Water’s Way

September is when our gardens bring on the harvest of vegetables and fruits. It is also the dry time of year, and watering the garden becomes a daily ritual. Our property is at 1,000-foot elevation in the southwest hills of Eugene, so our growing season starts a little later than in the Willamette Valley, but stretches into October and the first frost. We are on a hill so my husband set up nine catchment tanks that collect water off the roofs of the house and shop during the rainy season. The tanks hold 9,500 gallons of water. They are behind the buildings and uphill from the garden, so the flow is gravity-fed. This year we are using the tank water to irrigate the garden and orchard to save our well water for household uses. I’m very excited to have this bonus water supply.

Watering the garden is a great excuse to spend time outside each day checking out the birds on our property. In September the birds are often juvenile juncos, towhees, and sparrows (White-crowned and Song). They peruse my garden plot for insects. The juvenile goldfinches, House Finches, and Purple Finches come to the dried sunflower heads, but they will also “graze” the adjoining field for seeds in the tall grass. I hear small family flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Western Tanagers. Often the tanagers will come to our water course for a drink in the afternoon, which gives us a great look at these beautiful birds that are normally high up in the trees. While watering, I see mixed flocks of chickadees and warblers working through the oak and fir trees, foraging for insects. A few lingering Rufous Hummingbird juveniles will sometimes come down to my water hose for a refreshing shower, giving me up-close looks at these speedy rascals, who quickly fly off to chase another bird that comes too close to their patch of flowers.

Having a supply of water in the dry season is critical for the garden and the wildlife. The saved water source provides this basic need, giving us a new way to enhance the property for our bird neighbors.
There has been a recent spate of articles in the scientific literature about the benefits of experiencing nature and sharing that experience with children. Among the health benefits discussed are an increase in overall fitness, improvement in vision and physical skills, an increase in vitamin D levels, a reduction in stress levels, help for children with attention deficit disorders, and improvement of critical thinking skills and exam scores in general. Light is being shed on social benefits as well; a 2009 study asks “Can nature make us more caring?”  Most of us don’t need to read the research to have an intrinsic understanding that it’s a good idea to have our children play outside, watch a bird splashing in a birdbath, follow a line of marching ants, walk through the woods, or dabble their toes in the water. The joy of sharing nature is good for children and good for you as well. And it goes further; an appreciation of nature fostered in children today could be what saves our planet in the future. Those people who have come to feel a connection with nature are most likely to value it and act to conserve it.

It is important to introduce children to the wonders of nature, but let’s not forget that we all retain some of the child within. We all take pleasure in observing wildlife, and we can gain additional satisfaction from the opportunity for our observations to contribute important information via citizen science. I’ve always thought that scientists are a lot like kids: both ask lots of questions, they both wonder what would happen if … and then guess at the answers (scientists call them “hypotheses”), and, of course, they both like to play (scientists call that “experimenting”). There are many ways to tap into a scientifically based exploration of the world. Many birders already do so; they keep careful lists and often submit their checklists to an online database—e-bird. Participation in this reporting system is on the rise; as of this writing, e-bird is nearing its 100 millionth bird observation. The information that can be gleaned from this communal effort is valuable; scientists are tracking abundance, distribution, population trends, and much more. If you haven’t already done so, check out the wealth of information to be found at the e-bird site and consider joining in at http://ebird.org

How to have fun while contributing important scientific data? There are many other citizen science projects that are enjoyed by birders. The Christmas Bird Count has contributed priceless data for over a century (http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count). Many have also participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count in February (http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/), Project FeederWatch (http://birds.cornell.edu/pfw/), and the North American Breeding Bird Survey (http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/participate/).

If you are interested in expanding your citizen science participation beyond birds, here are some other projects that you can contribute to:

- Nature’s Notebook (http://www.usanpn.org/participate/observe)
- FrogWatch (http://www.aza.org/frogwatch/)
- Monarch Watch (http://www.monarchwatch.org/)
- Project BudBurst (http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citscitooolkit/projects/ucar/budburst/)
- Great WorldWide Star Count (http://www.windows2universe.org/citizen_science/starcount/index.html)
- Additional citizen science projects at (http://www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-science/)
Audubon Adventures is the award-winning environmental education program about the natural world and how to protect it. This science-based program helps our students form positive attitudes about nature and supports teachers with instructional content aligned with national standards for social studies, civics, science, and language arts.

Designed for students in grades 3-6, 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. Lane County’s children will be inspired by this year’s new edition of “Sharing Our Earth.” Their adventures will include the following themes:

- Sharing Our Shores
- Caring For Our Planet—Be a Friend to Birds
- World of the Forest
- Grasslands: A Prairie Tale

Teachers receiving Audubon Adventures materials receive several supplemental resources, including student handouts, posters, brochures, a full-color teacher’s manual with articles and worksheets to share with students, and a year’s membership to National Audubon Society and Lane County Audubon Society.

Through the generous donations of LCAS members, Lane Audubon’s Adopt-a-Classroom Program will offer free subscriptions to this outstanding educational program again this year. Our goal is to raise a new generation of Oregonians with a greater appreciation and concern for their environment.

Below are several classrooms whose teachers would like to participate in the program for the upcoming school year. We expect the participation to increase as the school year gets underway. If you would like to sponsor a classroom, please mail a tax-deductible donation of $45, payable to “LCAS, Audubon Adventures,” to LCAS, PO Box 5086, Eugene OR 97405. You may request sponsorship of any of the schools and classes listed below, or contact Joyce Trawle at jtrawle@comcast.net or 541-515-6244 if you have another school or classroom you’d like to nominate for sponsorship.

Thank you so much for your support!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes Awaiting Sponsors for 2012-2013 School Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riverbend Elementary</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack Elementary</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Creek Elementary</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Creek Elementary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams Elementary</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veneta Elementary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakridge Elementary</td>
<td>3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bohemia Elementary</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Elementary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurel Elementary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Calendar, Events, and Opportunities

A service to Lane Audubon members

North America Wide Swift Night Out
September 7-9
Contribute your swift count to this national effort!
http://www.chimneyswifts.org/page7.html

Nearby Nature Fall New Volunteer Orientation
September 11, 6:30 p.m. (Tuesday)
Eugene Public Library, Tykeson Room
FMI: http://www.nearbynature.org

Nearby Nature Restoration Celebration Litter Patrol
September 23, 1–4 p.m. (Saturday)
Alton Baker Park, Eugene. Registration and Fees Required
FMI: 541-687-9699, ext. 2, or www.nearbynature.org/programs

Cascades Raptor Center Family Nature Discovery Days
September 30, noon – 4:00 p.m.
Cascades Raptor Center, Eugene. “Migration Station”
Fee. FMI: www.eraptors.org
The weather was a real mixed bag this season; a wet June and a mostly dry July with lots of morning clouds. From a 
birding standpoint, this season was amazing – just look at all the rare and unusual reports below. The highlight is 
a toss-up between Eric Horvath’s finding Black Swift nests at Salt Creek Falls and the breeding-plumage Spotted 
Redshank found by Becky Uhler at Fern Ridge Reservoir. After thirty years of watching Black Swifts at the falls, Eric found 
the first documented nests in Oregon! And of course a breeding-plumage Spotted Redshank is a spectacular bird, and to find 
one in Lane County is an amazing find! Unfortunately, it wasn’t very cooperative and was seen by only about a dozen people.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR).

### WATERBIRDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Abbrev.</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brant (11)</td>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>Siuslaw River DP</td>
<td></td>
<td>Small numbers summer along the coast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Goose</td>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>Florence DP</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rare summer record – injured wing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cackling Goose</td>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>FRR – Royal Ave NS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rare summer record – injured?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-winged Teal (pair)</td>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>Siltcoos Estuary DF</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rare on the outer coast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Scoter (3)</td>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>NJSR JW</td>
<td></td>
<td>Unusual during the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowy Egret</td>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>Delta Ponds TMe</td>
<td></td>
<td>First summer record, 15th for county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-crowned Night-Heron</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>East Springfield SMc</td>
<td></td>
<td>Unusual summer sighting away from FRR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-crowned Night-Heron</td>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>Mt Pisgah area MO</td>
<td></td>
<td>There aren’t any known Lane County nesting areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### QUAIL to AUKLETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Abbrev.</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Quail</td>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>Spencer Butte TMe</td>
<td></td>
<td>An area where they were “common,” but</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Quail</td>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>Spencer Butte E&amp;VT</td>
<td></td>
<td>haven’t been reported for a number of years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-tailed Kite</td>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>Noti VT</td>
<td></td>
<td>An area where they’ve bred in the past.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-shouldered Hawk</td>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>Morse Ranch park CQ</td>
<td></td>
<td>Found in the area for the last couple months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Cost Range J&amp;JD</td>
<td></td>
<td>A pair fledged 3 young.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-bellied Plover (4)</td>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>Siltcoos Estuary DF</td>
<td></td>
<td>Still headed north?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semipalmated Plover</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>FRR – Royal Ave LM,RR</td>
<td></td>
<td>An early date for their southern migration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-necked Stilt (3)</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>FRR – Royal Ave NS</td>
<td></td>
<td>First report since early spring this year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Golden-plover</td>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>FRR – Royal Ave JS</td>
<td></td>
<td>An almost annual migrant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wandering Tattler (2)</td>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>SJSR RR</td>
<td></td>
<td>A normal migration time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Yellowlegs (4)</td>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>Siltcoos Estuary DF</td>
<td></td>
<td>Breeding plumage – headed south?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Redshank</td>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>FRR – W Coyote BU</td>
<td></td>
<td>Second Oregon record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willet</td>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>SJSR DP</td>
<td></td>
<td>A very unusual June record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddy Turnstone</td>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>NJSR NS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Their normal migration period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruddy Turnstone</td>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>FRR – Royal Ave NS</td>
<td></td>
<td>First record for inland Lane County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semipalmated Sandpiper</td>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>Siltcoos Estuary DF</td>
<td></td>
<td>A little early for their southward migration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semipalmated Sandpiper</td>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>FRR – Royal Ave AHi</td>
<td></td>
<td>A normal time for migration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Sandpiper (3)</td>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>Siltcoos Estuary DF</td>
<td></td>
<td>Breeding plumage – headed south?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-necked Stint</td>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>SJSR crab dock AC, LB, TMe</td>
<td></td>
<td>The fourth county record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baird’s Sandpiper</td>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>FRR – Royal Ave BMc</td>
<td></td>
<td>An early report for this species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruff (Reeve)</td>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>FRR – Royal Ave JS</td>
<td></td>
<td>An unusually early record for this almost annual migrant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson’s Phalarope (21)</td>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>FRR – Royal Ave AHi</td>
<td></td>
<td>The highest count at FRR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-necked Phalarope</td>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>FRR – Royal Ave DH</td>
<td></td>
<td>About the end of their migration window.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sabine's Gull  July 29  Heceta Beach  RR  The only summer record for the county.
Bonaparte's Gull  July 13  FRR – Royal Ave  BMc  A rare summer report.
Arctic Tern  June 26  Siletz River beach  DF  Rarely found during the summer.
Forster’s Tern  July 5  FRR – Royal Ave  m.ob.  Not known to breed in the county.
Rhinoceros Auklet (18)  June 29  SJSR  S&SG  A good location this time of year.
Rhinoceros Auklet (61)  July 29  Siuslaw River mouth  WH  A very high number for Lane County.

**OWLS to FINCHES**

**Northern Pygmy-Owl**  June 2  Spencer Butte  TMe  They’ve been quite common in the south hills this year.
**Spotted Owl** (2)  July 29  McKenzie River basin  JS,LJ  Always a special treat while hiking in the Cascades!
**Common Nighthawk**  June/July  Eugene/Springfield  m.ob.  Four reports for the season, about a normal number.
**Black Swift** (nests)  July 20  Salt Creek falls  EH  First documented nests in Oregon! First found at the falls in 1982 and assumed to be breeding there, but now there’s proof.

**Acorn Woodpecker**  June 19  Goshen  NS  Not an area where they’re reported regularly.
**Acorn Woodpecker**  June 20  Brays Point area  fide DP  A very rare coastal record.
**Red-eyed Vireo**  July 3  Clearwater Park  RR  Same area they were found in last year.
**Horned Lark** (singing)  July 31  FRR – E Coyote LN  They’ve been reported from this area in the past during the breeding season.

**Northern Mockingbird**  July 1  Creswell  NS  One of about a half dozen summer records.
**Townsend’s Warbler**  July 1  Creswell  NS  Rare Willamette Valley summer record.
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**  June 2  Eugene  S&SG  About 15 records for the county.
**Indigo X Lazuli Bunting**  June 2  Eugene  MP,RH R&JB  Hybrids have turned up with some regularity the last few years around Eugene/Springfield.

**Vesper Sparrow**  June 19  Goshen area  NS  An area where they’ve bred in the past.
**Great-tailed Grackle**  July 7  FRR – Fisher Butte  A&TM  About the eighth record for Lane County.
**Red Crossbill**  June 27  Delta Ponds  LM,et al.  Large numbers seen in the area.
**Red Crossbill** (20)  July 20  Springfield  JS  Unusual away from conifer forests.
**Pine Siskin** (8)  June 16  Eugene  SG  Later than normal.
**Evening Grosbeak** (pair)  June 20  Eugene  SG  Later than normal.

Check us out on Facebook
Lane Audubon is now 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.

http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Lane-County-Audubon-Society/330177413824

Electronic version of The Quail available!
Help us save paper and postage! Lane County Audubon Society offers an electronic version of The Quail. It’s easy to change your current membership to an electronic notification. Each month, LCAS will send a link to your email address that will take you to a pdf version of our newsletter. You’ll receive the added benefit of viewing The Quail’s photos in color, and families can sign up more than one email address to receive the newsletter under one membership. If at any time you decide you’d rather switch back to receiving your Quail in the mail, no problem! If you would like to begin receiving The Quail electronically or would like more information, please contact Tim Godsil at tgodsil@gmail.com.

Lane Audubon 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 support 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 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

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Deadlines:
October issue: Sept 1
November Issue: Oct 6

Submissions to: 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 tgodsil@gmail.com.

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Thanks, Kris!

Kris Kirkeby has been a Lane Audubon board member since late 2003! Starting in 2004, she created Audubon in the Schools (AITS), a unique program teaching art in classrooms using bird specimens, feathers, bones, and nests. Kris crafted the teaching modules, trained many volunteers, networked with schools and teachers, prepared and organized the bird specimens, bought art supplies, and kept this program running for eight years. There have been thousands of third to fifth graders who have benefitted from Kris’ program that teaches observational skills, drawing techniques, and bird biology. (Fortunately we now have Barclay Browne to carry on the Audubon in the Schools program with the help of her teaching team and scheduler for the next school year!) Kris’ many talents and commitment to education have given our Lane Audubon Chapter an educational program with a big community impact. We will miss Kris’ presence at our board meetings, her creativity for booth education, and articles for The Quail. She always came through with great ideas and great nurturing of the Audubon mission. We all wish Kris well pursuing her own art and having more time for family.

Thank you, Kris!
THIRD SATURDAY BIRD WALK
Alton Baker Park led by Verja Thompson
Meet at the South Eugene High School parking lot (corner of 19th and Patterson) for carpooling at 8:00 a.m. and plan to return by noon. All birders are welcome. A $3 donation is suggested. As a precaution, please remember not to leave valuables in your car. Questions? Call Maeve Sowles at 541-343-8664 or email: president@laneaudubon.org

FALL VAUX’S SWIFT EVENTS
LCAS is holding its annual fall swift event outside Agate Hall on September 21 and 28 at sunset. The Vaux’s swifts use the chimney to roost for the night as they gather prior to migration. Last year at this time we saw 7,000 birds using this location as a gathering place. It is a wonderful chance to observe and learn about the birds that will migrate to Central and South America at the end of their breeding season. Lane Audubon 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.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Distribute and Deliver The Quail in the Community
Our newsletter reaches a broad audience. Help us get printed newsletters out to the community by delivering them to the post office for delivery to our members. Also, distribute The Quail 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.