



# Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

Summer 2005

VOL. 34

#10

## Board Election Results

The 2005-2006 Audubon Society of Corvallis board members were elected at the May general meeting. Contact information is on the back of the Chat.

### Elected Officers:

President: Chris Mathews, Vice President/Program Chair: Susan Haig, Secretary: Marcia Cutler, Treasurer: Judy Hays

### Board Members-at-Large:

Linda Campbell, Elise Elliott-Smith, Leah Gorman, Will Wright, Karan Fairchild (Fund-raising), Claudia Regier (Refreshments)

### Appointed Committees and Coordinators:

Birdathon Chair: Mary Van Brocklin, Bluebird Trail Rep to the Board: Elsie Elzroth, Bluebird Trail Chair: Tara Robinson, Conservation Chair: Dave Mellinger, Education Chair: Kate Mathews, Field Trip Coordinator: Paula Vanderheul, Hesthavn Program Coordinator: Gary Gibson, Hesthavn Sanctuary Chair: Ray Drapek, Historian: Marcia Cutler, Membership Chair: Amy Schoener, Public Relations: Don Boucher, Sales: Bob Smythe, Wildlife Watch Chair: Merlin (Elzy) Eltzroth, Electronic Communications (Web): Sheridan McCarthy, Chat Editors: Joan Newhouse and Neil Lidstrom, Chat Distribution: Fran Gates, Chat Email Distribution: Joe Fontaine, Field Notes Editor: Joel Geier

## Handicap Ramp at Hesthavn



*Volunteer ramp builders Francis Johnson, Mike Rebar, and Paul McGregor*

Many thanks to Francis Johnson and the Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers. The Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers is an ecumenical organization comprised of nine churches in the Corvallis area. They provide visits, yard work, and shopping for elderly or disabled people. They also build handicap ramps, and were kind enough to build some for us at Hesthavn. They did a beautiful job, and the ramps look great. Volunteers who helped Francis include Mike Rebar, Paul McGregor, Jack Rich, and Leroy Volz.

*-Ray Drapek*

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## Cougar hunting with dogs Still not a good idea

Recently, Oregon State Senator Frank Morse (R—Albany) sponsored House Bill 2759, which would reintroduce the pursuit of cougars with dogs. Even though Oregon voters passed a measure making this illegal, Senator Morse believes that allowing hunting of this kind is an effective way to control the cougar population.

What Oregonians need to understand is that we do not have too many cougars. Cougars have come back from a population crash, leaving an unbalanced predator gap. Let's put this in perspective. From 1996 to 2002, coyotes took an average of 1433 livestock per year, cougars took only 289. Healthy cougars hunt deer and elk primarily. Sick, old, or desperate young cougars looking for territory are primarily responsible for livestock killings. Cougar hunters go for trophy cats which are large, healthy males controlling large areas of hunting territory. These dominant cats have a stabilizing effect on cougar populations.

No rancher wants to lose livestock to cougars; that's understandable. However, a diverse population of native predators, including coyotes, cougars, and wolves, balances out the predator populations and leads to fewer livestock losses overall. Cougars kill coyotes! I saw the evidence myself when I found a coyote carcass with the telltale signs of cougar attack. The presence of cougars, coyotes, and wolves will eliminate feral dog populations, and feral and pet dogs kill great numbers of livestock.

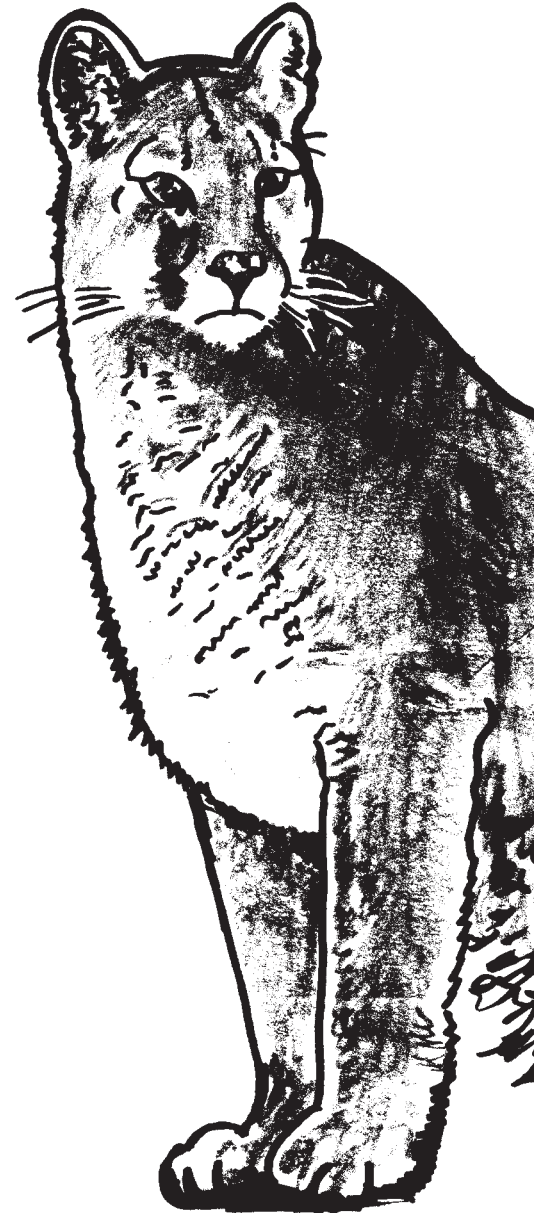
Although it is possible for cougars to attack people, it is unrealistic to worry about this possibility because cougar attacks are so rare—and nobody in Oregon has been killed by a cougar. As a tracker, I have been fresh on the trail of a cougar on several occasions and I have yet to see one. People who worry about cougar attacks have a great misunderstanding about the dangers outside. People get injured or killed outside by human activities, like hunting accidents and crime, more than by interactions with wildlife. Also, dogs attack more people by far than all native wild predators combined. If you compare the possibility of attack by a cougar with all the other dangers you might encounter, a cougar attack would seem like a fluke—and as a generalization—it is! If you're going to worry about something when you go out to the woods, worry about crashing your car on your drive there, or getting hypothermia, not cougars. Any policy aimed at cougars as a threat to people is irrational.

It also must be understood that if a cougar overpopulation problem occurs in an area, the source of the problem is deer populations. Deer are one of the biggest wildlife overpopulation problems in Oregon. Hunting cougars with dogs isn't going to change that. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife already has ways to deal with this.

Many people in Oregon think hunting cougars with dogs is cruel, so much so that they made it illegal. Even if

you do not share that sentiment, reintroducing this method of hunting solves nothing. It will only restore to a few big game hunters the thrill they once had.

-Don Boucher



*An essential element of the ecosystem:*

*Cougars are the largest of the "small cats" —sharing more physiological and behavioral characteristics with your house cat than larger species like Tigers, Leopards, Lions or Jaguars. Unlike these species, cougars do not roar. They scream, "yowl!" and sound largely like an oversized house cat.*

## Birdathon Raises \$6000

The 2005 Audubon Society of Corvallis Birdathon (taking place from the last weekend in April through the first weekend in May) was a great success, raising more than \$6000 in pledges! One hundred percent of these funds go directly to the Hesthavn Sanctuary and Nature Center. So far we've actually received about \$4400 of that, so please, if you pledged to a birder but haven't paid up yet, it's not too late! Send your check directly to Audubon Society of Corvallis, PO Box 148, Corvallis, 97339. And participants, please remind your pledgers. You can check with me if you need to know who's paid up and who hasn't.

Twelve teams participated this year, with at least 26 people birding – a very good turnout. More than 130 people or families sponsored a team. I'd like to think that each of these people gained a bit of a personal stake in Hesthavn. Many of the sponsors were not Audubon members – just think of the outreach impact this has!

### Some highlights of this year's Birdathon:

- Most money raised and most sponsors: Dave Melinger raised more than \$2050, by himself, and got 51 people or families to sponsor him.
- Most species seen: Karl Fairchild, Noah Stryker, Michael Dossett and Hendrik Herlyn set a new Benton County Big Day record of 139 species.
- Most species seen without the use of fossil fuel transport: Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank, and Andy Dale set a Bicycle Big Day record of 100 species.
- Farthest afield: Nancy Bremner and Jenny Swanson traveled east to Malheur. Karan and Jim Fairchild went west to the coast.
- Youngest participant: Lexi Van Brocklin, age 4 ½, spotted 7 different species.

Special thanks go to Elzy Eltzroth, who gave an incentive pledge up front of 15 cents per species, per team. Thanks for your generosity, Elzy! Also thanks to our one business sponsor, Clearwater Hardrock Consulting (Joel Geier), who pledged to a few different teams. I'm hoping to drum up some more sponsorship from local businesses next year. If you own or work at a business that would like to sponsor a team and would benefit from some publicity and good will in the community, please let me know. I also welcome anyone who is interested in helping to organize the Birdathon next year. Some ideas for expanding our impact include drumming up business sponsorship, and involving student teams in the birding.

Thanks to everyone who birded or sponsored a team; and I'd like to extend a personal thank you to Karan Fairchild, who generously shared her time and experience with me as she passed on the Birdathon torch.

*-Mary Derr Van Brocklin*

## Field Trip Schedule

July 16	Bat Trip to Albany, 8:30 PM
July 23	Saturday, Bicycle Birding, 9 AM–noon
Aug 13	Saturday local morning birding 7:30–noon
Aug 20	Saturday, Bicycle Birding, 9 AM–noon
Sept 10	Saturday local morning birding 7:30–noon

### 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](mailto:vanderp@peak.org)

### Evening Bat Trip to Albany

Come join us for a trip to watch bats emerge from a bat nursery in Albany on Saturday, July 16th. We will meet at the north end of the parking lot at the Benton Center (LBCC) in Corvallis at 8:30 p.m. to carpool to Albany. We should get back to Corvallis at about 10:00 p.m. If you wish, you can meet us in Albany at the north end of the parking lot to what used to be the Buzzsaw Restaurant (and briefly Takena Point) to watch the brick building at the corner of Montgomery and Water, which used to be the home of the Costume Loft.

*-Marcia F. Cutler*

### Bicycle Birding in Corvallis this Summer

9 AM–noon. Meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden. Easy and flat ride of 3-10 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](mailto:bouchdon@juno.com)

July 23	Saturday, Meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden. Destination—Mary's River Park in Philomath.
Aug 20	Saturday, Meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden. Destination—OSU Covered Bridge and the Fairgrounds.

## Hesthavn Work Parties

Hesthavn work parties are scheduled for July 23, August 13, September 17, October 29, and December 3. More details will be available on each work party as it approaches. There may be other work parties on short notice as the need arises. Those who want to be informed of these can contact Ray Drapek at 754-7364 or [drapek@fsl.orst.edu](mailto:drapek@fsl.orst.edu) to be included on the Hesthavn volunteer email/phone list.

*-Ray Drapek*

# Field Notes

April 26 through July 4, 2005

The late spring weather was wetter than in most years, as rains continued to make up for low precipitation in the winter months, to everyone's relief.

Birding events included the North American Migration Count (NAMC) 14 May, for which results were reported for Benton Co. by Marcia F. Cutler. Some birders also joined in the ASC Birdathon, in various creative ways. Results of a "big-day" listing effort on 30 Apr by Noah Strycker, Michael Dossett, Hendrik Herlyn, and Karl Fairchild (as well as a scouting run on 26 Apr) were reported by Noah Strycker. Results from the "Roadrunners" bicycle-birding team 7-8 May (as well as an ASC field trip 21 May) were reported by Don Boucher.

The annual Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) tracks breeding populations along rigorously specified routes. BBS routes contributing to these notes include the Cool Camp BBS near Iron Mountain in east Linn County, and the Santiam BBS which runs from Crabtree Lake down to Lacombe.

For "citizen science" volunteers, the Black Swift waterfall survey is continuing thru July and August. More information is available at <http://home.pacifier.com/~neawanna/BLSW/BLSW.html>.

**Abbreviations & Locations:** m.ob. = multiple observers. p.ob. = personal observation; s.t.p. = sewage treatment ponds; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; Res. = Reservoir; HMSC = Hatfield Marine Science Center on Yaquina Bay, Newport. E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) is north of Adair Village along Hwy 99W. Cabell and McFadden marshes are at Finley (NWR) south of Corvallis. Jackson-Frazier Wetland is in northeast Corvallis. Middle Ridge is south of Lebanon. Pigeon Butte pond is the scrape pond west of McFadden Marsh along Bruce Rd. and south of the butte. Stewart Lake is on the Hewlett-Packard campus in north Corvallis.

## Sightings:

150 **Greater White-fronted Geese** flew over Finley 30 Apr (N Strycker et al.). A few remained there 8 May (N Strycker; D Boucher). A pair of **Canada Geese** had goslings out for a paddle on Cabell Marsh 3 May (Kate Shapiro). A **Cackling Goose** lingered there thru 24 May (N Strycker). A lone **Trumpeter Swan** was at Clear Lake 23 Jun (Phyllis Bailey), near where a pair was seen last summer. A **Tundra Swan** at McFadden Marsh thru 14 May appeared to be injured (M Cutler).

A **Wood Duck** hen with nine fledglings was at Finley 5 May (N Strycker). Five **Gadwall** were at the Philomath s.t.p. 26 Apr (N Strycker et al.). One was still at Finley 8 May (N Strycker). A **Eurasian Wigeon** drake lingered with American Wigeons at McFadden Marsh 26 Apr thru 7 May (Alan McGie; H Herlyn); **American Wigeons** were last noted there 8 May (N Strycker).

Pairs of **Blue-winged Teal** were at McFadden Marsh and the Philomath s.t.p. 30 Apr (N Strycker et al.). One pair remained to breed at Pigeon Butte pond, with at least three ducklings there by 26 May (Randy Moore). 15 **Northern Shovelers** and one **Northern Pintail** were still at Finley 8 May, with one shoveler lingering thru 24 May (N Strycker). Five **Green-winged Teal** remained at the Philomath S.t.p. thru 8 May (N Strycker). A **Garganey** turned up on the Tangent s.t.p. 14 May, where it associated loosely with Cinnamon Teal (Randy Campbell). The last sighting of this Eurasian teal was 17 May (Jeff Fleischer).

A pair of **Redheads** was at Pigeon Butte pond 5-6 May (N Strycker; Tanya Bray). Eight **Lesser Scaup** were on Foster Res. 14 May (Jeff Harding). A **Ring-necked Duck** was at Stewart Lake 8 May (Mary & Lexi Van Brocklin); the last local sighting was at Finley 24 May (N Strycker). Three **Harlequin Ducks** were on the S. Fork Santiam River above Cascadia 14 May (J Harding). Eight **Buffleheads** were at the Philomath s.t.p. thru 8 May (N Strycker). Forty **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were at Lost Lake 15 May thru 5 Jun (J Harding; Alan Reid); another 18 including young were at Clear Lake 25 Jun (P Bailey).

A female **Hooded Merganser** guarded over three ducklings at

Finley 26 Apr (A McGie). A pair of **Common Mergansers** were on the river in downtown Corvallis 7 May (Andy & M Van Brocklin); a fluffy chick was seen on Marys River 12 Jun (D Boucher, Lisa Millbank). Lingered **Ruddy Ducks** were at Finley thru 8 May (N Strycker).

Two **Ruffed Grouse** were drumming on Marys Peak 30 Apr (N Strycker et al.). On 27 Apr a **Blue Grouse** was booming at Fitton Green 27 Apr (M Cutler). Booming Blue Grouse were noted on Marys Peak thru 26 Jun (Arch McCallum; Scott Johnson).

**Mountain Quail** were found regularly on Marys Peak thru the period (m.ob.). Pat Waldron was hearing at least five around her property e. of Scio thru 21 Jun, when a **California Quail** hen also showed up with eleven tiny chicks. Kathy Turgeon heard a **Northern Bobwhite** along Riverside Drive w. of Albany 20 Jun (fide D Boucher).

Four **Eared Grebes** were at the Philomath s.t.p. 26 Apr (N Strycker et al.), with one still there 14 May (NAMC). Two were at the Halsey s.t.p. 14 May (R Campbell). Three **Western Grebes** were on Foster Res. 14 May (J Harding). Twelve **American White Pelicans** were at Finley 9 May (M Cutler).

Two **Double-crested Cormorants** at Finley 8 May (N Strycker) were notable for the season. **American Bitterns** were reported regularly from marshes at Finley (m.ob.). Don Boucher heard one at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 29 May. Two to three **Great Egrets** were at Finley 2 May thru 5 Jun (Jim Fairchild; Erik Knight). Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank saw three **Green Herons** while canoeing along Marys River 12 Jun. Dave Mellinger saw one over downtown Corvallis 13 Jun.

As of 26 May Mary and Wally Eichler were watching **Ospreys** which nested atop a pole that they put up on their farm ne. of Corvallis 12 years ago. **White-tailed Kites** seem to be increasing in Linn Co. One was in the Belts Rd. grasslands 8 Jun (Mark Nikas). Another flew over Pat & Dan Waldron's place e. of Scio 4 Jul.

Two **Bald Eagles** (adult & immature) were perched at Finley 3 May (K Shapiro), where they were seen thru 24 (N Strycker). Joshua Gentry and Andrea Myhre saw what appeared to be a **Golden Eagle** soaring with **Turkey Vultures** over Fitton Green 21 May. A **Golden Eagle** was also seen along Belts Rd. 8 Jun (Mark Nikas). **Northern Harriers** were seen along Belts Road 1 & 8 May (T Bray; Mark Nikas). One was at Finley 8-24 May; behavior suggested nesting nearby (N Strycker). One e. of Scio 4 Jul raised an alarm among nesting swallows (P Waldron).

A **Cooper's Hawk** family of two adults and two fledglings were along Marys River 12 Jun (D Boucher, L Millbank). Around 4 Jun, Jim & Karan Fairchild realized that something was hunting the 40 **Band-tailed Pigeons** attending their feeders sw. of Philomath. They heard some calls and saw two large raptors which might have been **Northern Goshawks**.

An immature **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Snag Boat Bend 4 Jun (Larry McQueen). On 4 Jul Andrea Foster was watching **American Crows** harass a **Red-tailed Hawk** over her place in the Timberhill neighborhood (Corvallis), when a dark, small, falcon-shaped bird which she thinks was a **Merlin** zoomed over. A **Merlin** was also reported from the Little Luckiamute River s. of Monmouth on 18 Jun (Roy Gerig). This species ordinarily does not stay around in the summer months.

A **Peregrine Falcon** was at Finley 28 & 30 Apr (H Herlyn; N Strycker et al.). One at Foster Res. 14 May was harassed by **Common Ravens** (J Harding). A male was over Marys Peak 21 May (Rich Hoyer).

Martha Geier and I heard and saw **Virginia Rails** and **Soras** in the NW part of E.E. Wilson 28 Apr. Many were also reported from Finley, including an adult and juvenile **Virginia Rail** 26 Jun (Nate Richardson)

Four **Semipalmated Plovers** were at Finley 8-10 May (N Strycker; D Boucher); two were there 24 May (N Strycker). A **Black-necked Stilt** stopped by Mike Lippsmeyer's wetland in se. Polk Co. 14 Jun.

The last **Greater Yellowlegs** of the northbound migration was at Finley 24 May (N Strycker). Southbound migration was signaled when eight showed up at Mike Lippsmeyer's wetland 18 Jun. Single **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at E.E. Wilson 26 Apr (p.ob.), at McFadden Marsh 30

Apr (N Strycker et al.), and at Finley 8 May (N. Strycker). Four **Solitary Sandpipers** were at McFadden Marsh 26 Apr (N Strycker et al.). On 28 Apr Hendrik Herlyn saw six there. Smaller numbers were seen there thru 9 May (K Shapiro; D Boucher; D Mellinger). Solitary birds were at the Monroe s.t.p. 30 Apr (N Strycker et al.), and at Snagboat Bend 1 May (T Bray).

**Wandering Tattlers** rarely show up inland. Kay & Dennis Carter found one of those rare inland strays at Lost Lake 22 May; their detailed description ruled out other possibilities. Meanwhile, Steve Christiansen stopped by Lost Lake 23 May and independently reported *two Wandering Tattlers* (fide Chuck Gates).

The last northbound “peeps” noted were 15 **Least Sandpipers** at Finley 8 May and 50 **Western Sandpipers** there 10 May (N Strycker). Southbound movement began with a **Least Sandpiper** at Mike Lippsmeyer’s se. Polk Co. wetland 18 Jun, and five **Western Sandpipers** there 22 Jun. Fifteen **Dunlin** were at Cabell Marsh 10 May (N Strycker); a straggler was in Benton Co. 14 May (NAMC). Fifteen **Long-billed Dowitchers** at Cabell Marsh 10 May (N Strycker) were the last this season. **Wilson’s Snipe** which have been “winnowing” in display flights in the Griggs area n. of Lebanon since March were still going strong 11 Jun (J Harding).

A male **Wilson’s Phalarope** was on Pigeon Butte pond 5 May, and four more were at McFadden Marsh (N Richardson, N Strycker). A pair was at Cabell Marsh thru 24 May, and a male was there 26 Jun (N Strycker; N Richardson). A remarkable flock of 40 dropped down in Mike Lippsmeyer’s se. Polk wetland 15 May. Up to four territorial pairs stayed thru 15 Jun, with one pair continuing thru 22 Jun (M Lippsmeyer; Jamie Simmons). One to two **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at the Philomath s.t.p. 7–15 May (m.ob.). Two were at the Halsey s.t.p. 14 May (R Campbell). Three visited Mike Lippsmeyer’s wetland 16 May.

Gulls included twelve first-summer **Bonaparte’s Gulls** that graced Mike Lippsmeyer’s wetland 25 May and ten **California Gulls** on Foster Res. 14 May (J Harding). Nate Richardson saw a **Black Tern** fly over Hwy 34 near the Calapooia River 22 Jun

A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was at Conner’s Camp on Marys Peak 26 Jun (S Johnson). A **Barred Owl** showed up at Don & Elizabeth MacDonald’s house in Little Lobster Valley 29 May, perching in a tree in their meadow only 50 feet away.

**Short-eared Owls** were seen in the area between Corvallis Airport and Finley, once along Hwy 99W 8 May (Roadrunners) and once along Llewellyn Road 10 May (N Strycker). One was along Davis Rd. in Linn Co. 17 May (H Herlyn, R Hoyer, Andy Dale).

The first **Common Nighthawk** of the season was sw of Philomath 30 May (J & K Fairchild). Several were at Cascadia State Park 18 Jun (D Mellinger). At E.E. Wilson 3 Jul, our family came across one flying low near the yard-waste composting facility. A couple nearby told us that they had seen it doing a distraction display, suggesting a nest.

Mary & Andy Van Brocklin noted **Vaux’s Swifts** over downtown Corvallis 7 May. Two pairs took up residence in our neighbors’ chimney (near E.E. Wilson) 4 May, and as of 4 Jul were feeding young.

Don Hall has had a breeding pair of **Anna’s Hummingbirds** at his NW Witham (Corvallis) residence since late Feb. He saw less of them after **Rufous Hummingbirds** showed up, but during the May rains they again became the most regular hummingbirds. The pair at Andrea Foster’s place in the Timberhill neighborhood continued thru 4 Jul. A pair of **Anna’s Hummingbirds** returned to Raylene Gordin’s feeders on Middle Ridge 28 May. A migrant **Calliope Hummingbird** stopped by sw of Philomath 28 Apr (Karan Fairchild).

**Acorn Woodpeckers** continued at Stewart Lake thru 8 May (M Van Brocklin). The **Red-naped Sapsucker** on Oak Creek was last noted 26 Apr (N Strycker et al.). A pair of **Northern Flickers** nested successfully in a nest box on Middle Ridge (R Gordin). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was at Fitton Green 27 Apr (M Cutler).

A notably early **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was atop Marys Peak 27 Apr (A McGie). The first on Middle Ridge showed up 11 May (R Gordin), a more typical arrival date for our area. A migrant was at E.E. Wilson

21 May (ASC field trip). Jeff Harding and Bill Thackaberry found six in breeding habitat along the Cool Camp BBS route 19 Jun.

A **Western Wood-Pewee** was near Lewisburg 30 Apr (N Strycker et al.) A **Willow Flycatcher** turned up on Middle Ridge 7 May (R Gordin). The ones on the brushy slope above our place near E.E. Wilson were calling regularly by 20 May. A probable migrant **Hammond’s Flycatcher** was calling at Fitton Green 27 Apr (M Cutler). Jeff Harding found 12 in Linn Co. 14 May along a route with older forest habitats.

N Strycker found a **Gray Flycatcher** 18 May on a Christmas tree farm s. of Philomath. This sagebrush species has only been found a couple of times in Benton Co. On 1 May I heard the plaintive “dew-hic!” calls from a **Dusky Flycatcher** in open brushy habitat along the Willamette River at Luckiamute Landing campground. Three more were detected on the Cool Camp BBS route 19 Jun (J Harding). A **Black Phoebe** was near the Hwy 99W bridge in Monroe 17 May (H Herlyn, R Hoyer, A Dale).

Two **Western Kingbirds** stopped by McFadden Marsh briefly on 26 Apr (A McGie). A pair was near there along Lakeside Dr. 4 Jun (D Boucher, L Millbank). Raylene Gordin saw one light on a fence just n. of Brownsville 8 May, and two were along Belts Rd. 8 Jun (Mark Nikas). At our place near E.E. Wilson 27 May, one was calling from a small oak in which a pair attempted a nest last year. I did not see a mate, and the bird was gone the next day. Marcia Cutler saw one 24 Jun at last year’s nesting location along Oak Creek Rd. Gary Gibson and Leslie Green saw an **Eastern Kingbird** foraging in a field east of Cabell Marsh 8 Jun. However, the bird was gone by the next day (H Herlyn).

A **Cassin’s Vireo** was singing in Avery Park 22 May (D Boucher). Migrant **Warbling Vireos** were noted around Corvallis thru 8 May (m.ob.); a singing bird turned up on Middle Ridge 12 May (R Gordin). **Common Ravens** at Cascadia State Park were “screaming” vociferously 18 Jun (D Mellinger), which they seem to do while the juveniles are learning to fly.

**Horned Larks** were detected along Belts Rd. 1 May (T Bray) and Davis Rd. in Linn Co. 17 May (H Herlyn et al.). Dan & Anne Heyerly saw two feeding along the shoulder of I-5 just s. of milepost 208. On 4 Jul I heard one singing from a swathed field near E.E. Wilson.

A male **Purple Martin** flew singing over Peoria Rd 8 Jun (M Dossett). Pat Waldron reports that eight of her martin houses e. of Scio were occupied by 23 Jun. Kate Shapiro saw **Tree Swallows** around a “condo-snag” at Cabell Marsh 3 May. This year’s first brood of **Tree Swallows** fledged from Pat Waldron’s nest boxes around 23 Jun; **Violet-green Swallows** began to fledge 4 Jul. A **Violet-green Swallow** peeking out of a nest box at Stewart Lake was a treat for Lexi Van Brocklin as he helped his mom on the birdathon 8 May.

Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at Luckiamute Landing 1 May squabbled with a pair of **Belted Kingfishers** nesting in the same bank of the Willamette River (p.ob.). About a dozen were nesting in banks along the Marys River 12 Jun (D Boucher, L Millbank). **Cliff Swallows** were feeding and visiting nests on the barn at Finley HQ 3 May (K Shapiro).

**Chestnut-backed Chickadees** e. of Scio completed their second hatch and **House Wrens** completed their first by 22 Jun (P Waldron). On 26 May a **Rock Wren** was calling atop Marys Peak (N Strycker) where this species has nested once before. One was near Iron Mtn 19 Jun (J Harding). **Marsh Wrens** seemed more abundant than usual at E.E. Wilson this spring (p.ob.). Some were also noted at Finley 8 May (N Strycker) and Jackson-Frazier Wetland 29 May (D Boucher). An **American Dipper** sang below Alsea Falls 30 Apr (N Strycker et al.). Some were also at Cascadia State park 18 Jun (D Mellinger).

Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at our place by E.E. Wilson 29 Apr were the last noted at low elevations. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were last noted at Fitton Green 27 Apr (M Cutler). Three **Mountain Bluebirds** were in the Hoodoo area of Santiam Pass 14 May (J Harding). A

*Continued on next page*

## Field Notes

*Continued from previous page*

**Townsend's Solitaire** was in a clearcut above Lacombe 27 Jun (p.ob.).

The ethereal song of the **Swainson's Thrush** is so much a part of summer in the Willamette Valley, that it's hard to think back a few months to before they arrived. The first one reported was along Muddy Cr. at Finley 8 May (Roadrunners), with arrivals at Lewisburg and Oak Creek 11 May (Paul Adamus; Bill & Lena Proebsting). **Hermit Thrushes** were last noted at low elevations 1 May (p.ob.). Some were on Marys Peak 26 May (N Strycker).

An albinistic **American Robin** in Frank Hall's SW Chintimini (Corvallis) yard 2 May was presumably the same bird that was seen in that neighborhood in April. Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth saw a **Varied Thrush** carrying a worm on Vineyard Mtn 4 May, suggesting nesting at this surprisingly low elevation.

Two **American Pipits** were atop Marys Peak 3 May (A McCallum). A straggler was at the Philomath s.t.p. 8 May (Roadrunners). **Cedar Waxwings** became more noticeable around mid-May, often feasting on cherries.

A **Nashville Warbler** was found on the Cool Camp BBS 19 Jun (J Harding). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** foraging in low willows and hawthorns beside Stewart Lake 16 Jun (J Simmons, m.ob.) was the first record of this "eastern" species in Benton Co. Since the bird sang a few times, it was presumed to be a male despite very drab plumage.

The last low-elevation report of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was at Cabell Marsh 3 May (K Shapiro). Many were on Marys Peak 26 May (N Strycker). **Townsend's Warblers** were still at Peavy Arboretum 7 May (Roadrunners), with reports from higher elevations on the Cool Camp BBS 19 Jun (J Harding) and Marys Peak 26 Jun (S Johnson). **Hermit Warblers** were singing abundantly at Clear Lake 25 Jun (P Bailey).

Migrant **MacGillivray's Warblers** turned up in a few unusual situations: along the river at Luckiamute Landing 27 Apr & 1 May (p.ob.), in our yard near E.E. Wilson 13 May, and at Snag Boat Bend 14 May (R Campbell). **Wilson's Warblers** continued to stream in during May, arriving on Vineyard Mtn 7 May (M Eltzroth, Mike Lorentzen). Martha Geier and I glimpsed a **Yellow-breasted Chat** singing at E.E. Wilson 28 Apr. Good numbers arrived by 21 May when the ASC field trip found a dozen there.

A **Chipping Sparrow** was at Willamette Park 30 Apr (N Strycker et al.), and another was in Avery Park 7-8 May (Roadrunners; H Herlyn). On 7 May I saw a pair copulating on a fence post at the OSU Soap Creek Ranch. A singing **Vesper Sparrow** was at Fitton Green 27 Apr (M Cutler); another was at Willamette Park 30 Apr – 8 May (N Strycker; Roadrunners; H Herlyn). Tanya Bray found three **Vesper Sparrows**, a **Grasshopper Sparrow**, and many singing **Savannah Sparrows** along Belts Rd. 1 Jul. Mark Nikas found the same plus one **Chipping Sparrow** in the same area 8 Jun.

A lingering **Fox Sparrow** was at Bald Hill Park 26 Apr (M Cutler). Two were at Lava Lake 14 May (J Harding). On 18 Jun Marcia Cutler saw what appeared to be a **Song Sparrow** swimming in Stewart Lake. The bird apparently had fallen into the water, but managed to swim to some reeds where Marcia hopes it recovered.

**Western Tanagers**, and **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, and **Lazuli Buntings** continued to arrive thru early May. A **Lazuli Bunting** sang in unusual habitat on Middle Ridge 28 Jun (R Gordin).

Gail O'Malley's science class at Cheldelin Middle School found a **Red-winged Blackbird** nest with five nestlings during transect studies at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 6 May. **Western Meadowlarks** were noted at Finley NWR thru the period and along Airport Rd. 8 May (Roadrunners); 13 were along Belts Rd. 8 Jun (Mark Nikas).

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** turned up at Pigeon Butte pond 3 May (N Richardson). Numbers increased thru 6 May when six males were present (T Bray); territorial birds were there thru 4 Jun (D Boucher).

On 24 May an unusually bright oriole visited Mary & Wally Eichler's hummingbird feeder ne. of Corvallis. Based on the head pattern and color they concluded it was a **Hooded Oriole**. The bird stayed thru 25 May. **Bullock's Orioles** were seen thru the period at locations including Willamette Park, Bellfountain Rd., Lewisburg, and Lakeside Drive; Randy Campbell noted that they seemed more plentiful than usual in the Peoria area this year.

**Red Crossbills** staged an "invasion" of the Willamette Valley. Sandy Bryce heard and saw flocks repeatedly in SW Corvallis from mid-March thru mid-May. Flocks were at Avery Park 22 May (D Boucher), Finley 24 May (N Strycker), and Lewisburg 25 May (Paul Adamus). Other notable finches included a rare **Cassin's Finch** (first-year male or female) singing atop Marys Peak 3 May (N Strycker), a lingering **Pine Siskin** at Lewisburg 25 May (Paul Adamus), and a male **Lesser Goldfinch** along Stapleton Rd. in SE Polk Co. 3 May (M Lippsmeyer).

## Coastal notes

Results of a Bird Guide pelagic trip out of Newport 2 Jul were reported by Tom Snetsinger and Greg Gillson. The pelagic trip found four **Black-footed Albatrosses** plus **Northern Fulmars**, **Pink-footed Shearwaters**, and **Sooty Shearwaters**. While fishing 12 mi. off Newport 3 Jul, Roy Lowe came across over 400 **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels**. Quinton Nice spotted a **Leach's Storm-Petrel** while fishing from more solid ground along the north jetty of Yaquina Bay 30 May.

The return of **Brown Pelicans** began with four off South Beach 26 Apr (Rebecca Cheek & Walt Nelson). Andrea Foster and Range Bayer saw 60 **Great Blue Herons** at Yaquina Bay 30 Jun. On 14 May Rich Hoyer watched a **Bald Eagle** make several passes at a **Great Blue Heron** on Alsea Bay; the heron dove into the water to escape the eagle.

Andrea Foster volunteered at Cape Meares in Tillamook Co. this spring, helping visitors to see the **Peregrine Falcon** nest with one chick, and two pairs of nesting **Black Oystercatchers**. Two oystercatchers were also at Boiler Bay 14 May (Gil & Jeannine Lawrence).

A late **Black Turnstone** was along the north jetty of Yaquina Bay 30 May (Q Nice). "Peep" migration peaked 26 Apr when Diane Pettey and Mike McDermet saw over 1000 sandpipers on mudflats near HMSC, mainly **Western Sandpipers** with a few **Least Sandpipers** and **Dunlin** mixed in. They also saw a few **Short-billed Dowitchers** there. Twelve **Whimbrels**, three **Marbled Godwits**, and a **Dunlin** were at Beverly Beach 14 May (G & J Lawrence). A small tern that joined **Caspian Terns** at HMSC mid-June thru 2 Jul was decided to be a **Common Tern** (J Withgott; T Snetsinger).

A **White-winged Dove** visited Roy Filby's yard in Newport 7 Jun. A **Common Nighthawk** at Olalla Lake 26 May (Darrel Faxon) was a very early date for this species. On 11 May Diane Pettey and Mike McDermet saw four **Black Swifts** fly out of a narrow draw two miles up the Yachats River Road.

An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** turned up at the HMSC 16 Jun (T Snetsinger). An adult male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visited Roy Lowe's feeder at HMSC 16 Jun, after one visited Dawn Grace's feeder in the same complex in late May (fide Andrea Foster). Coastal bird-watchers also experienced an influx of **Red Crossbills** during May and early June.

A large adult **Orca** passed south offshore of Boiler Bay 22 May (Phil Pickering); one or two **Gray Whales** were there 14 May (G & J Lawrence). Roy Lowe saw five **Humpback Whales** 12 miles offshore of Newport 3 Jul.

## Next issue

Next issue: Please let me know about your observations by 22 Aug.

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## A Day With the Gulls

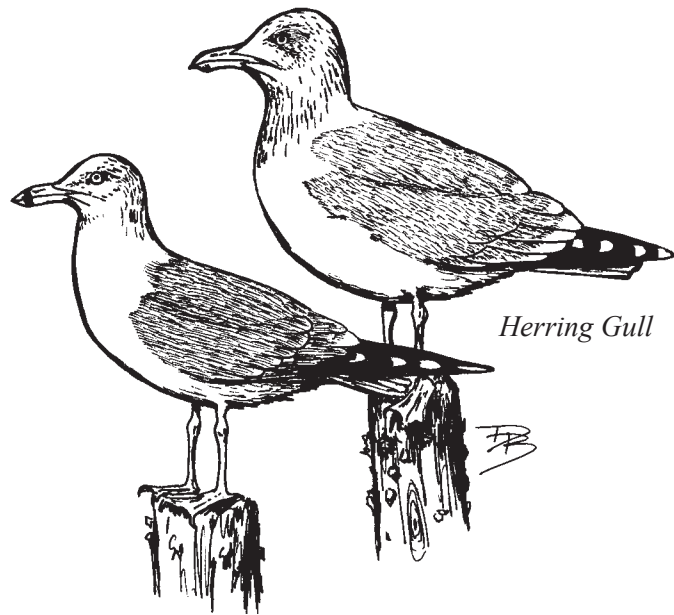
There are 12 species of gulls soaring and nesting around South Slough! Join Mike Graybill, Manager of South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, on Tuesday, August 9 from 10:00am to noon. Help us gather a buffet of fish heads and gull-tempting treats to lure gulls to the stage for our observation. Learn how to identify our feathered customers as they swoop and gobble the bait. This month's program will focus on social behavior and identification.

On August 6, from 8:30am to 10:30am, join fellow birders as we explore the shores and forests of our area in search of winged wildlife! Beginner and intermediate bird enthusiasts are welcome. We will provide an interpreter, binoculars, spotting scopes, and other materials to help you learn about the ever-changing world of birds that use the estuary.

Both programs will meet at Charleston's Visitor Center and. Please register by calling (541) 888-5558. (\$1/person)

The South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve's entire summer calendar of events is on our website at [www.southsloughestuary.org](http://www.southsloughestuary.org). South Slough's Mission is to improve the understanding and stewardship of Pacific Northwest estuaries and coastal watersheds.

-Katia Sowers, Education Program Specialist, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve



Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull

## Submit a Nature Photo

We invite submissions of nature photos for the Chat. We won't have space for it every month, but due to digital printing technology, photos cost no extra to print and come out quite well. Photos must be clear, sharp, high contrast and recognizable in black and white. Avoid submitting common nature subjects that are easy to photograph. They can be birds, wildlife or interesting plants—or perhaps common subjects in unusual situations.

Make sure the subject takes up at least one-third of the field of view. If you submit by e-mail, make sure the photo is 300 dpi at 3.5 inches wide. Prints are acceptable to. Contact the editor for more information (see back page).



Photo by Lisa Millbank

Hutton's Vireo

An easily overlooked but ever-present forest bird. It looks a lot like a Ruby-crowned Kinglet but the Kinglet nests in the mountains. This Vireo was photographed in the Illinois Valley in southwest Oregon.



Photo by Lisa Millbank

Killdeer standing above its eggs at Finley National Wildlife Refuge.

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## Calendar

July 23	Saturday, Bicycle Birding, 9 AM-noon**
July 23	Hesthavn work party (see page 75)
Aug 13	Saturday local morning birding 7:30 AM-noon**
Aug 13	Hesthavn work party (see page 75)
Aug 20	Saturday, Bicycle Birding, 9 AM-noon**
Aug 22	Field Notes deadline (see page 75)
Aug 25	Chat deadline for Sept
Sept 8	Thurs., Board Meeting 7:30 PM at Amy Schoener's
Sept 10	Saturday local morning birding 7:30 AM-noon**
Sept 15	Thurs, General Meeting 7:30 PM 1st Presbt. Church
Sept 17	Hesthavn work party (see page 75)

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

\*\* see page 75 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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