



Audubon Society of Corvallis *the* **CHAT**

January 2004

VOL. 33

#5

General Meeting

January 15
Thursday, 7:30-9:00 PM
Corvallis Public Library

Butterfly Watching in Oregon

With Fred Ramsey

Birders across America are expanding and enriching their listing efforts by looking for butterflies. In response, a nationwide organization — the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) — that mirrors the American Birding Association (ABA) sprang into existence in the 1990's. NABA publishes two periodicals and sponsors annual nationwide butterfly counts, much like the Breeding Bird Surveys conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Trip leaders for the major birding tour agencies (WINGS, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Field Guides, etc.) now include butterflies as target species in their U.S., Mexican, and Central and South American tours. ASC's Spring weekend field trips to the Klamath and Rogue River basins and to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge are finding many butterfly species worthy of admiration and the placing on special lists.

Watching butterflies provides fascinating insights into behavior and ecology. Even more than birds, many butterfly species are strictly linked to specific plant species and plant communities. Fender's Blue and Taylor's checkerspots are two local examples, both of which require protection of their habitat patches for their survival.

Fred Ramsey is a recent convert to butterfly watching and will share his enthusiasm at ASC's January meeting. The program will provide an introductory look at the 165 species comprising Oregon's butterfly collection. Fred says it will be light on the science but heavy on a batch of

photographs of the species one may encounter in trips around the state.

The meeting is in the conference room of the Corvallis-Benton County Library, 6th Street at Monroe, downtown Corvallis. At each meeting we give updates on conservation and Audubon activities. Meetings start at 7:30 PM and speakers begin at 8:00. Come early for refreshments, conversation and browsing at display tables.

Meeting Place Has Changed

The Corvallis-Benton County Library will be our meeting spot, not the First Presbyterian Church.

Future Programs at General Meetings

- Feb 19: Bill Ripple, OSU faculty: Wolves in Yellowstone and the wildlife encountered by Lewis and Clark
- Mar 18: James Davis, Portland Audubon Society: Owls of Oregon
- Apr 15: Bill Sullivan, Oregon author, speaking on trails and travels in Oregon
- May 21: Roy Lowe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, speaking on wildlife refuges of the Oregon Coast

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Corvallis CBC Results

see inset page chart

The 43rd Corvallis Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held on Sunday, December 14th. More than 40 intrepid souls braved on and off rain and occasional flooded roads and fields to find 112 bird species. One new species was added to the count — Turkey Vulture. It was spotted perched with its wings outspread as if it were drying them, only problem was that it was pouring rain at the time! It was seen in SW Corvallis at 53d and Nash. Other highlights include: 2 Burrowing Owls — one on Linn Co. Rd 211 and the other on Bell Plain Dr. west of Highway 99E; 1 Lewis's Woodpecker at Tyee Winery (Greenberry Rd. Benton Co); 3 Black-bellied Plovers — in a field off Abraham Rd (Linn Co.); 1 Swamp Sparrow off Decker Rd (Benton Co.); and 1 Orange-crowned Warbler seen during Don MacDonald's feeder watch. Four species not seen on count day were seen during count week — Canvasback, Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle and Mountain Quail. Misses included Hutton's Vireo, Greater White-fronted Geese and Greater Yellowlegs.

A few species set new high counts. Great Egrets continued their steady, gradual increase from 7 to 8 (last year) to 9 (this year). White-throated Sparrows have also been recently increasing in numbers throughout Oregon and this year established a new high of 30 individuals for our count. Other species set new highs through sheer volume in one place. One large field full of Horned Larks was our only sighting, yet set a new record of 300 birds. Cabell Marsh was packed with Mallards, causing skilled bird counter Fred Ramsey to estimate that there were about 30,000 birds there!

I'd like to thank everybody who participated in the count — you did an excellent job! Thanks also go to Papa's Pizza for providing a room for the countdown and all the pizza.

*-Marcia F. Cutler
CBC Compiler*

Key to CBC Areas

- 1a: Oak Creek, NW Corvallis
- 1b: NE Corvallis, Chip Ross Park
- 2: Orleans (Tangent Dr. to Riverside Ave.)
- 3: Oakville
- 4: Peoria
- 5: SW Corvallis, Neabeck Hill
- 6: S. Corvallis, Avery and Willamette Parks, Kiger Is.
- 7: Airport
- 8: Greenberry
- 9: Finley, Eureka Rd.
- 10: N. Philomath, West Hills
- 11: S. Philomath, Evergreen
- 12: Beaver Creek

Class on Winter Birds

Charismatic Birds in Colossal Quantities

The Willamette Valley offers spectacular birding during the rainy season, like eagles, falcons and flocks of waterfowl in the thousands. The 2-week class will cover the wintering birds, identification, tools and field trips to local wildlife areas.

Outline

January 13 Tuesday evening 7–8:50 PM:

Rainy season birding, tools and methods, wetland birds

January 17, Saturday 9:00 AM–11:50 AM:

Field trip, Finley National Wildlife Refuge

January 20, Tuesday evening 7–8:50 PM:

Resources, open country birds, feeder birds

January 24, Saturday 9:00 AM–11:50 AM:

Field trip, Bald Hill Park

Registration is \$25

Linn-Benton Community College

The class is held in Corvallis at Corvallis High School. Sign up at the Benton Center, 630 NW 7th St., Corvallis 541-917-4991 or <http://sis.lbcc.cc.or.us>
CRN: 33861

For information about class content, contact Don Boucher, 541-753-7689, bouchdon@juno.com

Field Trip Schedule

Jan 10	Sat. local, half-day field trip, 7:30 AM*
Feb 14	Sat. local, half-day field trip, 7:30 AM*
Feb 22	Lincoln County Coast
Feb 29	Bird Walk at Findley Wildlife Refuge
Mar 13	Sat. local, half-day field trip, 7:30 AM*
Mar 19-21	Bandon Coast weekend
Apr 10	Sat. local, half-day field trip, 7:30 AM*
Apr 16-18	Klamath Basin
May 7-9	Medford/Ashland Area
May 8	Sat. local, half-day field trip, 7:30 AM*
May 20-23	Malheur NWR

*Local, Saturday Morning Trips

On January 10, 2004 our second Saturday local field trip meets at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 AM. This field trip is especially interesting for beginner birders and new birders to Oregon's mid-valley area. We spend a lot of time identifying local birds by sight and song. Field trip leader is Paula Vanderheul 541-752-0470, vanderp@peak.org

Full day trip

On February 22 Paula Vanderheul will lead a day trip to the Newport coast area. We will meet at 7:30 AM at the Benton Center parking lot that can be accessed from NW 9th street and Polk at the corner of Border's Book store. Polk has been extended to the parking lot behind the Benton Center. Bring your lunch, warm clothing, and rain gear. We will car pool and should return by 5:30 PM.

ASC and MPG Hike Finley

Feb. 29 — Bird Walk at Findley Wildlife Refuge. In a joint venture with The Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club, Don Boucher will accompany them on a walk at Finley NWR. Bring your binoculars. About 3 miles, nearly level. 9:00 AM. Leader: Tasha Wulff 929-6272 twulff77@excite.com.

Spring Weekend Trips

In the Spring there will be four major long weekend field trips with the first to Bandon Coast March 19-21; Klamath Basin April 16-18; Medford/Ashland area May 7-9; and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge May 20-23 that are all led by Fred Ramsey. Sign-up sheets will be available at the field trip table at the general meeting each month, or contact Paula Vanderheul directly for sign-up or further information. A \$40 deposit needed for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival production of "A Raisin in The Sun" in Ashland by February 28. A \$50 deposit needed for Malheur NWR by February 28, 2004. Both payable to Fred Ramsey 3550 NW Glenridge Pl Corvallis OR 97330 541-753-3677 flramsey5@earthlink.net

Watch the Chat for changes, additions, and updates of field trips each month. Come and join other bird watchers exploring a wildlife adventure in Oregon.

-Paula Vanderheul

Local Memberships

Vital to ASC

There has been a change of policy at the national level of Audubon that makes local chapter support far more critical. Previously, the National Audubon Society returned a portion of your national dues that was enough to cover much of the local expenses, such as the newsletter and programs. Presently, the contribution from national covers only 20% of our expenses; the remaining 80% of our expenses must be funded through local memberships and contributions.

Every November we insert a membership/contribution envelope in the CHAT. We have received some generous contributions but we need to hear from more of you. We are only about halfway to our goal, so please consider making a contribution to the Audubon Society of Corvallis by starting or renewing your local membership (family \$25; individual \$20; CHAT only \$10). Then, if possible, make a contribution above the membership amount. One check for both is perfectly OK. Checks should be made out to Audubon Society of Corvallis and sent to P.O. Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97330. Remember, all the money you send will support the local ASC.

-Susan Ford

The Chat by Email

If you have computer access to email, we will save trees and also money for postage, and email you the Audubon Society of Corvallis' newsletter. Please contact Amy Schoener 541-929-4041, cloudrun@peak.org.

You will receive the CHAT in Adobe Acrobat format. File size will be 300k or less. Adobe Acrobat reading software is free and can be downloaded from Adobe's web site (www.adobe.com).

-Amy Schoener

Field Notes

November 21 through December 22, 2003

Typical wet winter weather continued this month, but did not dampen the spirits of participants in the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on 14 Dec. A high point was the first **Turkey Vulture** ever recorded for this count. Now that snow is falling, that vulture may be rethinking its decision to spend the winter in Oregon.

Don Miller found bright spot in the dark winter, when he stopped by the Tigard library on a couple of his trips to Portland, to see the two male **Mandarin Ducks** that were reported in the Portland Audubon newsletter. He also noted **Wood Ducks**, **Hooded Mergansers**, and **Green Herons** were there when he visited on 12 & 15 Dec. Quite a colorful batch of birds for one spot!

Abbreviations & Locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge. E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) is north of Corvallis along Hwy 99W. Ankeny NWR is south of Salem in Marion Co. Baskett Slough NWR is near Dallas in Polk Co. Cabell Marsh and McFadden Marsh are at Finley NWR south of Corvallis. Stewart Lake is on the HP campus in north Corvallis.

Sightings:

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Finley NWR 27 Nov (Hendrik Herlyn). A **Snow Goose** was among the throngs of Canada Geese there 30 Nov (Karl Fairchild, Victor Emanuel).

77 **Tundra Swans** were at the Brownsville sewage ponds 28 Nov (Mark Nikas). A flock of 18 showed up at our place near E.E. Wilson on 23 Dec, but so far no **Trumpeter Swans** have shown up.

About 30 **Wood Ducks** were near Finley NWR headquarters 27 Nov (H Herlyn). A female **Gadwall** that showed up last month at Stewart Lake stayed through 1 Dec (Jamie Simmons). Erik Knight found five **Eurasian Wigeon** drakes and six **Cinnamon Teal** at Ankeny NWR 21 Dec. 200 **Northern Shovelers** were at Brownsville sewage ponds by 28 Nov (Mark Nikas).

Two **Redheads** were on Eagle Pond at Ankeny NWR 26 Nov (Alan McGie). Six **Canvasbacks** were at Stewart Lake 16 Dec (J Simmons; Andrea Foster), and nine were there on 17 Dec (J Simmons). Other ducks at Stewart Lake on 16 Dec included **Northern Shovelers**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, and **Buffleheads** (A Foster). 10 **Lesser Scaup** were at Brownsville sewage ponds on 28 Nov (M Nikas). Three were in NE Corvallis 14 Dec (Hal Batchelder).

Randy Campbell had a surprise on 30 Nov as he went to pull his boats up the bank at Peoria, and two **Surf Scoters** (female or immature) came drifting down the Willamette River.

A **Common Goldeneye** and 150 **Buffleheads** were at the Brownsville sewage ponds on 28 Nov (M Nikas). I saw eight **Buffleheads** on Trail Bridge Reservoir in the Cascades on 30 Nov, along with two **Common Mergansers** and 17 **goldeneyes** (most likely **Barrow's Goldeneyes**). On 14 Dec Jeff Picton was looking for a place to release a **Barrow's Goldeneye** which had recovered after care at the Chintimini wildlife rehabilitation center; the best spot seemed to be near the flock that winters at the base of Foster Dam.

Up to seven **Hooded Mergansers** were at Stewart Lake through 10 Dec (J Simmons). During the Corvallis CBC 14 Dec Troy Guy, Hal Batchelder and I were buzzed by a pair flying along Stewart Slough near Cheldelin Middle School, perhaps on their way to Stewart Lake.

A female **Ruddy Duck** was at Stewart Lake 25 Nov through 10 Dec (J Simmons). 13 were at the Brownsville sewage ponds 28 Nov (M Nikas).

Karl Fairchild and some friends made the grueling run up Mary's Peak 30 Nov, and flushed several **Blue Grouse** along the way. Corvallis's **Mountain Quail** managed to evade counters 14 Dec, but a few were noted for the week of the CBC (fide M Cutler). Pat Waldron has seen a flock daily at her place east of Scio, and on 5 Dec she also saw 20 **California Quail**.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was still in the Cascades on Trail Bridge Reservoir when our family stopped there on 30 Nov. A **Horned Grebe**

was at the Brownsville sewage ponds on 28 Nov (M Nikas).

Double-crested Cormorants were seen most days during the period at Stewart Lake, with a high count of seven on 10 Dec (J Simmons; A Foster). Four were perched in a tree across from the Horner Museum yard in Corvallis on 16 Dec (Marie Parcell).

On 18 Dec two **Great Blue Herons** were seen stalking prey in a wet area along the campus bike trail in west Corvallis (M Parcell). A rare **white morph Great Blue Heron** was in the Colorado Lake area on 14 Dec (Paula Vanderheul fide M Cutler). **Great Egrets** were noted at E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area 26 & 27 Nov (A McGie, H Herlyn). Two were along Gap Rd. in Linn Co. on 29 Nov (Jeff Harding). On 26 Nov I was surprised to see a **Green Heron** at E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area; not many of these birds spend the winter in our area.

Still more surprising for the season were multiple sightings of **Turkey Vultures**. Two were over Hwy 99W south of the Corvallis airport 23 Nov (Jim Anderson). One was in Lewisburg on 24 Nov (Paul Adamus). On 3 Dec, new ASC member Mary Garrard spotted one circling low over the NW Walnut and Highland Ave in Corvallis. One was along Smith Loop Rd. south of Corvallis 8 Dec (Jeff Fleischer).

These sightings gave high hopes of finding a **Turkey Vulture** during the Corvallis CBC on 15 Dec. One was indeed found in SW Corvallis, "perched with its wings outspread as if it were drying them [though] it was pouring rain at the time!" (M Cutler).

White-tailed Kites were seen regularly from the prairie overlook at the north entrance to Finley NWR, with a high count of three on 20 Dec (Steve Seibel). One was near the north end of E.E. Wilson 27 Nov (H Herlyn). On 29 Nov I saw one just north of Airlie.

Wintering **Bald Eagles** were seen regularly both around Finley NWR and at Peterson Butte in Linn Co. (S Seibel). Two were near the Corvallis airport 15 Dec (S Seibel). Three were in SW Linn Co. 7 Dec (R Campbell). A series of roadside raptor surveys around the Willamette valley during early December came up with a total of 27 from McMinnville south to Fern Ridge (J Fleischer).

An immature **Northern Harrier** at Finley NWR 25 Nov had two pure-white feathers in its tail (S Seibel), likely case of partial albinism. Two harriers were at the Brooklane open-space area on 27 Nov (Don Boucher). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at the Fitton Green Natural Area 30 Nov (D Boucher). A male **Cooper's Hawk** was at Stewart Lake 20 Nov and again 1 Dec (J Simmons).

An immature **Red-shouldered Hawk** was by the angling pond at the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area 27 Nov (H Herlyn). Aaron and Sara Liston saw an adult along the bike trail west of Corvallis 28 Nov. One was at McFadden Marsh 8, 10, 17 & 21 Dec (S Seibel). Steve Seibel notes that **Rough-legged Hawks** have been fairly common from the Corvallis airport south through Finley NWR. An immature **Golden Eagle** was at Peterson Butte 24 Nov, and an adult was soaring high over Finley NWR on 25 Nov & 3 Dec (S Seibel).

The most abundant raptors here in winter are **Red-tailed Hawks** and **American Kestrels**. Roadside raptor surveys found totals of 389 red-tails and 412 kestrels in the Willamette Valley in early December (fide J Fleischer).

On 22 Dec John Sullivan watched a drama unfold after an adult **Red-tailed Hawk** caught an immature **Glaucous-winged Gull**. After a short struggle the gull broke free, but the hawk caught up and pinned it to the ground, only to let go when an immature **Peregrine Falcon** appeared on the scene. The gull spread its wings and lifted its head, mouth agape to threaten off the falcon. Then it decided to try to make a break for it, taking flight. The much faster falcon overtook the young gull several times but was unable to get a grip as the gull resorted to some desperate aerial acrobatics. Finally the falcon gave up and the gull flew off into the distance.

Other **Peregrine Falcon** sightings included two at Finley NWR 25 Nov, one there 18 Dec (S Seibel), two at Ankeny NWR 26 Nov (A McGie), one at Peterson Butte 15 Dec and one near the Corvallis airport 21 Dec (S Seibel). **Merlin** sightings around Corvallis included one eating a small bird at Stewart Lake 10 Dec (J Simmons), one chasing

finches at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 14 Dec (T Guy, H Batchelder), and one near LBCC Benton Center 16 Dec (D Boucher).

Scott Johnson found a gray-morph immature **Gyr Falcon** along Coville Rd. at the east edge of Baskett Slough NWR on 21 Dec. This arctic falcon stayed around the area long enough to be seen by Karen & Stuart Sparkman on 22 Dec and by Chris and Kristie Butler 24 Dec, when it was harassed by a **Peregrine Falcon**.

3 **Black-bellied Plovers** were in a field along Abraham Rd, Linn Co., 15 Dec (M Cutler). A flock of up to 500 **Killdeer** has spent the past month in a field near our place. 45 **Least Sandpipers** were at the Corvallis sewage ponds when I checked on 3 Dec. Since late November, a **Wilson's Snipe** has been hanging around the Timberhill athletic center just west of 29th St (A Foster).

The fields along Glaser Rd. in Linn Co. held an assortment of gulls when Cliff Cordy and I stopped by there 17 Dec, including about 60 **Ring-billed Gulls** as well as a **Herring Gull**, **Glaucous-winged Gulls**, **Mew Gulls**, and **California Gulls**.

A **Western Screech-Owl** was calling on Vineyard Mtn 23 Dec (Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth). A **Great Horned Owl** was calling at the Marys River Natural Area 17 Dec (D Boucher).

A banded **Burrowing Owl** has returned once again to a culvert along Blueberry Rd. and Linn Co. Rd. 211. Anne & Dan Heyerly reported it as well as a **Short-eared Owl** there 27 Nov. The **Burrowing Owl** was also seen 13-15 Dec (M Cutler, P Vanderheul, Ulo Kiigemagi; J Fleischer). Another was found along Bell Plain Rd. 14 Dec (fide M Cutler).

An **Anna's Hummingbird** at Paula Vanderheul's place in NW Corvallis has been using her wind chimes as a perch. A pair continued at Andrea Foster's feeder in the Timberhill neighborhood through the period; on 21 Dec Andrea reported that the male was starting to perform his aerial display for the female. Elsie Eltzroth reported that a friend had a male **Anna's Hummingbird** visiting a feeder at yet another location in north Corvallis.

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** was found at the Tye Winery of Greenberry Rd on 14 Dec (fide M Cutler). The pair of **Acorn Woodpeckers** continued through the period at Stewart Lake, one giving chase to a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** on 2 Dec (J Simmons).

Tim Rodenkirk stopped by a park in Monroe while visiting our area 12 Dec, and noticed a **Black Phoebe**. The bird was still there 15 Dec (H Herlyn). A **Say's Phoebe** was near Ward Butte in Linn Co. 29 Nov and one was near Harrisburg 22 Dec (Jeff Harding; Doug Robinson).

A **Loggerhead Shrike** and two **Northern Shrikes** were near Ward Butte 3 Dec (R Campbell). Don Boucher noted a **Hutton's Vireo** at the Fitton Green Natural Area 30 Nov.

The **Steller's Jays** which showed up in Jamie Simmon's NW Corvallis this summer apparently left the scene after 17 Nov (J Simmons). 2 or 3 **Common Ravens** were at Stewart Lake 25 Nov, and 2 were over NW Corvallis 5 Dec (J Simmons).

Six **Horned Larks** were along Linn Co Rd. 211 13 Dec (M Cutler). On 22 Dec I counted 48 in the flock at our place near E.E. Wilson.

Bushtit flocks in the Timberhill neighborhood have been visiting the fat cakes that Andrea Foster sets out; sometimes a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** also partakes.

On 14 Dec Hal Batchelder, Troy Guy and I found a **White-breasted Nuthatch**, a **Brown Creeper**, and 15 **Western Bluebirds** at the Owens Farm open space preserve, where clearing of blackberry underbrush has improved the habitat for oak woodland species (also several **Acorn Woodpeckers**). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were among the few bird species in evidence on Mary's Peak 30 Nov (Karl Fairchild).

While working in his shop e. of Scio this past month, Dan Waldron was entertained by several **Winter Wrens** that made close approaches. Pat Waldron has been watching **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** flitting through the trees in pursuit of insects, and on 16 Dec she noticed **Western Bluebirds** checking out some old birdhouses.

Large flocks of wintering **American Robins** were noticed by several observers. **Varied Thrushes** began to show up at low elevations,

including one in North Albany 20 Nov (A McGie), one in Lewisburg 24 Nov (P Adams), and 3 in NW Corvallis 25 Nov (J Simmons). On 25 Nov a rare "**grey morph**" **Varied Thrush** showed up at Pat and Dan Waldron's place e. of Scio; this bird had white everywhere that this species usually shows orange: supercilium, breast, belly, and markings in its wings.

A "field full" of **American Pipits** were along Linn Co. Rd. 211 on 13 Dec (M Cutler). A **Townsend's Warbler** was in Corvallis 23 Nov (Russell McDonald); two were in the LBCC neighborhood 16 Dec (D Boucher).

Marcia Cutler saw an odd **Fox Sparrow** along Country Club Way on 16 Dec. This bird looked like one of the regular "Sooty" Fox Sparrows which predominate here in winter, but it had white outer tail feathers and two completely white feathers in each wing. Cliff Cordy found another interesting one south of Philomath on 14 Dec, which from his description sounded like a possible "**Slate-colored**" **Fox Sparrow**. This form, regarded by some ornithologists as a separate species, is rare west of the Cascades.

H Herlyn found ten **Lincoln's Sparrows** and over 100 **Song Sparrows** in the north part of E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area 27 Nov. Karl, Jim and Karan Fairchild found a **Swamp Sparrow** at the Dunn family farm west of Bellfountain Rd 14 Dec. **White-throated Sparrows** around Corvallis this month included one in Lewisburg 21 Nov (P Adams), one at the Brooklane open space 27 Nov (D Boucher), and up to three in Jamie Simmons' NW Corvallis yard throughout the period. Alan McGie had three "**Slate-colored**" (**Dark-eyed**) **Juncos** at his place in North Albany 24 Nov.

Hal Batchelder spotted five **Western Meadowlarks** in a wet, grassy lot north of Hewlett Packard on 14 Dec. 15 **Purple Finches** were at the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area 27 Nov (H Herlyn). Karl Fairchild noted flocks of **Red Crossbills** and **Pine Siskins** on Mary's Peak 30 Nov. **Pine Siskins** began to show up in Corvallis in mid-December; a flock of 10 at Hewlett Packard on 17 Dec were the first there this season (J Simmons). On 27 Nov, Jeff Fleischer enjoyed 23 **Lesser Goldfinches** at his thistle feeders in Albany. **American Goldfinches** have been visiting thistle feeders in the Timberhill neighborhood of Corvallis (A Foster). Eight **Evening Grosbeaks** made a brief visit to our place 26 Nov.

Coastal Notes

An **Arctic Loon** was between the jetties at the mouth of Yaquina Bay on 22 & 23 Nov (Wayne Hoffman). Phil Pickering noted an astonishing movement of **Red-throated Loons** and **Pacific Loons** Boiler Bay 20 Nov, with an estimated total of 150,000 passing by offshore.

A **Short-tailed Albatross** (endangered species) that was fitted fitted with a transmitter in the Aleutians this August passed within 20 km of the Oregon coast around 25 Nov (Rob Suryan fide Range Bayer).

Thousands of **Northern Fulmars** were also seen close to shore this past month. Many also turned up dead on the beaches. Some wondered if this might be due to ingestion of plastics, or just a consequence of such large numbers moving into nearshore waters.

A **Snowy Egret** was at Boone Slough between Newport and Toledo on 22 Nov (J Harding, Bill Thackaberry, Don MacDonald). 84 **Brants** and 6 **Eurasian Wigeons** were at the Hatfield Marine Science Center 27 Nov (J Simmons). Eight **Redheads** were on Yaquina Bay 29 Nov (Joe Fontaine).

The "rockpiper" flock at Seal Rock on 27 Nov included 2 **Black Oystercatchers**, 5 **Black Turnstones**, 80 **Surfbirds**, 5 **Sanderlings** and a **Rock Sandpiper** (J Simmons).

Next month

Please send me your observations by 27 January.

Joel Geier, 14505 Corvallis Rd., Monmouth, OR 97361

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Oregon Natural Resources Council

30th Anniversary Celebration in Eugene

Thirty years of programs resulting in protection of more than two million acres of public lands is certainly reason to celebrate. And that's exactly what Oregon Natural Resources Council plans to do. The organization will hold a 30th anniversary celebration Saturday, Feb. 21, from 6 to 10 PM at Lane Community College's conference center in Eugene.

The celebration will include dinner prepared by the LCC culinary arts program, a no host bar, live music by party dance band Ruckus, guest speakers, stories and reminiscences. A silent auction will feature valuable goods and services, including a McKenzie River raft trip for two and a Nova Sports Equipment Haida canoe.

Admission is \$35. Reservations are required, and must be made by Feb. 13. Details and reservations are available by phoning 541-344-0675.

The event is sponsored by Emerald Valley Kitchen, Eugene Weekly, KLCC, Nova Craft Canoe and Paul's Bicycle Way of Life.

Founded in Eugene in 1974, ONRC works to aggressively protect and restore Oregon's wild lands, wildlife and waters as an enduring legacy. Today, the organization is headquartered in Portland, with field offices in Eugene, Bend, and the Klamath Basin. ONRC has 7,000 individual members and employs a full-time staff of 15.

Over the past three decades, ONRC's programs have led to the protection of more than two million acres of Oregon's public lands. A recent accomplishment took place in October 2003, when ONRC, represented by Western Environmental Law Center, succeeded in court, halting logging of nearly 600 acres of old-growth forests, including some roadless areas, in the Willamette and Mount Hood National Forests.

The organization's current campaigns strive to designate five million acres of new wilderness areas across the state, gain permanent protection for mature and old-growth forests, and protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat in the Klamath Basin.

ONRC's grassroots organizing efforts set the stage for August 2001 permanent protection of nearly 30,000 acres in the Bull Run watershed. Leading the national grassroots campaign for preservation of roadless areas in our national forests, ONRC helped secure January 2001 protection for over 58 million acres of spectacular roadless areas across the country, including 1.9 million acres in Oregon. The organization is now actively defending the Roadless Area Conservation Rule from administrative, industry, and agency attacks.

More information about ONRC is available at www.onrc.org.

As ESA Turns 30

Administration Refuses to List Species

The Endangered Species Act turns 30 on Dec. 28, but the Bush Administration doesn't appear to be celebrating the occasion. In fact, the Administration is the first since Richard Nixon signed the bill into law in 1973 to refuse to list a single species under the act, except under court order, an analysis by the Center for Biological Diversity finds.

An average of 32 species were listed annually under President Reagan; 58 under George H.W. Bush; 65 under Clinton; but only eight under the Bush Administration, according to a Defenders of Wildlife report this month. Defenders President Rodger Schlickeisen said all new species listed under the Bush Administration have been the result of court orders.

The Defenders report examined 120 legal cases under the Endangered Species Act in which the Bush Administration has been a party and found that the White House has engaged in "a clear pattern of illegal acts, rigged science and flagrant disregard of court orders." The report found that:

In 76 cases, Bush Administration attorneys argued contrary to standing judicial interpretations of the ESA; in 68 of these cases — 90 percent — the court found that the Administration had violated the ESA.

Since taking office, six of the seven listing petitions on which the Administration has decided to act [on] are industry pleas to delist or downlist endangered species. In response to industry lawsuits, the Bush Administration has agreed to revoke critical habitat designations for 29 species listed as threatened or endangered, often in sweetheart legal settlements.

The Bush Administration is also the first in the history of the Endangered Species Act to outsource endangered species reviews to private contractors, rather than leave them to Fish and Wildlife Service biologists. In September 2003, the Administration announced that it was hiring two private businesses — paying them \$764,000 — to determine whether two Pacific Northwest species — the northern spotted owl and the marbled murrelet — should continue to receive federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. Protection for the two species has been vigorously criticized by industry for putting restrictions on old-growth logging in the Northwest.

For more information see: [BushGreenWatch](http://BushGreenWatch.org), www.bushgreenwatch.org

Conservation Calendar

February 13-15,

25th Annual Bald Eagle Conference:

Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls—workshops, credit classes, field trips, artwork, photography, evening presentations. www.eaglecon.org

January 6, 5:30-6:30pm, Monthly ASC Conservation Committee meeting

New Morning Bakery, 219 SW 2nd Street
Also on February 3, March 2, April 6 and May 4

January 29-Feb 1, 13th Annual Headwaters Forest Conference

"Mobilizing the Grassroots in 2004", Ashland Springs Hotel, Ashland, Oregon—workshops, training sessions, panel presentations, benefit dance, meet with leaders in the NW forest conservation movement. www.headwaters.org or 541-482-4459

Hesthavn Report

Phase 1 of the barn renovation was completed this month. A floor has been installed, the museum specimen storage room was framed, and a door to this room was installed. The door has a dead bolt and it should be possible to make the storage room secure even before the rest of the barn. Our efforts now will be directed towards making the museum specimen storage room functional; hopefully by this summer.

We got word this month from the Meyer Memorial Trust that they will be awarding us a \$7,500 grant to help with the completion of the barn renovation! Congratulations and many thanks to Karan Fairchild, who assembled the materials for this grant application! We now should have enough funds to create a functional nature center, though not all aspects of the barn renovation will be covered by the funds that now are available to us. We still need to complete the walls for the mini lab and the tool closet. We still have a ways to go to make the whole barn secure. And finally, it sure would be nice to have a couple of windows on the creek side of the barn.

January's work party will be on Saturday Jan. 31. There will be a morning work party from 9-12 AM and an afternoon work party from 1-4 PM. As usual the morning work party will be dedicated to habitat restoration on the property and the afternoon work party will be dedicated to nature center structural development. We still need to complete the repair of the fence along the road. We need to do some damage control from the contract work done so far on the barn. Big trucks and excavation equipment from phase 1 of the barn work have created some rutted and muddy areas, and we should fix this as soon as possible. I don't expect that future barn work will cause as much damage.

We need to compact the parking lot and driveway so that it is more stable. Finally, we need to protect the wooden floor that is now in the barn. This means applying a floor paint and putting some kind of a cover over the open clear story to prevent rain-water from getting in.

Hesthavn Sign Needed

Finally, I would like to put out a request for someone to volunteer to create a sign for the roadside. During the summer months a large volume of traffic travels up that road to go to MacDonald forest and we could increase the visibility of this nature center tremendously simply by having a nice sign next to the road. A nice sign could be a large wooden sign like you might see at the entrance to a state park. If anyone out there has the inclination, a wood shop, and the proper skills, please contact me. We can supply all the materials.

Hesthavn Work Parties:

Saturday Jan. 31, Feb. 28

9AM-12PM: Restoration

1PM-4PM: Barn Renovation

Hesthavn Sanctuary is located 8590 NW Oak Creek Road, west of Corvallis. It is a quarter mile before the OSU Forest Field Station and trail head.

-Ray Drapek, 754-7364

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Song Sparrow

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Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

Calendar

- Jan 8 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at Susan Brown's
- Jan 10 Sat. local, half-day field trip, 7:30 AM**
- Jan 15 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, **Corv-Benton Library***,
Fred Ramsey on butterflies (see front page)
- Jan 26 Field Notes deadline
- Jan 29 Chat deadline for February
- Jan 31 Hesthavn Workparty (see page 39)
- Feb 3 ASC Conservation Committee meeting 5:30-6:30PM,
New Morning Bakery, 219 SW 2nd Street
- Feb 12 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
- Feb 14 Sat. local, half-day field trip, 7:30 AM**
- Feb 19 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, **Corv-Benton Library***,
Bill Ripple, Wolves in Yellowstone
- Feb 22 Lincoln County Coast**
- Feb 23 Field Notes deadline
- Feb 26 Chat deadline for March
- Feb 29 Bird Walk at Findley Wildlife Refuge**
- Mar 2 ASC Conservation Committee meeting 5:30-6:30PM,
New Morning Bakery, 219 SW 2nd Street

Everybody's welcome, including nonmembers, to any ASC
function

* General Meeting change this year—see front page

**See page 35 for field trip descriptions

The Chat is published 10 times a year by the Audubon Society of
Corvallis, PO Box 148, Corvallis OR 97339. Annual ASC member-
ships are \$20 for an individual, \$25 for a family, \$15 for a student.
Chat-only subscriptions are \$10.

Printed on Recycled Paper