



THE CHAT

SUMMER 2018

VOL. 47 #10

ASC General Meeting

September 20, 2018 Program

6:30-8:30 pm (No member meeting in August)

Local Researchers Discuss Their Work

Program Speakers: Stephen Fitzgerald, Joan Hagar and Amy Barry

Stephen Fitzgerald is a Professor and Extension Silviculture & Fire Specialist with Oregon State University. He is also the Director of the College of Forestry's Research Forests, which encompasses approximately 15,000 acres on nine different tracts across the state. Fitzgerald is stationed at OSU in Corvallis, Oregon, and has been with OSU for just over 34 years. Stephen will provide an overview of the many research studies taking place in Oregon Research Forests.

Joan Hagar is a Research Wildlife Biologist for the USGS, at the Forest & Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center in Corvallis, OR. Her research program broadly addresses the effects of natural disturbance and management strategies on biodiversity, with the goal of providing a scientific basis for management of wildlife and habitat. Forest songbirds are her favorite research subject, but she has also studied arthropods, amphibians, bats, pikas, pygmy rabbits, and flying squirrels. Purple Martin research will be the subject of Joan's talk.

Amy Barry recently received her M.S. from OSU in the Department of Forestry. Her Master's research focused on assessing the long-term usefulness of created snags as bird habitat in the McDonald-Dunn. Amy has also worked as a wildlife field biologist for many organizations in the Pacific Northwest, including US Army Corps of Engineers, NCASI, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and the Institute for Applied Ecology. Her current focus is on assessing woodpecker populations and habitat in managed forests. Amy will address the impact of created snags and how they have been utilized by wildlife over the past 25 years. She will also share results of recent Pileated Woodpecker surveys.

Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and visiting. The chapter meeting begins at 7:00 pm, followed by our guest presentations at 7:30.

*Mark Baldwin, Vice Pres. & Program Chair,
mark.baldwin2@comcast.net*

ASC General Meetings

Third Thursdays at Chintimini Senior Ctr: September – May
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis

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Field Trip Schedule

Half-Day Birding Trips

Our Saturday morning local field trips meet the second Saturday from September through June at the Benton Center (757 NW Polk) parking area, behind Cannery Mall, Corvallis at 7:30 am. This field trip is free and geared towards beginning birders, birders new to Oregon's mid-valley area and persons looking for a pleasant outing. Contact Bill Proebsting at proebstw@gmail.com or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midval-

ley ListServ, <http://www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/>, a couple of days before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Return to Benton Center by noon.

September 8. Bald Hill Natural Area. From the Oak Creek parking lot, we will make the circuit on the bike path and around through Bald Hill Farm, looking for flocks of migrants. Vesper Sparrow is usually still around, and we have seen Virginia Rail along Mulkey Creek.

Bill Proebsting

Weekend Field Trips

There are two more weekend field trips scheduled in August and September, 2018. As always, we will travel together in rented vans and share the relatively low costs of transportation and lodging. We will eat out, but you pay only for your own food and beverages. Van drivers are needed.

To sign up email: flramsey5@comcast.net.

The remaining 2018 weekend trip is:

Steens Mountain, August 16-19 Thu-Sun— **Canceled**
South Coast, September 1-3 Sat-Mon—contact Fred

Fred Ramsey, Weekend Field Trip Chair

President's Corner

ASC's Precious Resources

Among small-to-midsized Audubon Society chapters, ASC has two resources that make us, if not unique, at least highly distinctive. And both of those resources need help. I refer to our multi-day field trip program and to Hesthavn, our very own nature center. Each resource is being carried on the back of one person, and those two people need support.

For many years Fred Ramsey has organized as many as a half-dozen three- and four-day field trips per year to the best birding locales in Oregon, and has provided superb experiences at modest cost. For some time he has been asking for opportunities to work with eventual replacements. He has mentioned the pressures of advancing age, and that factor was brought home to us just a few weeks ago. If the outings program is to continue, new leadership needs to come on board—possibly with two leaders per trip—an organizer and a bird guide—sharing responsibilities. Does anyone out there want to work with Fred, to ensure the continuation of our multi-day outings? If you can assist with weekend field trips, please contact Fred Ramsey at flramsey5@comcast.net.

At Hesthavn Ray Drapek is supported by an excellent committee and by volunteers who take responsibility for selected aspects of the Hesthavn operation. However, Ray himself contributes far more time and effort, especially on top of a full-time job, than should be expected of any volunteer. I have been to more than one of Ray's Saturday work parties and found myself the only volunteer in attendance. With my own responsibilities as ASC president winding down, I expect to contribute more, but Hesthavn needs a lot more help than one additional volunteer can provide. If you can assist with our stewardship at Hesthavn, please email Ray at raydrapek@gmail.com.

As my last official act as ASC president, I urge fellow members to step forward and help keep ASC one of the best Audubon chapters anywhere.

Chris Mathews

ASC President 2005–2008 and 2015–2018

Conservation Update

A New Path for Conservation

Over the years, Audubon Society of Corvallis has been integral to conservation advocacy efforts across Oregon and

the United States. With our efforts, species like the Western Snowy Plover, Northern Spotted Owl, and Marbled Murrelet have gained both federal protections and some measure of increased persistence. Some Bureau of Land Management lands in eastern Oregon have gained protection as future wilderness, and in western Oregon, BLM lands have fared better due to adoption of the federal Northwest Forest Plan.

Conservation gains regularly experience setbacks, such as the re-opening of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration which we fought to stop. Worse setbacks come with the Trump administration's capricious and unprincipled evisceration of air and water protections. Some of these regulatory revisions will not withstand judicial scrutiny, but without a fair and unbiased court system—which is now being loaded with exploitative special interests—the greater setback will be a further weakening of congressional and judicial branches of United States government into rubber stamps for a dictatorial rule. That is already happening.

These are indeed precarious times, and the future of those natural resources ASC focuses on—birds, wildlife and their habitats—are dependent on the seriousness of our commitment to protect and even enhance what remains. Educational awareness of course is key towards involving the larger community, but without teaching and instilling a desire to advocate for improving what we have, we delay our potential gains for another generation and more.

As I move on to other avenues of environmental activism, I challenge ASC to take a more integrated path forward—where birding, field trips, educational programs and evening presentations all have an identifiable and measurable outcome towards a better world for all birds and wildlife.

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair

Atop the Nest Box

The ASC website has educational information on its link to Bluebird Trail. The existing document, "Monitor Bluebird Nest Boxes" will soon be replaced by a more comprehensive document, "2018 Revised Bluebird Monitoring Guide." There will also be a nest box plan for Western Bluebirds on the site.

Just as a reminder to anyone who now has occupied nest boxes. Birds do not tolerate well, ambient temperatures in the mid- to upper-90 degrees F over 3 days in a row without shade on the box. A quick fix where there is not severe wind, is to securely attach an umbrella to the box without blocking the opening. I have custom fit a cardboard on top and some sides exposed to the sun, in a way to allow air



flow around the box, by using wire, screws and sometimes bungee cords.

Rita Snyder

Education News

By the time this newsletter is sent out, our ASC Education team will have completed several summer programs including 8 classes at Girl Scout Camp on Owls and Woodpeckers of the Forest, and a fun interactive table at Get Outdoors Day at Peavy Arboretum.

We are taking a short one month break to get rested up and organized for school year programs from birding badges to senior programs and the start of planning for Winter Wildlife Field Day 2019! Thanks to all our wonderful team members for their skills and dedication that allow us to accomplish so much in environmental education and outreach.

If you want more information about the ASC Ed team, contact us at volunteerasc@gmail.com or check in with us at the monthly member meetings that begin September 20. Thanks!

Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team

Hesthavn News

Hesthavn Coming work parties:

Sunday, Sept 9, 10 am to 2 pm. Barn and yard work party. Miscellaneous maintenance activities.

Saturday, Sept 29, 10 am to 2 pm. Cleaning the weeds out from around the caged plants.

If you would like to help us care for the trails, meadows, trees, bird feeders and homes, and buildings of Audubon's Nature Center, on Oak Creek, please contact Hesthavn Chair, Ray Drapek, at raydrapek@gmail.com, to volunteer.

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

A Hesthavn Celebration of Feathers

October 22, 1–3 pm

Have you ever been asked by someone, "What is the most complicated thing that grows from skin?"; you know, common street corner talk. Well, it is not scales, nails or claws; antlers just don't cut it, nor do rhino horns or even armadillo armor. It is neither fur, whiskers nor hair; and, heavens, it's not warts. The answer is feathers. Glorious feathers! And we Audubon members can be proud: only birds got 'em. (Chew on that, cow-watchers!) As part of our focus on the Year of the Bird, your Audubon Society of Corvallis's own Hesthavn Nature Center opens its second season with a detailed look at feathers and flight called: **A Hesthavn Celebration of Feathers!** We will offer family-friendly fun, educational activities, a craft and a scavenger hunt. The lovely grounds will be open for strolling and we will have many, many feathers on hand. Bring in your own feathers and perhaps we can identify them. October 22nd, 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Free for all ages!

Valerie & Dale Mitchell, ASC Ed Team

2018 Birdathon

The 18th annual Birdathon was successful as always, with ten teams participating. Together we covered Corvallis and surrounding areas, the coast, the Rogue Valley and an area in Texas! We raised over \$4,000, bringing total earnings over the years to nearly \$80,000. These funds go directly to Hesthavn Nature Center, and will be used for routine maintenance, as well as larger projects.

We had group sponsors for all the teams, with Elsie Eltzroth continuing the family tradition, and Wild Birds Unlimited again contributing to everyone. Thanks very much, WBU and Elsie!

Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank take the prize for most motorless birds recorded, at an incredible 132 species! Don and Lisa covered 85 miles in 48 hours, starting at 3:30 am the first morning, for owls and the full dawn chorus. These two know their local areas incredibly well. Tyler Hallman, birding in Texas, found 155 species, the most of this year's Thon. Pam and Randy Comeleo were second, with 140 species.

The other teams this year were Dodie Wilson, Jamie Simmons, Hendrik Herlyn and Oscar Harper, Ann Brodie and friends (Wanda Parrott, Marcia Cutler, Melinda Manore), Mary Derr, the ASC's Rogue Valley field trip and Karan and Jim Fairchild.

And finally, of course, we heartily thank everyone who sponsored a team. Hesthavn is a thriving nature center and native plant and wildlife sanctuary largely because of your generosity!

Karan Fairchild, 2018 Birdathon coordinator

Field Notes

04/27/18–07/19/18

Late spring weather and early summer had notably scant rainfall for the season (totaling less than 0.5 inch in Corvallis), but high humidity, frequent cloud cover and mild temperatures combined to keep plants green and growing. Late June and early July brought a shift to mostly clear skies and hotter weather, with 8 days over 90 F.

Abbreviations and locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds. Big Lake and Lost Lake are in the Santiam Pass area. Cheadle Lake is in Lebanon. Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR. Jackson-Frazier Wetlands is in north Corvallis near Cheldelin Middle School. Luckiamute State Natural Area (SNA) is along the Willamette River northwest of Albany. Philomath STP is south of Philomath and requires access permission. Teloh-Calapooia Park is in south Albany near Linn-Benton Community College, Talking Water Gardens is in NE Albany.

Observations:

On 30 Apr, 70 northbound **Greater White-fronted Geese** stopped to rest on a large new fibert irrigation pond s. of Monmouth. A **Cackling Goose** was still on Cheadle Lake 14 Jul (Jeff Harding). A lone **swan** was still at McFadden Marsh 27 May (Howard Bruner). Normally these birds should be far to the north by May, but sometimes injuries can prevent individuals from migrating.

A female **Wood Duck** watched over six large ducklings in Teloh-Calapooia Park 25 Jun (Jim Smith). A pair of **Green-**

winged Teal skulked on the Philomath STP through 27 May, and a pair of **Greater Scaup** swam there 22 May (Howard Bruner).

Mountain Quail called on forest land north of Corvallis 28 Apr (Pam & Randy Comeleo) and on the south side of Vineyard Mountain 11 May (Paul Adamus). On 18 Jun one took a dust bath at Fitton Green (Julie Gibson). Two male **Sooty Grouse** boomed on Marys Peak 3 May (Hendrik Herlyn, Oscar Harper). Ian Tomlinson saw four broods of **Ruffed Grouse** and **Sooty Grouse** in the Yellowstone area above Quartzville Creek at the end of June.

As the local population of introduced **Wild Turkeys** continues to grow, flocks can become a nuisance. Andrea Foster found that a row of “whirligigs” spinning in the breeze tends to keep the Timberhill flock from loitering in her yard and raiding her feeders.

Two **Red-necked Grebes** were on Foster Reservoir 29 Apr (Skip Russell, Darlene Betat). Several **Clark’s Grebes** barked and dove at the Philomath STP 7 May and a few **Western Grebes** continued there through 22 May (Howard Bruner).

A juvenile **Mourning Dove** visited a feeder near Teloh-Calapooia Park 12 May (Jim Smith). During June **Band-tailed Pigeon** flocks could be seen daily, flying high between nesting habitat in the edges of the Coast Range, and the deciduous forests where they feed on the valley floor.

A **Common Nighthawk** called over Dunn Forest on the evening of 29 May, and three called and boomed in mating displays there Dunn Forest 14 Jun (Pam & Randy Comeleo). One called over Rosewood Dr. in Corvallis 15 Jun (Rana Foster).

A **Black Swift** flew low to sip from the Philomath STP on 27 May (Howard Bruner). 820 **Vaux’s Swifts** roosted in a chimney behind Weigand Hall on the OSU campus 1 May (Mary Garrard, Bev Clark).

A **Rufous Hummingbird** nectared on Oregon-grape at Fitton Green 6 May (Julie Gibson). Some observers reported low numbers at feeders this spring, perhaps because of a strong, extended bloom of natural nectar sources. A migrant female **Calliope Hummingbird** visited a Witham Hill feeder 4 May (Hendrik Herlyn, Oscar Harper). As Paul Jacobsen was watering his garden with a hose and soaker attachment 24 May, a female **Anna’s Hummingbird** flew in close to sip from the spray.

On 1 May a pair of **Virginia Rails** led seven tiny chicks across a corner of Dave Bard and Julianna Burke’s yard near Buena Vista. Dave and Julianna guessed that the rails must have nested in a marsh that connects to the roadside ditch. Baby **American Coots** were noted at Finley NWR 22 May (Howard Bruner).

Black-necked Stilts at Baskett Slough NWR were on nests by 29 Apr (Frank Kolwicz). As of 11 Jun stilts were feeding young from two nests, but two other nests were still in the incubation/brooding stage (Frank Kolwicz).

Northbound migrant shorebirds at Herbert Farm Natural Area 28 Apr included 4 **Semipalmated Plovers**, 30 **Least Sandpipers** and several **Greater Yellowlegs**. A migrant **Pacific Golden-Plover** visited Baskett Slough NWR 6 May (Erik Knight); another was seen there 18-21 May (David Mandell; Nancy Stotz; Paul Sullivan).

A pair of **Killdeer** nested right in the median strip of the road between ponds at the Philomath STP; as of 11 Jun the nest held four well-camouflaged eggs; on 14 Jun the

Killdeer defended their nest with broken-wing displays to try to draw away an adult **Bald Eagle** and four juveniles that were loafing along the berm. Three Killdeer chicks hatched by 2 Jul though only one remained in the nest 4 Jul (Howard Bruner).

A **Sanderling** visited the Philomath STP 9 May (Hendrik Herlyn); another was there 24 May (Jeff Harding). By 2 Jul southbound shorebird movement at this site was evident with a **Western Sandpiper**, five **Least Sandpipers**, and four **Greater Yellowlegs**, followed on 4 Jul by a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (Howard Bruner). Several **Spotted Sandpipers** were along the Willamette River at Luckiamute SNA 10 Jul (Caleb & Evan Centanni). Several **Wilson’s Snipe** “winnowed” in mating display flights over Lost Lake on 1 Jul. Four migrant **Red-necked Phalaropes** swam on the Philomath STP 9 May (Hendrik Herlyn). Two **Wilson’s Phalaropes** foraged alongside the stilts and a late **Dunlin** at Baskett Slough NWR 24 May (Mitch Ratzlaff).

On 20 Jun a second-year **California Gull** showed up on the irrigation pond for a new hazelnut orchard along Airlie Rd., as part of the annual early-summer movement of gulls from inland nesting areas toward the coast. A migrant **Forster’s Tern** visited Cheadle Lake in Lebanon 18 May (Jeff Harding).

Two **Common Loons** swam and dove on Big Lake 19 May (Mike Clarke); one in breeding plumage dove on the Philomath STP 15 Jun (Louise Barden; Howard Bruner).

Ten **American White Pelicans** flew north over Finley NWR 5 May (Mary Rose Kent). Five flew south over Jackson-Frazier Wetland 7 May (Andrea Foster).

Three **Great Egrets** were still at Finley NWR 16 May (Rana Foster). A **Green Heron** perched on a power line along Airport Ave. s. of Corvallis 29 Apr was a surprising sight for the ASC birdathon (Lisa Millbank, Don Boucher). Two **Green Herons** and two **Great Blue Herons** were among the highlights for preschoolers visiting Talking Water Gardens 19 May (Karin Lamberson). One flew southeast over Kings x Circle Blvd on 20 Jun (Richard F. Hoyer), where Dixon Creek provides a strip of habitat.

A **Bald Eagle** nest at E.E. Wilson WA was still active (but well-concealed by foliage) through 30 Apr (Pam & Randy Comeleo). A well-described **White-tailed Kite** hover-hunted on the w. side of Corvallis 29 Jun (Harry Fuller).

A **Cooper’s Hawk** caused starlings and blackbirds to scatter when it suddenly appeared along NW Circle Blvd 22 Jun (Don Boucher). On 26 May Bill Proebsting heard calls of what sounded like a **Northern Goshawk**, on forest land a few miles from where an adult was seen 18 Apr (Pam & Randy Comeleo).

A **Barn Owl** was along Willamette Ave in SW Corvallis 17 Jun (Rana Foster). Three young **Great Horned Owls** fledged s. of Independence by 12 May (Mike Lippsmeyer). An adult was mobbed by 30 crows near Linus Pauling Middle School 24 Jun (Jed Irvine). At dusk on 24 Jun a pair of **Spotted Owls** called from an old-growth stand e. of Lacombe, despite the presence of **Barred Owls** which called later in the night.

On 25 May Nate Richardson and co-workers found two **Short-eared Owl** chicks being tended by two adults on a private land conservation easement e. of Harrisburg. Nate also saw an adult along Llewellyn Rd. 30 May.

A male **Acorn Woodpecker** that turned up near Fitton Green 2 May found a mate and set up housekeeping there by 15 Jun (Pam & Randy Comeleo).

A late **Merlin** squabbled with a Northern Harrier along Muddy Creek at Finley NWR 29 Apr (Lisa Millbank, Don Boucher). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings were unusually

frequent for the season around Corvallis, suggestive of possible nesting nearby. One terrified a pair of nesting American Crows near Cheldelin Middle School 1 May (Lisa Millbank). An adult spooked a flock of starlings at Bald Hill 6 Jun (Lisa Millbank). On 20 Jun in n. Corvallis one stooped on a **Green Heron** that took a sharp dive to dodge it (Jed Irvine). One carried off a bird carcass from SW Corvallis 4 Jul (Don Boucher).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** called on the south side of Vineyard Mountain and another was near Cronemiller Lake in McDonald Forest 28 Apr (Paul Adamus; Lisa Millbank). An early migrant **Western Wood-Pewee** called in Marys River Park 29 Apr (Isaac Denzer); reports were widespread by the first week of May.

A migrant **Gray Flycatcher** and two **Dusky Flycatchers** were at Lost Lake 30 Apr; called nearby (Tom Gilg). Another Dusky Flycatcher was along the edge of Witham Hill Natural Area in Corvallis 1 May (Hendrik Herlyn). A **Hammond's Flycatcher** was on Marys Peak 3 May (Hendrik Herlyn); good numbers were using thinned forests on BLM land e. of Lacombe by 24 Jun. **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** were widespread by 4 May when two sang at Luckiamute SNA. **Willow Flycatchers** began to show up 8-9 May when Kai Frueh found one in Willamette Park and Barbara Combs found another at the North Prairie.

A **Black Phoebe** calling along Garden Ave just NE of Corvallis turned out to be a juvenile (Don Boucher). An adult was at Cheadle Lake 14 Jul (Jeff Harding). A migrant **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was at Big Lake 19 May (Mike Clarke). One foraged along the Betty Griffiths Trail in NW Corvallis 11 Jun (Nancy Stotz). Another perched on a fence and called at the Oak Grove rest area along I-5 near Harrisburg 15 Jun (Grace Oliver).

A **Western Kingbird** visited the Philomath STP and one stopped by E.E. Wilson WA 30 Apr (Virginia Stanton; Pam & Randy Comeleo). Three were s. of Brownsville 5 May (Deanna Emig). A pair at a prairie conservation site north of Wren 11-18 May and another pair at OSU's Soap Creek Ranch 30 May through 11 Jun may have attempted to nest locally. One turned up near OSU's Dunn Ranch 14 Jun (Pam & Randy Comeleo).

A pair of **Red-eyed Vireos** were in the cottonwood-maple gallery forest at Luckiamute SNA 10-12 Jul; **Warbling Vireos** and a **Cassin's Vireo** were also present (Caleb & Evan Centanni; Roy Gerig). Another **Red-eyed Vireo** sang in bottomland forest near Bowers Rock 11 Jul (Lisa Millbank).

A **Gray Jay** called from atop a tall snag at Fitton Green 27 May (Julie Gibson); a family group visited suet feeders near there 15 Jun (Pam & Randy Comeleo). **California Scrub-Jays** tended two youngsters in NW Corvallis 13 Jun (Andrea Foster). On 23 May **American Crows** harassed a **Common Raven** that made the mistake of landing in Sunset Park 23 May (Don Boucher).

A pair of **Horned Larks** were along Bond Butte Rd. sw. of Brownsville 5 May (Deanna Emig). Several pairs of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** appeared to be nesting in a caved section of riverbank at Luckiamute SNA 20 May. **Purple Martins** were noted in good numbers during May and June; one sang over NE Corvallis 3 Jun (Don Boucher). **Violet-green Swallows** fledged from a Corvallis nest box 11 Jul (Joy Linn).

Bushtits tended a nest in Willamette Park in mid-May (Kris Ebbe). A **White-breasted Nuthatch** went into a nest box at Bald Hill Farm and stayed in there 8 May (Virginia Pear), likely a brooding female. A **Chestnut-backed Chickadee**

fledgling begged from an adult s. of Philomath 5 Jul (Virginia Stanton).

Many **Marsh Wrens** sang in wetlands along Bruce Rd. at Finley NWR 5 May (Mary Rose Kent). **House Wrens** began to arrive by 7 May when one was singing daily along Dunawi Creek (Don Boucher). **Pacific Wren** fledglings were scrabbling in the underbrush in McDonald Forest by 24 Jun (Howard Bruner). A **Rock Wren** was photographed on Marys Peak 4 May (John Gardiner); another turned up at the Philomath STP 16 May (Bruce, Eric, & Andrew Pratt). This species rarely shows up west of the Cascades crest, but might nest very locally in the Coast Range in some years.

A few migrant **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were noted through the first week of May. Two **Wrentits** sang at Peavy Arboretum 30 May (Andrea and Greg Foster).

Western Bluebirds were noticed in good numbers this spring. A territorial male attacked his reflection in windows at the ODFW buildings at the Corvallis Research Laboratory 21 May (Linda Campbell). Bill Gerth was happy to see one right in town on Beca St. 30 Jun. In Santiam Pass 19 Jun, a female **Mountain Bluebird** fed nestlings in a snag left by the B&B fire. Two **Townsend's Solitaires** (one singing) were on Marys Peak 3 May (Hendrik Herlyn, Oscar Harper).

A few **Swainson's Thrushes** arrived in the last days of April, but as of 30 Apr they were still outnumbered by lingering **Hermit Thrushes** at Finley NWR (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). A **Swainson's Thrush** sang briefly in NW Corvallis 11 May (Mary Garrard). A **Hermit Thrush** sang n. of Fitton Green 10 Jun (Don Boucher). Both of these species sang their ethereal songs high up Baker Creek 24 Jun (Howard Bruner). A **Northern Mockingbird** was along Belts Rd. s. of Brownsville on 22 Jun (Roy Gerig)

An influx of **Cedar Waxwings** was noted in the first week of May. A pair gathered nesting material in downtown Independence 6 Jun (Frank Kolwicz). Waxwings hawking insects over ponds and rivers were conspicuous by early July (Olin Allen; Mary Garrard). Three late migrant **American Pipits** were atop Marys Peak 21 May (Rich Hoyer).

Flocks of up to 12 **Pine Siskins** visited Judith & Jerry Paul's feeder in the Highland Dell neighborhood through 5 May. A female or immature **Cassin's Finch** called and perched in a snag near the summit of Marys Peak 3 May (Hendrik Herlyn, Oscar Harper). A male **House Finch** fed a begging fledgling near Airlie 29 May. **Eight Crossbills** flew east toward Bald Hill from the Fitton Green area 6 Jun (Lisa Millbank). **Lesser Goldfinch** fledglings followed their parents s. of Philomath 5 Jul (Virginia Stanton). Large flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** made their annual appearance on the OSU campus by 28 Apr (Mary Garrard); a flock fed in cottonwoods at Willamette Park 5 May (Kris Ebbe).

At least two **Nashville Warblers** sang along the 800 Rd. in the Baker Creek drainage of upper Soap Creek valley 24 Jun (Howard Bruner). One sang from mixed forest along the edge of a recently harvested unit in Dunn Forest 14 Jul (Bill Proebsting). **Yellow Warblers** began to arrive in Peoria 7 May (Greg Metcalfe). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were numerous on Marys Peak 26 May (Rana Foster).

A lingering **Townsend's Warbler** was in Witham Hill Natural Area in Corvallis 1 May (Hendrik Herlyn). **Black-throated Gray Warblers** and **Hermit Warblers** were noted in forested habitat throughout the period.

Strong movement of migrant **Wilson's Warblers**

continued through the first week of May. **Yellow-breasted Chats** called along the 200 Road on Dunn Forest 27 Apr (Pam & Randy Comeleo) and from a clearcut near Finley NWR and 28 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). On 9 Jun Bruce, Eric, & Andrew Pratt and his sons enjoyed good views of one sitting up in E.E. Wilson WA.

A **Green-tailed Towhee** sang from brush at Lost Lake 11 Jun (Dave Irons, Shawneen Finnegan). **Chipping Sparrows** sang in the Timberhill Open Space and Chip Ross Park 3 May (Don Boucher). A female carried nesting material in the Soap Creek valley 7 May; by 7 Jun a few fledglings there were following adults, flying well but still begging for handouts.

A **Vesper Sparrow** nest found s. of Corvallis 5 May had two eggs. A fledgling Vesper Sparrow on a pasture north of a Corvallis tried unsuccessfully to sponge a fat caterpillar from an adult **Savannah Sparrow** perched just above it. By 10 Jul most pairs at monitoring sites were into their second round of nesting.

On 5 May a **Grasshopper Sparrow** sang along Belts Dr. s. of Brownsville (Deanna Emig) where this species nests regularly. Two males sang on the slopes of Baskett Butte at Baskett Slough NWR 17 May through early June (Don Berg; Mitch Ratzlaff). Another turned up in a sparrow monitoring site in the Soap Creek Valley 27 Jun (Bob Altman), apparently wandering in search of a mate.

A late **"Sooty" Fox Sparrow** was in a clearcut in McDonald Forest 28 Apr (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). **Lincoln's Sparrows** sang from bogs amid small patches of melting snow in the Santiam Pass area 15 May. On 5 Jun a pair of **Song Sparrows** near Wren fed at two fledglings with small insects that they were plucking out of Poison Hemlock flowers.

Migrant flocks of **Golden-crowned Sparrows** continued through the end of April; one late bird was in Willamette Park 19 May (Kai Frueh). Female **White-crowned Sparrows** were on nests n. of Corvallis by 5 May. Fledglings both of this species and **Dark-eyed Junco** were being fed by adults in SW Corvallis by 12 Jun (Don Boucher).

A **Black-headed Grosbeak** visited Judith & Jerry Paul's feeder in the Highland Dell neighborhood 30 Apr. A Lazuli Bunting sang in the Dunawi Creek Community Garden from 2 May onward; by 16 Jul three juvenile buntings were being tended nearby (Don Boucher).

Several **Western Meadowlarks** were in grasslands s. of Brownsville 5 May (Deanna Emig). A male sang at Bald Hill Farm 23 May through 6 Jun (Lisa Millbank) but moved on after failing to find a mate. A **Bullock's Oriole** sang from woods near the Philomath STP 9 May (Hendrik Herlyn). Liz Hogan saw one in her s. Corvallis yard 18 May.

Two male **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were in wetlands along Bruce rd. at Finley NWR 5 May (Mary Rose Kent). A **Brewer's Blackbird** carried nesting material into a bush in the median of Circle Blvd at Hwy 99W 19 May (Jim Smith). A **Brown-headed Cowbird** fledgling near Teloh-Calapooia Park 22 Jun was fed by a **Song Sparrow** (Jim Smith).

A herd of 23 female and young **elk** were at Finley NWR 16 May (Rana Foster). On 20 Jun Lisa Millbank spotted what was very likely a **Long-tailed Weasel** along Witham Dr. in NW Corvallis.

Next month: As summer wears on, watch for fledglings and often-confusing juveniles of our regular nesting species, and passage of more southbound shorebirds. Please

post your observations to the Mid-Valley birding list at midvalleybirding.org, e-mail them to me at joel.geier@peak.org, send by post to 38566 Hwy 99W Corvallis 97330, or call (541) 745-5821 by 23 Aug.

ASC Book & Raffle Table

Book and Raffle Table to feature prime used books

Now you'll be able to find gently read used books each month at the ASC Book and Raffle Table. Our expanded used book selection will replace the newly published guide books we've traditionally offered. Thanks to the Wild Goose Nature Store at Finley National Wildlife Refuge, newly published birding and wildlife guides will be in stock and available there on weekends throughout the year rather than just once a month at the ASC monthly evening meetings.

As another service to ASC members, we'll welcome donations to our Book and Raffle table of your favorite books. If you no longer have room in your bookcases for books or have nice pieces of wildlife art or sculptures in your home which can enrich other people's lives, please think of us! If we can't use your books for the Book and Raffle Table, they will be taken to Friends of the Benton County Library and added to their Big Book Sale offering. If we are unable to use your art pieces as raffle prizes, we will tell you and you can take them right home again.

We're looking forward to welcoming you, your books and art at the September meeting on Thursday, September 20. We are also able to pick up donations at your home. Call me at 541-757 2749 or e-mail me at shaws@peak.org. Remember that ASC is a non-profit 501-C group so your donations are tax deductible. Thank you, as always for your interest and support.

Sally Shaw, Book and Raffle Table Co-chair

Community Notes

An opportunity for birders involved in citizen science projects:

As part of my dissertation research in the Environmental Science department at Oregon State University, I am seeking Oregon birders, 18 and older, and who participate in bird-related Citizen Science projects to participate in my research study titled, "Understanding eco-literacy among Oregon avian Citizen Science participants: Can birds teach participants about fire?". The purpose of this study is to examine ecological knowledge in bird Citizen Science participants.

Participation in this study requires a time commitment of 20-30 minutes to complete an online confidential questionnaire. To complete the survey, go to: <https://bit.ly/2LH9cWC>. If you have questions, please contact me at: Teresa.wicks@oregonstate.edu.

There is an optional confidential focus group that will require at least 60 minutes to participate in an online ranking and sorting project focused on science attitudes, identity, and ecoliteracy. If you are interested please provide your contact information to Teresa.Wicks@oregonstate.edu.

At the conclusion of this study any data you provide will be de-identified and will not be used for any future research.



The Principal Investigator for this project is my advisor, Dr. SueAnn Bottoms, a faculty member at Oregon State University. She can be reached at 541-737-8262.

*Teresa Wicks, PhD Candidate,
Environmental Science, Oregon State University*

Board Meeting Summary

Summary of May 2018 ASC Board Meeting

1. The slate of Board Member candidates for the May Chapter Meeting was finalized. New Officers & Members will assume their positions at the Summer Board Meeting in August.
2. The Board unanimously approved the Conservation Committee's choice to sign on to a comment letter provided by Portland Audubon & sent to the Dept. of Land Conservation & Development regarding the Rocky Shores Amendment to the Territorial Sea Plan.

3. The new President of OSU's Bird Nerds in the fall will be Gabe Sandoval, so he will act as official liaison to ASC.
4. Planned as a memorial to Amy Schoener, a new trail connecting Fitton Green with the west end of the Cardwell Hill trail system is taking shape. A partnership between Benton County Parks, Crestmont Land Trust, Greenbelt Land Trust, and Audubon Society of Corvallis is working on this exciting project. Trail clearing and construction are scheduled to begin in September.
5. After a great deal of discussion, the Board voted to donate \$10,000 to the Malheur Field Station to help with the sudden huge expense of replacing the ruined water system. Thank you to all members who also donated personally to this effort!
6. A further ASC donation will be discussed at the Summer Potluck & Board Meeting, starting at 5:30 pm on August 9th at Hesthavn Nature Center on Oak Creek Rd.

Linda Campbell, Board Secretary

Open Board Meetings

ASC Board of Directors meetings are open to all ASC members, and the board encourages you to come and see what we do. Our monthly board meeting is on Thursday, one week before the General Meeting. See the Board meeting minutes for location.

Membership Corner

Welcome New Members!

Karen Berting
Tricia & Bruce Bowlby
Joy Jensen
Hiram & Judy Li
Ann Root & Ken Rauscher
Milena Simeonova
Catherine Whiting

General Membership Information.

If you have moved or changed your email/mail addresses please send your new contact information to Suzanne Ortiz at ortizsv@gmail.com.

Membership Renewal

To renew your membership online, go to the ASC website (<http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml>) and renew via Paypal, or you can mail a check to ASC at PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

Email Notifications Regarding Weather Conditions

We encourage members to contact Karan Fairchild to

get on the ASC listserve to receive emergency email notifications about meeting cancellations related to weather, updated information about ASC events, field trip locations and volunteer work parties. Send an email to our listserve administrator, Karan Fairchild, and request to be added to the listserve: alderspr@peak.org.

Have You Changed Your Contact Information?

If you have moved or changed your email or mail address, please send your new contact information to Suzanne Ortiz at ortizsv@gmail.com.

Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Membership Chair

Contributors to this Chat

Chris Mathews, Mark Baldwin, Bill Proebsting, Karan & Jim Fairchild, Joel Geier, Suzanne Ortiz, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Don Boucher, Rita Snyder, Linda Campbell, Ray Drapek, Fred Ramsey, Valerie & Dale Mitchell, Sally Shaw, and Teresa Wicks

Chat Articles

The Chat editors, Teri Engbring and Naomi Weidner, welcome articles from all members of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. Please submit articles to the Chat editor by the fourth Thursday of the month. Submit text using Microsoft Word and photos to: chateditors@gmail.com

Audubon Society of Corvallis

Calendar

Aug. 9	ASC Board meeting, 5:30 pm at Hesthavn
Aug. 23	Stories due for September CHAT issue
Aug 23	Field Notes submissions due
Sept.. 8	Sat Field Trip, Bald Hill Natural Area 7:30 am
Sept 9	Hesthavn Work Party 10 am to 2 pm
Sept. 20	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini Sr Ctr
Sept 29	Hesthavn Work Party 10 am to 2 pm

Audubon Society of Corvallis
P.O. Box 148
Corvallis, OR 97339

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Chat is published 10 times a year by the Audubon Society of Corvallis, PO Box 148, Corvallis OR 97339. Annual ASC memberships are \$25 for an individual; \$35 for a family; \$15 for student; \$15 for Chat-only subscriptions (email delivery only); \$50 for Supporting Level; \$150 for Patron Level; and \$250 for Benefactor Level.

Officers

President	Chris Mathews	mathewsc2@comcast.net	541-754-1172
Vice President	Bill Proebsting	proebstw@gmail.com	541-752-0108
Secretary	Linda Campbell	lcampbell@peak.org	541-929-9420
Treasurer	Fred Ramsey	flramsey5@comcast.net	541-753-3677

Board Members

.....	Jesse Laney	laneyj@oregonstate.edu	
.....	Mamo Waianuheha	waianuhl@oregonstate.edu	
.....	Gail Nickerson	gbnickerson@comcast.net	541-754-0406
.....	Dave Mellinger	dmell3.14159@gmail.com	
.....	Mark Baldwin	mark.baldwin2@comcast.net	541-757-0834
.....	Jim Philipson	parrphil@comcast.net	503 547 3758

Committee and Coordinators

Membership Chair & Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Representative	Suzanne Ortiz	ortizsv@gmail.com	917-273-4917
Conservation Chair	Jim Fairchild	alderspring@peak.org	541-929-4049
Field Trip Chair	Bill Proebsting	proebstw@gmail.com	541-752-0108
Christmas Bird Count	Marcia Cutler	marciafcutler@comcast.net	541-752-4313
Birdathon Coordinator	Karan Fairchild	alderspr@peak.org	541-929-4049
Historian	Marcia Cutler	marciafcutler@comcast.net	541-752-4313
Hesthavn Chair	Ray Drapek	raydrapek@gmail.com	541-760-6053
Publicity Chair	Jim Philipson	parrphil@comcast.net	503 547 3758
Sales Table Chair	Sally Shaw	shaws@peak.org	541-757-2749
Refreshment Chair	Becky Garrett	becky.bittern@yahoo.com	541-757-7474
Bluebird Trail Chair	Raylene Gordin	gordin@centurytel.net	541-258-6625
Webmaster	Tom Haig	tomhaig@hotmail.com	541-231-6583
Chat Newsletter Editor	Teri Engbring	chateditors@gmail.com	
Field Notes Compiler	Joel Geier	joel.geier@peak.org	541-745-5821

Education Team

Volunteer Support	Teri Engbring	engbring@hotmail.com
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CorvallisAudubon

Interested in volunteering?
Please let us know:
volunteerasc@gmail.com

Renew your membership before the date on the mailing label to avoid missing issues of the Chat.

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