



Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

May 2004

VOL. 33

#9

General Meeting

May 20, Thursday, 7:30-9:00 PM
Benton County Commissioners' Meeting Room*

Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex

by Roy Lowe, Superintendent of the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex includes 6 refuges spread along 320 miles of the Oregon coast, including the oldest refuge in the west. My talk will give an overview of each of the refuges, including the lands and fish and wildlife resources they protect. For example, the refuges harbor more than one million nesting seabirds and tens of thousands of pinnipeds. The abundance and diversity of the resources is truly amazing and the scenery is exceptional. In recent years our efforts have been focused on land acquisition, tidal wetlands restoration, public use facilities development, and environmental education, and we have made great progress. If nothing else, attendees should really enjoy the dramatic aerial views of the Oregon coast.

- Roy Lowe

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.

*May meeting not at the Library

The May meeting will be at the Benton County Commissioners' meeting room in the basement of the Hilton Plaza, at 408 SW Monroe, directly across Monroe Avenue from the Benton County Courthouse. This venue was selected because the meeting room at the library can be reserved by one group only four times, at most, within a six-month

period. We hope to resume meetings at the library this coming fall, and to return to our permanent Presbyterian Church home next winter, after their renovations are complete.

There are no general meetings in summer, the next one will be September 16

Board Elections

May 20, General Meeting

Members are encouraged to vote for the next ASC board at our May general meeting (see left for details on the meeting). Board and officer nominees will be introduced as well committee appointments. Board and office members serve one year, starting in September. Election results will be announced in the summer Chat.

Birding trip to Brazil

September 2005

Chris Mathews, Vice President, Audubon Society of Corvallis

Paulo Boute is a birding and nature guide in Brazil. Brazil has perhaps the greatest diversity of bird species of any

See "Birding in Brazil" on next page

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Birding in Brazil, *continued from front page*

country on Earth. Several Corvallis Audubon members have toured with Paulo in the Pantanal region of southern Brazil. Paulo will be visiting the U.S. next winter and is scheduled to present the program at Corvallis Audubon for our January meeting in 2005.

Paulo has offered to guide a trip dedicated to members of Corvallis Audubon Society. The tentative dates for the trip are September 4-18, 2005. The itinerary will cover some of Brazil's most diverse environments, including the Pantanal, Pixaim River, Chapada National Park, and Itataia, where we will encounter 9000-foot mountains.

Total cost, including room, meals, and ground transportation, is \$2650 double occupancy and \$3100 single. This is based upon a trip size of at least ten. The proposed itinerary can be obtained from me (mathewsc2@onid.orst.edu).

We won't need to make firm commitments or pay deposits for a while, since the trip is nearly a year and a half away. However, we would like to assemble a list of potential participants, so that we can assess the likelihood of reaching a trip size of ten or a few more. If you are interested, please contact me, and I will send a detailed itinerary and put you on a list to receive more information as trip plans develop.

Hesthavn

Our 4th annual Open House was held April 25, on a bright and warm spring day. About 30 people came out to see the new parking area and barn improvements, admire live birds from Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, see displays of study skins and bird research equipment, and share refreshments. It was a perfect day for a slow stroll around the trail loop to see all the areas that have been restored to native vegetation.

Many thanks to First Alternative Cooperative for providing most of the goodies and a very special thank you to Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for bringing a Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl and an American Kestrel to visit Hesthavn!

Our next work party will be May 29, and we will continue to have them throughout the summer, on the last Saturday of every month (June 26, July 31 and August 28). We'll work on restoring native vegetation in the mornings from 9-12 and barn work in the afternoons from 1-4. Please bring tools if you have them and appropriate clothes for the weather conditions. Contact Ray Drapek at 754-7364 for further information.

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.

Iron Mountain Wildflower Hike

Adopt-A-Wilderness Workshop June (25) 26-27, 2004

To kick off Oregon Natural Resources Council's Summer 2004 Wilderness outing events, ONRC is hosting both Iron Mt. wildflower hikes (led by Wendell Wood), and a separate Adopt-a-Wilderness workshop (led by Chandra LeGue), in the Old Cascades proposed Wilderness Area in the Willamette National Forest east of Sweet Home. Both events will meet at Sevenmile (group) Campground, .25 mile east of mile post 59 off South Santiam Hwy 20. Both the Saturday, June 26 workshop, and the separate Saturday, June 26 wildflower identification hike will begin at 9 AM from the same location. A second, and mostly downhill wildflower hike, will also leave Sunday from Sevenmile Camp at 9:00 AM and then drive to the trailhead. A plant list, with common and scientific names of EVERYTHING to be seen will be provided. Bring water to camp on either Friday or Saturday night. For registration and directions contact Chandra LeGue, cl@onrc.org, 541-344-0675. More details at: <http://www.oregonwild.org/imwflower04.html>. For more information on ONRC's other events and July 17-25 Wilderness Week hikes see: www.onrc.org.

Malheur in Fall

By Chris Mathews

I write both as a chapter officer in Corvallis Audubon and as a newly elected member of the Board of Directors of the Great Basin Society.

What is the Great Basin Society? It is a nonprofit organization whose sole function is to oversee operation of the Malheur Field Station. Malheur, of course, is a spring-time Mecca for Audubon birders, and many of us choose to stay at the Field Station, with its economical but comfortable dormitories, trailers, small apartments, and RV hook-ups, plus its excellent kitchen, for those who prefer not bringing their own groceries. Many of you will be accompanying Fred Ramsey on our chapter's annual pilgrimage, from May 20 to 23.

What many Auduboners might not realize is that the fall migration at Malheur presents birding and nature study opportunities at Malheur just as exciting as those in the spring, but with a much lower human population density, and sometimes, better weather. The Field Station's facilities are available through early and mid-autumn.

This year the Field Station has several exciting nature study programs scheduled for September, including a three-night birding trip with Station Co-Director Duncan Evered. Alternatively, Auduboners may prefer to schedule chapter field trips or private groups using Station housing facilities.

Information about the September educational programs and about reserving Station facilities is available at the Malheur Field Station Web site, www.malheurfieldstation.org.

Also, much of the work of maintaining and developing Station facilities is done by volunteers who care about Malheur. If you are interested in volunteering your time and skills, contact the Co-Directors at mfs@oregontrail.net.

Field Trip Schedule

May 8	Saturday local morning
May 8	Migratory Bird Count Day
May 7-9	Medford/Ashland Area
May 16	Bicycle Birding
May 20-23	Malheur NWR
May 22	Fern Ridge Reservoir —Mini Malheur
May 26	Wednesday morning bird walk
June 12	Saturday local morning birding
June 30	Wednesday morning bird walk
July 10	Saturday local morning birding
July 14	Bat Watch
July 28	Wednesday morning bird walk
Aug 14	Saturday local morning birding

Local Morning Trip

On May 8, 2004 our next 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. We visit the valley National Wildlife Refuges—Finley, Baskett Slough, and Ankeny as well as other birding areas throughout the year. Field trip leader is Paula Vanderheul 541-752-0470, vanderp@peak.org

Bicycle Birding at E. E. Wilson in Adair May 16, Sunday

9:00 AM - Noon, Meet at the Pheasant cage parking lot on Camp Adair Drive. An easy, flat ride of 10 miles or less. For die-hard bicyclists, you can meet at 8:00 AM at the Benton Center parking lot 630 NW 7th, and we'll ride to E.E. Wilson. Bring water and rain gear. Leader: Don Boucher 753-7689, bouchdon@juno.com

Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene May 22, Saturday

7:30 AM—1 PM, meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area to carpool. Bring a lunch, water, hat, and sun screen for a morning at Fisher Butte wetland area. This trip is nicknamed "Mini Malheur" because some characteristic "Malheur" birds are found on this trip too. Paula Vanderheul is the trip leader.

Spring Weekend Trips

By the time the May Chat is received the Medford/Ashland area May 7-9 field trip will have been experienced by nine participants. The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge May 20-23 is full. We have started a reserve waiting list in case of cancellations. If you are still interested in this trip, please contact Paula Vanderheul or Fred Ramsey. A \$50 deposit was needed for Malheur NWR by February 28, 2004, payable to Fred Ramsey, 3550 NW Glen Ridge 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

Wednesday Morning Walks

There will also be two evening excursions on Wednesdays: one on June 23rd (to celebrate Midsummer's Night) will visit the McFadden Marsh/Cheadle Marsh area; and one on July 14th will be a bat viewing in Albany. Also new this year, each walk will be at a scheduled location. For the walks in Corvallis, we'll meet at a parking lot at the scheduled location at 8 A.M. For walks outside Corvallis, you can meet me at 8 A.M. at the Rose Garden parking area at Avery Park and we may carpool to the scheduled location, or you can join me at 8:30 at the parking lot at the scheduled location.

The Wednesday walk schedule:

- May 26: Fort Hoskins (8:00 A.M. Avery Pk or 8:30 A.M. main parking lot with restrooms)
- June 23: McFadden/Cheadle Marshes, Finley NWR (5:30 P.M. north end of LBCC Benton Center parking lot or 6:00 P.M. at McFadden Marsh parking lot by viewing blind)
- June 30: Simpson Park, Albany (8:00 A.M. Avery Pk or 8:30 A.M. at Simpson Park parking lot)
- July 14: Bat watch. Meet at 8:00 P.M. at north end of LBCC Benton center parking lot to carpool or 8:30 P.M. at west end of parking lot for Takena Point Restaurant (formerly Buzzsaw, 421 Water Ave, Albany)
- July 28: Willamette Park (8:00 A.M. end of south parking lot (the turnaround area) accessed from Goodnight Ave)
- August 25: Beazell Memorial Forest (8 A.M. Avery Pk or 8:30 in parking lot by restrooms)
- September 29: Bald Hill (8 A.M. in Oak Creek parking lot)
- October 27: Snagboat Bend (8 A.M. Avery Pk or 8:30 A.M. at Snagboat Bend)

If you have any questions please contact me (752-4313 or mccarmel@peak.org)

-Marcia F. Cutler

Field Notes

March 23 through April 26, 2004

Spring migration continued this month, with arrivals of more neotropical migrants including swifts, warblers, grosbeaks, and tanagers. Sightings by the "Portland Magpies" group from Portland Audubon Society are thanks to Norine Dietrich.

Abbreviations & Locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge. E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) is north of Corvallis along Hwy 99W. Baskett Slough NWR is near Dallas in Polk Co. Cabell Marsh and McFadden Marsh are at Finley NWR south of Corvallis. Luckiamute Landing is a Willamette River greenway in SE Polk Co. Snag Boat Bend in Linn Co. near Peoria is an annex of Finley NWR. Stewart Lake is on the HP campus in north Corvallis. Vineyard Mtn. is on the north side of Lewisburg, n. of Corvallis.

Sightings:

Four **Double-crested Cormorants** were at Snagboat Bend 7 & 10 Apr (Julie Gibson; Marcia Cutler). Up to 50 were still at Finley NWR 11 Apr (Ryan Kepler). **American Bitterns** were there 25 Apr (Don Boucher).

On 1 Apr Ryan Kepler saw a **Great Egret** fly into the **Great Blue Heron** rookery of about twenty nests across the river from Willamette Park. A **Green Heron** showed up along the river in Peoria 3 Apr (Randy Campbell).

White-fronted Goose migration peaked on 23 Apr, with flocks totaling 500 over Corvallis in early afternoon (Matt Hunter), and another large flock later in the day (R Kepler). 40 flew over Finley NWR 25 Apr (D Boucher). A pair of **Canada Geese** were seen regularly at Stewart Lake from 9 Apr onward (Jamie Simmons).

A **Wood Duck** pair at the Hoacum Island greenway near Peoria was joined by a **Mandarin Duck** 3 Apr (Randy & Mary Campbell). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was at E.E. Wilson 11 Apr (Portland Magpies). A pair of **American Wigeons** at Stewart Lake were last noted 21 Apr 04 (J Simmons). A few **American Wigeons**, **Northern Shovelers**, and **Northern Pintails** remained at Finley NWR thru 24 Apr (M Cutler, Paula Vanderheul).

On 1 Apr, Paula Vanderheul noted that the **Mallards** at Jackson-Frazier Wetland seemed to be enjoying the wetland field, which has been mowed to encourage native species including **Nelson's checkermallow**. 25 **Green-winged Teal** were on a pond in Adair Village 8 Apr (Don Miller). A pair visited Stewart Lake 12 Apr (J Simmons), and a few continued at Finley NWR thru 24 Apr (M Cutler).

Two female **Canvasbacks** remained at Stewart Lake thru 09 Apr, and one stayed thru 21 Apr (J Simmons). **Ring-necked Ducks** on Stewart Lake decreased from 16 on 7 Apr to two pairs on 26 Apr (Jamie Simmons). **Lesser Scaup** numbers also decreased from 14 on 5 Apr to one pair on 12 Apr (J Simmons). A pair was on Cheadle Marsh 24 Apr (M Cutler). The last **Buffleheads** reported this season were at Finley NWR 4 Apr (P Vanderheul, M Cutler). A male **Harlequin Duck** was on the North Santiam River at MP 65 off Hwy 22 on 16 Apr (Mitch Ratzlaff), as a sign that this species was returning to its nesting grounds in the Cascades.

Ospreys occupied the nest platform near the Harrison Street bridge in Corvallis 24 Mar (D Boucher). One was in a tree along Oak Creek near 53rd St. on 9 Apr (J Gibson); as the population continues to recover, they are being seen more frequently along small water courses.

Randy and Pam Comeleo saw two **White-tailed Kites** at Finley NWR 4 Apr (fide M Cutler). An immature **Bald Eagle** at Finley NWR 10 Apr was hazed by one of the **Ospreys** (M Cutler).

On 1 Apr an adult **Northern Goshawk** soared over the prairie restoration at the north entrance of Finley NWR (R Kepler). Two late-staying winter raptors were a **Rough-legged Hawk** near Harrisburg 24 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn) and a **Merlin** at Finley NWR 25 Apr (D Boucher).

On 7 Apr I saw grouse tracks around a puddle at Luckiamute Landing greenway, most likely **Ruffed Grouse**. Julie Gibson heard

drumming grouse at the Fitton Green Easement on 8 Apr, also most likely **Ruffed Grouse** considering the elevation and mostly deciduous habitat. On 12 Apr Julie saw a movement in a tree and found herself with a front-row seat on a displaying **Blue Grouse** in Dunn SF. The grouse continued to fan his tail, turn around and bob his fanned tail up and down, and "hooting" by inflating his yellow neck sacs, all the while strutting along the branches. Barbara Combs reported that seven **Blue Grouse** were hooting on Mary's Peak 25 Apr, but remained invisible.

Two **Wild Turkey** toms were also displaying, in the presence of three hens at an OSU agricultural area near Dunn Forest 12 Apr (J Gibson). Two **Mountain Quail** were on Vineyard Mtn 23 Apr (Merlin Eltzroth).

Eight **Virginia Rails** were calling at Jackson-Frazier Wetlands 22 Mar (DW Holmes). **Soras** were heard at Cheadle Marsh, Finley NWR 24 Apr (M Cutler). An **American Coot** was seen brooding on a nest at Stewart Lake 23 & 27 Apr (J Simmons).

A **Black-bellied Plover** in alternate plumage was at Finley NWR 24 Apr (M Cutler). Three **Greater Yellowlegs** flew over Jackson-Frazier Wetland 1 Apr (P Vanderheul). About a dozen were at Snagboat Bend 10 Apr (M Cutler). Both **Greater Yellowlegs** and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at Finley NWR 25 Apr, along with **Western** and **Least Sandpipers** (D Boucher). A migrant **Spotted Sandpiper** stopped by Stewart Lake 26 Apr (George Weaver fide J Simmons).

An adult **Great Horned Owl** was near the nest at E.E. Wilson 11 Apr, but no owlets could yet be seen (Portland Magpies). A **Western Screech-Owl** at Vineyard Mtn was in the nest box, possibly sitting on eggs, as of 24 Apr (M & Elsie Eltzroth).

Randy Campbell kept track of four **Burrowing Owls** (one banded, three unbanded) that wintered near Peoria. The last dates were 22 Jan for one on Davis/Bell Plain Rd, 12 Feb for the banded owl on Blueberry Rd, 16 Feb for one on Fayetteville Rd, and 6 Apr for one on Potter Rd.

A **Barred Owl** was calling 3/4 mile above the Oak Creek Gate in McDonald State Forest 28 Mar (Justin Rodecap). One was also heard about 3/4 mile farther up on 6 & 8 Apr (Andy Dale; H Herlyn). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was also calling in McDonald State Forest 6 Apr (A Dale).

Two **Vaux's Swifts** circled over the Corvallis Senior Center 17 Apr (Roy Lowe). One winged over Stewart Lake 22 Apr (J Simmons, Bill Looney, Steve Seeger).

Four species of hummingbird brightened our area this month. **Anna's Hummingbirds** were around in North Corvallis as usual 25 Apr (D Boucher). A male **Costa's Hummingbird** visited Tom and Christina Snetsinger's place in Brownsville 7-8 Apr. Single male **Calliope Hummingbirds** stopped by Peoria 20 & 23 Apr (Mary & Randy Campbell). **Rufous Hummingbirds** were conspicuous around feeders and anything that looked like flowers throughout the month. Six perched at the feeder at Finley NWR headquarters 24 Apr were so harmonious, that Marcia Cutler wondered if they might be an already-fledged brood.

The **Acorn Woodpecker** pair at Stewart Lake continued thru the period, sometimes visiting snags along Circle Blvd, but did not appear to be nesting yet (J Simmons). One was in the oak woods in Adair Village 8 Apr (D Miller).

Karin Donoyan saw and photographed an adult male **Red-naped Sapsucker** which visited a residence along the Alsea Hwy (MP 16-17) in Lincoln Co., 20-23 Apr. The bird seemed to be involved in a territorial dispute with a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**.

An **American Three-toed Woodpecker** flew in to investigate David Tracy's pygmy-owl imitations near the entrance to the Hoodoo ski area 18 Apr. A pair of **Northern Flickers** at Stewart Lake were observed excavating a nest 7-8 Apr and then trading places in the nest cavity 23 Apr (J Simmons).

A **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** was flycatching from a perch in the woods at our place near E.E. Wilson 10 Apr (Joel Geier). More were at Finley NWR by 24 Apr (M Cutler). Dave Budeau saw a **Black Phoebe** at his new place near Turner (Marion Co.) 18-19 Apr. A **Western**

Kingbird turned up along Elliot Circle near Lewisburg again this year, on 27 Apr (E Eltzroth).

Cassin's Vireos were at Finley NWR by 4 Apr (P Vanderheul, M Cutler). Karan Fairchild noted a pair of **Hutton's Vireos** at their place sw of Philomath 1 Apr. **Warbling Vireos** arrived in Corvallis 25 Apr (D Boucher). **Horned Larks** were noted at Finley NWR 24 Apr (M Cutler).

Pat Waldron maintains nest boxes for a small colony of **Purple Martins** at her place e of Scio. On 29 Mar she had a chance to admire a beautiful iridescent male in hand, as she removed it safely from a starling trap and released it. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** included one at Hoacum Island greenway 3 Apr (R & M Campbell), and more at Finley NWR 4 Apr and Snagboat Bend 10 Apr (P Vanderheul, M Cutler). On 28 Apr more than 30 **Cliff Swallows** were checking out their nests under the Harrison St bridge in Corvallis (H Herlyn). The first **Barn Swallow** at Stewart Lake this spring arrived 8 Apr (J Simmons).

A single **Chestnut-backed Chickadee** joined five **Black-capped Chickadees** in a vocal, round-robin tail chase at our place near E.E. Wilson 10 Apr.

Hendrik Herlyn watched a **Bushtit** pair building a nest overhanging a trail in McDonald SF 3 Apr, and noted the nest was still intact and active 8 Apr. Don Boucher has noticed how the **Western Scrub-Jays** tend to follow foraging **Bushtits**. The Bushtits protest vocally but continue their feeding, aside from the nesting season when they will more aggressively defend their nesting area. Don speculates the jays are taking advantage of insects stirred up by the Bushtits.

A **House Wren** arrived in Peoria 3 Apr (R Campbell), and one was at Stewart Lake 6 Apr (Jim Anderson fide J Simmons).

A few **Golden-crowned Kinglets** I heard at Luckiamute Landing 7 Apr seem to be the last ones noted at low elevations this season. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were last noted at Stewart Lake 7 Apr, but some were still singing sw of Philomath 16 Apr (Karan Fairchild), and some were still at Finley NWR 24 Apr (M Cutler).

Elsie Eltzroth notes that a male **Western Bluebird** along Elliot Circle did his best to drive off a **House Sparrow** which had been harassing the bluebirds. At one point the male bluebird jumped on the sparrow's back and gave several sharp pecks to the back of the neck. However the House Sparrow was back a half hour later. Julie Gibson noted numerous **Western Bluebirds** along the bluebird trail on Soap Creek Rd 23 Apr.

Hermit Thrushes were singing in Corvallis 24 Mar (D Boucher). **Catharus thrushes** (Hermit or Swainson's) were noted at Fitton Green Easement 8 Apr and in Dunn SF 12 Apr (J Gibson).

Bill Proebsting heard a **Wrenit** in the Oak Creek drainage of McDonald SF 11 Apr. Several **American Pipits** were at Mary's Peak 25 Apr (B Combs).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was on Vineyard Mtn 24 Mar (M Eltzroth). The first at Stewart Lake was noted 1 Apr (J Simmons). A very early **Yellow Warbler** was reported at Snag Boat Bend 29 Mar (Carroll DeKock fide Randy Campbell). Passage of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** peaked with dozens in Corvallis (about evenly split between **Myrtle** and **Audubon's** forms) 11 Apr (H Herlyn), and about 25 at Stewart Lake 23 Apr (J Simmons).

Jim Fairchild heard a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** along Oak Creek in McDonald State Forest 6 Apr (Jim Fairchild), and four were singing sw of Philomath 8 Apr (Karan Fairchild). **Townsend's Warblers** were still in Corvallis 8 Apr (H Herlyn).

Two male **Common Yellowthroats** were at Jackson-Frazier Wetlands 28 Mar (H Herlyn). More arrived at E.E. Wilson and Finley NWR by 1 Apr (J Geier; P Vanderheul) and along Oak Creek from 3 Apr onward (Bill & Lena Proebsting).

A **Wilson's Warbler** was in Corvallis 11 Apr (H Herlyn), and two were singing sw of Philomath 16 Apr (Karan Fairchild).

A male **Western Tanager** was at Stewart Lake 27 Apr (J Simmons) and again 28 Apr (J Simmons, Jim Anderson, Bill Looney, Steve

Seeger). One was in Avery Park 30 Apr (P Vanderheul).

A migrant **Chipping Sparrow** visited our yard near E.E. Wilson 6 Apr. Two were near E.E. Wilson headquarters 11 Apr (Portland Magpies). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at the Hoacum Island greenway 3 Apr (R & M Campbell). On 7 Apr I saw two at Luckiamute Landing greenway, a regular nesting site.

Savannah Sparrows returned to breeding territories around E.E. Wilson in the first days of April, reaching a concentration of 80 singing males in a 120-acre field adjacent to our yard by 3 Apr. One migrant turned up in a conifer-rimmed meadow in the Coast Range 9 Apr (J Fairchild). 30 migrants noticeably larger than the breeding populations were in ash trees at our place 10 Apr. One at Stewart Lake 27 Apr was likely a later migrant (J Simmons).

Wintering **Fox Sparrows** migrated out this month; the last one reported was at Peoria 14 Apr (R Campbell). A migrant **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Stewart Lake 23 Apr (J Simmons). I last saw two of the three wintering **Swamp Sparrows** at E.E. Wilson 1 Apr.

A **White-throated Sparrow** was singing in Corvallis 12 Apr, not far from Don & Elizabeth McDonald's where two of this species were still present (M Cutler). Up to three continued thru the period in nw Corvallis (J Simmons), and one was still along Oak Creek thru 27 Apr (B & L Proebsting).

White-crowned Sparrows began to arrive on breeding grounds sw of Philomath 26 Mar (J, K & Karl Fairchild). Pat Waldron heard the night song of one e. of Scio at 2:30 AM on 2 Apr. Julie Gibson noticed a difference between the duller **White-crowned Sparrows** at Snag Boat Bend and brighter birds in Dunn SF 4 Apr, as both local breeding birds and more northerly breeding subspecies were on the move. A **White-crowned Sparrow** in a Vineyard Mtn yard 11 Apr was the first there in over 6 years (M & E Eltzroth).

A few migrant **Golden-crowned Sparrows** were at Stewart Lake thru 26 Apr. One showed up on Vineyard Mtn 15 Apr, where they are "regular as clockwork" in October & April (M & E Eltzroth). Wil Geier noted some in our yard for the birdathon 22 Apr.

Black-headed Grosbeaks arrived at Willamette Park 25 Apr (D Boucher). A **Lazuli Bunting** was at Timber Hill 25 Apr (H Herlyn).

Western Meadowlarks were noted at Finley NWR 4 Apr (P Vanderheul, M Cutler). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was along Coville Rd at Baskett Slough NWR 12 Apr (Karan Sparkman). **Brown-headed Cowbirds** began to arrive with one in Peoria 3 Apr (R Campbell). Portland birder Tim Janzen spotted a **Bullock's Oriole** at the Benton Co. Fairgrounds 29 Apr.

Purple Finches began to show up on breeding grounds sw of Philomath 26 Mar (K Fairchild). Barbara Combs saw a small flock of **Red Crossbills** on Mary's Peak 25 Apr. The annual congregation of **Evening Grosbeaks** on the OSU campus grew from hundreds 5 Apr (Steve Dowlan) to thousands by 21 Apr (M Eltzroth).

A **Muskrat** was observed eating terrestrial vegetation at Stewart Lake 22 Apr (Bill Looney, Steve Seeger, J Simmons).

Bobcat sightings continued this month: One at E.E. Wilson 3 Apr (Becky & Wil Geier) and again on 5 Apr (Tom & Jeanne Griffith), and one at Finley NWR 4 Apr and again on 24 Apr (M Cutler, P Vanderheul). Julie Gibson enjoyed an extended view of one large **Bobcat** in Dunn SF 4 Apr, then another noontime **Coyote** concert on 12 Apr.

Next months

Breeding season gets underway as the latest migrants including Yellow-breasted Chat, Willow Flycatcher, and Common Nighthawk should arrive. Send your sightings by June 21 for the summer issue of the Chat to:

Joel Geier, 14505 Corvallis Rd., Monmouth, OR 97361
Telephone: (541) 928-2815
e-mail: jgeier@attglobal.net

Governor's Opportunity to Affect National Ocean Policy

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (USCOP) has just released its comprehensive draft report on the state of our oceans. This report, mandated by the Oceans Act of 2000, is the second blue-ribbon panel in less than a year to document serious threats to the state of our oceans. Both the USCOP and the landmark independent Pew Oceans Commission Report agree: overfishing, overdevelopment of our coasts, habitat destruction, and mismanagement are leading to the decline of ocean wildlife and the collapse of entire ocean ecosystems.

How You Can Help

Our oceans are in trouble. A comprehensive report on the state of our oceans from the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy is clear—we need immediate action to protect and restore our fragile marine ecosystems. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy is accepting comments from governors on what steps they should take next.

Please ask Governor Kulongoski to take advantage of this opportunity to conserve our oceans by supporting aggressive recommendations to protect and restore fragile ocean ecosystems.

Governor Kulongoski

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900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047
503.378.4582, FAX 503.378.6827

A Brief Summary

Off every U.S. coast, our oceans are threatened by overfishing, pollution, offshore drilling, climate change, cruise ships and more. Of the myriad threats to our oceans, the most serious are overfishing, the catch of non-target species and habitat destruction.

Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) and other state "PIRGs" are working to craft initiatives that will reform fisheries management, increase funding for marine conservation and restructure regional fisheries management councils

Our Oceans at Risk

What started out as innocent use of the ocean has gone too far. Off every U.S. coast, our oceans are threatened by overfishing, pollution, offshore drilling, climate change, cruise ships, and more. Of the myriad threats to our oceans, one of the most serious is rampant overfishing.

As industrialized commercial fishing replaced subsis-

tence harvests around the world, overfishing has steadily worsened. Equipped with government subsidized, high-tech fishing fleets, fishing industry conglomerates have become so efficient that some fish populations have disappeared within just a few years. A May 2003 study published in Nature magazine found that in the absence of sound management, populations of large predatory ocean fish have declined by 90 percent since the introduction of commercial fishing.

In addition, in its 2003 report to Congress evaluating the status of US fisheries, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that 97 fish stocks—41 percent of all federally managed fisheries—are in jeopardy. This is an increase from previous years, indicating that current management plans have been unable to stabilize fisheries, let alone improve them.

Harvesting too many fish too quickly is at the heart of the overfishing problem, but it is exacerbated by the use of indiscriminate, destructive fishing gear. Scientists estimate that fishermen discard 2.3 billion pounds of unintentionally-caught species every year—about a quarter of their total take. Additionally, a report by the Marine Conservation Biology Institute found that commonly-used equipment that drags across the sea floor damages deep sea habitats in a practice that resembles forest clear-cutting.

Human activities on land also threaten our oceans. Rampant development along the sea coast destroys coastal habitat and feeds so much pollution into surrounding waters that the amount of oil equivalent to the Exxon Valdez oil spill—11 million gallons—runs into the ocean from streets and driveways every eight months.

Should the overfishing problem progress so far as to close even more fisheries, we put at risk the billion-dollar seafood industry, as well as the billion-dollar recreational fishing industry. Everyone with a vested interest in seeing the oceans restored will need to work together to create a comprehensive policy that will address overfishing, habitat destruction, bycatch and pollution.

Article excerpt from <http://uspirg.org>

Bachelor Bitterns

Bachelor bitterns
In a brackish bog
Boasting their bravado
By belching and booming
With bloated bellows
Beckoning for bittern broads
But why? Because...
Boys will be boys!

-Don Boucher



Photo by Fred Ramsey

Late afternoon Barn Owl snoozing at the Petroglyphs Section of Lava Beds National Monument, Tule Lake California

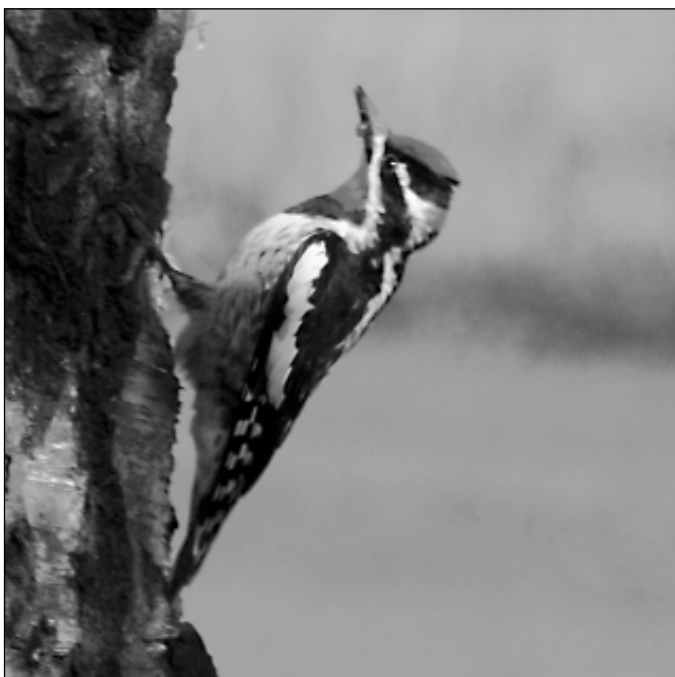


Photo by Karin Donoyan

Red-naped Sapsucker in Lincoln County
Apparently, the bird was involved in a territorial dispute with a Red-breasted Sapsucker at a residence near Alsea Hwy. Between mileage markers 16 and 17. The bird was present from approx. April 20th to April 23rd.

-Karin Donoyan

Champoeg Bluebird Festival 2004

Saturday, June 19, 10 AM-3 PM

A perfect event for the whole family on Father's Day Weekend

Sponsored by the Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project and Champoeg State Heritage Area

Champoeg Directions: I-5 Donald/Aurora Exit # 278; west following signs to the park

Event is free; there's a \$3 parking charge

For more information, see the website, prescottbluebird.com or phone Champoeg at 503.678.1251 x 221

Bluebirds have returned to nestboxes all over the North Willamette Valley and the Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project thinks this is the perfect time to announce their 2004 Bluebird Festival. The annual event will take place at Champoeg State Heritage Area on Saturday, June 19 from 10 AM until 3 PM - Father's Day Weekend

A chance to view and learn about the Western Bluebird in its nesting habitat is the main attraction of this family-oriented festival. There will also be birdhouse building, blueberry refreshments, Ranger talks, a live Bluegrass band, and local artisans selling unique bird, garden and wildlife items. Attendees will receive directions for a driving tour of the historic Champoeg area, including nurseries, wineries and farm-fresh produce stands.

Champoeg State Heritage Area is located south of Wilsonville at the Interstate-5 Donald/Aurora Exit #278. The event is free, and there is a \$3 charge for parking. Follow the signs from the exit about six miles west to the park. For further information contact Kit Whittaker, Champoeg Bluebird Festival 2004, event coordinator, whittsend@aol.com, 503.682.1446.

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the **CHAT**

Calendar

May 16 Bicycle Birding**
 May 20 *General Meeting, 7:30 PM (Bent. Co. Commissioner's Meeting Room, SEE FRONT PAGE)
 Roy Lowe, Oregon Coastal Wildlife Refuges
 May 20-23 Malheur NWR**
 May 26 Wednesday morning bird walk**
 May 29 Hesthavn workparty (see page 66)
 Summer No General meetings in June, July or August
 June No Chat issue in June
 June 12 Saturday local morning birding**
 June 21 Field notes deadline
 June 24 Chat deadline for summer issue
 June 26 Hesthavn workparty (see page 66)
 June 30 Wednesday morning bird walk**
 July 10 Saturday local morning birding**
 July 14 Bat Watch**
 July 28 Wednesday morning bird walk**
 July 31 Hesthavn workparty (see page 66)
 August No Chat issue in August
 Aug 28 Hesthavn workparty (see page 66)

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

* General Meeting change this year—see front page

**See page 67 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 memberships are \$20 for an individual, \$25 for a family, \$15 for a student. Chat-only subscriptions are \$10.

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