



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

February 2005

VOL. 34

#6

General Meeting

February 17, Thursday, 7:30-9:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church

Understanding survival and abundance of Puerto Rican Forest birds: does rainfall matter?

A Presentation by Dr. Katie Dugger

Dr. Dugger, Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife here at OSU, will describe her collaborative work on a long-term banding project, initiated in Gunica Forest in southwestern Puerto Rico in 1973. She will summarize research of her team of collaborators, which has focused on the effects of seasonal rainfall on annual patterns of survival and abundance for both resident species and winter migrants.

Meeting Place Change: no longer at the Library

The Chapter meeting is now at the meeting hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 118 SW Eighth Street. Note. We are returning to our customary meeting location, now that the church has completed its renovation project. As usual, the meeting will be preceded by a social period, with refreshments, beginning at 7:00.

Future Programs at General Meetings

- Mar 17 Bob Brister, Outreach Coordinator for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness.
- Apr 21 Dave Mellinger, OSU faculty and Corvallis Audubon member. Topic to be announced.
- May 19 Dick Bauer, local wildlife photographer. The Galapagos Islands.

Atop the Nestbox

How Acorns Killed Western Bluebirds

An Audubon Society of Corvallis member sent this message to me.

"I planted germinating white oak acorns to help restore oak savannah habitat and placed blue plastic conical tubes over them to protect the seedlings and used netting provided by the manufacturer over the tops."

"We see these used often for nursery trees, grapes and other plants. To my shock I discovered banded dead Western Bluebirds inside several of the tubes where the netting was missing! According to Elsie Eltzroth they may have seen insects inside and dropped down but couldn't climb or fly out. Apparently this is not an uncommon tragedy."

"Perhaps we can alert people who use these 3-5" tubes to be aware of this problem. It can be corrected and the manufacturers should be warned of this problem."

In trying to help our environment, many hazards have been unwittingly added to the habitat used by small birds. Though other birds may be attracted to green or yellow tubes where insects may be found, the color blue is especially attractive to bluebirds since it is "their" color.

We should remind you that Western Bluebirds inspect nest boxes, open vents from a house or shed, stove pipes and chimneys that lack a perforated cover, and all other likely looking holes in which to roost in winter.

Bill Percy & Elsie Eltzroth

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Field Trip Schedule

Feb 12	Saturday local morning birding 7:30 AM
Feb 13	Sunday afternoon, Jackson-Frazier Wetland, 4-5 PM
Mar 12	Saturday local morning birding 7:30 AM
Mar 18-20	Bandon Coast
Mar 19	Saturday, Bicycle Birding, 9 AM-noon
Apr 9	Saturday local morning birding 7:30 AM
Apr 17	Sunday, Bicycle Birding, 9 AM-noon
Apr 22-24	Klamath Basin
May 6-8	Rogue Valley Birding & Shakespeare Play
May 14	Saturday local morning birding 7:30 AM
May 19-22	Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
May 21	Saturday, Bicycle Birding, 9 AM-noon

Sunday Afternoon Field Trips in Corvallis

Local, one-hour trips just before sunset when bird activity is high. Ideal for non-morning people who want to get out birding. Corvallis parks and other spots have great birds. Bring binoculars and rain gear. Leader: Don Boucher, 541-753-7689, bouchdon@juno.com

Feb 13 Jackson-Frazier Wetland, 4-5 PM. In north-east Corvallis, take Conifer Blvd. and go north on Lancaster Street. The parking lot is at the end of Lancaster St.

Second Saturday Field Trips

Each month on the second Saturday, a local morning field trip meets at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 AM. We carpool to designated birding spots. 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 in Corvallis

9 AM-noon. Meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden (except in May). Easy and flat ride of 3-8 miles. We'll poke along and find birds in every nook and cranny along bike routes in Corvallis. Bring water, binoculars and rain gear. Led by Don Boucher, 753-7689, bouchdon@juno.com

Mar 19 Saturday, meet at Avery Park Rose Garden
Apr 17 Sunday, meet at Avery Park Rose Garden
May 21 Saturday, meet at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area

Spring Weekend Trips 2005

The 2005 spring weekend trips are set up for the following dates:

Bandon Coast March 18-20
Klamath Basin April 22-24
Rogue Valley May 6-8 Shakespeare Play "Napoli Milonaria"
Malheur NWR May 19-22

The Rogue Valley and Malheur trips require a \$50 deposit by February 28, 2005 payable to Fred Ramsey, 3550 NW Glen Ridge P., Corvallis, OR 97330. Contact Paula Vanderheul via email: vanderp@peak.org or phone 541-752-0470 for the details of the weekend trips and sign-up.

Birding Classes in April

This is a joint venture between the ASC and the Avery House Nature Center. These popular birding classes include two Wednesday evening classes at Avery House from 7-9 PM, and two Saturday morning field trips (times and locations TBA in class). Instructed by Don Boucher. Cost is \$8 per class

April 6, 9, 13, 16: Birding in the Willamette Valley

A study suitable for beginners and newcomers. This class is an easy and fun way to become familiar with local birds. Learn identification techniques, how to choose field guides and binoculars, and good local birding sites.

April 20, 23, 27, 30: Birding by Ear

A study in the sounds of nature. Become familiar with local bird songs and calls and learn tips and techniques for listening and remembering bird sounds. Beginning birdwatchers should take "Birding in the Willamette Valley" first. This is a great opportunity for sight-impaired people to learn how to associate names with bird voices.

Pick Up Your Registration Form

Available on-line at www.peak.org/~ecenter or stop by the Corvallis Environmental Center 214 SW Monroe to register. For more information contact Avery House 541-758-6198



This photo of an Anna's Hummingbird was taken by Raylene Gordin during the ice storm of January, 2004.

Hesthavn Work Parties

In February there will be one work party on Saturday, Feb 26, going back to having both the barn and the property work parties on the same day. The morning work party will go from 9-noon and will mostly be blackberry digging, but I may have some plants to put in, and I may also need someone to do some mowing. The afternoon work party will go from 12:30-3:30 and will be on the barn. Activities for that work party are yet to be determined.

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

-Ray Drapek

Field Notes

December 27, 2004 through January 24, 2005

This month's weather was somewhat drier and less cold than typical for mid-winter, although we had a few days of freezing weather which iced over much of Stewart Lake (on the Hewlett-Packard campus in Corvallis) on 5 Jan, and one day of freezing rain later in the month. By the end of the period, daffodils buds were starting to appear and a few of our earliest "spring" migrants, **Say's Phoebes** and **Cinnamon Teal**, were starting to appear.

A bit north of our area, one of the more surprising birds has been a **Western Tanager** spending the winter in McMinnville, helped along by the relatively mild weather and by table grapes which Floyd Schrock has put out in his backyard. Most of this bird's kin are in Central America this time of year.

On a trip to the Klamath basin 1 Jan, Karl, Jim and Karan Fairchild found another surprising bird, a **McCown's Longspur** which was associating with about 10 **Lapland Longspurs**. The Fairchilds also enjoyed the waterfowl and raptors which winter in abundance in the area.

Abbreviations & Locations: ACBC = Airlie-Albany Christmas Bird Count 2 Jan 2004 (compiled by Paul Adamus). BCBC = Brownsville Christmas Bird Count 1 Jan 2004 (compiled by Jeff Harding). NWR = National Wildlife Refuge. Ankeny (NWR) is in Marion Co. s. of Salem. Baskett Slough (NWR) is near Dallas in Polk Co. Coffin Butte and E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) are north of Corvallis along Hwy 99W. McFadden Marsh is at Finley (NWR) south of Corvallis. Middle Ridge is s. of Lebanon. Pioneer Villa is along I-5 near Brownsville. Snag Boat Bend in Linn Co. near Peoria is an annex of Finley NWR. Simpson Park is in Albany.

Sightings:

A total of 58 **Pied-billed Grebes** were found in the ACBC including 19 in and near Simpson Park. Five **Eared Grebes** were at the Halsey sewage ponds 1 Jan (Randy Campbell). 190 **Double-crested Cormorants** were found in the ACBC, mainly in Albany.

The ACBC total of 42 **Great Egrets** included 25 at Ankeny and eight in a wetland just n. of Coffin Butte. 16 were in a field along 99W near Finley 9 Jan (Marcia Cutler, Paula Vanderheul). Wintering **Green Herons** were found at Ankeny, along Oak Hill Rd. in SE Polk Co., and at Simpson Park (ACBC).

A **Turkey Vulture** soared north over Corvallis 10 Jan (Karan Fairchild). It's hard to say whether this was a very early migrant or one of several that were seen around Eugene in December.

Up to three **Greater White-fronted Geese** were seen with **Canada Goose** and **Cackling Goose** flocks along Bruce Rd. at Finley through 23 Jan (Erik Knight; Noah Strycker). Two **Snow Geese** were also there 23 Jan, and a **Ross's Goose** was seen 22-23 Jan (E Knight; N Strycker).

17 **Trumpeter Swans** were in the Airlie area of SE Polk Co. 2 Jan (ACBC). On 12 Jan I found a dead immature Trumpeter which had

Key to CBC results

see pages 45 and 46

- 1 A Oak Creek, NW Corvallis
- 1 B NE Corvallis, Chip Ross Park
- 2 Orleans (Tangent Dr. to Riverside Ave.)
- 3 Oakville
- 4 Peoria
- 5 SW Corvallis, Neabeck Hill
- 6 A&B 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
- cw count week
- n/a not available

apparently broken its neck by flying into a power line as it came in to land in a field. The flock along Airlie Rd. reached a total of 54 by 26 Jan, as family groups banded together as they usually do in the weeks before their northbound migration. Several dozen **Tundra Swans** have also been along Airlie Rd.; 150 were w. of Halsey 1 Jan (R Campbell), and smaller numbers were around Finley through the period.

62 **Gadwall** were found in the ACBC, mainly at Ankeny and around Albany. A few were at the Philomath sewage ponds 10 Jan and at Finley 22 Jan (N Strycker; E Knight). Six **Eurasian Wigeon** were at Grand Prairie Park in Albany 30 Dec (R Campbell). Two drakes were with the **American Wigeon** flock on a pond just ne. of refuge headquarters at Finley 23 Jan (Roger Robb).

Mallards and **Common Mergansers** were among the birds enjoyed by the 10 Jan evening field trip to Willamette Park (Don Boucher).

Three **Cinnamon Teal** continued at Ankeny through 2 Jan (Steve Dowlan). On 4 Jan two males and a female showed up at Toketie Marsh, perhaps the same trio as at Ankeny. Early-arriving migrants are increasingly difficult to sort out as more winter in our area.

A male **Falcated Duck** showed up in Lane Co. for the second winter in a row. This Eurasian native is presumed to be a wild bird due to its association with **Eurasian Wigeon**. It was seen at a RV park near Coburg through 22 Jan (M Cutler).

Wintering flocks of **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, and **Green-winged Teal** were seen throughout the area. Alan McGie picked out a drake "**Common**" **Teal** (Eurasian race of Green-winged Teal) at Ankeny 19 Jan.

Canvasbacks turned up in higher than usual numbers, with 15 at the Halsey sewage ponds (R Campbell) and five in the Brownsville area 1 Jan (BCBC), 65 at Ankeny 2 Jan (S Dowlan), and a peak count of 16 at Stewart Lake 10 Jan (Jamie Simmons). 345 **Ring-necked Ducks** were tallied in the ACBC. A male **Greater Scaup** was at Toketie Marsh 2 Jan, accompanied by a female scaup which may have been of the same species, and five **Lesser Scaup** (M Cutler, P Vanderheul).

A male **Surf Scoter** at Stewart Lake 10 Jan (J Simmons) was a rare bird this far inland. Four **Common Goldeneye** were at the Halsey sewage ponds 1 Jan (R Campbell); two were s. of Albany 2 Jan (ACBC).

White-tailed Kites were seen less frequently at the Lincoln Prairie overlook at Finley, but two were there 11 & 27 Jan (Steve Seibel). One or two adult **Bald Eagles** were seen regularly around Finley through the end of the period (E Knight; N Strycker; S Seibel). Raptor surveys in Benton Co. and parts of Linn Co. 9-11 Jan found a total of 47 **Bald Eagles**, 136 **Northern Harriers**, and 221 **Red-tailed Hawks**, giving further evidence of the importance of the mid-Willamette Valley for

see Field Notes on page 44

Field Notes *continued from page 43*

wintering raptors. On 16 Jan, Chris and Mike Miller watched a male **Northern Harrier** near Peoria using a "spiraling pounce" technique as it hunted near Peoria.

Ten **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and eight **Cooper's Hawks** were found in the ACBC. Four **Red-shouldered Hawks** were also found, including one at Ankeny, one along Elkins Rd. in s. Polk Co., and two in the north part of E.E. Wilson. Paula Vanderheul and Marcia Cutler found five **Rough-legged Hawks** in their Benton Co. raptor survey 9 Jan, including a dark morph along Greenberry Rd. A dark morph was a bit s. of there along Refuge Rd. 14 Jan (S Seibel).

A **Merlin** was at the Lincoln Prairie overlook at Finley 26 Jan (S Seibel); one was in downtown Corvallis 27 Jan (D Boucher). Five **Peregrine Falcons** including a larger, light gray tundra form were found on the Benton Co. raptor survey 9 Jan (P Vanderheul, M Cutler). One was at McFadden Marsh 14 Jan (S Seibel). A **Prairie Falcon** was near Brownsville 1 Jan (Dave & Lily Irons, N Strycker). I saw another in a field near E.E. Wilson WA 2 Jan, where it continued through 5 Jan (N Strycker).

A covey of 16 **Mountain Quail** were on Coffin Butte and two more were found in Dunn Forest for the ACBC 2 Jan.

A lone **Black-bellied Plover** was w. of Halsey 1 Jan (R Campbell). Shorebirds found on the ACBC included a total of 1490 **Killdeer**, a **Greater Yellowlegs** at E.E. Wilson, a **Spotted Sandpiper** at Simpson Park, 9620 **Dunlin** (including 9500 at Ankeny), 75 **Long-billed Dowitchers**, and 40 **Wilson's Snipe**. Only seven **Mew Gulls** were found, along with 30 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 16 **California Gulls**, two **Herring Gulls**, and 22 **Glaucous-winged Gulls**. Another **Herring Gull** was feeding alongside **Common Ravens** along Old River Rd. s. of Corvallis 9 Jan (M Cutler, P Vanderheul). A first-winter **Glaucous Gull** was in along Diamond Hill Rd. in Linn Co. 27 Dec (Randy Moore).

Four **Barn Owls**, nine **Western Screech-Owls**, 32 **Great Horned Owls**, one **Northern Pygmy-Owl** and two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found on the ACBC. A Great Horned Owl was in Corvallis at Starker Arts Park 22 Jan (D Boucher). A **Burrowing Owl** continued at the culvert on Blueberry Rd and Linn Co. Rd. 211 through 22 Jan (M Cutler). Tom Snetsinger heard a **Barred Owl** calling in the Cochran Creek drainage in the BCBC, then saw three Short-eared Owls hunting and cavorting over grass fields along Sand Ridge Rd. near Plainview Rd. 16 Jan. Raylene Gordin heard a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on Middle Ridge 18 Jan.

An **Anna's Hummingbird** visited Clarence and Vi Omoto's yard during the last two weeks of the period, in a Corvallis neighborhood n. of Walnut St. Not far from there, Andrea Foster continues to enjoy a pair which sometimes frequent a pine used by a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, possibly looking for insects around the sapsucker's sap wells.

Belted Kingfishers were a highlight of the 10 Jan evening field trip to Willamette Park (D Boucher). A **Lewis's Woodpecker** which showed up along Oak Creek Dr. near Bald Hill last month was seen intermittently through 5 Jan (Bill Proebsting; Joe Fontaine).

Friends of Karin Donoyan along the Alsea River Hwy. in w. Benton Co. observed a fight between a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** and another sapsucker or woodpecker, which turned out to be fatal to the first bird; Karin found a wound on the back of its head when she examined the bird.

A male **Downy Woodpecker** at George and Ellen Moore's suet feeder on Long Hill in s. Corvallis 16 Jan was joined by **Bushtits**, **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, and a **House Finch** as **Black-capped Chickadees**, **Dark-eyed Juncos** and **Pine Siskins** visited a nearby sunflower-seed dispenser. A **Hairy Woodpecker** was picking peanuts out of a seed feeder on Middle Ridge 14 Jan (R Gordin).

A **Black Phoebe** was at Pioneer Villa 1 Jan (Dan & Anne Heyerly fide J Harding). Another was just se. of Independence 2 Jan (Don Albright). A **Say's Phoebe** was along Forry Dr. n of Brownsville 1 Jan (T Snetsinger fide J Harding). Howard Fellows found one at the

Corvallis Airport 27 Jan.

A **Loggerhead Shrike** continued s. of Plainview through 23 Jan (Roy Gerig). A **Northern Shrike** was just e. of E.E. Wilson 2 Jan; another was near Finley 9 Jan (M Cutler, P Vanderheul).

Horned Lark flocks reported this month included 42 ne. of E.E. Wilson 2 Jan and twelve along Country Ln. in Linn 23 Jan (R Gerig).

Volunteers on the ACBC found 103 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 42 **White-breasted Nuthatches**, and 65 **Brown Creepers**. Along with 217 **Bewick's Wrens** and 84 **Winter Wrens**, they turned up 21 **Marsh Wrens**, a species which seem to be getting easier to find north of Corvallis. 473 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and 287 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were also found. It can be amazing to see how many of these tiny birds winter in our area, for the most part unseen.

In cold weather when insects are hard to find, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** can seem remarkably indifferent to human presence. On Middle Ridge 14 Jan, Raylene Gordin had an arm's-length view when one came to a suet feeder while her hands were still on it. Another sampled suet cakes in nw. Corvallis 10 Jan (A Foster).

A total of 124 **Western Bluebirds** were found in the ACBC. Eight were in Bald Hill Park 21 Jan (D Boucher). Since 15 Jan five **Western Bluebirds** have been regular in a clear-cut on Middle Ridge where Raylene Gordin maintains nest boxes. In Raylene's yard nearby, a **Hermit Thrush** and two **Varied Thrushes** have been plucking tiny fruit from an ornamental pear; the larger Varied Thrushes can reach the dangling fruit while perched but the Hermit Thrush has to jump to reach them. A **Hermit Thrush** also visited George and Ellen Moore's birdbath in s. Corvallis 16 Jan. Another was scratching below evergreens in nw. Corvallis 17 Jan (A Foster).

Among the 1510 **American Robins** found on the ACBC was one pure-white robin at the Santiam Rest Area along I-5 (Pat Tilley, Karen Sparkman). A few **Varied Thrushes** were snacking below feeders in nw Corvallis 16 Jan (C & M Miller).

Paul Adamus found a wintering **Orange-crowned Warbler** in s. Albany during the ACBC 2 Jan. Also found were 380 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, including a remarkable flock of over 200 coming off a roost at Coffin Butte (P Vanderheul, M Cutler), and 27 **Townsend's Warblers** which were mainly in McDonald-Dunn State Forest and residential neighborhoods of Albany.

Regular wintering sparrows found in the ACBC included 548 **Spotted Towhees**, 96 **Savannah Sparrows**, 285 **Fox Sparrows**, 1434 **Song Sparrows**, 24 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, 8 **White-throated Sparrows**, 319 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 917 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, and 2256 **Dark-eyed Juncos**. Five **Swamp Sparrows** were also found, including two in the north part of E.E. Wilson (Jim & Karan Fairchild) and three at Ankeny (S Dowlan). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** along Bruce Rd. s. of Finley NWR 23-24 Jan (R Robb; N Strycker) is the first one recorded in Benton Co. A **White-throated Sparrow** visited Bill & Lena Proebsting's Oak Creek yard 2 Jan.

A first-winter male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was in a private wetland along Livermore Rd. n. of Baskett Slough (R Gerig). 59 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were found in the ACBC, including 50 at the dairy on Oak Hill Rd. which regularly hosts a wintering flock.

On 18 Jan I snowshoed up Mary's Peak and found one **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** still at the summit, where several were seen in November. Dave Tracy found at least 15 **Pine Grosbeaks** while snowshoeing sw. of Ray Benson Snow Park in the Santiam Pass area 1 Jan; this has been an irruption winter for this species in eastern Oregon. 39 **Purple Finches**, 570 **House Finches**, and 11 **Red Crossbills** were found in the ACBC. Flocks of **Red Crossbills** were daily visitors to Middle Ridge all winter through 17 Jan, gleaning seeds from tall fir trees (R Gordin). **Pine Siskins** were visiting nw. Corvallis feeders as of 16 Jan (C & M Miller).

Karin Donoyan had flocks of up to 40 **Evening Grosbeaks** visiting her feeders along the Alsea River Hwy, 24 Dec through 15 Jan.

see Field Notes on page 47

Corvallis Christmas Bird Count

December 21, 2004

Species	1A	1B	2	3	4	5	6A	6B	7	8	9	10	11	12	Fdrs	2004 Totals	# Counts seen	Historic High
Pied-billed Grebe		1	4		6		1				3	1			1	17	36	33
D-c Cormorant		2	7		10		53		5		1		1		23	102	23	565
Great Blue Heron	4	2	4	6	10	3	8	2	2	6	18	1		1	1	67	43	70
Great Egret							1				11					12	15	9
Gr. White-fronted Goose				7							2					9	24	62
Snow Goose											2					2	22	23
Ross's Goose											cw					cw		
Brant											1					1		1
Canada Goose	2890	60	135		8	398	160	520	138	200	17,000	73	10	238		21830	43	78141
Tundra Swan					135				10	4	250					399	n/a	1313
Wood Duck		6	2						5	3	500	2				518	41	210
Gadwall											4	3	4			11	34	31
Eurasian Wigeon											2					2	22	5
American Wigeon		23	102		16	40	6		8		6000	5		25		6225	43	15630
Mallard	16	75	40	2	38	128	2	2	7	2	6370	64		12		6758	43	35342
Northern Pintail					1						1500			40		1541	43	25475
Northern Shoveler			3		1						800		100			904	41	634
Green-winged Teal			27	20	26						13000	50	15	400		13538	43	17488
Canvasback		10									1					11	14	41
Ring-necked Duck		30									1086	6	20	18	3	1163	33	2743
Lesser Scaup		4									1		10			15	30	488
Bufflehead		2	25								5		2	2		36	33	206
Ruddy Duck		1									4		10			15	33	282
Hooded Merganser											5			1		6	31	49
Common Merganser			2				4		1		4					11	31	196
White-tailed Kite										2	1					3	28	13
Bald Eagle			1	2			3			2	7			2		17	30	34
Northern Harrier		1	3	8	12	1		1	14	17	21			1		79	43	135
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		1		2	2	1							1	1	9	41	14
Cooper's Hawk	1	3		1		1				1	2	1	1	1		12	40	14
Red-shouldered Hawk		1								1						2	n/a	1
Red-tailed Hawk	7	8	10	17	12	6	5	4	9	15	35	7	7	7		149	43	229
Rough-legged Hawk								1	1	1	5					8	39	47
American Kestrel	4	5	19	23	8	4	6	9	11	10	25		4	5		133	43	167
Merlin									1		1					2	23	10
Prairie Falcon				1												1	n/a	6
Peregrine Falcon													1			1	13	5
Ring-necked Pheasant			1			3						1				5	44	194
Wild Turkey	6												51	27		84	7	49
California Quail	9		15			36	15		8	1	13		20	18		135	43	560
American Coot		24			1						6	5	10			46	42	771
Black-bellied Plover					105											105	n/a	3
Pacific Golden-Plover					1											1		
Killdeer	20	57	460	413	20	8	5	23	18	149	40		75	3		1291	43	10728
Greater Yellowlegs											1					1		n/a
Western Sandpiper										4						4	12	447
Least Sandpiper		9														9	n/a	80
Dunlin		13	83	66	22					1	100					285	40	2937
Long-billed Dowitcher									6	15						21	n/a	305
Wilson's Snipe	1		10	15	3						1	12	1			43	43	829
Gull, sp.		3														3		
Rock Pigeon	300	58	40	2		4	9		2			7				422	31	750
Mourning Dove		8	3	36	2	25	37		37	11		38	13	14	8	232	43	496
Barn Owl											4					4	35	13
W. Screech-Owl					1											1	23	6
Great Horned Owl	1				1						11		2			15	40	21
Northern Pygmy-Owl										1	1					2	20	3
Burrowing Owl					1											1	10	2
Short-eared Owl										1	1			2		4	30	29
N. Saw-whet Owl				1							1					2	n/a	6
Species	1A	1B	2	3	4	5	6A	6B	7	8	9	10	11	12	Fdrs	2004 Totals	# Counts seen	Historic High

Corvallis Christmas Bird Count

December 21, 2004

Anna's Hummingbird	1															2	3	30	11
Belted Kingfisher	1	2	1		4	1	1	1	1	2	3		1				18	43	22
Acorn Woodpecker	20	3	7	17	6	3			3	9	6	10	3	5			92	43	110
Red-breasted Sapsucker		2					1		1	2	1		2	1			10	43	29
Downy Woodpecker	7	3	6	2	1	4	4		1	2	6	2	1	2	5		46	43	358
Hairy Woodpecker		3	1	3		1			2			1	1		3	1	16	38	14
Northern Flicker, red-s.	31	24	10	36	9	20	29	8	10	17	55	14	7	13	7		290	44	427
N. Flicker, hybrid															1		1		
Pileated Woodpecker										1	2		2	4			9	36	9
Black Phoebe					1												1	5	1
Northern Shrike						1				2	1						4	38	11
Hutton's Vireo										2							2	31	19
Steller's Jay	26	11	4	2		6	12	17	22	24	180	32	22	12	9		379	44	166
Western Scrub-Jay	42	81	18	70	19	54	48	19	13	27	35	42	30	22	13		533	43	494
American Crow	35	92	26	10	3	269	88	6	104	28	20	72	41	13	11		818	44	2491
Common Raven			3	6	19		16	1	3	7	10	2	16	6	1		90	39	77
Horned Lark				4	3					2							9	32	300
Barn Swallow											3						3		
Bl.-capped Chickadee	116	60	60	45	27	102	42	52	27	36	125	42	25	28	17		804	44	857
Ch.-backed Chickadee	22		1			1					2	3	2	10	1		42	43	362
Bushtit		73	1			14		8		6		15	4	5	70		196	43	554
Red-breasted Nuthatch	24	11	1		3	18	5	16	4	3	9	5	5	8	8		120	43	99
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	4	1		5	4	3	3	1	11	2	3	1	6	3		53	44	99
Brown Creeper	6	5	7	5	4	2	3	5	2	6	1		2	2			50	44	45
Bewick's Wren	20	17	8	4	7	5	12	19	3	8	10	9	3	3	2		130	43	153
Winter Wren	10	6	5	4	3		1	5		6	40		15	11			106	44	129
Marsh Wren				1							5		4	4			14	33	30
Golden-crowned Kinglet	85	12	44	9	18	8	10	14		19	150	5	82	83			539	44	908
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	75	22	5	19	23	8	13	6		10	60	5	16	22	7		291	43	346
Western Bluebird	3	7		14	9	5			8	35	300		13	46			440	40	186
Hermit Thrush			2					1		1	2						6	34	46
American Robin	471	100	152	70	12	390	357	27	25	69	250	323	54	96	60		2456	44	9386
Varied Thrush	55	11	1	4	4	9	12	5	1	19	35	6	8	4	2		176	42	278
Wrentit						1		1		4	15		1	8			30	19	19
European Starling	1743	573	2856	3300	389	541	375	935	636	1900	1500	227	410	30	27		15442	43	64774
American Pipit			40	426	289			640		65	75		43	3			1581	43	821
Cedar Waxwing	2	10									20						32	41	346
Orange-crowned Warbler															1		1	n/a	7
Yellow-rumped Warbler	114	11			1	1	10	2		2	20		2	16	1		180	42	251
Townsend's Warbler		1		1		2		1							1		6	38	28
Spotted Towhee	83	19	23	70	13	24	26	19	6	18	16	8	45	17	12		399	44	390
Savannah Sparrow				41	66		3	8	39	1			5				163	38	320
Fox Sparrow	10	2	22	55	2	3	6	19	17	3	40	3	24	5	7		218	43	422
Song Sparrow	71	44	146	80	40	65	58	73	3	83	59	24	37	20	9		812	44	1418
Lincoln's Sparrow			8	4	1					5							18	36	64
Swamp Sparrow														2			2	n/a	4
White-throated Sparrow		3	2			1				1			1		9		17	37	30
White-crowned Sparrow	4	45	1	85	41	2	136	12	9	26		28	36	4			429	43	539
Golden-crowned Sparrow	73	20	50	30	54	27	55	33	31	58	106	51	100	67	19		774	43	901
Harris's Sparrow															1		1	n/a	2
Dark-eyed Junco	171	168	67	310	138	155	117	112	68	133	140	146	107	95	47		1974	44	3518
Red-winged Blackbird	50	23	21	28	10	4	20	25	490	12	8	17	6		2		716	43	23111
Western Meadowlark									2		24	5					31	44	892
Brewer's Blackbird	5	107	90	35	200			82	330	60	132		25	41			1107	44	8735
Purple Finch	4				1			6				10	22		1		44	41	104
House Finch	5	13	30	10	36	68	111		5	16	25	12	30	39	17		417	41	739
Pine Siskin	124	39	15		4	125	5	3	1	1	7	30	96	25	21		496	33	2699
Lesser Goldfinch	1		25					1				2	3		9		41	28	110
American Goldfinch	1	50				2	17			9							79	43	367
House Sparrow		11	21	6	10	25	60	6		1		20	24				184	43	614
Total birds	6775	2094	4780	5429	1921	2635	1972	2755	2150	3198	50371	1460	1744	1610	442		89266		
Total Species	49	62	61	50	61	51	47	45	47	66	86	48	63	57	40				

Field Notes *continued from page 44*

The **Elk** herd at Finley numbered 110 when Steve Seibel saw them from the Lincoln Prairie overlook 11 Jan.

Coastal Notes

A **Yellow-billed Loon** was on Yaquina Bay 15 Jan (Shawn Morgan). A short pelagic cruise as part of the Yaquina Bay CBC 2 Jan found **Northern Fulmars** and **Short-tailed Shearwaters** (fide Rebecca Cheek), as well as a “**Common**” **Gull**, the Eurasian subspecies of **Mew Gull** which is seldom seen in Oregon. Other highlights included 29 **Tundra Swans**, a **Long-tailed Duck**, two **Red-shouldered Hawks** and three **Peregrine Falcons**. A **Peregrine** was dive-bombing the **Rock Pigeons** at Hatfield Marine Science Center 19 Jan (Dave Mellinger).

Horned Puffins have been found dead on the beach at several places along the Oregon Coast, suggesting that there must be more wintering offshore. One dead puffin was found just south of the Yaquina Bay south jetty 22 Jan (Chuck Philo fide Range Bayer). A **Snow Bunting** was in the dunes along the north jetty 2 Jan (R Cheek).

Next month

Please send your sightings for the next Chat issue to:
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Chat Editor Needed in May

The Chat issue of May, 2005 will be my last as editor. There is no other reason for this other than I feel it's time for a change. I'm announcing this now to give us time to search for a replacement.

I've taken on so many other ASC tasks beyond Chat editing that I decided to actually do those other things more properly. Publicity functions, bird classes and field trip leading will quickly occupy the time vacuum left by dropping The Chat editing.

It has been rewarding. The Chat is the hub of all ASC activity. As editor, I have been privy to all the goings on regarding local conservation, field trips and programs. I have had regular relationships with other Oregon Audubon chapter members, Audubon members in other states, National Audubon and local conservation groups. The Chat editor is a vital role in the community and led me to many connections and friendships, and has looked very good on my resume.

1-year commitment with option to renew
Duration: May 2005 - May 2006
(training can start a month or two in advance)

Don Boucher, 753-7689, bouchdon@juno.com

Conservation Chair Wanted:

It was about 20 years ago that I became more actively involved in Audubon Society of Corvallis, volunteering to be a board member looking at conservation issues of the time. Some of those issues included snowy plover protections along the Oregon coast, unprotected wildlands of eastern Oregon owned by BLM, planned introduction of non-native

fish to control non-native weeds in Devils Lake (Lincoln City), and protection of Opal Creek and old-growth forests for the northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets. Over the years, other Conservation Chairs have energized ASC, helping protect both birds and fish, forests, grazing lands, as well as plants, wetlands and clean water. Now, along with some issues that perennially resurface (endangered species and forests to name two), some new issues warrant our attention and participation. Among them are meaningful ocean protections that are in the works at the state level, and logical land use patterns that are threatened by chaotic development under newly passed Measure 37.

Considering what might be fun about volunteering for this position? First, there is no job description! Second, our Audubon Board has always been a lively and fascinating group of great people committed to birds and conservation. Your own interests, and the support of the board and membership will steer you. Third, you'll get to know a network of passionate conservationists around the state, including conservation leaders of other Oregon Audubon Chapters. Finally, you can become a very powerful advocate for issues important to you, your Chapter, and your community. It's worth considering.

I have been very happy with the time I've spent with ASC, and know others will find it rewarding as well. Although I will remain active in local conservation issues, I think it's an appropriate time for me to step aside and allow people with new energy to step in and assist in our Chapter's conservation focus.

Thanks for your continued support and efforts to protect nature and our communities.

-Jim Fairchild



Photo by Karin Donoyan

This large flock of Evening Grosbeaks had visited Karin Donoyan's feeders for about three weeks. Karin lives in the Coast Range. First spotted about ten on Dec. 24, 2004. During the winter months, Evening Grosbeaks are uncommon and appear sporadically.

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Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

Calendar

Feb 10 Board Meeting 7:30 PM at Hal Batchelder's
Feb 12 Saturday local morning birding 7:30 AM**
Feb 13 Sunday afternoon birding 4-5 PM**
Feb 17 General Meeting 7:30 PM, 1st Presb. Church
Katie Dugger, OSU field research scientist on birds*
Feb 21 Field Notes deadline
Feb 24 Chat deadline for March
Feb 26 Hesthavn work party (see page 43)
Mar 12 Saturday local morning birding 7:30 AM**
Mar 17 General Meeting 7:30 PM, 1st Presb. Church
Bob Brister, America's Redrock Wilderness*
Mar 18-20 Bandon Coast**
Mar 19 Saturday, Bicycle Birding, 9 AM-noon**
Mar 28 Field Notes deadline
Mar 31 Chat deadline for April

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

* see front page

** see page 42 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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