



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

January 2007

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#5

General Meeting

Thursday, January 18, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church

Population Biology of Boreal Owls

A presentation by Dr. Marni Koopman, from the USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center.

Directions

The chapter meeting is in the meeting hall of the First Presbyterian Church (upstairs), 114 SW Eighth Street. The meeting is preceded by a social period with refreshments, which begins at 7 pm.

Corvallis CBC a

Resounding Success!

Tuesday, December 19, 2006 dawned below freezing and very foggy. The sun never did come out and temperatures rose barely above the freezing mark. Still 47 people in the field and three feeder watchers saw a record 127 species, breaking the old record of 125 (1995, 1997). There were no new species added to the count, but no real bad misses, either. New highs were set for nine species: Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Red-shouldered Hawk, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Raven, Varied Thrush (many feasting on the remains of this year's abundant apple crop), Golden-crowned Sparrow and Brown-headed Cowbird (largely associated with dairies). Two other species tied their high: Peregrine Falcon and Anna's Hummingbird. Uncommon birds included Surf Scoter, Common Teal (the Eurasian subspecies of the Green-winged Teal), Greater Scaup, Sooty Grouse (formerly Blue Grouse), Tree Swallow, Gyrfalcon, Gray Jay and Chipping Sparrow. The worst misses were Ruffed Grouse, Long-billed Dowitcher and Western Screech Owl. A Lewis's Woodpecker was a count week bird.

I'd like to thank all the excellent volunteers who participated in this count. A special thanks goes to the potluck

crew of Rana Foster, Gail Nickerson and Lynne Murray who did an excellent job of providing chili and drinks and decorating the hall for the potluck. I'd also like to thank Jerry Paul who is responsible for working with the Benton County Planning Department to get a computerized map of the CBC; and Andrew, the GIS expert at the Planning Department who donated his time to this effort.

Marcia F. Cutler

Disappearing Songbird

Won't Be Listed as 'Threatened' by Federal Agency. Without Federal Protection, Cerulean Warbler Population will Continue to Plummet

Washington, DC, December 7, 2006 – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), after stalling for six years and missing numerous deadlines required under the Endangered Species Act, has issued a decision not to list the Cerulean Warbler as a threatened species. The National Audubon Society, Defenders of Wildlife, and regional conservation organizations that petitioned the agency in 2000 to list the Cerulean as threatened expressed grave concerns over the songbird's future without the comprehensive protections provided by the Act.

The Cerulean Warbler population has dropped almost 82 percent throughout its U.S. range over the last 40 years, making it the fastest declining warbler in the country. The rate of decline has quickened and the threats to its survival, particularly from mountaintop removal mining, have worsened while the groups' petition has been pending before the FWS.

See "Cerulean Warbler" on next page

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Cerulean Warbler

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The FWS decision comes after the groups sued the agency in February 2006 for repeatedly violating deadline requirements under the Act. In June, the FWS settled that case by promising to render a final decision by November 30. The decision was entered into the Federal Register today.

“The birding community is greatly concerned because the Cerulean has been declining throughout its range for such a long period of time,” said Greg Butcher, Ph.D., Director of Bird Conservation with Audubon. He said the bird has declined an average of 6 percent per year over the last eight years, compared to an annual average of 4.3 percent from 1966 to 2004.

“It’s a tragedy that the Fish and Wildlife Service won’t step up and act now, before this songbird moves any closer toward extinction,” said DJ Gerken, staff attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, a nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the conservation groups.

Since the petition was filed, new information has come to light about the increasing loss and fragmentation of the Cerulean’s eastern forest habitat from mountaintop removal mining. This form of surface mining is expected to increase dramatically in the core of the Cerulean’s range where the bird has already suffered drastic population declines – 80 percent in the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia, and 65 percent in the Ohio Hills in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

A multi-agency environmental study of mountaintop mining in four states (WV, TN, KY, VA) found that between 1992 and 2012, some 1.4 million acres of forests will be lost, more than half due to mountaintop mining. The study noted that this loss of habitat for forest birds with core breeding areas in the Appalachian coal fields has “extreme ecological significance in that habitats required by these species for successful breeding are limited in the eastern United States.” The Partners in Flight program has identified 15 songbirds with habitat in these forests as priority species for conservation, with the Cerulean as the highest priority. Ceruleans will be the most affected because they favor the steep slopes and ridge tops targeted by mountaintop removal. More than 70 percent of breeding Cerulean Warblers are found in the Ohio Hills and Cumberland Plateau regions targeted by mountaintop mining.

In 2000, 28 groups throughout the East petitioned the FWS to list the Cerulean as threatened, citing the precipitous decline in population and the growing threats to its summer breeding habitat in higher-elevation deciduous forests, including logging, sprawl development and mountaintop removal mining. FWS biologists at one time considered the bird a “candidate species,” and found in 2002 that the groups’ petition warranted further study. However, the agency, which has continually come under fire for

ignoring its own scientists’ analysis in favor of politically expedient decisions, evaded issuing a final determination until forced by the court.

“The FWS decision not to list the Cerulean Warbler is just one more example of the administration’s blatant disregard for science,” said Caroline Kennedy, senior director of field conservation with Defenders of Wildlife. “Any delay in taking the steps necessary to protect the warbler and its habitat only propel the songbird closer to extinction.”

“The Southern Appalachians form the southernmost range for the Cerulean, one of the songbirds most cherished by the growing number of birders who come to the mountains of western North Carolina,” said Bob Gale, Ecologist for the Western North Carolina Alliance. “The federal government is shirking its responsibility to do everything possible to keep this bird from disappearing from our mountains altogether.”

The conservation groups said they will continue their efforts to protect the Cerulean Warbler, including a possible legal challenge to the agency decision, continued tracking and documentation of the bird’s population, advocating improved logging practices that do the least damage to Cerulean habitat, and seeking habitat protection on national forest lands.

National Audubon Society website

Great Backyard Bird Count

If you didn’t feel like ‘chilling out’ all day on the Christmas Bird Count (or even if you did), here is an easy way for you to collect data that are of value to Audubon professionals: take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, February 16-19, 2007. Flyers will be available at the January chapter meeting, but here are simplified instructions:

1. Visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc for instructions and local checklists.
2. On any one, two, three, or four of the above dates, count the birds in your backyard, nearby park, or refuge anywhere. For each species, write down the highest number of individuals you see at any one time during your count (be careful not to count the same bird more than once).
3. Report your results online. Return to the GBBC website, complete an online checklist, and report your findings electronically.
4. As results accumulate, return to the GBBC website to see how you and our area fit into the big picture.
No fee! No need to preregister! No bureaucracy!

Chris Mathews

2006 Corvallis Christmas Bird Count

Species	1A	1B	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Fdr	Total	Historic High
Gr. White-fronted Goose							1			1					2	62
Snow Goose									8	13					21	39
Canada Goose	447	7	11,000	25	72	2,015	47	26	180	17500			350		31669	78141
Cackling Goose	20		159	25	30	100	45	2928	1540	8000		153			13000	23746
Can/Cac Goose, sp.	700					8	6	150	4000		86				4950	
Tundra Swan			2		141		17			140					300	1313
Wood Duck				2				4	5	2					13	518
Gadwall							2								2	31
Eurasian Wigeon										1					1	5
American Wigeon		1	34			28	5	4	40	6000		19	35		6166	15630
Mallard	75	44	18	10	81		3	35		11000	13		4		11283	35342
Northern Shoveler		18	11		1			22	3	200	4	80	6		345	904
Northern Pintail							5	9	12	16000		7	154		16187	25475
Green-winged Teal		8	23	6	21		15	11	8	21000	100	27	90		21309	17488
Eurasian (Common) Teal										1					1	1
Canvasback		18	1									9			28	41
Redhead												4			4	2
Ring-necked Duck		10	10		1		16	3		1500	3	17	9		1569	2743
Greater Scaup												4			4	5
Lesser Scaup		4	2					4	2	5		87			104	488
Surf Scoter								1							1	1
Bufflehead		9	24				4	2	2	20		15			76	206
Common Goldeneye												4			4	11
Hooded Merganser	2		1	1	2		2	2		2			2		14	49
Common Merganser			7				15			8					30	196
Ruddy Duck			27									236			263	282
Ring-necked Pheasant												1			1	194
Sooty Grouse (Blue Grouse)	1														1	6
Wild Turkey												8			8	84
Mountain Quail	1														1	17
California Quail					24		45		9	32		2	1		113	560
Pied-billed Grebe		4	5		5		2		1	2			2		21	33
Eared Grebe												2			2	6
Western Grebe			3												3	4
D-c Cormorant		7	77		14		15	1		6					120	565
Great Blue Heron	1	2	8	4	4	1	3	8	2	2		2			37	70
Great Egret					1	1	3								5	12
White-tailed Kite						1		1	1		1	2			6	13
Bald Eagle			2		1		2	1	1	14	1				22	34
Northern Harrier	1	1		1	2			2	12	35		3	5		62	135
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	1	1		2		1		2		2	2	2		16	18
Cooper's Hawk		1	1		1				2	4	1				10	14
Red-shouldered Hawk			1							2					3	2
Red-tailed Hawk	7	3	10	9	10	4	6	7	11	18	6	2	9		102	229
Rough-legged Hawk				1				1	1	2					5	47
American Kestrel	8	5	9	10	12	3	2	10	3	8	4	3	10		87	167
Merlin										2					2	10
Gyr Falcon													1		1	1
Peregrine Falcon			1					1		1		1	1		5	5
Prairie Falcon								2							2	6
American Coot		22			3					5	4	184			218	771
Killdeer	1		306	928	256		30	122	402	205		33	26		2309	10728
Spotted Sandpiper					2		1								3	13
Least Sandpiper									10						10	80
Dunlin			56	162			12	11	6	100					347	2937
Wilson's Snipe				31	cw	1	2	20		5		4			63	829
Mew Gull			190												190	471
Ring-billed Gull			4	29			1								34	2145
California Gull												1			1	136
Herring Gull			5												5	71
Glaucous-winged Gull			1				25		1						27	188
Gull, sp.					17		5								22	167
Rock Pigeon	17	5	16		67				30						135	750
Mourning Dove	24	16	38	6	13	105	2	96	15		64	10	1		390	496
Barn Owl										2					2	13
Great Horned Owl									6		1				7	21
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1														1	3
Short-eared Owl								1					2		3	29
N. Saw-whet Owl	1														1	6
Anna's Hummingbird	2	4					3							2	11	11
Belted Kingfisher		1	2		3	2									8	22
Lewis' Woodpecker	cw														cw	68
Acorn Woodpecker	20	2	11	1	11	6		3	8	1	6		4		73	110
Red-breasted Sapsucker	2	1			1			2	2		1	2	1		12	29
Downy Woodpecker	8	1	2		7	2	10	7	1	2	2	2	7	1	52	358
Hairy Woodpecker					1			2	1	1					5	16
Northern Flicker, red-s.	32	8	12	18	12	24	23	3	28	22	19	6	12	2	221	427

2006 Corvallis Christmas Bird Count

Species	1A	1B	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Fdr	Total	Historic High
Pileated Woodpecker	1											3			4	9
Black Phoebe					2			1							3	1
Northern Shrike										1					1	11
Hutton's Vireo	4										1	1			6	19
Gray Jay	1														1	1
Steller's Jay	57	4	2			5	2	8	26	45	27	25	24	1	226	379
Western Scrub-Jay	63	42	83	37	35	109	72	26	34	15	49	19	13	5	602	533
American Crow	79	190	27		92	207	60	36		5	44	156	50	5	951	2491
Common Raven	2		3	8	7			8	17	30	2	9	7		93	90
Horned Lark								64	3						67	300
Tree Swallow										1					1	3
Bl.-capped Chickadee	77	27	63	15	59	74	106	42	37	5	17	23	24	7	576	836
Ch.-backed Chickadee	31	1			1							7			40	362
Bush-tit	31	65	60	20	41	2		23	26				35	67	370	554
Red-breasted Nuthatch	13	2	3			13	3	4	7	2	2	4	3	2	58	120
White-breasted Nuthatch	11	2	2		3	3	1	7	3	2	3	2	4		43	99
Brown Creeper	13		8		1		4	5	1	1	4	1	2		40	50
Bewick's Wren	7		20	4	9	9	28	9	7	5	2	2	4	2	108	153
Winter Wren	14	1			5	1	3	5				11	7		47	129
Marsh Wren				1				1	1	1		2	2		8	30
Golden-crowned Kinglet	168	3		1	18	10	31	26	23	26		190	30		526	908
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	45	6	7	2	43	2	37	10	6	6	7	10	6	4	191	346
Western Bluebird	6	1		10	7	5		25	29	55	10	42	29		219	440
Hermit Thrush	7														7	46
American Robin	164	297	415	125	66	248	126	72	314	300	168	67	123	8	2493	9386
Varied Thrush	155	5	1	1	6	9	16	20	56	25	20	20	20	2	356	278
Wrentit	9					1	4	2	1			1	4	6	28	30
European Starling	579	366	1,265	2200	612	132	133	4420	1442	25000	280	305	25		36759	64774
American Pipit	1			23	2				4				27		61	1581
Cedar Waxwing	1	7	1				10								19	346
Yellow-rumped Warbler - Myrtle	45	17	5			7				9	3		6	2	94	251
Townsend's Warbler	10						12	18	51			2			93	32
Spotted Towhee	76	16	16	11	28	18	54	14	29	6	31	24	14	4	341	399
Chipping Sparrow	1														1	9
Savannah Sparrow	5		3	34	11		6	75	24	4		9	1		172	320
Fox Sparrow	61	3	5	1	23	17	45	22	3	5	10	34	10		239	422
Song Sparrow	89	19	74	48	144	32	240	151	20	27	29	27	19	2	921	1418
Lincoln's Sparrow	8		2	2	3	1	3	24	5		6	2			56	64
White-throated Sparrow	7		2		3	2		4	1			1		1	21	30
White-crowned Sparrow	2	2	46	39	19	51	7	25	65		23	3			282	539
Golden-crowned Sparrow	172	6	114	26	47	49	31	124	113	36	203	41	22	6	990	901
Dark-eyed Junco - slate-colored	423	91	401	434	98	215	91	131	325	130	294	156	173	28	2990	3518
Red-winged Blackbird	60		82	2	40	41	70	518	9	500	10	110	21		1463	23111
Western Meadowlark	1	2						22	6	4	14				49	892
Brewer's Blackbird	88	60	263	1	265		67	145		185		17	19		1110	8735
Brown-headed Cowbird	40							280							320	304
Blackbird, sp.								80							80	
Purple Finch	6		4					1		5		2	1		19	104
House Finch	9	23	35	103	75	47	16	17	10	16	18	37	13	3	422	739
Red Crossbill	2														2	99
Pine Siskin	3		3						7		20		28		61	2699
Lesser Goldfinch	1		18		8				15		27	16			85	110
American Goldfinch	1		120		3	13	40		7						184	367
Evening Grosbeak	1														1	155
House Sparrow			5		25	2	25	20		2	5	10			94	614
Total birds	4025	1463	15238	4415	2622	3628	1741	9977	9076	108332	1635	2354	1475	161	166138	
Total Species	65	53	71	41	65	45	63	75	68	72	48	70	54	21	127	

CBC Area Key

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1A: Oak Creek; NW Corvallis | 7: Airport |
| 1B: NE Corvallis | 8: Greenberry |
| 2: Orleans (Tangent Dr. to Riverside Dr.) | 9: Finley, Eureka Rd. |
| 3: Oakville | 10: N. Philomath, West Hills |
| 4: Peoria | 11: S. Philomath, Evergreen |
| 5: SW Corvallis, Neabeck Hill | 12: Beaver Cr. |
| 6: S. Corvallis, Kiger Is. | |

Field Trip Schedule 2007

Monthly Year-Round 2nd Saturday

Jan 13 Saturday morning local birding 7:30 am
 Feb 10 Saturday morning local birding 7:30 am
 Mar 10 Saturday morning local birding 7:30 am

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of every month at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 am. This field trip is especially interesting for beginner birders, and birders new 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. Paula Vanderheul is field trip leader. vanderp@peak.org 541-752-0470

Spring 2007 Weekend Field Trips

March 23-25 Bandon Coast (note change of date)
 April 27-29 Klamath Basin
 May 11-13 Rogue Valley
 May 17-20 Malheur NWR

Fred Ramsey leads all the spring weekend trips. Fred has been leading these field trips for ASC over 30 years. He is an amazing field trip guide sharing his knowledge of finding birds in their habitat, pointing out wildflowers, butterflies, mammals, and reptiles. The field trips fill up early in the fall. Sign-up sheets are available at the general meeting or email Paula Vanderheul with your requests. Vanderp@peak.org

The Rogue Valley and Malheur trips require deposits by February 28, 2007. The Rogue Valley deposit is \$40. The Malheur deposit is \$50. Each deposit should be made payable to Fred Ramsey and mailed to him at 3550 NW Glen Ridge Pl. Corvallis, OR 97330.

Paula Vanderheul

Corvallis Bird Phenology

Bird phenology records in Corvallis date from 1970. This list updates the arrivals through the spring of 2006.

Average arrival	Species	Number years	Earliest arrival
Jan 25	Say's Phoebe (M)	05	Jan 07
Feb 09	Tree Swallow	29	Jan 10
16	Horned Grebe (M)	04	Jan 14
17	Turkey Vulture	32	Jan 17
Mar 02	Rufous Hummingbird	35	Feb 14
02	Violet-green Swallow	32	Feb 19
11	Sandhill Crane (M)	19	Jan 26
12	Cinnamon Teal	28	Jan 31
13	Band-tailed Pigeon	23	Feb 04
19	Long-billed Dowitcher (M)	20	Jan 19
22	Orange-crowned Warbler	33	Feb 11
22	Osprey	33	Jan 28
31	Barn Swallow	29	Mar 22
Apr 01	Cliff Swallow	28	Mar 17
02	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	26	Mar 22
03	American Bittern	17	Feb 14
04	Common Yellowthroat	34	Mar 18
06	Sora	22	Feb 22
09	Black Swift (M)	03	Mar 30
09	Lesser Yellowlegs (M)	21	Jan 20
10	Black-throated Gray Warbler	32	Mar 15
10	House Wren	27	Feb 21
11	Chipping Sparrow	29	Mar 07
12	Palm Warbler (M)	01	Apr 13
14	Black-bellied Plover (M)	13	Feb 26
14	Vesper Sparrow	14	Mar 19
15	Long-billed Curlew (M)	06	Mar 18
15	Nashville Warbler	19	Mar 13
17	Cassin's Vireo	33	Mar 26
18	Willet (M)	03	Apr 03
18	Wilson's Warbler	31	Apr 03
19	Vaux's Swift	33	Apr 05
20	Black-necked Stilt (M)	11	Apr 09
21	Solitary Sandpiper (M)	23	Apr 08
21	Yellow-headed Blackbird	21	Feb 21

Average arrival	Species	Number years	Earliest arrival
22	Hammond's Flycatcher	14	Apr 14
23	MacGillivray's Warbler	31	Apr 02
24	Calliope Hummingbird (M)	15	Mar 25
24	Semipalmated Plover (M)	18	Feb 07
24	Warbling Vireo	31	Mar 20
24	Whimbrel (M)	03	Apr 13
25	Caspian Tern (M)	02	Apr 25
26	Western Kingbird	26	Apr 15
27	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	29	Apr 02
27	Purple Martin	11	Mar 17
27	Western Tanager	30	Feb 28
28	Hermit Warbler	20	Apr 01
28	Yellow Warbler	25	Apr 10
29	Dusky Flycatcher (M)	02	May 05
30	Pectoral Sandpiper (M)	06	Apr 15
May 03	Swainson's Thrush	26	Apr 05
03	Western Wood-Pewee	23	Apr 07
04	Black-headed Grosbeak	32	Apr 23
04	Red-eyed Vireo	02	Apr 06
05	Blue-winged Teal (M)	23	Apr 21
05	Bullock's Oriole	26	Apr 11
06	Lazuli Bunting	29	Apr 22
07	Olive-sided Flycatcher	26	Apr 20
08	Red-necked Phalarope (M)	16	Apr 23
09	Forster's Tern (M)	01	May 09
09	Wilson's Phalarope (M)	22	Apr 20
11	Yellow-breasted Chat	24	Apr 04
14	Marbled Godwit (M)	02	May 09
16	Willow Flycatcher	19	Apr 25
18	Black Tern (M)	07	Apr 02
18	Black-throated Sparrow (M)	04	May 15
20	Black-chinned Hummingbird (M)	01	May 20
25	White-faced Ibis	02	May 24
Jun 02	Pacific Golden-Plover (M)	02	May 19
04	Common Nighthawk	16	May 10
07	Eastern Kingbird (M)	06	May 23
Jul 11	American Redstart	01	Jul 11
(M): Migrant			

Compiled by Alan McGie

Field Notes

November 27 thru December 25, 2006

Generally wet weather continued this month. High winds on the night of 14 Dec toppled numerous trees, including many Douglas-firs which uprooted after rain in the preceding weeks had softened the ground around their roots. Chilly weather with morning fog prevailed for the remainder of the period, including the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on 19 Dec.

Abbreviations & Locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; STP = sewage treatment ponds; m. obs. = multiple observers; p. obs. = personal observation. Baskett Slough (NWR) is north of Dallas. Cabell and McFadden Marsh are at Finley (NWR) s. of Corvallis. Coffin Butte and E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) are north of Corvallis along Hwy 99W. Knoll Terrace is a mobile home park in the Lewisburg area n. of Corvallis. Middle Ridge is s. of Lebanon. Toketie Marsh is the remedial wetland for Coffin Butte landfill. Vineyard Mtn. is just nw. of Lewisburg.

Inland Reports

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were with the **Canada and Cackling Goose** flocks at Finley NWR 12 Dec (Doug Robinson). Up to seven **Snow Geese** were there in the first week of December (Steve Seibel; D Robinson).

22 **Trumpeter Swans** were near Helmick State Park 30 Nov (p. obs.), north of Suver where a flock winters regularly. **Tundra Swans** were seen throughout the period, with a high count of 200 at Cabell Marsh 8 Dec (S Seibel).

A male **Gadwall** was at Stewart Lake 28 Nov (George Weaver fide Jamie Simmons). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Finley NWR 9 & 22 Dec (Rich & Nanette Armstrong, Marcia Cutler). The usual wintering flocks of **Northern Shovelers**, **Northern Pintails**, and **Green-winged Teal** massed at wetlands around Finley NWR throughout the period; Fred Ramsey managed to pick out one **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** among the record 21,311 **American Green-winged Teal** that were counted on the Corvallis CBC 19 Dec (fide M Cutler).

22 **Canvasbacks** were at Stewart Lake 30 Nov and the flock peaked at 28 on 6 Dec (J Simmons). One was seen regularly at Knoll Terrace STP thru 5 Dec and seven were at Philomath STP 15 Dec when three **Redheads** were also there (R Armstrong).

A female **Surf Scoter** was in a flooded field by Airport Rd. near Muddy Creek 19 Dec (Rich (C.) & Richard (F.) Hoyer, Randy Moore). Six **Buffleheads** turned up at Stewart Lake 30 Nov (J Simmons); 35 were at Knoll Terrace STP 5 Dec (R Armstrong). Four **Common Goldeneyes** were along Bellfountain Rd. s. of Philomath 1-14 Dec (Joe Fontaine). Two female-plumaged **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at Philomath STP 14 Dec (D Robinson). At least 100 **Ruddy Ducks** were there 15 Dec (R Armstrong).

A **Wild Turkey** perched on Chris Miller's roof in the Timberhill neighborhood 2 Dec. Four **Mountain Quail** were still along the trail on Coffin Butte 11 Dec (p. obs.).

Three **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Stewart Lake 30 Nov (J Simmons). A **Horned Grebe** and two **Eared Grebes** were at Philomath STP 15 Dec (R Armstrong). A well-described **Clark's Grebe** was at Cabell Marsh 12 Dec (D Robinson). Seven **Double-crested Cormorants** spent the last week of Nov at Stewart Lake -- a reliable sign that the Willamette River was running high, according to Jamie Simmons.

White-tailed Kites were seen regularly around the prairie overlook at Finley NWR (m. obs.). One was at Marys River Natural Park 9 Dec (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). An adult **Bald Eagle** cruised over Willamette Landing 12 Dec (Kris Grave). Another at McFadden Marsh 28 Nov displaced a **Northern Harrier** from a duck carcass (S Seibel).

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was near the NE entrance of Finley NWR 8 Dec (S Seibel); three were found for the Corvallis CBC 19 Dec. A **Rough-legged Hawk** flew over Brooklane Open Space Preserve 11 Dec (R & N Armstrong). A **Golden Eagle** was at Finley 9 Dec (M Cutler).

A **Merlin** flew over Corvallis City Hall 5 Dec (D Boucher). On 19 Dec Jim & Karan Fairchild found a **Gyrfalcon** along Decker Rd. just w. of Inavale School; this large arctic falcon continued to be seen around the neighborhood through the end of the period (m. obs.). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen regularly around McFadden Marsh thru late Nov (S Seibel). A **Prairie Falcon** was along De Armond Rd. near Airlie 28 Nov and near there on Robison Rd. 29 Nov (p. obs.; R Armstrong et al.). Two were around the Corvallis airport 19 Dec (R & R Hoyer, R Moore) and one was se. of the airport 22 Dec (Rich Hoyer, J Simmons).

A **Sora** that called several times in the NE part of E.E. Wilson 29 Nov and again 7 Dec (R & N Armstrong, Paula Vanderheul, M Cutler) was an unusual bird to find here in winter.

Four **Greater Yellowlegs** were at E.E. Wilson 10 Dec, and over 500 **Killdeer** and 100 **Dunlin** massed on a gravel bar off Willamette Landing 12 Dec (p. obs.). A flock of over 500 **gulls** along Tangent Dr. 16 Dec were at least 90 percent **Mew Gulls**, with a few **Ring-billed, California, Glaucous-winged** and **Herring Gulls** (M Cutler, P Vanderheul).

A dead **Rock Pigeon** in Pioneer Park in Corvallis 5 Dec showed clear signs of a raptor kill, most likely a female **Cooper's Hawk** which has been hunting the area regularly (D Boucher, L Millbank). Up to nine **Band-tailed Pigeons** continued to be seen in the Brooklane neighborhood thru 2 Dec (fide M Cutler). **Mourning Doves** visited the Timberhill neighborhood 2 Dec (Chris Miller).

Dave Mellinger's kids encountered a **Barn Owl** that was roosting among the Douglas-firs in MacPherson's Tree Farm 10 Dec. Tom & Jeanne Griffith found a wet and bedraggled **Great Horned Owl** napping north of the angling pond at E.E. Wilson 9 Dec; they noted that the old owl nest in the cottonwoods there was gone, perhaps blown down in one of this winter's storms. A pair of **Great Horned Owls** on Middle Ridge began calling 6 Dec (Raylene Gordin). Kirk and Judi Lewis found a **Barred Owl** roosting on their wooded property at the confluence of the Luckiamute and Willamette Rivers 13 Dec.

Anna's Hummingbirds were seen around NW Corvallis throughout the period (m. obs.); one male was displaying atop Witham Hill early in Dec (Andrea Foster).

A female **Belted Kingfisher** was at Stewart Lake 30 Nov (J Simmons). A **Lewis's Woodpecker** was along Oak Creek during the week of the Corvallis CBC (fide M Cutler). Three or four **Acorn Woodpeckers** continued at Forest Dell Park thru the period (R & N Armstrong). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was on an oak hillside at Marys River Natural Park 9 Dec (D Boucher, L Millbank).

Black Phoebes seem to have settled in along the Willamette River in SE Corvallis; one was chipping at Willamette Landing 12 Dec (p. obs.), and one was at the cattail marsh along Goodnight Ave 16 Dec (R Armstrong). One was also by the Federal Express building at Corvallis airport 19 Dec (R & R Hoyer, R Moore).

A **Northern Shrike** was on the Hewlett-Packard campus 20-21 Nov (Jim Anderson; J Simmons). An immature was at E.E. Wilson 7 Dec (R & N Armstrong). An adult was near the prairie overlook at Finley 8 Dec (S Seibel). Three were in the grasslands along Belts Rd. near Brownsville 17 Dec (Mark Nikas).

Three **Gray Jays** visited Elsie Eltzroth's suet feeder on Vineyard Mtn 3-7 Dec. Two **Tree Swallows** flew over McFadden Marsh 12 Dec, and at least one was still there 14 Dec (D Robinson; J Fontaine).

30 **Bushtits** visited Andrea Foster's fat-cake feeder in the Timberhill neighborhood daily thru the month, often along with a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**. Martha Geier was delighted by a close-up view of a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** hopping through the branches of a young grand fir at MacPherson Tree Farm in Lewisburg 9 Dec. Two **Marsh Wrens** were at Luckiamute Landing 29 Nov (p. obs.).

Western Bluebird flocks were noted at Marys River Natural Park 9 Dec (D Boucher, L Millbank) and between Chip Ross and Forest Dell Parks 13 Dec (R & N Armstrong). A **Hermit Thrush** was along a Timberhill neighborhood path 8 Dec (A Foster). During Dec, hundreds of **American Robins** and scores of **Varied Thrushes** flocked to E.E. Wilson to feast on the remains of this year's heavy apple crop.

Flocks of 80-100 **American Pipits** were along De Armond Rd. 28 Nov and at the Vanderpool Tract of Luckiamute SNA 29 Nov (p. obs.). Six **Cedar Waxwings** and about 50 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at E. E. Wilson 20 Dec (p. obs.). A male and a female **Townsend's Warbler** visited Rich & Nanette Armstrong's NW Corvallis yard sporadically thru the month.

A **Chipping Sparrow** was along Oak Creek 19 Dec (fide M Cutler). **Lincoln's Sparrows** seem to be especially plentiful this winter; over 50 were scattered around the ne. part of E.E. Wilson 7 Dec (R Armstrong et al.), and multiple birds were also noted at Marys River Natural Park, Jackson-Frazier Wetland, and Brooklane Open Space (D Boucher, L Millbank; R & N Armstrong). Jerry and Judith Paul had a **White-throated Sparrow** visit their ground feeder at Lewisburg regularly in early Dec. On 20 Dec I found a total of 20 in the n. part of E.E. Wilson, including flocks of 5, 6, and 8 in about 5 acres of soggy woods near the ne. corner. 965 **Golden-crowned Sparrows** were a record for the Corvallis CBC 19 Dec (fide M Cutler).

A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was reported from a feeder in ne. Corvallis 10 Dec, by an observer who said she was familiar with the species from the Midwest (fide Karan Fairchild). Ten **Western Meadowlarks** were along Pettibone Rd. 29 Nov (R & N Armstrong), and ten were in the Belts Rd. grasslands 17 Dec (M Nikas).

280 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were found near a dairy along Airport Rd. 19 Dec (R Hoyer et al.). 50 **Purple Finches** were in the ne. part of E.E. Wilson 7 Dec (R & N Armstrong, P Vanderheul, M Cutler).

On 28 Nov Randy Moore saw 14 **Common Redpolls** at Baskett Slough NWR. The flock was not relocated, but small flocks of these northern finches have also been reported around Portland and Astoria this winter. A few **Pine Siskins** visited feeders in the Timberhill neighborhood 2-14 Dec (Chris Miller), and ten were feeding in alders at E.E. Wilson 20 Dec (p. obs.).

Eight **Evening Grosbeaks** visited Karin Donoyan's feeders in the coast range e. of Waldport regularly 4-16 Dec. One turned up on Middle Ridge 26-28 Nov (R Gordin).

Coastal Notes

Marcia Cutler and Paula Vanderheul saw **Brant** and **Black Scoters** at Yaquina Bay and **Harlequin Ducks** at Seal Rock, on a visit to the coast 3 Dec. Marcia and Paula also saw **Marbled** and **Ancient Murrelets** at Boiler Bay 3 Dec.

Five **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were roosting at the log pond along the nature trail at Hatfield Marine Science Center 16 Dec (Cindy Ashy).

A **Rock Sandpiper** was still at Depoe Bay 3 Dec, along with **Black Oystercatchers**, **Black Turnstones** and **Surfbirds** (P Vanderheul, M Cutler).

A **Snowy Owl** turned up in South Beach State Park 5-7 Dec (C Ashy). A **Barn Swallow** at the Salmon River Estuary 7 Dec (Wayne Hoffman) was an unusual bird for the winter months.

Next issue

Please send me your latest sightings by 22 January

Joel Geier

38566 Hwy 99W, Corvallis 97330

(541) 745-5020

joel.geier@peak.org

Hesthavn Nature Programs

Art and Nature

Feb 11 Sunday, 1-3 pm

Ages 6-11. Local artist, Leslie Green, encourages each child to experience their own uniqueness through closeness to and interpretation of nature using various art materials.

Pre-registration is required, by calling or emailing

Elise (541-750-7390; eelliottsmith@yahoo.com) at least one week prior to the program date. Programs are open to all free of charge, but a \$10 donation is suggested.

Elise Elliott-Smith

January Green Tip

Turn Off Stand-by Mode!

Q. What in the US uses a whole one dozen power plants and costs more than a billion bucks annually?

A. All those tiny glowing LEDs and associated standby activity in your microwave, cordless phone, TV, DVD, etc. The US EPA estimate that a whopping 75% of energy used in the average home comes from appliances that are thought to be 'turned off'. In fact, they are only in 'standby' mode. TVs, phones and computers seem to be the worst offenders, according to German research. What to do? Well, in some countries you can turn off your appliances at the power socket. Or simply pull the plug from the socket. If you can't reach the fitting, then be on the lookout for appliances carrying the Energy Star logo. They can use up to a full half of the standby electricity of standard household gizmos. If all the 'average' US houses adopted Energy Star, it would be like taking 1.5 million cars and their 20 billion ton of greenhouse gases off the road. The following link has information on qualifying TVs, and you'll see other appliances listed as well. http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product.showProductGroup&pgw_code=TV#FAPSearch (from http://www.treehugger.com/files/2004/11/ecotip_home_app.php)

John Gaylord

Final Report 2006 Western

Bluebird Season

Comparing the data from 2005 and 2006:

Year	2005	2006
Nesting attempts	91	132
# of pairs at boxes	56	80
Eggs laid	446	685
Eggs hatched	338	533
Banded and fledged	292	424
First broods	54	75
Second broods	34	47
Third broods	3	11
Fourth brood	0	1
Banded and fledged	292	424

Elsie K. Eltzroth

Looking For A Home

Two healthy parakeets, free, to the right home. Need aviary or two hours daily outside cage. No cats. 752-8020.

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Sales: Bob Smythe, smythe@stat.orst.edu, 757-6357
Chat Editors: Joan/Neil Newhouse/Lidstrom,
 chateditors@gmail.com, 754-3120
Fund-raising and Board At-large Alternate: Karan Fairchild,
 alderspr@peak.org, 929-4049

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

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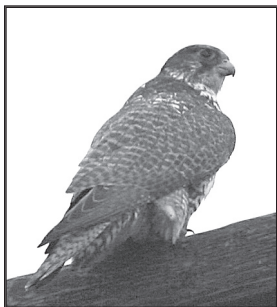
Calendar

- Jan 13 Saturday morning local birding*
- Jan 18 General meeting
- Jan 22 Field Notes deadline
- Jan 25 Feb Chat deadline for submissions
- Feb 10 Saturday morning local birding*
- Feb 11 Hestavn Nature Program**
- Feb 16-19 Great Backyard Bird Count***

*See page 37
 **See page 39
 ***See page 34



Wild Turkey photo by Chris miller



*Gyrfalcon,
 photographed
 December 22 on
 Greenberry Road
 north of Finley NWR.
 Dan Roby*



*Barred Owl
 by Kirk
 Lewis*

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