As April and warmer weather rolls in, many of us will be spending more time outside. The birds and other animals will be gearing up activity with the goal of finding nesting sites and good habitat for breeding. Springtime animal activities range from the wild abandon of hormonally induced reproductive behaviors to the trial and error experimentation of finding nesting sites and safe places to protect, feed, and rear their young. Both curious adults and naïve young animal adventurers can find themselves in untenable locations, either becoming victim to predators or to human-made traps with no chance of survival. This is the annual cycle, but at times human impacts cause unintended mortality. As part of the human equation, we need to be aware of how we can inadvertently cause harm and then find ways to prevent these situations.

A publication was released late last year called “Bird Death Pipes” with examples of hollow pipes outside that create an attraction for curious wildlife to explore, enter, but then become trapped and die. One standing pipe (6 inches wide by 10 feet tall) was found to have over 200 dead birds! An educational article was produced by Audubon California’s Kern River Preserve and Southern Sierra Research Station; you can see the article on our web page at: http://laneaudubon.org under the “Library” section. It includes good suggestions on how to evaluate pipes, remove them, or cap them so they do not create a trap for wildlife.

Once I became aware of this potential situation, I immediately walked our property to be sure we did not have any such pipes making a trap for birds, lizards or mammals. I know most of you will want to check your outdoor spaces for this same hazard, and we can all spread the word about this to prevent such unnecessary tragedies. Thanks to each of you who can act on this information, share the above article, and help educate others about ways to avoid bird casualties.

We want to welcome the migrating birds back in the spring, hear them singing, see them nesting, and have them successfully raise their young in our natural areas!
Conservation Reserve Program Continues

Debbie Schlenoff 541.685.0610 dschlenoff@msn.com

Although I am perfectly capable of eating my vegetables while reading the newspaper, I’m generally skeptical when people brag to me of their ability to multi-task. However, when it comes to agricultural lands, multi-tasking is something we should encourage. It was with great relief that I read the early March announcement by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture that the 2012 Farm Bill would continue to support the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Although we rely on agricultural land to supply our food, it is well suited to also provide ecosystem services and habitat for wildlife. The CRP takes highly erodible and sensitive lands out of crop production and promotes the planting and management of vegetation important for habitat. Current plans are to expand the eight million acre program by one million acres. The breakdown would commit 100,000 acres to pollinator support; 200,000 acres to wetland restoration; 300,000 acres to duck nesting habitat and upland birds; and 400,000 acres to SAFE, a program that benefits high-priority species including those that are threatened or endangered. To encourage farmers to sign up, the Signing Incentive Payments would increase to $150 per acre from the current $100 per acre. The increase is vital to offset the temptation of higher crop prices for corn and soybeans. The USDA will also make the enrollment process easier in order to encourage further participation.

Analyses have shown that the investment in farm conservation programs is easily paid back in ecosystem services. Among the multiple beneficial tasks accomplished by the program:

- Restoration of over two million acres of wetlands and two million acres of riparian buffers
- Critical habitat for insect and bird pollinators as well as fish and other wildlife
- Increased populations and nest success of pheasants, quail, ducks, sage grouse, the lesser prairie chicken, grassland songbird species, and others
- Dollars that make their way into the local economy directly through payment to farmers and indirectly through an increase in recreational opportunities including birding

Waldo Lake Update By Dave Stone

Last month you read here about the attempt to reverse the ban on gasoline-powered motorboats on Waldo Lake. A small group of motorboat users and seaplane operators are threatening a lawsuit over the ban. The Oregon State Marine Board has scheduled a hearing on the issue at 6 p.m. on April 10 at the Willamalane Center, 250 S 32nd Street, in Springfield. They are also taking written comments between March 1 and April 10.

We worked for ten years to preserve the quiet experience and the purity of Waldo Lake. Please weigh in on this issue either in writing or by speaking at the hearing.

(continued on page 8)
February’s weather was a little more normal, except for the snow on February 29. It’s not uncommon to get snow in February, but it always seems late. A few of the early migrants (swallows and cranes) have started to show up, but Rufous Hummingbird is still missing, later than normal again this year. Also, the resident birds are starting to tune-up for the upcoming breeding season, so this is a good time to learn or refresh your memory of their songs.

**Abbreviations:** Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

### WATERBIRDS

- **Red-throated Loon**
  - Feb 5  
  - N. Delta Highway 
  - RR  
  - Not commonly found inland.

- **American Bittern**
  - Feb 25  
  - FRR – Royal Ave 
  - BB  
  - Not often found during the winter.

### OSPREY to PLOVERS

- **Osprey**
  - Feb 23  
  - UO millrace  
  - MS  
  - A wintering bird?

- **Turkey Vulture**
  - Feb 4  
  - Sutton/Baker Beach  
  - KC,DL  
  - First report on the coast for the “spring”.

- **Bald Eagle (pair)**
  - Feb 5  
  - Skinner Butte  
  - AP  
  - Will they be nesting again this year?

- **Bald Eagle (pair)**
  - Feb 11  
  - Springfield @ IP Mill  
  - CT  
  - Another breeding pair in the area?

- **Sandhill Crane (50)**
  - Feb 23  
  - Bloomberg Park  
  - AP  
  - A few days later than normal.

- **Snowy Plover (6)**
  - Feb 4  
  - Sutton Beach  
  - KC,DL  
  - Northernmost wintering location.

- **Snowy Plover (large flock)**
  - Feb 5  
  - Siltcoos River mouth  
  - KC,DL  
  - Always a good wintering location.

### SWALLOWS to SPARROWS

- **Tree Swallow**
  - Feb 15  
  - FRR – Royal Ave  
  - LM, et al.  
  - A little over a week later than normal.

- **Violet-green Swallow**
  - Feb 15  
  - FRR – Royal Ave  
  - LM, et al.  
  - About two weeks earlier than normal.

- **Barn Swallow (5)**
  - Feb 19  
  - FRR – Royal Ave  
  - E&VT  
  - Another rare winter sighting.

- **Wrentit (2)**
  - Feb 29  
  - Delta Ponds  
  - DA, et al.  
  - Not a normal location for this species.

- **Townsend’s Solitaire**
  - early Jan  
  - N. River Road  
  - MD  
  - Occasionally found in the valley during the winter.

- **Northern Mockingbird**
  - Feb  
  - Almadore  
  - DB  
  - Still being seen.

- **Hermit Warbler (2)**
  - Feb  
  - SW Eugene & Springfield  
  - They were reported at the LCAS meeting. A rare wintering species, but a few have been reported the last few winters.

- **American Tree Sparrow**
  - Feb 18  
  - N. River Road  
  - BL  
  - Almost annual, but rarely found at feeders.

DA Dennis Arendt, DB Dave Brown, BB Ben Burnette, KC Kathy Castelein, MD Margie DeMoss, DL Dave Lauten, BL Bonnie Leathers, LM Larry McQueen, AP Al Prigge, RR Roger Robb, MS Maeve Sowles, E&VT Eddie & Vjera Thompson, CT Colette Trotter.
Lane County Audubon welcomes Cheron Ferland as editor of the Quail. Cheron has been active with Lane County Audubon since moving to Oakridge four years ago. She has led bird walks and participated in Christmas Bird Counts in the Oakridge area.

Currently a wildlife biologist on the Willamette National Forest in Oakridge, Cheron has worked nearly 20 years for the U.S. Forest Service in South Carolina, Virginia, Colorado, and Oregon. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Virginia Tech and master’s degree in wildlife science from Oregon State University.

Her birding experience ranges from researching northern goshawks in Colorado to training non-releasable raptors to the glove. Some of her other interests include exploring, running, hiking, reading, and making art with glass.

You can submit items for the Quail by e-mailing them to Cheron at cheron.ferland@mac.com. We greatly appreciate Cheron’s volunteer spirit and help in editing our membership newsletter.

Volunteer with Lane Audubon!

Lane County Audubon Society is an all-volunteer organization, and our members are very proud of the energy and diversity of talents volunteers bring—we couldn’t do it without them! Volunteering with Lane Audubon is a great way to meet new people, give back to the community, and best of all, have fun! Currently, we are looking for volunteers to fill the following roles, but please feel welcome to contact us if you’d like to help in another capacity.

**Bird Walk Coordinator:** Lane Audubon is looking for a volunteer to plan the monthly third Saturday Bird Walks. This is a fun opportunity to meet and learn from birding experts; best of all, you get to pick the location and be out birding! Lane Audubon has all the dates set, a network of willing field trip leaders, and a list of past birding locations to choose from. Your responsibility would include deciding on a location, contacting field trip leaders, e-mailing the field trip publicity, and meeting the birding group on the day of the walk to get things started. Contact Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, president@laneaudubon.org.

**Distribute and Deliver The Quail in the Community:** Help us get The Quail mailed to our members by delivering them to the post office. We also need them distributed to high-visibility locations around the community in an effort to reach new members. Each of these tasks only require a couple of hours nine times per year, and it is a huge help! Contact Ron Renchler at 541.345.0834 or christyandron@qwest.net to find out more.

**Publicity Volunteer:** Help us get public notices to various media services and spread the word about upcoming Program Meetings, bird walks, and other activities. We also need to make sure we are ahead of publication deadlines. Other goals include developing new contacts with media and keeping contacts and deadlines organized. Contact Maeve Sowles at 541.343.8664 or president@laneaudubon.org.
Bike Path Clean-up April 14

The 2012 Spring Bike Path Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2012. We will meet at the end of Terry Street just north of W. 11th Ave. at 9:00 a.m. to keep Lane Audubon’s portion of the West Eugene/Fern Ridge Bike Path free of litter. Bring walking shoes, a water bottle, and binoculars. The City of Eugene provides litter pickers, trash bags, gloves, and a sharps box. Bike Friday/Green Gear Cycling provides a dumpster for us to dispose of the collected waste. Please join us for a rewarding morning as we help clean the bike and pedestrian paths.

Contact Sandy and Hugh Larkin (hdlarking2@clearwire.net) for information. See you in April for the Spring Clean-up!

Lane County Audubon Society

Lane County Audubon Society Board
Election Notice

Lane County Audubon Society Board elections will be held at the May 22 Program Meeting. The following candidates are running for re-election: Jim Maloney, Ron Renchler, Debra Schlenoff, Maeve Sowles, and Herb Wisner.

The Quail

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 County Audubon Society.

Subscriptions: Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or tgosdil@gmail.com.
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Deadlines:
May-June issue: April 7
July-August issue: June 2
Submit material to Cheron Ferland cheron.ferland@mac.com

Lane Audubon Officers & Board Members

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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 County Audubon Society 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 County Audubon Society 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
Welcome Back
Vaux’s Swifts at Agate Hall

Lane County Audubon Society (LCAS) is holding its annual spring swift event outside Agate Hall on the University of Oregon campus on Friday, April 13, and Friday, April 27, at sunset.

The Vaux’s Swifts use the chimney to roost for the night as they gather during spring migration. This is a wonderful chance to observe and learn about the birds returning from Central and South America for the breeding season.

This is our smallest swift in North America, named for William S. Vaux, a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, who first described the species. The name is pronounced “vawks,” not “voh.”

Lane County Audubon Society will have handouts with information about the birds. Look for the LCAS banner at 17th and Agate Street. Stop by and enjoy this annual natural phenomenon. It is free!

Call 541-343-8664 for more information.

Nearby Nature – No School Day Kids’ Program
Forts in the Forest
April 13, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Friday)
Registration, Fees. Alton Baker Park.
FMI: www.nearbynature.org

WREN (Willamette Resources and Education Network) – Family Exploration Day
Golden Gardens Ponds.
April 14, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Saturday)
Free. FMI: info@wwetlands.org

Native Plant Society of Oregon – Emerald Chapter Meeting
Icons of the Pacific Northwest Natural Environment, Tim Giraudier, nature photographer
April 16, 7:30 p.m. (Monday)
FMI: 541-345-5531

Eugene Natural History Society – Chapter Meeting
How do we think about nature and our environment in the Willamette Valley today? Tina Schweickert, Oregon Heritage Fellow and environmental scientist
April 20, 7:30 p.m. (Friday)
Free. Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO Campus.
FMI: http://biology.uoregon.edu/enhs/

Celebrate the Ridgeline – Second Annual Ridgeline Trail Day
Celebrate our local habitat
May 5, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m (Saturday)

Conservation Reserve Program Continues (continued from page 2)

To Do:
- Attend the hearing
- Submit comments via e-mail to osmb.rulemaking@state.or.us, or send to P.O. Box 1414 or 5435 Commercial St. NE, No. 400, Salem, OR 97309-5065;
- Write a letter to the Register Guard by e-mail: rgletters@registerguard.com; they have a 250 word maximum and require a home address and phone number (neither of which they publish) to confirm your letter.

For more information, go to http://oregon.sierraclub.org/groups/juniper/waldo/keepwaldowild.
You see them in yards, gardens, and on your butterfly walks – the dragonflies and damselflies. Discover insects in Oregon whose ancestors were here before the dinosaurs, live for 5 years, can fly 35 mph, and truly eat “on the fly.” At our next program meeting, learn about the life history, habitats, and behavior of these fascinating insects along with a photographic introduction to the Oregon species.

Cary Kerst is an aquatic entomologist retired from a career in environmental sciences, most recently working for the City of Eugene. He has conducted professional aquatic insect studies on local rivers and streams and authored scientific articles on Caddisflies, Dragonflies, Damselflies, and Stoneflies.

After retiring from thirty years as a planner for the Lane Council of Governments, longtime birder Steve Gordon became interested in Odonates. He was a contributing author to *Birds of Oregon: Status and Distribution* and *Birds of Lane County, Oregon*.

Cary and Steve began studying the local dragonflies and damselflies in 1999 and coauthored *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Willamette Valley, Oregon* in 2005 and *The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Oregon* in 2011. They have greatly enjoyed traveling around scenic Oregon studying Odonates in preparation of this guide. They enjoy teaching classes and leading field trips for environmental organizations, and they encourage all to recapture the wonder of the natural world.

Please join us for a presentation by Cary and Steve on Tuesday, April 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, Eugene.

**When Women Were Birds**

Author Terry Tempest Williams will speak on her latest book — *When Women Were Birds*— at the University of Oregon, Columbia Room 150, on June 19, at 7:30 p.m. This event is cosponsored by Lane County Audubon Society, Eugene Natural History Society, Museum of Natural and Cultural History, UO Environmental Studies, and the UO Bookstore. Terry Tempest Williams is an American author, conservationist, and activist. Her writing is rooted in the American West and ranges from issues of ecology and wilderness preservation to women’s health to exploring our relationship to culture and nature. Williams is the author of *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place; An Unspoken Hunger: Stories from the Field; Desert Quartet;* and *The Open Space of Democracy.*
Bird Walk Coordinator needed
Lane Audubon is looking for a volunteer to plan the monthly third Saturday Bird Walks. See page 4 for more information.

FRIDAY
April 13 and 27

WELCOME BACK VAUX SWIFTS AT AGATE HALL
See page 8 for more information.

SATURDAY
April 21

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK
Location and Leader to Be Announced
Check the LCAS website at http://www.laneaudubon.org/birdwalk.htm to learn more about the leader, location, and start time. We will meet at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson) for carpooling. A $3 donation is suggested. Please remember not to leave valuables in your car as a precaution.

SATURDAY
May 19

THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK
Jim Regali will lead us on a trip to Buford Park. Look for more information in the May-June Quail.

April Program Meeting
The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Oregon
by Cary Kerst & Steve Gordon
Tuesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.
Eugene Garden Club
1645 High St., Eugene

Has your Quail subscription expired? See page 7 for renewal info!