



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

September 2007

VOL. 37

#1

General Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church

Zambian Wildlife Adventure

A presentation by Dr. Susan Haig

The first speaker of the year for the ASC Speaker Series is our Vice President, Dr. Susan Haig. Sue just returned from a month-long adventure in South Africa and Zambia and will present pictures of her off-road trek that lead to seeing almost 350 species of birds and 50 mammals. During her talk we will also learn more about a little known wetland, the Bangweulu Swamp in northeast Zambia. Bangweulu is one of the largest wetlands in Africa, yet it is virtually unexplored by biologists. It is also one of the few places you can see the elusive but spectacular Shoebill Stork. Sue and Dr. Dan Roby (Oregon State University) hope to return to the area soon and work to have it recognized as a World Heritage Site.

Directions

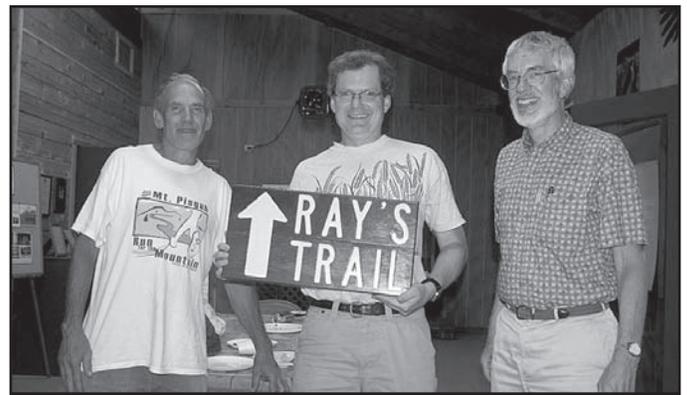
The chapter meeting is in the meeting hall of the First Presbyterian Church (upstairs), 114 SW Eighth Street. The meeting is preceded by a social period with refreshments, which begins at 7 pm.

Hesthavn Chair Honored

Hesthavn trail christened "Ray's Trail"

Dr. Ray Drapek, HNC Chair

Dr. Ray Drapek, chair of the Audubon Society of Corvallis Hesthavn Nature Center (HNC), was presented with two awards at the ASC summer board meeting, which was held at HNC on 1 August. The ASC Board unanimously voted to name the main trail surrounding HNC "Ray's Trail" in honor of the countless contributions Ray has made in development of the nature center located on Oak Creek near the MacDonald Forest. In addition, he was presented with the first print of artist Jon Janosik's Chat painting



Ray Drapek (center) is honored with the christening of "Ray's Trail"

that will now become the symbol of the Audubon Society of Corvallis.

HNC began in 1991 when Corvallis Mayors Alan and Helen Berg donated their beloved horse farm to the Audubon Society of Corvallis. Volunteers, including Ray, spent the first three years removing corral rails and gates. Drapek then served as President of Corvallis Audubon Society from September 1995 to July 1997. In 1998, he became the Hesthavn Sanctuary Chair. Since that time, he has scheduled monthly work parties to clear the 5.6 acres

see "Ray's Trail" on next page

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Ray's Trail *continued from front page*

of brambles, teasel, thistle, and restore the old barn into a nature center. In 2000, Ray began efforts to establish plantings of native trees, shrub, grasses, and wildflowers on the sanctuary. Ray has written grants, which have funded restoration of the barn and parking lot. In April 2001, ASC held its first Birdathon fund-raiser for HNC. This has since been a successful annual event held in conjunction with a Hesthavn open house. Currently, the barn-turned-nature center is a facility usable for meetings, displays, museum room, and student education programs. Ray has volunteered thousands of hours of physical labor and mental direction toward bringing the Hesthavn Nature Center to life for the community to explore, learn, and share experiences of nature. He has also been the steady force of researching and utilizing only green-built products. We are all so grateful to him for his many, many hours and years of service to developing HNC into the incredible facility it has become.

Sue Haig and Paula Vanderheul

Homer Campbell Trail Trail construction is underway at Finley!



ASC has been working for a number of years with William L. Finley Wildlife Refuge on plans for a trail on the Refuge in honor of long-time ASC member, Chat Editor, and conservationist, Homer Campbell, who died in 2002. In the past several years, the plan became an ambitious proposal for a wheelchair accessible elevated boardwalk through 1,500 feet of the Muddy Creek riparian area, ending at an observation blind overlooking Cabell Marsh. This trail will be the only wheelchair accessible trail on the refuge and will be one of only four that will be open in the winter. Volunteers from ASC and Friends of the Willamette Valley Refuge Complex cleared the proposed trail route last spring and again this summer just before construction commenced. Earlier this year, staff at Finley finally received all the

necessary funds to buy materials and hire a local contractor, Steve Sever, to build the boardwalk. Work began last month, and the trail is currently taking shape!

We are indebted and extremely grateful to the following donors:

Jane Werner of Ft. Meyers, Florida, contributed \$7,000 toward completion of the blind in honor of her daughter, Ann Werner, local conservation activist and longtime ASC member. Elsie Eltzroth, ASC's "Bluebird Lady," contributed \$3,330 to the observation blind and dedicated the Elzy Eltzroth fund at ASC (\$1670) to benches for the boardwalk. OSU Folk Club Thrift Shop granted funds for a bench on the trail, and Greenbelt Land Trust is contributing the \$8,000 in memorial funds they received after Homer's death. The Christopher Reeve Foundation gave ASC a grant of \$5,000, and National Audubon granted \$1,000 toward construction of the observation blind. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation granted \$5,000 for a spotting scope and interpretive panels in the blind. Elsie Eltzroth, Meg Campbell, and other donors have pledged to contribute more benches and signage.

The Greenbelt Land Trust is organizing a three-hour hike in Finley Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, September 29th starting at 9 am, which will swing by the Homer Campbell Memorial Trail site. Call Steve Lilly for more information at (541) 760-9055.

ASC and the new Friends group are planning volunteer projects to trim overhanging tree limbs and clean up the construction site. Call Linda Campbell for more information, (541) 929-9420, or to put your name on the volunteer list.

Linda T. Campbell

Fall Bird Count

The Fall Migratory Bird Count is Sept 15 or 16

This year the Fall Migratory Bird Count in Benton County will be on Saturday, September 15th (or Sunday, September 16th for those who cannot count on the 15th). This is a relatively unorganized bird count. You can do it in your backyard, during a walk around your neighborhood or favorite local park, or spend a more intensive time counting birds at county hotspots. No sign-up is necessary.

In addition to the number of species and birds seen at each location, report the total amount of time spent counting and mileage by car or other locomotion. It would be nice to be notified ahead of time if you plan to do the count, but last minute participation is fine too! Marcia Cutler is out of the country, so Rich Armstrong is coordinating the count this year. Please email your results to richarmstrong@comcast.net by September 21st.

Rich Armstrong

ASC Online Store

Saw a book at the ASC monthly meeting but forgot to buy it? Would you like the latest in bird field guides for the Willamette Valley? Need a cloth bag to shop with? You can now order these ASC items and more from our new on-line store (<http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/store.shtml>). Remember books are offered at 10% lower than market value, are usually cheaper than Amazon.com, and provide a donation to ASC. Can't go wrong there!

Sue Haig

Field Trip Schedule

Monthly Year-Round 2nd Saturday

Sept 8 Saturday morning local birding
Oct 13 Saturday morning local birding
Nov 10 Saturday morning local birding
Dec 8 Saturday morning local birding

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

NEW...Midvalley birding discussion list

A free subscription email list posts local bird sightings and birding information. I post where the field trip will be going two days before the field trip date on this list. To subscribe go to www.midvalleybirding.org follow instructions.

Full Day Birding Schedule (Sept – May)

Oct 20 Fern Ridge Reservoir Wildlife Area
Nov 17 Newport Coast

About three to four times a year we schedule full-day trips to the coast, and other refuges with Oregon. On these trips we carpool, sharing the cost of gas with the drivers. Everyone should bring a large lunch, water/drinks, binoculars, spotting scope (if available), and layers of warm clothing, sturdy shoes, and rain gear. We meet at 7:30 am at the Benton Center (LBCC) parking lot in Corvallis, which can be reached by turning east on Polk at the corner of Polk and 9th St., where Borders Books is located. Contact Paula Vanderheul (541-752-0470, vanderp@peak.org) with questions.

Spring 2008 Weekend Field Trips

March 21 – 23 Bandon Coast
April 18 – 20 Klamath Basin
May Rogue Valley (date open as play schedule yet unknown)

May 15 – 18 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](mailto:vanderp@peak.org)

The Rogue Valley and Malheur trips require deposits by February 28, 2008. The Rogue Valley deposit is \$40. The Malheur deposit is \$50. Make each deposit payable to Fred Ramsey 3550 NW Glen Ridge Pl. Corvallis OR 97330.

Bicycle Birding (*last one until next May*)

Sunday, Sept 23—9am-Noon

Free. Meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden. Easy and flat ride of 10 miles. We'll leisurely ride the bike path to Philomath and back. Bring water, binoculars and rain gear. Led by Don Boucher, 541-753-7689, bouchdon@peak.org.

Paula Vanderheul

Hesthavn Nature Center

Fall Programs for Children at Hesthavn

Sunday, Sept 30—Art and Nature

Sunday, Oct 7—Critters of the Creek

Both programs run from 1–3 pm and are for ages 6–11.

Art and Nature: Come join this afternoon workshop led by local ceramic artist Leslie Green. Playing with clay and paints, we will learn to express our passion for nature through the pleasure of art. By supporting originality and creativity, Leslie demonstrates that every child can be an artist!

Critters of the Creek: Fall is in the air, but who is in the water? Come join this program led by Aquatic Ecologist, Gregg Lomnicky. We'll learn about local stream invertebrates, then splash in Oak Creek to see who we can find. Please pre-register at least one week prior to the program by calling Elise Elliott-Smith (750-7390 or 829-9021).

Elise Elliott-Smith

Volunteer Needed

ASC needs someone who is skilled in database development and management to help develop a roster of potential volunteers. If you fit the bill and would like to help out, please get in touch with either Jerry Paul (jlpaul2006@msn.com) or Paula Vanderheul (vanderp@peak.org).

Chris Mathews

Field Notes

July 10, 2007 through August 30, 2007

Showers in the third week of August were a welcome break from an otherwise typical, warm and dry summer. Songbirds finished raising families, and began to form flocks in anticipation of southward migration. By late August a few yellow leaves could be seen on big leaf maple and Oregon ash trees. Most native wildflowers finished blooming, except for a few composites such as Douglas' asters. This made infestations of exotic invasive weeds such as tansy ragwort and meadow knapweed more conspicuous along local roadsides and pastures.

Abbreviations & Locations: NP = Natural Park; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; SNA = State Natural Area; STP = sewage treatment ponds; m. obs. = multiple observers; p. obs. = personal observation. Baskett Slough (NWR) is n. of Dallas; Coffin Butte and E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) are north of Corvallis along Hwy 99W. Luckiamute SNA is at the confluence of the Luckiamute and Willamette Rivers in se. Polk and ne. Benton Co. Cabell Marsh and McFadden Marsh are at Finley (NWR) s. of Corvallis. Snagboat Bend, an annex of Finley NWR, is south of Peoria. Willamette Park is in s. Corvallis.

Reports

Waterfowl reports included **Wood Ducks** and **Mallards** seen by the ASC field trip to Snagboat Bend 11 Aug (Paula Vanderheul), **Ring-necked Ducks** and **Hooded Mergansers** at Finley 26 Aug (Erik Knight), and **Common Mergansers** along the Marys River 14 Jul (P Vanderheul, ASC field trip). **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted at Snagboat Bend, at Finley, and at E.E. Wilson through the period.

A **Green Heron** was along Marys River 14 Jul (P Vanderheul). One returned the pond at Mennonite Village in Albany 21 Jul and was seen there thru late July, along with **Great Blue Herons** (Don Miller). A fledgling **Green Heron** in Willamette Park was testing its hunting skills in Willamette Park 18 Aug, ignored by an adult that flew into a nearby maple to feed another youngster as a fourth climbed through the trees (Pam & Randy Comeleo). A family group of four flew back and forth across the river between Willamette Park and Michael's Landing 25 Aug (Dave Mellinger).

Osprey were conspicuous along the Willamette River thru the period. A **Bald Eagle** was at Willamette Park 22 Jul (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). On 25 Jul a **Cooper's Hawk** flew in to perch on a big-leaf maple, as a Douglas' squirrel alerted everyone with a loud call and then ran off for cover (P Vanderheul). On 10 Aug a very large, immature accipiter took a swipe at a full-grown barred-rock pullet in our yard, but came away with just feathers as the chicken ran under a shrub. Based on size it was either a large **Cooper's Hawk** or perhaps the **Northern Goshawk** that we saw here earlier in the summer.

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Cabell Marsh 8 Aug (Noah Strycker). On 25 Aug Dave Mellinger noticed a **Red-tailed Hawk** soaring over the Willamette River, and noted that it was surprising the hawk could find thermals to soar on. A second-year **Golden Eagle** soared south along Tampico Ridge 18 Aug (p. obs.).

The field trip to Snag Boat Bend 11 Aug saw a **Peregrine Falcon** as well as an **American Kestrel** along Peoria Rd. (P Vanderheul). A **Prairie Falcon** just north of Finley NWR 17 Jun (Karl Fairchild, Ulo Kiigemagi) was an unusual sighting for the summer months. On 6 Aug one was perched along Greenberry Rd., then pursued several **Mourning Doves** which narrowly escaped (Jarod Jebousek).

Two **Black-bellied Plovers** were at a private restoration site north of Diamond Hill in Linn Co. 18 Jul (J Jebousek). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Knoll Terrace STP 28 Jul (Joe Fontaine), and another was there 8 Aug (Noah Strycker). A very unwary juvenile was wading in the Willamette River at Luckiamute SNA 11 Aug (Steve Dougill, p. obs.). One was also at Snagboat Bend 11 Aug (P Vanderheul). Single **Lesser Yellowlegs** turned up at McFadden Marsh 8 Aug (N Strycker), at Philomath STP 16 Aug (Doug Robinson), and at E.E. Wilson 27 Aug

(p. obs.). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Monroe STP 8 Aug (N Strycker). **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen regularly along the Willamette River thru the period. A **Whimbrel** that flew over Cabell Marsh 27 Jul (D Robinson) was rare for this inland location.

Aside from Philomath STP where 90 **Western Sandpipers** and 50 **Least Sandpipers** gathered by 16 Aug (D Robinson), migrant "peeps" were generally sparse. Three **Western Sandpipers** were at Knoll Terrace STP 8 Aug (N Strycker) and just one was at Toketie Marsh 10 Aug (p. obs.). A few **Least Sandpipers** were at the Diamond Hill restoration 18 Jul (J Jebousek), two flew past Cabell Marsh 27 Jul (D Robinson), ten were at Knoll Terrace STP 28 Jul (J Fontaine) with 20 there and five more at McFadden Marsh 8 Aug (N Strycker).

A flock of **Dunlin** and 25 **Long-billed Dowitchers** visited a wetland along Springhill Drive s. of Buena Vista 16 Jul (Ray Fiori). **Wilson's Phalaropes** were in the Diamond Hill restoration 20 Jul (Ray Fiori). Eight **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at Knoll Terrace STP 8 Aug (N Strycker), and 19 were at Philomath STP 16 Aug (D Robinson).

A juvenile **California Gull** at Knoll Terrace STP 28 Jul (J Fontaine) signaled the usual late summer migration toward the coast from breeding areas in the Great Basin. An **Arctic Tern** stopped by the Philomath STP for just a few minutes 16 Aug, before continuing on its long journey south. (D Robinson).

Three **Barn Owls** were roosting in the barn by Cheadle Marsh at Finley NWR 4 Aug (D Boucher, L Millbank, Jim Johnson). **Great Horned Owls** started calling again at Finley by 27 Jul (Carolyn Paynter). An injured adult **Long-eared Owl** was found in a driveway near Scrael Hill Rd and Knox Butte Rd. ne. of Albany, and brought to the Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, where its prospects for recovery and release looked good (Christina Snetsinger).

Two **Common Nighthawks** (one "booming" in mating display) were over Finley 13 Jul (C Paynter). Two were also booming over Stapleton Rd. in Polk Co. as of 16 Jul, the first time Mike Lippsmeyer has seen them there in about ten years. Five were hawking insects at Luckiamute Landing 17 Aug (P & R Comeleo). **Vaux's Swifts** were noted by the field trips to Riverfront Park 14 Jul and Snagboat Bend 11 Aug (P Vanderheul).

Most **Rufous Hummingbirds** left the valley floor for higher elevations in the Coast range by the end of July. However one was still on Coffin Butte 25 Aug (p. obs.) and some visited Rich & Nanette Armstrong's feeders in n. Corvallis thru the end of the period, along with the resident **Anna's Hummingbirds**. **Belted Kingfishers** were noted along the Willamette and Marys Rivers Jul-Aug (P Vanderheul; D Mellinger) and at Mennonite Village 3-8 Aug (D Miller).

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** was flying around the NE part of E.E. Wilson 27 Aug (p. obs.). **Acorn Woodpeckers** visited Jan Landau's NW Corvallis yard regularly thru the summer; the colony near the Benton Co. fairgrounds was enjoyed by the bicycle-birding group 26 Aug (D Boucher & L Millbank bicycle birding group). A pair of **Acorn Woodpeckers** in Adair Park were feeding on acorns that they had stored in a "granary branch" high in one of the oaks 10 Aug (Steve Dougill, p. obs.). **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** were among the regular visitors at Hesthavn Nature Center this summer (P Vanderheul).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was atop Coffin Butte 13-22 Aug, and **Western Wood-Pewees** were heard calling at many locations throughout the period (m. obs.). On 30 Jul and again 15 Aug Carolyn Paynter saw one of the small "Empidonax" flycatchers which are notoriously difficult to identify; considering the season and location, these were most likely **Willow Flycatchers** or **Pacific-slope Flycatchers**. The **Willow Flycatchers** that nested in the poison-oak thickets above our place this summer were last heard calling 13 Aug (S Dougill). One made a brief appearance in a willow thicket at Luckiamute SNA 19 Aug (Neighborhood Naturalist field trip). **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** were noted at Marys River 14 Jul and at Snagboat Bend 11 Aug, when a **Black Phoebe** was also present (P Vanderheul).

A young observer named Tristan reported a possible **Scissor-tailed**

Flycatcher at Thornton Lake 25 Jul; he described it as mourning-dove sized with a barn-swallow tail and red under the wings (Tristan fide R Armstrong). This species occasionally strays into Oregon in late summer, but seems to seldom stay in one place long enough to be confirmed.

Two or three each of **Cassin's Vireos** and **Hutton's Vireos** were atop Coffin Butte 13 Aug (S Dougill, p. obs.). A well-described **Plumbeous Vireo** was atop Marys Peak 10 Aug (D Robinson). On 27 Aug I heard a couple of phrases that sounded like **Red-eyed Vireo** coming from cottonwoods in the ne. part of E.E. Wilson where one was singing in July 2006, but I did not manage to locate the bird.

Three **Gray Jays** visited Elsie Eltzroth's yard on Vineyard Mtn near Lewisburg one day in mid-July. A family of **Western Scrub-Jays** visited Paula Vanderheul's suet feeder in n. Corvallis 6 Aug, along with a family of **Black-capped Chickadees**.

Quite a few **Streaked Horned Larks** turned up in the Diamond Hill restoration as of 18 Jul, apparently drawn into the bare space created by a prescribed burn (J Jebosek). The flock there included at least three juveniles on 20 Jul (Ray Fiori). An adult was foraging on the n. side of Finley 27 Jul (C Paynter).

The **Tree Swallows** and **Violet-green Swallows** nesting at our place seemed to finish up by 14 Jul and 26 Jul, respectively. By 28 Jul a flock of over 300 **Violet-green Swallows** had gathered just west of Coffin Butte (p. obs.). A few **Cliff Swallows** were still around the bridge where they nest at Riverfront Park 14 Jul (P Vanderheul). Some late fledgling **Barn Swallows** along Campus Way 26 Aug were still being fed by adults (D Boucher, L Millbank). On 27 Aug a mixed flock of **Barn** and **Cliff Swallows** were settled on a bare field near E.E. Wilson, perhaps picking freshly-spread lime from the field.

Chestnut-backed Chickadees, **Bushtits**, and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were among the regular visitors to the Hesthavn feeders in July (P Vanderheul). **Brown Creepers**, **Bewick's** and **House Wrens** were noted by the field trip to at Snagboat Bend 11 Aug (P Vanderheul). A **Marsh Wren** was by the canal pond at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area 27 Aug (p. obs.), which seems to have become a more regular place to find this species in recent summers.

A pair of **Western Bluebirds** on Logsdan Ridge were still raising a nearly fledged brood as of 15 Aug, their third brood of the season (Bob Altman). Elsie Eltzroth notes that this has been a very unusual year for nesting bluebirds, with several late-fledging broods and more third broods than other years. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was on West Point Spur on Marys Peak 27 Aug (D & Tara Robinson).

Swainson's Thrushes were still singing their ethereal song near Lewisburg as of 16 Jul (Judith & Jerry Paul). By late August their southbound nocturnal migration was well underway; sometimes flocks can be heard calling overhead in the dark just before sunrise. Sadly, one migrant died after striking a window in Corvallis 30 Aug (Elizabeth Waldorf).

A **Wrentit** was singing along 11th St between Harrison & Van Buren 10 Aug, a surprising place to find one in downtown Corvallis (D Boucher). Carolyn Paynter heard one singing in more likely habitat at Finley 15 Aug.

An early fall migrant **American Pipit** was atop Marys Peak 27 Aug (D & T Robinson). **Cedar Waxwings** were conspicuous thru the period as flocks hawked insects over the the Willamette River (m. obs.).

Orange-crowned Warblers started to wander out of their local breeding habitat by 18 Aug, when one turned up amid the rows of sweet corn in our garden. Five showed up in our yard by 25 Aug, several of them singing almost as if it were spring. A **MacGillivray's Warbler** visiting a hawthorn clump in our yard 18 Aug also must have wandered out of the Coast Range forests.

A **Yellow Warbler** worked its way around a maple tree at Hesthavn Nature Center 25 Jul (P Vanderheul). A few **Black-throated Gray Warblers** were still on Coffin Butte 13 Aug (S Dougill). **Common Yellowthroats** remained abundant thru the period, with many juveniles appearing toward the end of the period. The youngsters (as well as

adult females) lack the black masks of the males, and can sometimes be confusing to identify.

Wilson's Warblers were at Snagboat Bend 11 Aug (P Vanderheul, ASC field trip). Two post-breeding wanderers showed up in our yard 15-21 Aug; another was on Coffin Butte 21 Aug. A few **Yellow-breasted Chats** were still in E.E. Wilson as of 27 Aug, although they have mostly stopped calling so are hard to detect.

A male **Western Tanager** perched atop Judith & Jerry Paul's feeder near Lewisburg 17 Jul. Some on Coffin Butte 25 Aug were gleaming the last few berries from a Cascara tree, along with two female/immature **Black-headed Grosbeaks**. (p. obs.). Adult male **Black-headed Grosbeaks** tend to migrate south earlier than the others, but one was still patronizing Jan Landau's feeder in NW Corvallis 21 Aug.

Our resident **Spotted Towhees** can move around a bit after the nesting season; one at Jan Landau's place all summer had disappeared by 21 Aug. Four **Chipping Sparrows** were at Coffin Butte 13 Aug (S Dougill); by 22 Aug a flock of at least nine had gathered there. Most were juveniles, which suggests a good nesting year in the neighborhood for this declining species. Immature **White-crowned Sparrows**, which resemble Chipping Sparrows because they have reddish crowns, were also around in numbers by late Aug.

The last report of the **Brewer's Sparrow** that was found north of Finley in June was when the bird was heard singing 17 Jun (Karl Fairchild, Ulo Kiigemagi). Single **Vesper Sparrows** were seen along the dike at Cabell Marsh 27 Jul & 8 Aug (D Robinson; N Strycker), and at Finley 26 Aug (E Knight). A vagrant juvenile **Lark Sparrow** turned up on Marys Peak 27 Aug (D & T Robinson). **Savannah Sparrows** were noted along Campus Way 26 Aug (D Boucher, L Millbank).

A **Song Sparrow** fledgling was begging from its parent by the recycling bins at Coffin Butte landfill 28 Jul. One bathing in a wet swale from the recent rains at Luckiamute SNA 19 Aug was enjoyed by the Neighborhood Naturalist field trip participants. Juvenile **Dark-eyed Juncos** were coming to feeders at Hesthavn Nature Center by 25 Jul (P Vanderheul). By 21 Aug multi-family flocks were conspicuous along the edge of the valley.

Two fledgling **Lazuli Buntings** were begging from an adult male in our yard near E.E. Wilson 30 Jul. A very late fledgling was begging from an adult female on Coffin Butte 21-25 Aug (p. obs.). Two more were on the ne. side of E.E. Wilson 27 Aug, after most Lazuli Buntings had begun their southward migration. **Bullock's Orioles** were seen at Snagboat Bend 11 Aug (P Vanderheul, ASC field trip).

On 12 Jul Jordan Epstein reported an apparent male **Cassin's Finch** singing at Cabell Marsh, Finley. This species is normally found east of the Cascades, but vagrants have shown up occasionally in the Willamette Valley. The description seemed to rule out the more expected Purple Finch and House Finch.

Families of **House Finches** and **Lesser Goldfinches** were visiting feeders in n. Corvallis by 6 Aug (P Vanderheul). Lesser Goldfinches were feasting on the seeds of Madia (tarweed) plants in our yard by 30 Jul. A lone **Red Crossbill** perched atop a snag on Coffin Butte 21 Aug, before flying off toward more typical habitat in the direction of McDonald-Dunn State Forest (p. obs.). A female **Evening Grosbeak** visited Judith & Jerry Paul's Lewisburg yard to drink from a fountain 17 Jul.

Common Wood-Nymphs and **Western Tiger Swallowtails** were among the butterflies at Hesthavn Nature Center 25 Jul (P Vanderheul). A **Widow Skimmer** (dragonfly) was at Snagboat Bend 11 Aug (P Vanderheul & ASC field trip).

Participants on the Neighborhood Natural field trip counted at least 25 **Western Pond Turtles** on the east pond at Vanderpool Tract 19 Aug (John Swanson, p. obs.). A **Blue Racer** was along the Coffin Butte trail 17 Aug, along with the usual **Western Fence Lizards** (p. obs.).

On 17 Aug Randy and Pam Comeleo watched two **Black-tailed Deer** "shooting the rapids" as they successfully cross the Willamette

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Field Notes *continued from page 5*

River just upstream of the Santiam River confluence in Luckiamute SNA. As of 27 Jul, **elk** at Finley could be seen coming out in the early evening to drink and settle down in the damp grass with just their heads showing (C Paynter). On 4 Aug, Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank and Jim Johnson saw the cow and calf herd and also found **cougar** scat. On 13 Aug, Steve and Ashleigh Dougill, Wil and Martha Geier and I surprised a **bobcat** which was apparently hunting **California Ground Squirrels** on the quarry face on Coffin Butte.

Next issue

Many of our migrant songbirds will begin to head south, while we can look forward to early arrivals of wintering waterfowl, raptors, and sparrows. Please send me your latest observations by 24 Sep.

Joel Geier
38566 Hwy 99W, Corvallis 97330
(541) 745-5020
joel.geier@peak.org

Yes on 49

Measure 49 resolves problems of 37

In 2004, Oregon voters passed Measure 37, which was advertised as an effort to protect the property rights of individuals who wanted to build a home or two on their land, if the law allowed them to do so when they purchased the property. That is what they voted for, but not what they got. Instead Measure 37 claims have been filed that will expand landfills, erect billboards, and bulldoze our best farmland and forestland for superstores and giant subdivisions. More than 7500 Measure 37 claims have been filed for development, mostly on high-value forests, farmland, and riverfront property. For example, claims for condos and other large-scale development have been filed for Wallowa Lake, the Newberry National Monument, the Sixes River, and Siltcoos Lake.

Measure 49, to be voted on in November 2007, resolves the worst problems of Measure 37. It allows small landowners to build up to three homes on their land if they were allowed to do so when they purchased their property. It requires anyone with a valid Measure 37 claim who wants four to ten homes on their land to provide proof that their land has lost equivalent value since zoning was established. And importantly, it prohibits any industrial or commercial development through Measure 37 claims -- such as landfills, billboards, and big box stores. Lastly, it limits any one landowner to a maximum of 20 houses statewide.

Several environmental groups, including the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy, are supporting Measure 49. Four of Oregon's five most recent governors are among the honorary co-chairs of the Yes-on-49 Committee. As a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service, Corvallis Audubon "may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates." With this in mind, the ASC

Board has authorized us to urge friends and members of the Audubon Society to support Measure 49.

Please be a part of this campaign. You can visit the Oregon League of Conservation Voters calendar of events (www.olcv.org/events) and sign up for a specific campaign activity or to host a Measure 49 house party. Or, you can check out the "Yes on Measure 49" web site and ask to receive a phone call about volunteering (<http://www.yeson49.com/>). Your support is vital!

Chris Mathews and Dave Mellinger

Fledgling Cooper's Hawks

In late July, Don Boucher and I had the unique opportunity to closely observe two fledgling Cooper's Hawks in Bill Ripple's NW Corvallis yard. Don and I usually experience Cooper's Hawks as stealthy and cautious; seldom more than a fleeting glimpse of blue-gray as they dart through impossibly thick vegetation.

In Bill's neighborhood a pair of adult hawks, with



photo by Bill Ripple

characteristic secrecy, had built their well-hidden nest in a nearby conifer; however, their fledglings were anything but shy. Bill had the privilege of seeing the naive young hawks from very close range as they received food from their parents, drank from his backyard pond, and hopped among the branches of his large catalpa tree. One evening, the birds landed just a few yards from him, seemingly unconcerned by his presence. Their fearlessness enabled Bill to take some great photos and Don to record some remarkable video. The lawn under Bill's catalpa tree was littered with a variety of colorful feathers that revealed the hawks' diet.

I was delighted by the fledglings' playful nature. While calling loudly, one of the hawks flapped wildly and hopped back and forth on a tree limb next to its sibling. After failing to elicit a response it tweaked the other hawk's tail with its beak, resulting in a reckless chase through the branches. After a 4- to 8-week period of parental care and feeding outside the nest, the young hawks' survival would depend on the hunting skills they practiced through play.

After two weeks of frequent appearances in Bill's yard, the fledglings stopped visiting. Perhaps they were becoming more independent and exploring new areas.



Cooper's Hawks retain their juvenile plumage for one year. While the adult has red eyes, a slaty blue back and a rufous-barred breast, a juvenile has yellow eyes, a brownish back, and a streaky breast. They are difficult to distinguish from young Sharp-shinned Hawks. The Cooper's larger size, rounded tail tip, and subtle differences in proportions and head shape are diagnostic. Many newly-independent juvenile Cooper's Hawks can be found around town and in nearby countryside this time of year. They seem most numerous in riparian forests, but can be found almost anywhere there are sufficient trees to hide them and enough prey to sustain them.

Lisa Millbank

Springtime Adventure Chickadees in the Garage

We recently had taken a Chickadee fledgling inside on a Sunday night and put it in a box on top of the fridge in the garage, up away from the occasional foot and bike traffic.

Someone left the garage door open when they got their bike out. I heard loud Chickadee calls, and went out to check on the little bird. To my surprise, there were about six other Chickadees in the garage—most of them juveniles as well, though they were all slightly larger, and a bit farther along in flight school. Apparently, they had come in search of their sibling.

I opened the box with the fledgling, set it just outside the garage, and went inside where I could keep an eye out for cats or other threats, but give the little guy some space. He/she sat on the box for quite a while before finally hopping off to join the rest of the family. I visited with the next-door neighbor and asked her to also keep an eye on the family, and sat around for another hour or so until the last Chickadee left the garage.

Sarah Marshall

Jon Janosik's Chat Print Janosik Prints Available to ASC Members!

Jon Janosik's Yellow-breasted Chat



Noted avian artist Jon Janosik (www.natureartists.com) has graciously donated his original painting of the Yellow-breasted Chat to ASC for use as our logo and to share with our members. Thus, we are offering this beautiful high quality print to you for the much-reduced price of \$50. The 8 1/2 x 11" print was professionally prepared by PhotoBach

Digital Studios in Corvallis (www.photobach.com) and can be signed by Jon Janosik if you attend the November General meeting. Please order your prints via the ASC Online Store (<http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/store.shtml>) and they will be delivered to you at the November meeting or via the U.S. Mail if you prefer.

Siskiyou Field Institute

Join us for mist-netting and bird banding in the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion

October 13th near Grants Pass, Oregon.

A small band placed on the leg of a bird provides a wealth of information. Discover what researchers John Alexander, MS and Ashley Dayer, MS, are learning through Klamath Bird Observatory's extensive bird banding efforts. Visit a mist netting station along the Rogue River, capturing birds and learning the techniques of aging, sexing, and banding. Practice data collection and banding and take an optional tour of Wildlife Images. This is an excellent opportunity to see migrating and resident birds up close. Tuition: \$38

To learn more about our courses or to reserve your place, visit our website www.thesfi.org or call 541-597-8530.

*Amy Schell-Lapora,
Program Coordinator*

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Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

Renew your membership before the date on the mailing label to avoid missing issues of the Chat.

Calendar

Sept 8 Saturday morning local birding***
Sept 15 Fall Migratory Bird Count**
Sept 20 September General Meeting*
Sept 23 Bicycle Birding***
Sept 27 Deadline for submissions to Chat
Sept 29 Hesthavn open to public, 9am – 2 pm
Sept 29 Greenbelt Land Trust hike**
Sept 30 Art and Nature (Hesthavn)***
Oct 7 Critters of the Creek (Hesthavn)***
Oct 13 Saturday morning local birding***
Oct 20 Fern Ridge full day birding trip***

* See page 1

** See page 2

*** See page 3



Red-legged Frog photo by Lisa Millbank

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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