spots in the Cottage Grove 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.

Monthly Bird Walk: Our monthly bird walks are usually held on the third Saturday of the month, but we often have additional walks or special trips. With knowledgeable leaders and many pairs of eyes to help spot birds, our trips are a great way to increase your birding skills.