

Nature Trails

Published by the Eugene Natural History Society

Volume Fifty-four, Number One, January 2020



Photo by Dean Walton

**Heartening:
Encouragement for Earth's Weary Lovers
Kathleen Dean Moore
Climate Activist, Writer, Philosopher**

**Friday, 17 January 2020, 7:30 p.m.
Room 100 Willamette Hall, UO Campus**



Kathleen Dean Moore is a philosopher, climate activist, and writer. From Corvallis, she travels widely to speak about the moral urgency of climate action and perform with the music/spoken word

collaboration, “The Extinction Variations (Meadowlarks).”

[Editor’s note: the first introduction I wrote for the Eugene Natural History Society was for the October 2007 speaker: Kathleen Dean Moore. Since the story of her early history hasn’t changed, parts of that earlier introduction are repeated here.]

Growing up around Cleveland, Ohio, Kathleen Dean was encouraged by both her mom and dad to learn about nature. Her father, the naturalist at Cleveland’s Rocky River Park, often took her with him as he led weekly excursions through the woods. She and her sisters liked to “poke around” (In her essay “Winter Creek” Moore says “Poking around is more capricious than studying, but more intense than strolling. It’s less systematic than watching, but more closely focused.”).

At the College of Wooster she had a wonderful philosophy professor. It was there that she decided to major in philosophy and become a professor of philosophy herself. And it was there she met Frank Moore, with the result being that Kathleen Dean became Kathleen Dean Moore. The newlyweds, both of whom loved rapidly moving water, used the squiggly-blue-line method to choose their graduate school. They looked at various state maps, applied to schools in the three states that had the most rivers, and ended up at the University of Colorado. She finished with a PhD in philosophy, he with one in biology. When looking for gainful employment they emulated another class of persons associated with moving water: riverboat gamblers. Frank had been offered an adjunct appointment at Oregon State University, Kathleen had no offer of any kind, and they decided to go for it! “All in,” in poker parlance. Those blue lines on the Oregon map must’ve looked really inviting.

Once in Corvallis Kathleen offered to teach a couple of philosophy courses. The department liked her. One thing led to another, she persevered, and she became a Distinguished Professor of Philosophy (Frank also made it to Distinguished Professor). Among her many other honors she became the University Writer Laureate, and her book *Pine Island Paradox* won the Oregon Book Award. Other books she has written, several of which have also won

awards, celebrate cultural and spiritual connections to wet, wild places—*Piano Tide: A Novel*; *Great Tide Rising*; *Wild Comfort*; *Holdfast*; and *Riverwalking*. She is co-editor of essay collections about Rachel Carson, Apache philosopher Viola Cordova, and Mount St. Helens. She and fellow philosophy professor Michael Nelson (ENHSers will remember Nelson from his talk to us about wolves and moose in Isle Royale) are co-editors of the essay collection *Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril*. This book contains a forward by Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and essays by Barack Obama, the Dali Lama, and other notables (some of whom have also been ENHS speakers). Her work has appeared in *Orion*, *Sun*, *Utne Reader*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Conservation Biology*, *Audubon*, *Discover*, and many other journals. When her latest literary effort, *Earth’s Wild Music: In Memoriam*, is finished it will be her fourteenth book. Look for it in about a year. Her concern about the mass extinctions caused by climate change has led to the latest chapter in her own life’s book: recently she gave up her Distinguished Professorship at OSU and became Professor Emerita, having decided to work full time on the climate emergency. She splits her time between Oregon and Alaska, spending the summers in southeast Alaska on an island.

Moore founded and is currently a Senior Fellow of the Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word, a fascinating endeavor. More can be learned about the Spring Creek Project by going to its website: <https://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/centers-and-initiatives/spring-creek-project>

In that 2007 interview I asked her about hobbies, and river trips immediately came up. The answer to “How many boats do you have?” took some cogitating. “There’s a blue kayak, a red kayak...” eventually she stopped at nine, all with names, most without motors. Hiking, night walking, tide pooling, and writing are also on the list of things she does for fun.

Here in her own words is a sketch of Moore’s talk: “These are hard times for naturalists, birders, hikers, children, and all of us who love the Earth and its wild creatures. Messages of global mass extinction, climate catastrophe, and ecosystem collapse are dark and pressing. So let us take an evening to gather our loins for the work ahead of us. We may be tired, we may be weary, but the world desperately needs our defense. With drawings and essays from her new collaboration with Canadian humorist and artist Bob Haverluck, Kathleen Dean Moore will remind us of why we work so hard for the sake of the planet and why we must continue.” You will want to be in room

100 Willamette Hall on the UO campus at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, 17 January 2020, to hear Moore's talk
Heartening: Encouragement for Earth's

Weary Lovers. The room almost certainly will be full so arrive early if you want a seat and a cookie.
John Carter

Next-Longest Night by Tom A. Titus

Twenty-four hours after the Winter Solstice, and I'm craving solitude. The road to the Johnny Gunter place traverses night-struck ridges into the heart of the Coast Range. Rivers of fog flow across asphalt, swallowing headlight beams in formless vapor. Pulling up to the old house, I'm surprised by the instant illumination from a new motion sensor porch light, an incongruous piece of technology I haven't yet seen in action. The garden gate is hanging open. Again. A week has passed since my last visit, and deer will certainly have browsed off every leaf of winter kale. Resigned, I pull the gate closed, jingling the stillness with the chain that holds it shut.

Inside the frigid house, I light the woodstove. In a few minutes, drafts on stove doors pulse with air sucked in by the ravenous combustion of dead trees. While the house fills with heat, I return to the porch, shut off that new porch light, and park myself in a plastic lawn chair. Silence. The dark tide of night flows in, suspending me in an ocean of blackness. All that remains of four stormy days is a trickle of raindrops tapping the tin porch roof. The swollen creek sings alto from the valley floor, bank-full rush against rock and log rising into the night. A small breeze brooms needled bows, becoming a tenor descending from the ridge. Chorus of creek and wind. Winter song.

Back in the house, the warm stove does not contain my compulsion to embrace the long night. I return to the porch with a sleeping bag and burrow in. A poultice of impenetrable silence settles over my soul, drawing out years of flailing angst against this season of darkness. We celebrate Winter Solstice as the return of light. I understand. Living things cannot survive in a state of permanent dormancy. Hearts must quicken out of hibernation. Sap must eventually flow. So bring out the candles. I'll celebrate with you. But beyond that tiny flame-lit circle lies a heaving sea of darkness, full of big energy and big dreams waiting for my attention.

No dreams await me. Rather, I surface from a deep pool of sleep into relentless darkness. The night is timeless because the rotation of moon and stars is veiled by overcast, and all timekeeping gadgetry is hidden away. Full immersion in a visual blackout might be the best time in which to contemplate beauty. Nothing is impinging on my thinking other than the usual load of unresolved cognitive dissonance brought on by conflicting ideas. Timeless

insomnia is a rare gift. Ideas stretch outward, unimpeded.

There is a nearly universal human need for natural beauty. This longing is likely an outcome of millions of years of biological coevolution with the ecosystems that have supported us. We love snowfalls and Steller's Jays and sideband snails precisely because most of our history was spent woven tightly within a network of ecological relationships. In the flicker of an historical eyelash we have pushed the world to the edge of ecosystem collapse through industrialization. Climate change is impacting broad swaths of previously unaffected landscape, from rotting ice caps to burning taiga forests to continent-wide declines in songbirds to dying coral reefs. Extinctions are careening along with unprecedented speed and scope. The window of time is closing when beauty can be pursued even in vast reaches of pristine wilderness. A critical question confronts us: *How might we reimagine our concept of natural beauty when that gift is disappearing daily?*

Perhaps we need a change in scope. This could be easy for those living in the coastal Pacific Northwest, because local and regional ecosystems are packed with biological diversity. Just looking down delivers a multitude of opportunities for experiencing beauty. Salamanders are my favorite examples because for reasons that are obscure even to me, I am in love with them. The brick-red herringbone back of the Oregon Slender Salamander, belly speckled with tiny snowflakes falling in a dusky sky; brassy marbling on latte skin of the Coastal Giant Salamander, largest terrestrial salamander in the world; golden armpits of the Oregon Ensatina, bright splashes of yellow where legs and body intersect, creamy eggs visible through translucent skin; glistening moonscape of a Rough-skinned Newt, each bump a group of cells producing a neurotoxin with the collective potential to kill ten adult humans. The universe of salamander form and function is full of subtle splendor. Many other small universes await our exploration.

Or maybe our definitions of beauty need revision. Kim and I disembarked from a train in Trenton, New Jersey to discover a large tile mosaic covering a wall at the front entrance of the station. The piece depicted a red fox sitting at the edge of a pond amid ragged riparian vegetation and a looming industrial backdrop of factories and power lines. The artwork seemed to shout down questions. Was the fox in this hybrid landscape more exquisite because of human-built

starkness? Or was the industry-scape less ugly for the presence of the fox? Or were the fox and factories conjoined into a new form of beauty? All of these queries could be answered with “yes!” But answers are less important than understanding that our concepts of natural beauty will require rapid change. Otherwise, we are doomed to spend our precious lives mired in anger and discontent.

In all this reevaluation and reimagining of ways to experience beauty in nature, we must not lose our capacity for grief. The biosphere as we have known it is experiencing a protracted death at our hands. Unprecedented biotic extinction is an unfolding global emergency that demands a reevaluation of

how we might live responsibly and meaningfully. Somehow we must learn to live with the duality of beauty in all the ways it manifests and grieve when that beauty disappears.

Night unspools. My thinking is finally overtaken by exhaustion, and a returning wave of sleep washes over me. When I awaken, dawn is creeping so slowly over the meadow that I don't realize it has arrived. As if in deference to the dark, the rising sun hides behind a curtain of clouds, keeping his pink wings folded. Silhouette arms of Douglas-fir reach upward, backlit by gray. The creek is still singing. Inside the garden fence the kale is untouched. All is beautiful.

Trail Tales for Mount Pisgah

by David Wagner

One of the things I enjoy about leading nature walks at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum, usually every spring and fall festival, is telling some of my favorite natural history stories. People who attend these walks more than two or three times over the years can expect me to retell and expand on stories they have heard before. Each story is designed to be a simple lesson that can be learned and passed on by any dedicated nature lover. It's all about what we see from the trails.

One story reaches its conclusion with a declaration of epiphany I experienced as a consequence of conducting nature walks every year. An epiphany refers to a flash realization, a moment of sudden revelation or insight, perhaps of something that could have been noticed earlier. The story unfolds on the Hillside Trail that connects Zigzag Trail with Buford Trail on the north-facing slope below upper Plateau. The forest here is dominated by a robust stand of Douglas-fir. This stand of evergreen conifers is a great place for explaining to out-of-town visitors how the most valuable timber trees of Oregon develop.

The steepness of the slope below the trail allows us to look into the middle of the forest. It reveals how the closed canopy of an even-aged conifer stand outcompetes deciduous, broad-leaved trees that began growing at the same time as the Douglas-firs. Maple, ash, and oak grow faster than evergreen conifers as saplings but eventually the Douglas-fir will overtop them. The broadleaf trees' growth rate slows down when they reach 50 or 60 feet tall. Douglas-fir just keeps growing steadily at a rate of 1 to 3 feet a year, year after year—if allowed, century after century—crowding out broadleaf trees as the conifer canopy gradually closes over them. The broadleaf trees cannot keep up and eventually succumb to lack of light, dwindling in vigor until they die.

The Hillside Trail vantage also provides an easy way to see a feature of Douglas-fir that makes it so valuable: its ability to self-prune its lower branches, leaving a trunk to expand without knots in the wood. Needle-bearing branches fill out the top of the closed canopy. The lowest branches closer to the ground die, decompose at the base rapidly, and are pinched off by annual growth rings that cover them over.

We call lumber from this stage of growth clear wood. A mature, old-growth Douglas-fir offers the most beautiful, valuable lumber our forests can produce. The grain is straight and strong, without flaws. The older the tree, the longer is the trunk having a thick layer of knot-free wood, strong and straight grained. A board of clear fir twelve feet long, twelve inches wide and one inch thick is in itself a thing of beauty. Old-growth western red cedar may rival it for beauty but cedar splits too readily to work easily. I used to tell my students that in Asian countries like Japan the fine, close rings of old-growth clear fir would be reserved for use in building temples, palaces, and for fine cabinet work. It would not be sliced into 2X4 studs for ordinary stick houses or peeled into thin sheets of veneer to make plywood.

Epiphany? One day on a nature walk I realized I had been saying that the trees in that Douglas-fir stand along the Hillside Trail were about eighty years old. My eighty-year estimate was based on personal experience working in second-growth timberlands with plantations of well-known ages. I had been saying the tree were about eighty years old for at least twenty years! It was time to recognize the trees paralleled my own vintage and that I should adjust my age estimate to accommodate that realization. I have been saying lately that these trees are about 110 years old; it will not be too long before I'll say 120 years. The final lesson here is that even if these trees live long enough to double my lifespan, they will still be youthful in their life expectancy. It makes me remember the firm belief of my grad school ecology

prof, Rex Daubenmire, that no forest should be under private management. Humans just do not live long enough to trust them to plan management of an ecosystem that normally has a 500-year regeneration cycle in our region. He was certainly an idealist but the point he made was that a tree's life span and a human's life span are not close to being congruent.

Another story I tell regularly relates to the time of the year we are on the trails. The time scale for these stories is seasonal change in a yearly cycle, not the subtle passage of decades watching trees grow. Seasonal changes in our north temperate zone are usually divided into four parts: winter, spring, summer, and fall. In the interior of the North American continent these divisions are quite sharply marked by both weather and growing season. In general, there is a single growing season each year, spring and summer. With fall comes the decline of growth, slowing down until dormant in winter.

Seasons in western Oregon are different. We note the change of season on our calendars but the actual changes are slow and merge into each other gradually. What is remarkable is that we have two growing seasons, one the usual spring-summer-fall and the other in the rainy season. The summer season is shortened because rain becomes scarce, with

several weeks of drought typical in August and September. Our rainy season stitches together fall-winter-spring into a distinct growing season. It is a long rainy season, October to March. This rainy season is what makes the mosses and lichens so prominent on the branches of the oak, maple and ash. Mosses and lichens on branches of deciduous trees are dry and dormant from mid to late summer, when rainfall is minimal. Then, during the rainy season, when these trees have lost their leaves so there is abundant light on their branches and rainfall keeps them moist, the mosses and lichens perk up and undergo their annual growth and reproduction cycle. In early summer they will dry out and stay mostly dormant until the fall rains return.

Licorice fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*), the only fern that grows on the branches of the deciduous trees, has the same seasonal cycle as the mosses. Its fronds appear with the first rains, growing from moist mats. They expand and produce their spores in late winter and by June the fronds have shriveled and fallen off. Only on the winter and early spring nature walks can we be sure to see the licorice fern at its peak of growth.

Now is the season to walk in the woods to see what the rain makes luxuriant.

Events of Interest in the Community

McKenzie River Trust

Wednesdays, 15 January, and 5 February, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Watershed Wednesday at Green Island. Join us on Green Island to protect and help to establish a young riparian forest where the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers meet. Watershed Wednesday projects connect community members to direct conservation actions throughout the Upper Willamette watershed. We invite you to join the effort to protect, connect, and restore our local lands and rivers.

Saturday, 25 January 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Friday, 31 January, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. South Fork Restoration Planting. The project area encompasses the lower 4.2 miles of the South Fork McKenzie River from the base of Cougar Dam to the confluence with the McKenzie River and is approximately 780 acres in size. It includes two large alluvial valleys, separated by a transport reach, with another transport reach right below Cougar Dam. Most of the project area is under USFS ownership, except for approximately 40 acres owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers. This project is an important part of regional efforts to restore habitat for spring Chinook salmon and bull trout in the Willamette River Basin. The project is designed to rehabilitate to the maximum extent practicable the physical, chemical, and biological processes that are impaired by Cougar Dam. Meet at Delta Campground Nature Trail Head, Blue River.

Lane County Audubon Society

Tuesday, 28 January, 7:30 p.m. Birding Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Harney County. Harry Fuller will give us a look at the rich and diverse bird populations of Harney County—the Great Basin species we never get on this side of the Cascades. This includes the birds that pass through during migration, and those that are year-round residents. Fuller is a devoted birder who enthusiastically shares his passion. He leads trips for the Malheur Field Station and the Klamath Bird Observatory, Road Scholar, and Golden Gate Audubon. He also is available for private guiding services. His natural history books include *Freeway Birding*, *Great Gray Owls in California, Oregon and Washington*, and *San Francisco's Natural History*. Early this year the Oregon State University Press published an anthology of essays about Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, entitled *Edge of Awe*. Fuller contributed the chapter on Common Nighthawks, seen at the Malheur refuge in abundance. Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St.

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum (all these MPA events will occur rain or shine; meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center and don't forget your parking pass.)

Sunday, 12 January, 8:30 to 11 a.m. Bird Walk. Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for another monthly bird walk intended for people with all levels of birding experience. We'll use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of our winter and year-round residents. Come discover the Arboretum's avian diversity. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue

the walk until noon for those who are interested. \$5, members free.

Saturday, 18 January, 10 a.m. to noon. Lichen Walk. Join lichenologist Daphne Stone on this popular walk through the Arboretum exploring lichens, their habitats, and ecology. Learn a few names and enjoy the moist winter air that makes the Pacific Northwest such a great place for lichens to grow. \$5, members free.

Saturday and Sunday, 8 and 9 February, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bee Identification Workshop. More than 500 bee species may be native to Oregon, but many of them are poorly known. Better understanding the bees in our region will require more people able to identify them. Join August Jackson, Interpretation Coordinator at Mount Pisgah Arboretum and author of *The Bees of the Willamette Valley*, for a two-day crash course on bee identification held in partnership with Lane Community College. The class will focus on identification to genus, and participants will leave with the knowledge and skills to identify most of the 30 bee genera that can be found in the Willamette Valley. Most of the class will be spent viewing specimens through microscopes and utilizing an illustrated key. No prior experience with bees, microscopes, or keys necessary. Arboretum members \$70, non-members \$80. Pre-registration required. To register call 541-747-3817 or go to:

<http://www.mountpisgaharboretum.com/workshop-registration>

Sunday, 9 February, 8:30 to 11 a.m. Bird Walk. Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for another monthly bird walk intended for people with all levels of birding experience. We'll use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of our winter and year-round residents. Come discover the Arboretum's avian diversity. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. \$5, members free.

Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah

Monday Morning Regulars. 9 a.m. to noon. Contact volunteer@bufordpark.org for more information.

Tuesdays and Thursdays Nursery Work. 9 a.m. to noon. Meet and work at the Native Plant Nursery at Buford Park. Enter Buford Park from Seavey Loop Road. Turn LEFT after crossing the bridge and drive 1/4 mile to the nursery.

The University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History

Go to <https://mnch.uoregon.edu/events> for a complete listing of MNCH's upcoming events.

Sunday, 26 January, Cascadia Geology Walk and Talk. Last year, Governor Kate Brown proclaimed 26 January as Cascadia Preparedness Day, highlighting the need to prepare Oregon for an expected 9.0-magnitude earthquake along the Cascadia subduction zone. Join us on this year's Preparedness Day for a quake-focused Walk & Talk through the Explore Oregon exhibit. We'll dig into plate tectonics, tsunami science, and more. Talks begin at noon, 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m. and are included with regular admission. Free for MNCH members and UO ID card holders. Show your Oregon Trail or other EBT card for an admission discount.

Saturday, 8 February, Second Saturdays at the Museum. We're celebrating Charles Darwin's birthday by showing how much We Love Science! Join us for a fun exploration of "how we know what we know" thanks to research, experiments, and more. You can even make a valentine for your favorite scientist. A drop-in event, Second Saturday is perfect for children ages three and up with an accompanying adult. Included with regular admission; free for MNCH members and UO ID card holders. Show your Oregon Trail or other EBT card for an admission discount.

Exhibits: (Exhibit hours: Tuesdays through Sundays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) **Oregon—Where Past is Present.** Delve into Oregon's story, from the archaeology of the First Americans to the dynamic cultures of today's Tribes. **Explore Oregon.** Experience the dynamic forces that shape Oregon's landscapes, climate, and ecosystems. Meet giant salmon, Ice Age sloths, and other amazing animals from across the millennia. **Native Plant Courtyard.** The Glenn Starlin Native Plant Courtyard is a living research collection of Oregon's native plants. To learn more go to <https://mnch.uoregon.edu/about-museum>

Native Plant Society of Oregon, Emerald Chapter

Monday, 20 January, 7 to 9 p.m. Pacific Northwest Native Plants in Gardens and Landscapes. Sheila Klest from Trillium Nursery will discuss how to create different garden styles using Pacific Northwest natives, how to use natural plant associations to find plants that grow well together, and how to evaluate what plants might do well on your site. She will discuss growing conditions and some propagation tips, and how to use native plants for hedgerows and farmscaping. Location: Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St., Eugene.

Nearby Nature

Saturday, 11 January, 1 to 3 p.m. Citizen Science Saturday: Feeder Watch. Join us for data collection, observations, photography, and more. This month we will learn about nationwide efforts to document visits to backyard and community feeders and record bird feeder activity in the Learnscape. Event open to all, but designed especially for adult participants. If you have a smartphone or a camera, please bring one to take pictures. Smartphone users please load the iNaturalist app (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>) onto your phone if possible. Members free, non-members \$7. Pre-register at 541-687-9699 or [online](#). Meet on the [Water Wise Garden Patio outside the Alton Baker Park Host Residence](#).

Tuesday, 14 January, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Green Start Play Day: Winter Greens. Enjoy outdoor nature play in our Learnscape plus toddler and pre-school activities and stories. This month join us as we discover trees that stay green all winter long. Listen to the story of Douglas the Mouse, collect and sort cones, and make evergreen art! Rain or shine. Kids 5 and under only, with an adult. Members free, non-members \$7/family. Pre-register [online](#) or call 541-687-9699.

North American Butterfly Association, Oregon (Eugene/Springfield) Chapter

For information on upcoming events go to <https://www.naba.org/chapters/nabaes/>

WREN (Willamette Resources and Educational Network)

Tuesday, 14 January, 9 to 11 a.m. Wetland Wander. Delta Ponds. Expand your appreciation and general knowledge of birds while developing your ID skills in this beginner-centered birding walk along Delta Ponds. Dave Bontrager, the walk leader, is a retired wildlife biologist, teacher, and biological consultant. He has done field research on birds and mammals and has taught a variety of bird and natural history classes. He taught for several years for the Audubon Society at their Starr Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary in California. Meet behind the Valley River Center in the parking lot near the footbridge over the Willamette River. *Wetland Wanders are casual walks through the West Eugene Wetlands. Walks are free and open to the public. Bring water and appropriate layers, and binoculars.*

2019 Eugene Christmas Bird Count by Dick Lamster, Count Coordinator

Twenty-seven teams of observers looked for birds for the 78th ECBC on Sunday, 31 December 2019, with no ice, no snow and no wind. The 162 Field Observers along with the 81 Home Counters identified 123 species of birds (plus eight more during Count Week) and 357,948 individual birds. The number of species is a little below average for the past few years, but the huge number of individual birds is extremely high due to a flock of 270,000 starlings verified by two teams. Our record for species is 140 (plus 2 during Count Week) seen in 2005. Our previous record of 129,874 individual birds was set in 2000.

One of the more unusual sightings included a Williamson's Sapsucker, which is not normally found in the Willamette Valley. It had been reported on the count before, back in 1965. Another unusual find was four Semipalmated Plovers at Fern Ridge, which are present during migration but not usually in the winter. There were three species seen in large flocks at Fern Ridge that led to record highs: Gadwall, Common Merganser and American White Pelican. The old record for Pelicans was 65 but the wintering flock has grown this year and 105 were found. Eurasian Collared-Doves reached another record high, with 325 counted in 22 different areas. We also had a record high of 299 Anna's Hummingbirds, which were found in almost every area. 27 Black Phoebes documented the continued growth of phoebes in the count circle. We were able to find all the expected species of owls except for Short-eared Owls, which have gotten more difficult to find in recent years.

Having 162 Field Observers set a new record erasing our old record of 157 set in 2012. The number of Home Counters was about average for the past few years. Herb Wisner continues to manage the Home Counters at age 97 ½! His son and daughter, Darryl and Linda, along with Maeve Sowles, assisted Herb this year. Last year we had the 12th largest Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in number of participants out of the 2,615 Christmas Bird Counts in the U.S., Canada and Latin America. A complete listing of all the CBC's and previous year's results can be found on the National Audubon Society's website at www.christmasbirdcount.org. The code for the ECBC is OREU.

The Field Observers walked 154 miles in 191 hours and drove 590 miles in 75 hours. We also had two observers who looked for birds from their bicycles for 5 hours and rode for 7 miles. Seven teams went owling in the dark for 13 hours and covered 35 miles. The 81 Home Counters watched birds for approximately 234 hours.

A big thank you goes to Herb Wisner for organizing the Home Counters, Vjera Thompson for compiling the results and the 27 Team Leaders. Without the Team Leaders' hard work of assembling their teams, guiding them all day and then reporting the results, the ECBC would not be the great event it is today.

Thanks again to all of you who participated and helped to make the 2019 ECBC one of the biggest and best in the country! Be sure to mark 3 January 2021 on your calendar for the 2020 ECBC.

ENHS welcomes new members! To join, fill out the form below. Membership payments allow us to give modest honoraria to our speakers, as well as to pay for the publication and mailing of *Nature Trails*. Our web address: <http://biology.uoregon.edu/enhs>

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State & Zip _____ Phone _____
E-mail (if you want to receive announcements) _____
I (we) prefer electronic copies of NT rather than paper copies. ___ Yes ___ No
If yes, email address (if different from the one above): _____
ANNUAL DUES: Family \$25.00
 Individual 15.00
 Life Membership 300.00
 Contribution _____

Make checks payable to:
Eugene Natural History Society
P.O. Box 5494, Eugene OR 97405

Annual dues for renewing members are payable in September. Memberships run from September to September. Generosity is encouraged and appreciated.

The Eugene Natural History Society meets on the third Friday of the month September through May except in December when the meeting is on the second Friday.

Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. and our standard meeting location is room 100 Willamette Hall on the University of Oregon Campus. Any temporary changes will be noted in the newsletter for the current meeting and on our website:

<https://blogs.uoregon.edu/enhsuoregon/>

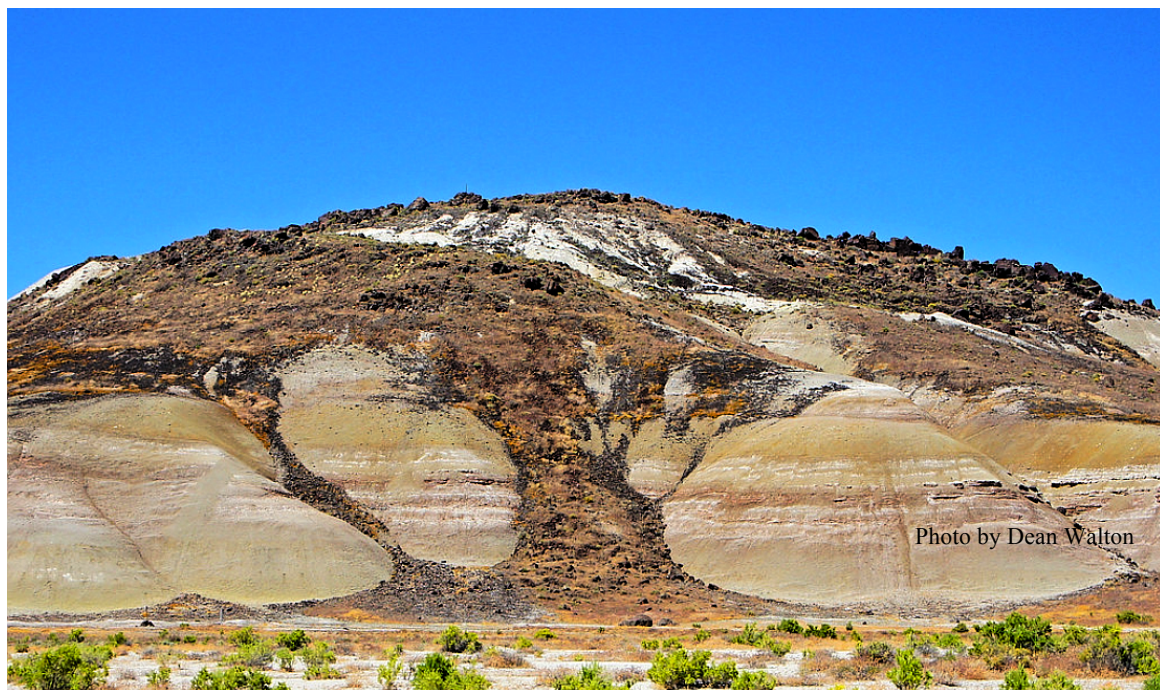


Photo by Dean Walton

President: Dean Walton <mailto:dpwalton@uoregon.edu> 541-346-2871

Vice President: Rebecca Hazen <mailto:rebeccahazen2011@comcast.net>

Immediate Past President: Tom Titus <mailto:tomtitus@tomtitus.com>

Secretary: Kit Kirkpatrick kitkirkpatrick@gmail.com

Treasurer: Judi Horstmann, horstmann529@comcast.net

Board: Ruth BreMiller, John Carter, Tim Godsil, Rebecca Hazen, August Jackson, Phil Johnson, Reida Kimmel, Kris Kirkeby, Dave Wagner, and Kim Wollter. Herb Wisner, emeritus

Website Webmaster: Tim Godsil, tgodsil@uoregon.edu

Nature Trails: Editor: John Carter, jvernoncarter@comcast.net; Support Staff: Ruth BreMiller and Reida Kimmel.

2019-2020 Speakers and Topics

17 Jan. **Kathleen Dean Moore**

21 Feb. **Paul Cziko**

20 Mar. **John Helmer**

17 Apr **John Bishop**

15 May **David Wagner**

Heartening: Encouragement for Earth's Weary Lovers

Opening a "Window" into Antarctica's Frozen Ocean

Steens Mountain: A Tale of Beauty and Hard Work

The Weevil Empire: How Insects Rule Plant Succession at

Mount St. Helens and Other Stories from the Pumice Plain

Mosses, Liverworts, and Hornworts

A good place to park for our meetings is the Physical Plant lot: turn north from Franklin onto Onyx, go about a block and you will be in the lot. After 6pm it's open to the public.