

# The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society



## From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, maeveanddick@q.com

## Please Consider Opting for the Electronic Version of *The Quail*



text with different colored print. It is always easy to find. If you want to refer to it later, just go to the web site!

We encourage you to “go electronic” with your newsletter subscription for a few reasons. The environmental costs of paper and ink processes, handling and mailing, and then ultimately the excess paper waste, are all a burden on the earth. Some people cherish their paper copies of *The Quail*, and we understand. This is one reason we continue to offer a printed version of *The Quail*, for those who want to hold it in their hand.

If, however, you do not actually find that necessary to your enjoyment of the newsletter and do not keep it for later reference, please consider sending in a request for an electronic version. Many organizations have switched to only electronic newsletters to save money. With the new reality of higher paper, ink, production, and mailing costs, we too are prompted to ask you to try out the e-Quail. You might like it even better than the print version!!! Whatever your choice, we appreciate your support.

How many have viewed the electronic version of *The Quail* newsletter? If you have not, please go to our website at: [laneaudubon.org](http://laneaudubon.org)

[/sites/default/files/quail\\_pdf/Feb2019-quail\\_web.pdf](http://sites/default/files/quail_pdf/Feb2019-quail_web.pdf)

The striking difference is the eye-catching photos and high-contrast

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

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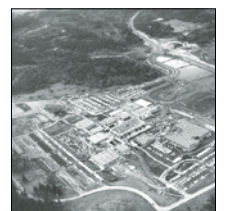
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## Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, dschlenoff@msn.com



# Let's Put the Brakes on Climate Change!

The percentage of people who think global warming is happening is now five times greater than that of people who don't, according to a recent survey conducted by Yale University. About half of those surveyed said they had personally experienced the effects of climate change, not surprising given the numbers of high-intensity storms, drought, wildfires, and the recent polar vortex. About 4 in 10 Americans noted that they, at least occasionally, discuss climate change with family and friends, an increase of 15 percentage points since March 2015. Rightly or wrongly, almost half of the respondents are "hopeful," indicating that the time is ripe to focus on solutions. Awareness, activism, and research that helps elucidate solutions are burgeoning. Experts are exploring which solutions would have a significant impact. Some of these are listed below.

- **Phase out refrigerants used for air conditioning and refrigeration.** Nations worldwide took action decades ago to reduce the old refrigerants, which were damaging the ozone layer. Unfortunately, we switched to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) which we now know are destructive greenhouse gases. We can commit to changes again; better alternatives are available.
- **Relinquish fossil fuels.** Invest in alternative energy generation and ways to store the energy. Invest in energy efficient infrastructure. Eliminate fossil fuel subsidies. (Fossil fuel subsidies are six times greater than moneys spent to support renewable energy.)
- **Improve the power grid.** This could help bring energy generated by solar farms and other alternative means to households. Make wider use of rooftop solar everywhere. Smart power grids, already established in several communities, can be the model.
- **Eliminate methane leaks.** Leaks of this powerful greenhouse gas come from oil and gas companies and must be better controlled. Support the Clean Power Plan, which imposes protective national standards on power plants.
- **Establish more carbon markets.** Carbon markets help reduce carbon emissions, incentivize more efficient factories and power plants, and help preserve forests.
- **Preserve wetlands, forest, grasslands, and riparian buffers** to control carbon as well as reduce erosion and flooding.
- **Develop more efficient transportation modalities.** "Smart Highways" reduce carbon emissions and power electric vehicles. Support bicycle and bus commuters.
- **Eat a more plant-based diet.** The food production sector alone accounts for more than a quarter of total emissions, including power plants, transportation, cities, etc. The production of animal products generates up to 78 percent of those agricultural emissions. It's more than 100 times more carbon expensive to grow beef as compared to legumes. Vast amounts of water and land are used in the production of livestock feed alone. The animals and their manure produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
- **Farm more efficiently.** We can have the greatest impact by focusing on the crops that feed the most people. Precision agriculture grows more crops with fewer chemicals and less land disturbance, and uses cover crops to reduce soil erosion. A few efficiency measures used when growing rice, the staple food of 3 billion people, significantly reduce environmental costs. For example, mid-season drainage of rice fields alone cuts methane emissions by 35 to 70 percent.
- **Buy shade-grown coffee and cacao.** Agroforestry (shade-grown crops) has a positive impact by growing crops under trees. This reduces the carbon costs while supporting native diversity of birds and pollinators.
- **Waste less food.** A third of food produced does not make it to our plates. This squanders resources such as seeds, water, energy, land, fertilizer, money and labor, and produces greenhouse gases at every stage, including methane produced from decaying organic waste. Wasted food is responsible for roughly 8 percent of global emissions. This can be addressed from many angles: improving storage, processing, and transportation for better distribution of food; eliminating crop subsidies for large-scale agriculture; and through education. Excess food can also be used to produce other products;

*continued on page 4*

## Field Notes: January 2019

Tom and Allison Mickel, 541.485.7112, tamickel@riouisa.com

# Long-tailed Duck, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Harlequin Duck

The weather was fairly normal, but dryer. A number of the unusual species found in early winter are still around and some of the very hardy species have returned, but true spring is still a few months away!

**Abbreviations:** Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), Lane Community College (LCC). South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSP)



Photo: wiki commons

Long-tailed Duck



Photo: wiki commons

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



Photo: Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren wiki commons

Harlequin Duck

### WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b> .....	Jan .....	LCC & Kirk Pond .....	m.ob. ....	Normally found in small numbers
<b>Harlequin Duck</b> .....	Jan 15 .....	SJSR .....	AC,DF .....	Very few sightings this winter
<b>Black Scoter</b> .....	Jan 15 .....	Tokatee Klootchman .....	AC,DF .....	Always a good location for this species
<b>Long-tailed Duck (2)</b> .....	Jan 15 .....	Tokatee Klootchman .....	AC,DF .....	Wintering at this location
<b>Black-legged Kittiwake (2)</b> .....	Jan 15 .....	Tokatee Klootchman .....	RR .....	Very few reports this winter
<b>Glaucous Gull</b> .....	Jan 15 .....	Big Creek .....	RR .....	Very small numbers winter most years
<b>Glaucous Gull</b> .....	Jan .....	Eugene area .....	m.ob. ....	Seen throughout the month
<b>Osprey</b> .....	Jan 23 .....	Honeyman SP .....	DF .....	Wintered along the coast for a few years

### WOODPECKERS TO GROSBEAKS

<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b> .....	Jan 23 .....	Honeyman SP .....	DF .....	Very rare wintering species
<b>Tree Swallow</b> .....	Jan 25 .....	FRR - Royal Ave .....	JSp .....	A little earlier than normal
<b>Barn Swallow</b> .....	Jan 6 .....	Alton Baker park .....	JSu .....	Another year with mid-winter sightings
<b>Horned Lark</b> .....	Jan 12 .....	Eugene airport area .....	BC .....	Normally winter in small numbers
<b>Sedge Wren</b> .....	Jan .....	Waite Ranch .....	m.ob. ....	Found throughout the month
<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b> .....	Jan 1 .....	West D Greenway .....	JSu .....	Winter in very small numbers most years
<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b> .....	Jan 24 .....	Row River .....	SS .....	Winter in very small numbers most years
<b>Black-throated Gray Warbler</b> .....	Jan 13 .....	West Lawn Cemetery .....	VT .....	Appears to be wintering at this location
<b>Black-headed Grosbeak</b> .....	Jan 2 .....	E Eugene .....	fide LMc .....	Rarely found during the winter

AC Alan Contreras, BC Barbara Combs, DF Daniel Farrar, JSp Josh Spice, JSu John Sullivan, LMc Larry McQueen, RR Roger Robb, SS Sue Sheppard, VT Vjera Thompson. **Fide** references a sighting reported to the listed observer. **M.ob.** signifies many observers.



## Conservation *continued from page 2*

bioplastics can be made from potatoes and sugarcane.

- **Improve education in general, but especially for girls.** Educating girls means better family planning, less illness, better-nourished families, and more productive farm plots. It is the most powerful way to improve the standard of living for the most people with the least technological investment.

As individuals, we can update our habits and consumer choices to make a difference. From the Yale survey referenced above: “Fewer than half of Americans perceive a social norm in which their friends and family expect them

to take action on global warming.” We can increase these numbers. People are influenced by those around them. Let’s be good models for them. And let’s have higher expectations for others, especially our industry leaders, politicians, and policy makers. Saving the world will require collective will and effort.

Leiserowitz, A., Maibach, E., Rosenthal, S., Kotcher, J., Ballew, M., Goldberg, M., & Gustafson, A. (2018). *Climate change in the American mind*: December 2018. Yale University and George Mason University. New Haven, CT: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.

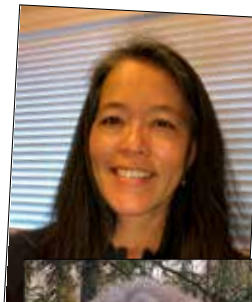
Kathy Wilson



Marty Merrill



Janet Barnes



LaRue Rodgers



Rose Britton



Barb Pope



## Audubon In the Schools Flourishing

The Audubon in the Schools program has blossomed over the last year. In 2018, the volunteer team visited 12 schools, and taught 722 students! So far in 2019 AITS has visited 7 other schools, with more requests for each month left of the school year.

Keeping the program energized is the awesome team of AITS Instructors: Kathy Wilson, Barb Pope, Marty Merrill, and Rose Britton. Our current assistants are Janet Barnes, LaRue Rodgers, Joe Britton, and Laurie Costa. We also have a new volunteer, Pam Sheridan, who hopes to do school visits this month. Janet Barnes also serves as database manager, tracking the visits and tallying the numbers. Barb Pope is handling the initial scheduling with the schools. Kathy Wilson keeps our supplies organized, and the whole team works to make sure everything is ready to go for

the next visit. Rose Britton has fine-tuned a PowerPoint presentation for each of the two lessons: “Feathers” and “Birds and Ecosystems.” We have had enthusiastic feedback from teachers and students.

LCAS has ordered copies of *Robert Bateman: The Boy Who Painted Nature* by Margriet Ruurs (Orca Book Publishers) to donate to AITS classrooms that have had program visits this year. The book can be a lasting inspiration for the kids to explore nature and see it in new ways.

The AITS team meets when needed to plan for upcoming school visits and to share information. The group is wonderfully communicative, cooperative, supportive, creative, and engaged! They work together to problem solve, share ideas, develop new methods, and build the program. Good job, AITS Team! —Maeve Sowles

## Program Meeting, Tuesday, March 26, 7:30 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com

# Birds, Wildlife, and Landscapes of Northern Tanzania



Photo: John Sullivan

If you've never had an opportunity to travel into the wilds of eastern Africa, this is your chance for a vicarious visit to an amazing part of the world. John Sullivan and Laura Johnson

travelled to Northern Tanzania in 2016. While both of them enjoy looking at birds, animals, bugs, snakes, flowers, and plants wherever they travel, John is the main photographer. His photo presentation captures a collection of birds and other wildlife images captured across a wide spectrum of Tanzanian landscapes. The couple explored the savannahs of Arusha National Park at the base of Mount Meru, through the baobab tree-covered hills rolling out for miles across Tarangire National Park, to the open savannah of Serengeti National Park, and on into the amazing Ngorongoro Crater. You'll see photos of vast herds of migrating wildebeest and the big cats that follow the herds, and witness the spectacular congregations

of wildlife in the lush grasslands of Ngorongoro Crater and other national parks of Northern Tanzania. Several smaller reserves in the dense rainforests of the Eastern Arc Mountains are also included, providing opportunities to observe many endemic bird species.

John Sullivan and Laura Johnson's passion for birding began where they grew up in the Midwest. John volunteered for the Nebraska Raptor Recovery Center for many years. Laura was an active birder/naturalist near her home in Galena, Illinois. They relocated to Oregon in 2001. Both enjoy hiking, biking, and birding locally as well as exploring further afield throughout Oregon. Annual birding trips take them elsewhere across the country, as well as to occasional international birding locales.



Photo: John Sullivan

*Gray-headed Kingfisher*



Photo: John Sullivan

*Yellow-collared Lovebirds*



Photo: John Sullivan

*African elephant*

## Seeking Sponsors for Audubon Adventures



Audubon Adventures is developed by professional educators and designed for grades 3-5. Each kit contains 32 printed magazines on each topic as well as access to online features and activities. Thanks to generous sponsors, we offer these kits at no cost to teachers in Lane County.

If you would like to sponsor a classroom, please mail a tax-deductible donation of \$45 (payable to LCAS) to Audubon Adventures, PO Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405, or donate online via the provided link: [laneaudubon.org/education/audubon-adventures/sponsor/form](http://laneaudubon.org/education/audubon-adventures/sponsor/form)

Please contact Rachael Friese at [audadventures@gmail.com](mailto:audadventures@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

# 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](mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com).

### The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

April issue: March 2

May-June issue: April 6

Submit material to Karen Irmischer at [quailkaren1@gmail.com](mailto:quailkaren1@gmail.com)

Nine issues published per year (Feb., Mar., Apr., May-June, July-Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec.-Jan.)

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## Lane County Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President	Maeve Sowles.....541.343.8664..... <a href="mailto:maeveanddick@q.com">maeveanddick@q.com</a>
Treasurer	Ron Renchler.....541.345.0834..... <a href="mailto:christyandron2@gmail.com">christyandron2@gmail.com</a>
Members	Debbie Schlenoff.....541.685.0610..... <a href="mailto:dschlenoff@msn.com">dschlenoff@msn.com</a>
	Ramiro Aragon..... <a href="mailto:aragon.nw@gmail.com">aragon.nw@gmail.com</a>
	Rachael Friese..... <a href="mailto:audadventures@gmail.com">audadventures@gmail.com</a>
	Jim Maloney.....541.968.9249..... <a href="mailto:jimgmal@comcast.net">jimgmal@comcast.net</a>
	Rebecca Waterman.....541.653.3354..... <a href="mailto:fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org">fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org</a>
	Herb Wisner (Emeritus) ... 541.344.3634..... <a href="mailto:hrwisner@comcast.net">hrwisner@comcast.net</a>

## Lane County Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Audubon Phone.....	Dick Lamster.....	541.485.BIRD
Audubon Adventures.....	Rachael Friese.....	<a href="mailto:audadventures@gmail.com">audadventures@gmail.com</a>
Audubon in the Schools.....	Volunteer Opportunity	
Booth.....	Ron Renchler.....	541.345.0834..... <a href="mailto:christyandron2@gmail.com">christyandron2@gmail.com</a>
Conservation.....	Debbie Schlenoff.....	541.685.0610..... <a href="mailto:dschlenoff@msn.com">dschlenoff@msn.com</a>
Education.....	Volunteer Opportunity	
Field Notes.....	Allison & Tom Mickel.....	541.485.7112..... <a href="mailto:tamickel@riouisa.com">tamickel@riouisa.com</a>
Field Trips.....	Rebecca Waterman.....	541.653.3354..... <a href="mailto:fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org">fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org</a>
FRESH.....	Art Farley.....	541.683.1186..... <a href="mailto:art@cs.uoregon.edu">art@cs.uoregon.edu</a>
Membership Data.....	Tim Godsil.....	541.915.8852..... <a href="mailto:tgodsil@gmail.com">tgodsil@gmail.com</a>
Program Coordinator.....	Dennis Arendt.....	541.221.3691..... <a href="mailto:dennisarendt@gmail.com">dennisarendt@gmail.com</a>
Quail Editor.....	Karen Irmischer.....	<a href="mailto:quailkaren1@gmail.com">quailkaren1@gmail.com</a>
Quail Design & Layout.....	Volunteer Opportunity	
Recording Secretary.....	Kathy Wilson.....	<a href="mailto:kfred1953@yahoo.com">kfred1953@yahoo.com</a>
Webmaster.....	Hilary Dearborn.....	<a href="mailto:hcdearborn@gmail.com">hcdearborn@gmail.com</a>

## 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](http://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).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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- To pay by PayPal, go to [laneaudubon.org/support/join](http://laneaudubon.org/support/join)
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- I would prefer to receive the *e-Quail* newsletter by e-mail.
- I would like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.
- I would like to volunteer for Lane County Audubon activities.
- Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organizations. We will use it only for Lane County Audubon Society communications.

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



## Community Calendar and Events

A service to Lane County Audubon Society members

3/2

### Coast Fork Birders

March 2, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

*Cottage Grove High School Bird Walk*

Participants of all birding abilities are encouraged to join this bird walk led by Grace Fowler-Gore. FMI: [coastfork.org](http://coastfork.org) or 541.767.9717

3/9

### Finley National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, March 9, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

*Fifth Annual Winter Wildlife Field Day*

Free bilingual, hands-on family event, focusing on nature's predators. Includes live birds, walks, games, bookmobile, owl pellet dissection and more. Sponsored by 12 Benton County organizations. FMI: 541.757.7236

3/9

### Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Saturday, March 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

*Flies and Flowers Walk*

Arboretum Interpretation Coordinator August Jackson leads a walk to explore the important role of flies in the pollination of our early wildflowers. Learn about pollination, along with the names and ecology of some of our colorful native flies and early spring wildflowers. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free. FMI for all walks: [mountpisgaharboretum.org](http://mountpisgaharboretum.org) or 541.741.4110

3/10

Sunday, March 10, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

*Bird Walk*

Join Joni Dawning and Julia Siporin

on their monthly bird walk for people at all levels of birding experience. Vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues will be used for bird identification. Please bring binoculars. Rain or shine.

Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, members free.

3/16

Saturday, March 16, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

*Nature's Slimy Creatures Walk*

Slugs, snails, worms, and more! On

this walk for families, learn about the lives of our slimy friends at the Arboretum. These greatly under-appreciated creatures are more fascinating than you've ever imagined. Rain or shine.

Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. Members \$5 per family, non-members \$8 per family.

3/17

Sunday, March 17, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

*Turtle Flats 3rd Annual Bird Count*

The Coast Fork Willamette

Watershed Council and the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah are collaborating in this count. Turtle Flats is a 63-acre property where the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette River flow together. Birders will survey a portion of the area, including some of the old gravel ponds. The survey will contribute valuable bird data over time as site restoration takes place. Birders of all ability levels are welcome to participate. Space is limited and fills up quickly. FMI and to register: [volunteer@bufordpark.org](mailto:volunteer@bufordpark.org)

3/18

### Southern Willamette

### Ornithological Club (SWOC)

Monday, March 18, 7 p.m.

*Eugene Birders' Night*

The presentation is TBA. All are welcome to attend this free monthly event.

Location: Historic McNail-Riley house, 601 W 13th Ave, Eugene, at the NW corner of W. 13th and Jefferson St., by the former Lincoln School. Park in the five spaces closest to the M-R house, or across 13th in the fairgrounds parking lot. FMI: [ellencantor@gmail.com](mailto:ellencantor@gmail.com)

3/18

### Native Plant Society of Oregon

March 18, 7 p.m.

*When Plants Flower*

Briana Lindh will share data on changes in spring flowering dates from 1960 to the present, focusing on plant responses to anthropogenic climate change and natural climate oscillation.

Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St., Eugene 97405. FMI: [emerald.npsoregon.org](http://emerald.npsoregon.org).

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## Good Earth Show Volunteers Deserve Thanks

by Ron Renschler, LCAS Outreach Coordinator

Thanks to all the Lane County Audubon Society members who helped make the 14th annual Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show, held January 18-20, such a success. This year's show turned out to be one of our best shows yet in terms of trial memberships generated, items sold, and general exposure for LCAS.

Nancy Radius, David Stone, Susanne Twilight-Alexander, Margot Fetz, Janie Thomas, John Lemay, Sally O'Donnell, Dan Willis, Connie Berglund, Debbie Schlenoff, Dolly Marshall, Sara Brownmiller, Milo Mecham, and Rick Ahrens all helped staff the booth this year. Thanks to each of them.

Special thanks go to Debbie Schlenoff and her husband Rob, Maeve Sowles, Jim Maloney, Christy McMannis, Sara Brownmiller, Milo Mecham, and Nancy Radius, who helped with setup and takedown of the booth.

On Sunday afternoon, Dick Lamster gave a seminar on backyard birding that was attended by about 20 show-goers. Thanks to Dick for doing this.

Finally, Wren Fulner handled the booth-scheduling duties this year and was a great help. Special thanks also go to her for putting together the booth staffing schedule and for sending out and responding to messages.



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



## LCAS Bird Walks & Events

Rebecca Waterman, 541.653.3354, fieldtrips@laneaudubon.org



### Third Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, March 16, 8 a.m.

Gerry Meenaghan will lead a walk at and around Lane Community College. Details will be posted on the LCAS Facebook page: [facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824](https://facebook.com/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824), and on the website: [laneaudubon.org](http://laneaudubon.org).

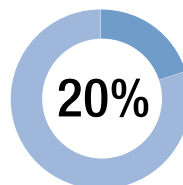
*All ages and skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars, if you have them. To carpool, meet at 8 a.m. at the South Eugene High School parking lot, corner of 19th and Patterson. We plan to return by noon. Remember that it's not a good idea to leave valuables or your vehicle registration in your car if you leave it at the lot. A \$3 donation is appreciated to help support Lane County Audubon's activities. FMI: Rebecca Waterman at 541.653.3354 or [Rebecca.waterman@gmail.com](mailto:Rebecca.waterman@gmail.com).*



**March Program Meeting**  
Birds, Wildlife and Landscapes of  
Northern Tanzania with John Sullivan  
and Laura Johnson

Tuesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High St., Eugene



Join your fellow 20% of Lane County  
Audubon Society members who help save  
paper and postage by receiving *The Quail*  
electronically.

Contact Tim Godsfil at [tgodsfil@gmail.com](mailto:tgodsfil@gmail.com)