

# A Book for Keeping and for Giving

Since Alan couldn't give his talk this month, I thought I would give you a glimpse of his recently published book, ***Birds of Lane County, Oregon***, Edited by Alan Contreras and published by the OSU Press.



Edited by Alan L. Contreras  
2006. 5-1/2 x 9-1/4 inches.  
368 pages. B&W  
photographs. Maps. Line  
drawings. Index.  
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Paperback, \$20.00

## Snippets from press release, Harry Nehls, OSU Press website:

"*Birds of Lane County* is the essential guide for anyone - backyard birder or serious observer - interested in the birds of western Oregon. Lane County's bird life is rich with variety; over three hundred bird species may be found in the county during the year. Within an hour's drive of Eugene, birders may encounter Black Oystercatchers, Pelagic Cormorants, and Snowy Plovers on the coast or Black-backed Woodpeckers, Northern Goshawks, and Mountain Bluebirds in the Cascades. . . .

"Alan Contreras and a team of expert contributors describe the one hundred best birding sites in the county, with detailed

information on what may be found, and where and when to seek particular birds. All sites are publicly accessible with clear, easy-to-follow directions and maps, and many of the sites are at least partly wheelchair accessible.

"They provide species accounts with basic information about the status, distribution, abundance, and movements of each species known to have occurred in Lane County.

"The book offers useful resources for birders, including migrant arrival and departure tables, seasonal charts, a gazetteer, contact information for local birding, natural history organizations, and a species checklist."

Harry Nehls, author of *Birds of the Willamette Valley Region*

## Food for thought from "The Quote Garden" online.

The moment a little boy is concerned with which is a jay



and which is a sparrow, he can no longer see the birds nor hear them sing. ~Eric Berne

Half the modern drugs could well be thrown out the window,

except that the birds might eat them. ~Martin H. Fischer

A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song. ~Chinese Proverb

## The Earth Recycles Her Crust?

I've always enjoyed geology, though I don't remember much from the courses I took many years past. From what I do read occasionally today, it's just as well I don't remember, because most of the ideas about the formation of the earth and its features seem to have changed. This week I read in *Science Daily* online about research being done by geologist Claude Herzberg at Rutgers that seems to confirm that "our planet practices recycling on a grand scale." I've read before that some scientist think that the crust we see and walk on today is one and the same as earlier crusts, simply disappearing through subduction and then brought forth again in the form of magma. "Many geologists felt that when the Earth's crust was forced deep into the mantle . . . it would simply stay there."

Writing in the science journal *Nature*, November 30, Herzberg offers new evidence that the lava flows from Hawaiian volcanoes are nothing more than parts of the Earth's crust, parts that dived "hundreds or thousands of kilometers into the Earth's interior" and eventually heated

up until forced out through volcanic activity, again becoming part of our crust.

Herzberg's research revolves around chemical evidence primarily from the volcano Mauna Kea. "The low calcium in the Hawaiian magma, pegs it as crust that had melted and been forced to the surface," he said. "Traditional magma," magma formed from the melting of the mantle not the crust, has much higher calcium levels.

Chemical evidence doesn't just rest with calcium. Herzberg and his team detail additional findings involving sulfur, hafnium and lead. Apparently these elements are "tracers" for substances like clay, which form very near the surface. Future research will extend to volcanoes all over the world.

The island of Hawaii however, offers the most potential for further research because the largest and most productive volcanoes on earth rest and spew forth from her landmass.

Just think of all the extinct organisms that might have shared our dirt. *Editor*