



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

February 2008

VOL. 37

#6

General Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church

Winter Birds of the Willamette Valley

A presentation by Dan Gleason, Crane Dance Communications/Publications, Eugene.

Sick of this rainy, gray weather? Dying for any sign of spring? This month's ASC Speaker Dan Gleason should perk you up. He will give a wonderful slide presentation on winter birds in the Valley that should give you the energy to make it through another month or so of winter! Dan and his wife Barbara run Crane Dance Publications from their South Hills home in Eugene. Dan recently retired after 30 years as a biology instructor at the University of Oregon. His specialty is ornithology and he continues to teach the Field Ornithology class at U of O during summer terms. His biological background combined with expertise in photography make this a presentation not to miss!

Crane Dance Publications:

<http://www.bgleasondesign.com/crane2/cranedance.htm>

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.

Marine Reserves

Make Your Voice Heard!

Oregon's state government is collecting input on Gov. Kulongoski's proposal to establish marine reserves. Now is the time to speak up about the need to create significant "marine wilderness areas" to complement our land-based ones. The state government wants YOUR thoughts about marine reserves, which you should be able to email via the

web site <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/outreach/reserves.html>. Currently this site mentions only public meetings. Some points you might make include

- Oregon needs sizable no-take marine reserves to provide havens for fish and other marine wildlife.
- Both California and Washington have both National Marine Sanctuaries (where fishing is permitted) and significant marine reserves (where no fishing is permitted), while Oregon has...neither. It is time we caught up.
- Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) has been dithering for years and years about marine reserves. It's time to create some.
- Bottom dragging -- "marine clear cutting" -- destroys the most habitat for fish and other marine life. It is essential that it be prohibited in marine reserves.
- Marine reserves are important to all Oregonians, not just those in coastal communities. OPAC needs to broaden its outreach effort to gather input from all of Oregon.

Background information on conservation and marine reserves is available via http://www.audubonportland.org/conservation_advocacy/oceans/ and a news article about the community outreach effort may be seen here: <http://www.newportnewstimes.com/articles/2008/01/30/news/news03.txt>

Dave Mellinger

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Membership Chair Resigns

Amy Schoener has resigned as membership chair after holding that position for over 10 years. She formally became the membership chair beginning in the 1997-98 year. However, she had helped the previous membership chair for several preceding years. Many people only knew of her when they signed up as new members, were reminded of an expiring membership, or had problems receiving the Chat. However, her efforts went far beyond that, including dealing with National Audubon's database of members in our area, and keeping our database current while people moved into or out of the area or took sabbaticals and extended vacations. She also went through several computers, printers and database programs during this period. Despite various equipment crashes, and programming bugs, she somehow managed to get out the mailing labels (or more recently the mailing database) for the CHAT by each month's deadline!

On behalf of the entire Board of the Audubon Society of Corvallis, I wish to extend our most grateful appreciation for all the years of valuable service that Amy Schoener has provided.

Karl Hartzell, currently a board member-at-large, has agreed to become the new membership chair. Jerry Paul has undertaken the project of compiling a new membership database designed to meet our future needs. If you haven't already completed a membership questionnaire, I urge you to contact either Jerry or Karl for a form to complete. Contact information for both Jerry and Karl is on the back page of the Chat.

Marcia F. Cutler, ASC Historian

Wildlife Refuge Planning Ankeny, Baskett Slough, Finley Meeting

Feb 13 (Wed) Corvallis Fire Station #5

Walnut Community Room

4950 NW Fair Oaks Drive

Corvallis, OR

3-5 pm (presentation at 3:30 p.m.)

7-9 pm (presentation at 7:30 p.m.)

The Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuges are having an "open house" meeting about their Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the three refuges here (Ankeny, Baskett Slough, and Finley). Information will be available on refuge programs, preliminary goals, and preliminary issues.

A meeting will be held in Corvallis to provide the public an opportunity to discuss the issues to be explored in the CCP process, and to learn about how the CCP process will unfold. More importantly, it will provide refuge staff an opportunity to hear the public's interest and concerns for the Refuges.

Background information on refuge resources and challenges is available at www.fws.gov/willamettevalley/ccp.

An internet comment form is also available at this site. The public is also invited to contact Doug Spencer, Project Leader, at 541-757-7236, with thoughts and concerns.

Submitted by Dave Mellinger and Paula Vanderheul

Hesthavn News

During the month of January, Hesthavn held two Saturday work parties that removed blackberry brambles along the east side of Oak Creek. Now the rushing water is a pleasing sight along the stream with open space for the red cedars, Indian plum, snowberry, and other native plants to grow. I want to thank Sally Shaw and the 12 OSU Geoscience's students for braving cold, rainy conditions at the work parties. The center's ceiling was finished with dry wall by Steve and Shawn Faust. I want to thank Karl Hartzell for volunteering hours of painting the ceiling with me, hanging the light fixtures, and cleaning up. Hesthavn was blanketed with snow a number of times in January which made it very beautiful and peaceful to visit and work. Animal tracks of rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, birds, and mice graced the snow.

The February work parties are scheduled for Saturday 16 and 23. There will be tree and shrub planting on the 16, and bramble removal on the 23rd. All volunteers are welcome to work either day, and we will start at 9 AM and work until 2 PM. It would be appreciated if you were able to bring a shovel for planting trees or bramble removal. Plan for cold and wet working conditions. I recommend boots, gloves, rain pants, and layers of warm clothing to keep you dry. The center will provide a warm resting place for lunch.

Paula Vanderheul

Art and Nature for Kids

Feb 24 Workshop

Hesthavn is a learning center, a refuge, and very importantly, a sanctuary for children to explore the natural world and express their creativity through art.

Dedication and love transformed Hesthavn from a pasture and horse barn to a place that invites people to experience nature. For kids, this special place offers an opportunity for wide-eyed wonder and the joy of learning to come together with creative exploration. In a safe, supportive environment, children share their experiences of nature, then find the paints, colors and clay to bring their visions of nature to life. Every Art and Nature workshop reflects a child's boundless creativity and an uninhibited expression of their uniqueness.

Our current plans include four workshops in 2008, the first, for kids ages 6 – 11, is Sunday, February 24 from 1 – 3 p.m. Please call 754-3906 or e-mail eelliottsmith@yahoo.com to sign up.

Leslie Green

Ratify the Law of the Sea Urge your senator

The Senate could soon consider whether the United States should sign on to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, also known simply as the Law of the Sea Treaty. The Law of the Sea will help expand protections for our planet's oceans, and becoming a party to the treaty would permit the United States to more effectively influence major upcoming international debates concerning ocean activities. The treaty's environmental provisions cover all aspects of the marine environment, including fishing, pollution, offshore mining, and oil and gas exploration. One hundred fifty-five nations have already ratified the Law of the Sea, including every major industrialized nation other than the United States. It is time we joined them. Senator Gordon Smith is running for re-election this year and is trying to burnish his environmental credentials. He may be a swing vote on this issue, so your contacting him could help secure his vote for the treaty. You can do this directly (202-224-3121; or Sen. Gordon Smith, US Senate, Washington, DC 20510) or via NRDC's web site, http://www.nrdconline.org/campaign/nrdcaction_013008

Dave Mellinger

Field Trip Schedule

Monthly Year-Round Saturday Field Trips

- Feb 9: Meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 am
- Mar 8: Same as above
- Apr 12: Same as above
- May 10: Same as above

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.

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 and follow the instructions.

Spring 2008 Weekend Field Trips

- March 21-23 Bandon Coast
- April 25-27 Klamath Basin (Note new date)
- May 02-04 Rogue Valley
- May 15-18 Malheur NWR

Fred Ramsey leads all the spring weekend trips. Fred

has been leading these field trips for ASC for over 35 years. He is an amazing field trip guide, sharing his knowledge about finding birds in their habitat and 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

Please note:

The Rogue Valley and Malheur trips require deposits by February 28, 2008.

The Rogue Valley deposit is \$40 for the play: *The Clay Cart*, by Sudraka. Jewels are stolen. A Brahmin faces execution. A beautiful courtesan is at the mercy of the King's bad-boy brother. Journey through world where gamblers, holy men, political fugitives, and royal scoundrels intersect and good people triumph. Bursting with music, dance, color, action, and romance, this 2,000-year-old Indian classic—utterly Shakespearean in spirit—proves that great storytelling transcends the centuries. The new Artistic Director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Bill Rauch, directs this play.

The Malheur deposit is \$50. Each deposit must be made payable to Fred Ramsey at 3550 NW Glen Ridge Pl. Corvallis OR 97330.

Paula Vanderheul

Environmental Investing

Invest in Audubon and the Environmental Future with the Firsthand Alternative Energy Fund (ALTEX).

Firsthand Alternative Energy Fund is a mutual fund investing in alternative energy and clean technology companies that will help reduce the world's dependence on oil and the pollution caused by burning fossil fuels. In addition to supporting these renewable energy technologies, Firsthand will donate a portion of its management fees to non-profit organizations that support the environment and renewable sources of energy. You choose how you'd like your portion of the donation directed. Audubon is one of several national environmental organizations to choose from. For more information on the Fund, visit <http://www.firsthandfunds.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=funds.altex>.

From the Audubon Newswire



Chris Miller took this photo of Bushtits at his suet feeder

Field Notes

23 December 2007 to 26 January 2008

As we moved from 2007 to 2008, birding activity was high. In part, Christmas Bird Counts encourage us to search the countryside for birds. Scouring places many of us do not regularly go sometimes turns up odd birds. That leads to more searching effort as subsequent birders look for the first rarity, inevitably leading to discovery of additional unusual birds. This year, a report of a rare bird during the Airlie CBC, 30 Dec, got birders searching the northern portion of E. E. Wilson and led to discovery of American Tree Sparrow, Sedge Wren, and Harris' Sparrow in January. Other interesting discoveries in the region were an adult Swainson's Hawk and a Mountain Plover. Despite the above average rainfall until mid-January, these exciting rarities generated plenty of birding activity. Temperatures fell low enough to drop snow on the Valley floor, 6-8 Jan. Later in January a dry spell arrived with clear skies and very cold temperatures, which froze most water except for McFadden Marsh, so concentrations of waterfowl there were quite remarkable. Cold temperatures also drove birds to feeders in good numbers.

Abbreviations and Locations: m.ob. = many observers. Observer names are noted in parentheses after their reports. Observations without a name (or with WDR) are the editor's. ASC indicates observations made by Audubon Society field trips. EEW = E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area north of Corvallis. ANWR = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge in Marion County. FNWR = Finley National Wildlife Refuge, and includes Cabell, Cheadle, and McFadden marshes. STP = sewage treatment ponds; Philomath STP are off of Bellfountain Drive south of Philomath. Stewart Lake is at Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis. Toketie Marsh is the remedial wetland for Coffin Butte landfill north of Corvallis, just off of Highway 99W.

Small numbers of non-white-cheeked geese joined the Cackling and Canada Geese at FNWR in late Dec and Jan. Up to 6 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at FNWR (M. Monroe, m.ob.) and the three immature **Snow Geese** present for several weeks at FNWR were joined by a couple of adults (m.ob.). An adult white-phase **Ross' Goose** was along Airport Road, 5 Jan.

Trumpeter Swans have wintered in southeastern Polk County for a number of years, sometimes gathering there by the dozens. Numbers this winter have been lower than in the past. The peak count from a tour of the normal wintering sites, 18 Jan, was 12 (J. Geier). However, sightings away from Polk have been more numerous than usual; perhaps regional numbers are about the same but the swans have used more sites. For example, 1 to 5 were at McFadden Marsh, 20-26 Jan.

Meanwhile, numbers of **Tundra Swans** dropped in late Dec and early Jan but began to build again in mid-Jan at FNWR. By 26 Jan, 935 were at McFadden Marsh, one of the highest counts in the last few years.

Gadwalls remained uncommon, but 9 on 15 Jan in a flooded field east of McFadden Marsh was a good count. **Eurasian Wigeon** numbers are lower than last winter; they peaked at 7 on 7 Jan at FNWR. In contrast, plenty of **American Wigeons** have been at FNWR; numbers routinely exceeded 4,000 to 5,000. Two **Cinnamon Teal** continued at Toketie Marsh, 23 Dec-22 Jan (m.ob.) and 5 were on the Airlie CBC. A male Common Teal, or **Eurasian Green-winged Teal**, was at Cheadle Marsh, 10 Jan (WDR) and again on 19 Jan (B. Dugger). The American Ornithologists' Union does not consider it to be a different species from **American Green-winged Teal**, but the British Ornithologists' Union does. So, searching for and reporting observations of Common Teal is a good idea.

Canvasbacks can be a challenge to find in Polk Co., but the pond along Oak Hill Drive seems to be a reliable place for them; one was there 29 Dec (J. Geier). Small numbers of Canvasbacks were at Stewart Lake (J. Simmons), the Philomath STP, and McFadden Marsh during the period. No reports of Redheads were received. Two **Greater Scaup** were at the Oak Hill Drive pond, 6 Jan (J. Geier) and 22 were at Philomath

STP, 22 Jan. 132 **Lesser Scaup** at Philomath STP, 20 Jan, was that species' high count. A **Long-tailed Duck** was at Brownsville STP in early Jan for an unusual winter record in the Valley (m.ob.). A high count of 220 **Bufflehead** on the Airlie CBC was impressive.

Rare in the Valley, a **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen flying over Philomath STP, 5 Jan. **Ruddy Duck** numbers peaked at 346, Philo STP, 29 Dec-7 Jan. Seven were at McFadden Marsh, where they are uncommon, 7 Jan. One was at Stewart Lake, where quite rare, 7-9 Jan (J. Simmons).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was found near Lebanon, 15 Jan (R. Gordin). A covey of 15 **Mountain Quail** were discovered on Coffin Butte, 27 Dec (J. Geier). A **Common Loon** was at Eagle Marsh, ANWR, 1 Jan, for a rare winter record (K. Fairchild). A very high winter count of 88 **Pied-billed Grebes** was near Corvallis airport, 9 Jan. Two **Clark's Grebes** were near the Corvallis airport, 4-26 Jan. A **Western Grebe** stopped by Philomath STP, 7 Jan, and one was in a flooded field along Stow Pit Road the same day (N. Strycker).

52 **Great Egrets** on the Airlie CBC was a nice high count. A few **Green Herons** overwinter, but are shy and hard to find. One was at Waverly Lake, Albany, 30 Dec (J. Fleischer). A sure sign of spring around the corner (maybe kind of far around the corner!) is arrival of **Turkey Vultures** near Corvallis. One was in north Corvallis, 15 Jan (P. Adamus); 3 were at FNWR and 1 at Jackson-Frazier, 22 Jan (M. Monroe, R. Hoyer).

White-tailed Kites are rare away from FNWR, so one along Decker Road, Benton Co., 7 Jan, was interesting (N. Strycker). Numbers of **Red-shouldered Hawks** continue to climb; 7 were on the Airlie CBC. One of the most interesting rarities of the period was a **Swainson's Hawk** discovered along Tangent Drive in Linn Co., 23 Dec (C. Whelchel, see photo). The bird was an adult dark intermediate (rufous) morph. Swainson's Hawks normally winter in Argentina, so one in Oregon during winter is highly unusual, especially an adult. Some observers felt numbers of **Rough-legged Hawks** were a bit higher this year than last; nine on the central Benton County raptor route, 15 Jan, supports the idea (M. Cutler, P. Vanderheul).



*A Swainson's Hawk spent the period near Tangent, Linn Co.
Photo by Cheryl Whelchel*

A **Golden Eagle** was detected on the Airlie CBC and one (or the same?) was at FNWR throughout the period.

A **Prairie Falcon** was seen along Lakeside Drive, 24 Dec, and one was at Corvallis airport, 4 Jan.

Unusual in winter, two **Sandhill Cranes** continued at ANWR at least through 30 Dec (M. Monroe). Ten Sandhill Cranes flew over Albany, 20 Jan (K. Higinbotham). One of the best finds of the period was a beautiful **Mountain Plover** at Diamond Hill Road, Linn Co., 3 Jan. Alas, it was a one-day wonder (M. Nikas, m.ob.). Otherwise, no unusual shorebirds were discovered. Numbers did rise around FNWR after 20 Jan, when 27 **Long-billed Dowitchers** appeared after being generally rare or absent for a few weeks. Nevertheless, ANWR is where

the real numbers of shorebirds spend the winter: 7814 **Dunlin** and 671 Long-billed Dowitchers were on the Airlie CBC. **Wilson's Snipes** were a bit scarce; 35 at EEW, 24 Jan (W. Geier) was the only concentration reported after the CBC period. An adult **Western Gull** stopped at the Philomath STP for about a minute, 29 Dec. Scattered reports of **Glaucous-winged, Herring, Thayer's, Ring-billed** and **Mew Gulls** were received, but no significant flocks occurred in Benton County; several flocks of up to 200 birds were in Linn County.

The **Burrowing Owl** along Llewellyn Rd continued through at least 22 Jan as did the one along Davis Rd in Linn Co. Two **Short-eared Owls** were near Albany, 30 Dec (J. Fleischer) and one was at EEW, 15 Jan (R. Armstrong). **Anna's Hummingbirds** are hardy little beasts. They seem to have handled the subfreezing temperatures and snow. Several observers reported up to 3 individuals at their feeders throughout the period. The **Lewis's Woodpecker** along Woodpecker Loop (I really wish someone had named this trail more appropriately!) at FNWR continued to overwinter.

A **Say's Phoebe** near Monmouth, 27 Dec, was the only local observation of that species (R. Armstrong). A real treat was 5 **Gray Jays** at Elsie Elzroth's feeder on Vineyard Mountain, 9 Jan. 300 **Horned Larks** at Corvallis airport was an excellent local concentration, 24 Jan (R. Moore). In keeping with the pattern of the last few winters where a few swallows arrive in mid to late Jan, a **Barn Swallow** and a **Tree Swallow** were at McFadden Marsh, 20-22 Jan (WDR), with a second Barn Swallow there 22 Jan (M. Monroe) and a second Tree Swallow 23 Jan (R. Armstrong). Barn Swallows, in particular, arrived across western Oregon beginning 19 Jan; all individuals whose plumage could be closely examined were birds that hatched last year. Time will tell how many survive into Feb.



Chestnut-backed Chickadee photo by Matt Lee

Rarely found away from Douglas Fir stands or on the Valley floor, a **Chestnut-backed Chickadee** ventured into the lowlands, visiting Luckiamute Landing, 30 Dec (J. Geier). Another surprising find was a **Sedge Wren** at EEW, 14-17 Jan (WDR, m.ob.), which represents a third record for Oregon and first for Benton Co. **Varied Thrush** numbers remained low on the Valley floor in keeping with their approximately 2-year cycle; last year they were especially numerous. The **Northern Mockingbird** first found on the Corvallis CBC was present at least through 3 Jan (m.ob.).

Warbler numbers were low, but a couple uncommon species were reported: an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was along the Simpson Park trail, Albany, 30 Dec (J. Fleischer) and an immature male **Common Yellowthroat** was at Cabell Marsh, 30 Dec-23 Jan. A very brief look, 21 Jan, at a small yellow-chested bird with a breast band visiting their suet feeder in northwest Corvallis reminded the Blacks of a Northern Parula. **Townsend's Warblers** continued to visit feeders, but generally in lower numbers than last winter; the highest count was 5 in Albany,

20 Jan (K. Higinbotham).

Perhaps just the second record for Benton Co., a cooperative **American Tree Sparrow** at EEW was found 1 Jan (R. Armstrong) and continued throughout the period to be enjoyed by many observers. Fourteen **Chipping Sparrows** were found on the Airlie CBC, in Polk Co., 30 Dec (R. Moore). Rare during winter, Chipping Sparrows appear to concentrate in orchards, especially hazel nut, that have extensive weedy growth on the ground. Orchards that lack such weeds also lack Chipping Sparrows. The **Clay-colored Sparrow** along Stow Pit Road was still there, 8 Jan. A **Swamp Sparrow** was in Hidden Valley, near Toledo, Lincoln Co., 5 Jan (J. Geier). One was along the canal at EEW, 14 Jan. The **Harris' Sparrow** at Becky Schwiebert's house in Corvallis was there through at least 12 Jan. (m.ob.); another was at EEW, 15 Jan (N. Armstrong) and a second one was there, 23 Jan (J. Geier).

Previously considered rare during winter, Lapland Longspurs are probably occasional to uncommon locally. Efforts searching for Horned Larks turned up 2 **Lapland Longspurs** at Corvallis airport, 24 Jan (R. Moore). Our state bird, **Western Meadowlark**, has been steadily declining in recent years; so a flock of 40 near Buena Vista, 29 Dec (J. Geier) was nice to see, as was a flock of 28 along Lakeside Drive, 26 Dec.

The extensive sunflower plantings at EEW continued to attract many songbirds. About 400 Pine Siskins were at EEW, 2 Jan, and more than 300 American Goldfinches were there, 27 Dec (J. Geier).

Next issue

Please send your reports for the next issue by 23 February.

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Raccoon photo by Matt Lee

Olympic BirdFest 2008

Sequim, Washington, April 4-6, 2008

Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic BirdFest 2008 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 4-6, 2008.

The stage is set...quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready ... Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, and Pygmy Owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours; and a traditional salmon bake at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center.

Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ...you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings by going online or calling for a brochure.

New this year! Follow your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 6-8, 2008. Visit San Juan, Orcas, and Socia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. Get program information and registration forms online at: <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>, or contact us by phone at 360-681-4076, or e-mail us at info@olympicbirdfest.org, or write to us at:

Dungeness River Audubon Center
P.O. Box 2450
Sequim, WA 98382



Varied Thrush photo by Matt Lee

10th Aleutian Goose Festival

March 28-30, Crescent City/Del Norte CA

Come join the "Celebration of Wildness" on the extreme coast of northern California. Experience an in-depth extended weekend in the home of the Redwood National and State Parks and the Smith River National Recreation Area, by choosing among the more than 60 workshops and field trips led by experienced, qualified guides. Outstanding birding, geology, Native American heritage and more. Register online at www.aleutiangoosefestival.org or call 1-707-465-0888.

The keynote speaker for this year's celebration is Humboldt State University's Professor Stephen Sillett, the leading researcher in the study of the canopy of the towering redwoods. Recently featured in Richard Preston's best selling book *The Wild Trees*. Professor Sillett will share his passion for his work in the fog shrouded tops of the world's tallest trees.

More Birding Festivals

From time to time I receive requests from birders around the country, asking me to publicize birding events in their locales. Recently I heard of two such festivals this spring: the Sixth Annual Potholes and Prairies Birding Festival in North Dakota (June 4 to 8), and Down East Spring Birding Festival in Maine (May 23 to 26). The websites for these two festivals are listed below. Please consult the website if you have any interest in attending either festival. <http://www.birdingdrives.com/2008completeagenda.pdf> (North Dakota)

<http://www.downeastbirdfest.org> (Maine)

Chris Mathews

Global Warming Quiz

Test Your Knowledge

How much do you know about global warming? Take this quiz to find out, then see the next page for the answers.

- 1: Do most scientists agree or disagree that our planet is experiencing human-caused global warming serious enough to lead to catastrophic changes in the environment?
- 2: Is the following statement true or false? The greenhouse effect is the same thing as global warming.
- 3: Which of the following is an example of how global warming affects the Earth's natural systems? a) The melting of arctic sea ice; b) Rising sea levels; c) More intense typhoons and hurricanes
- 4: Scientists around the world released a report in February 2007 warning that by the beginning of the next century, sea levels could rise by how many inches?
- 5: Which species' survival is most immediately imperiled due to global warming? a) Grizzly bear; b)

- Black bear; c) Giant panda; d) Polar bear
6. Which of the following is an example of how global warming can affect migratory birds? a) Earlier migration; b) Earlier egg-laying; c) Loss of breeding habitat
 7. Can anything be done to help curb global warming?
 8. Is the following statement true or false? "The U.S. could eliminate 100 percent of its Persian Gulf oil imports simply by raising fuel economy standards, using technology that is available today."
 9. Which of the following are important ways to reduce your own use of fossil fuels? a) Replace your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs; b) Select Energy Star appliances; c) Make transportation choices that conserve fossil fuel, like driving less, using public transportation and choosing a fuel-efficient vehicle or, better still, walk or ride a bicycle!
 10. What is the reduction in US emissions of heat-trapping gases by 2050 that is needed in order to avoid the worst long-term effects of global warming?

Warming Quiz Answers

- 1: Almost all climate scientists agree that global warming is an accelerated and threatening phenomenon brought on mostly by human activities. Very, very few scientists still argue that global warming is just a natural cycle.
2. False. The greenhouse effect is a natural phenomenon that occurs because carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse gases" trap heat in our atmosphere. Like the glass in a greenhouse, these gases allow the sun's heat through the atmosphere but then trap much of it near the Earth's surface. For billions of years these greenhouse gases have played an important role in maintaining the proper temperatures for life to thrive. Global warming, on the other hand, is an increase in Earth's surface temperatures. It is occurring as human activity increases the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- 3: All of the above. Even a small increase in global temperature has devastating consequences for all life on Earth. The melting of Arctic sea ice, rising sea levels and more intense storms are only some of the effects of global warming.
- 4: 7-24 inches. Actually, 7-24 inches is a conservative estimate, based almost entirely on the expected expansion of ocean waters due to rising temperatures. Far greater sea level rises are expected if the water bound up in polar ice sheets melts, as it has started to do. The recent report from the International Panel on Climate Change suggested that if greenhouse gases continue to accumulate at even a moderate pace, temperatures by 2100 could be what they were 125,000 years ago when sea levels were 12 to 20 FEET higher than today.
5. d. The polar bear is the most immediately imperiled of these species due to the effect of global warming on its Arctic habitat - including the melting of sea ice. However, if we don't take action to curb global warming now, it will ultimately have devastating effects on people, wildlife, and the habitats we occupy - including, eventually, the grizzly bear, black bear and giant panda.
6. all of the above. Global warming can disrupt the delicate ecological balance that migratory birds rely on, affecting many aspects of their life cycle. For example, earlier migration and earlier egg-laying can mean that parents arrive at their breeding destination early, and young are hatched before sufficient food is available. There is already evidence that this may be occurring with some species.
7. Yes! There are many things that people can do to help curb global warming. While it is true that no matter what we do now, global warming will continue and will cause serious changes in our climate, prompt and dramatic action can slow its rate of increase and avoid some of the worst potential consequences. Experts say the most important action is to move away from burning massive amounts of fossil fuels, especially coal and oil, and to aggressively pursue nonpolluting energy options.
8. True. The U.S. could eliminate 100 percent of its Persian Gulf oil imports simply by raising our fuel economy standard to 40 miles per gallon average for all passenger vehicles and pick-up trucks which requires no new technology.
9. All of the above. Each of these is a way to reduce your "carbon footprint" and use less fossil fuel.
10. 60-80%. We need to reduce U.S. emissions by 60-80% by mid-century to avoid the worst consequences of global warming, including mass species extinctions, more severe storms and droughts, and substantial sea level rise.

Contributors to the Chat

Marcia Cutler, Leslie Green, Sue Haig, Chris Mathews, Dave Mellinger, Douglas Robinson, Kieran Suckling, Paula Vanderheul.

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the **CHAT**

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

Calendar

Feb 9	Second Saturday field trip***
Feb 13	WVNW planning meeting**
Feb 14	Board meeting
Feb 16	Hesthavn workparty**
Feb 21	General meeting*
Feb 23	Deadline for March Field Notes
Feb 23	Hesthavn workparty**
Feb 24	Art and Nature workshop**
Feb 28	Deadline for March Chat
March 8	Second Saturday field trip***

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**see pg 42

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