



# Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

March 2008

VOL. 37

#7

## General Meeting

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

## Eagles in Our Midst: Thirty Years of Bald Eagle Nest Surveys in Oregon

*A presentation by Frank Isaacs, Oregon State University*

It's not often in these days of environmental crises that we get to report happy news. Through the dedicated work of this month's speaker, Frank Isaacs, and many others,



the Bald Eagle has made a stunning recovery throughout most of its range. Bald Eagles had hit an all-time population low due to use of pesticides such as DDT when Frank first started his eagle research in Oregon in the 1970's, but they are now a common site throughout the state. Frank's careful monitoring of the birds has involved recruiting thousands of volunteers over the years since there was no other way to cover the vast number of eagle territories throughout the state. Be sure to come to the March meeting to hear the dramatic details of the fall and rise of the Bald Eagle in Oregon!

*Sue Haig*

## 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.

## Tree Planting a Big Success

Tree-planting volunteers number at 166!

*Photos by John Gaylord*



*Tree planting volunteers.*

All 1000 trees were quickly planted by an enthusiastic group of volunteers on Saturday, February 9, at Finley National Wildlife Refuge. A clear blue sky punctuated by lines of flying Canadian Geese cheered on rows upon rows of local community volunteers.



At 10:00 am, a long procession of cars arriving from all parts of the Willamette Valley snaked into the parking areas at the Finley Refuge Headquarters. Sounds of children and laughter were in the air as the lovely almost

*see "Tree Planting" on next page*

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**Tree Planting** *continued from front page*

spring-like day lifted spirits. Audubon tree planting chairman, John Gaylord, said, "The project was blessed by the lovely day and wonderful community turn out. Way beyond our expectations."



*Jerry Paul and  
John Gaylord*



*Jody Gaylord and  
Karen Fairchild*

Planters were treated to warm coffee, donuts, bagels and rolls courtesy of Safeway at Circle Blvd, and later a lunch of hot chili from Sunny Side Up Café. Project planners had hoped for at least 40 participants and ended up with 166. Young children and babes in backpacks attended



with their happy parents. Finley Staff members Jock Beall and Chantel Jimenez stated they had never seen such a large and enthusiastic group of volunteers.

A partial list of attendees includes students from most of the Corvallis schools, including Crescent Valley and Corvallis High, Cheldelin and Linus Pauling Middle schools, OSU College of Forestry, OSU GEO300 class, as well as many private schools. OSU fraternity SAE had the largest group and appeared to have the most fun. Also helping were members of the Corvallis Garden Club, the Marys Peak chapter of the Sierra Club, the Corvallis Environmental Center, Veterans for Peace, the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, Corvallis area 4-H clubs and the Greenbelt Land Trust.

Many unaffiliated folks attended as well. Except for the muddy conditions, it was a perfect day. Many thanks to all who helped. Well done!

*John Gaylord*

## **ASC Amendment**

### **ASC Constitutional Amendment Proposed**

At a recent Board meeting the nomination and election process for 2008-2009 was discussed. According to the ASC Constitution and Bylaws the elected officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) serve one-year terms, with no officer eligible for re-election after three successive one-year terms. Because of the special responsibilities of the Treasurer, the Board would like to be able to consider re-election of the Treasurer beyond that limit. Our current Treasurer is serving her third one-year term. Making a change requires an amendment to the Constitution. This in turn requires Board approval (which was granted at our February Board meeting), followed by a public announcement to the membership, followed then by vote of the members at a regular Chapter meeting. A majority vote of the members present at that meeting suffices for passage of the amendment. This article serves as notification to the membership of the proposed amendment. The proposal is to amend Article IV, Section 1, of the ASC Constitution, to read as follows. New material is underlined.

The elected officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers shall serve for one (1) year terms, but no individual may hold the same office for more than three (3) consecutive terms. An exception is the Treasurer, who may be elected to one or more additional terms upon determination of the board that special circumstances warrant this extension of office. With the exception of the President, one individual may hold more than one office, but no individual may have more than one vote on the Board of Directors.

*Chris Mathews, President*

## Contact List

### Membership contact information sought

Board members Jerry Paul and Karl Hartzell have been hard at work updating our membership list. One thing that strikes us is the large number of members for whom we do not have e-mail addresses. From time to time there are occasions where instant communication with all ASC members would be highly desirable. For example, our chapter received notification of the Great Backyard Bird Count too late for us to solicit participation through the Chat or through an announcement at a chapter meeting. We would like to generate an e-mail contact list, so that the Board can occasionally send time-sensitive announcements of this type, or can solicit volunteer work, and etc. Therefore, we are asking all ASC members to send their e-mail addresses to Karl Hartzell, who is now our membership chair. Karl can be reached at karlerun@yahoo.com.

*Chris Mathews*

## Field Trip Schedule

### Monthly Year-Round Saturday Field Trips

Mar 08: Meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 am  
Apr 12: Same as above  
May 10: Same as above  
June 14: Same as above

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of every month at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area (1210 SW Avery Park Dr, Corvallis) 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](http://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](mailto: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*

## Birding Classes

### Birding in the Willamette Valley:

#### Two-week beginners class

May 7 & 14, 7-9 pm: Classroom sessions

May 10 & 17, 9 am-noon: Field trips

Bird identification that emphasizes our locality. Learn identification techniques, how to choose field guides and binoculars, and good birding sites. Classroom sessions on Wednesday evenings at Avery House and field trips on Saturdays at Avery Park (May 10) and Finley National Wildlife Refuge (May 17). Cost: \$24.

#### Birding by Ear: Two-week intermediate class

June 11 & 18, 7-9 pm: Classroom sessions

June 14 & 21, 9 am-noon: Field trips

Become familiar with local bird songs and calls. Learn tips and techniques for listening and remembering bird sounds. Beginning birdwatchers should take "Birding in the Willamette Valley" first. Classroom sessions on Wednesday evenings at Avery House and field trips on Saturdays at Willamette Park (June 14) and Jackson-Frazier Wetlands (June 21). Cost \$24

Instructed by Don Boucher. To register, call 753-9211 or email [info@corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org](mailto:info@corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org).

## Western Bluebird Boxes

### Time to check your boxes or buy a new one

Western Bluebirds are beginning to look at nest boxes on our properties and some will start to nest in March. For those of us with nest boxes, it's time to check our boxes for need of repair or replacement and to clean out winter debris. During this year's severe winter weather, some boxes were used as roosts and there may be some dead bluebirds found in boxes. Please save all dead bluebirds, seal them in a sturdy plastic bag, label the bags with date, place, box number, and place them in your freezer. Don't throw away any US-FWS numbered bands or colored plastic bands. Contact Elsie Eltzroth 541-745-7806 or Paula Vanderheul 541-752-0470 to report this information.



The Audubon Society of Corvallis has volunteers that build bluebird nest boxes and common bird nest boxes, which are sold to support the local ASC Western Bluebird Trail. Prepackaged nest box kits can be purchased for \$10 each, and ready-built nest boxes for \$15 to \$20. Contact Paula Vanderheul to purchase nest boxes. Thank you to John Tiezen who built and donated 20 new nest boxes in February.

Raylene Gordin is our compiler for the new USGS banding lab program called "Bandit" and reported the 550 records for 2007. Thanks, Raylene!

The ASC website features information about bluebird trail monitoring, placement of boxes and answers questions about the Western Bluebird's history. [www.audubon.corvallis.or.us](http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us)

*Paula Vanderheul*

## Field Notes

### 27 January to 23 February 2008

The last few days of January and the first nine of February were wet and cool, but mid-Feb brought a dry spell with sun and spring-like temps in the afternoons. Chorus frogs began singing and many songbirds launched into morning bouts of song. Garter snakes emerged to rest in the sun, as did a few wasps. Daffodils were rapidly pushing up toward the blue skies. Various other early spring flowers ambitiously anticipated an early spring and began blooming by the end of the period. Thoughts of nesting struck Anna's Hummingbirds, Great Blue Herons and Bald Eagles; Great Horned Owls, always early breeders, were well underway. Yet, it is still February, so for many birds, spring is still several weeks away.

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 of Corvallis 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.

Knoll Terrace STP are off of Elliot Circle in Corvallis. 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. The Bellfountain Wetland along Bellfountain Drive south of Philomath is also sometimes called the Evergreen Mitigation Bank.

The northern Benton County and southern Polk County flock of Trumpeter Swans continued to move around quite a bit. On 15 Feb, the largest single concentration reported so far this winter was at EEW, 34 swans (J. Geier). Five were at McFadden Marsh, 19 Feb, too. Tundra Swan numbers were quite a bit lower than those of last period. The high count was 148 in a field near the Knoll Terrace STP, 13 Feb (R. Armstrong).

Late Feb brought the largest numbers of wigeon to the local area; high counts of 16 Eurasian Wigeon and 8,000 American Wigeon were at Cabell Marsh, 19 Feb. In contrast, Cinnamon Teal are rare here during winter; the male and one or two females that have spent the winter at Toketie Marsh continued to be seen regularly (m.ob.). A Eurasian Green-winged Teal was at Bellfountain Wetlands, 9 Feb. One with characteristics of both the American and Eurasian races was there, 11 Feb (WDR, R. Moore).

Of the diving duck species, Canvasbacks were seen at McFadden Marsh, where 2 or 3 were present from 9 Feb through the end of the period (ASC, m.ob.); they are not regular there. Greater Scaup were present in fairly normal numbers with a maximum of 10 at the Philomath STP through the period. A small migratory movement may have occurred in mid-Feb as one male showed up at McFadden Marsh and another male was in a flooded field along Old River Road, 9 Feb (WDR, D. Irons). Also, four were at the Knoll Terrace STP, 13 Feb (R. Armstrong). Meanwhile, the peak count of Lesser Scaup was 115 at Philomath STP, 9 Feb, which is about normal. Rare locally, a female Common Goldeneye was at Bellfountain Wetland, 11 Feb (R. Armstrong, m.ob.).

A Western Grebe was at Takena Landing on the Albany side of the Willamette River, 13 Feb (R. Armstrong). Two Westerns and two Clark's Grebes continued on private property near Corvallis airport.

Gearing up for spring, Great Blue Herons were inspecting their nest sites along the Willamette River and at FNWR in mid-Feb (M. Monroe). Uncommon during winter, a Green Heron was at Thornton Lake, 17 Feb (K. Higinbotham).

One of the first spring arrivals that is sure to get birders thinking the end of the winter doldrums is near is Turkey Vulture. After several detections in mid-January, reports increased a lot in Feb. One was south of FNWR, 8 Feb (N. Strycker). Several others were seen after that point. Although it is tempting to think these are real spring arrivals, it may be more likely that these are birds wandering north from wintering sites not far south of here. True long-distance migrants do not move through Central America on their way north from South American wintering grounds until March, so mid-March is really the arrival date for the long-distance migrant vultures.

Calling above the fog on 19 Feb in northwest Corvallis was an Osprey (T. Robinson). White-tailed Kites have made a good showing this winter, with several detected at non-traditional sites in southern Polk, along Decker Road in Benton County, and maximum daily counts of 5 or 6 in and near FNWR (m.ob.). An adult female Northern Goshawk, quite rare locally, was along the railroad tracks between Finley and Greenberry Roads, 16 Feb (R. Hoyer, Sr.) and at Cabell Marsh, 19 Feb.

A Red-shouldered Hawk, 13 Feb, at the corner of 53rd Street and Plymouth (W. Wright) may have been the same one found on the CBC in Dec. A good high count of nine Rough-legged Hawks was made in southern Polk County, 14 Feb (P. Tilley). A Golden Eagle continued chasing geese at FNWR, and cooperated nicely for the ASC field trip on 9 Feb (ASC). There were a couple of reports of Merlins in early Feb at FNWR (m.ob.), about the normal number expected this time of year. A pair of American Kestrels were interested in getting an early start on breeding and were inspecting a nestbox in North Albany, 17 Feb (K. Higinbotham).

A great count for Feb was 6 Virginia Rails heard at Jackson-Frazier wetland in Corvallis, 17 Feb (D. Boucher). American Coots were much more numerous, as expected. Numbers fluctuated from 41 to 76 at Philomath STP. At McFadden Marsh, 75-87 were present for most of the period. Like humans, Sandhill Cranes liked the mid-Feb dry spell and sunny weather. Many were moving northward from 15-19 Feb across the Willamette Valley, especially along the east side (S. Weingarten, m.ob.).

Shorebirds were scarce, but there were some local movements. Thirty Least Sandpipers were along Old River Road, 9 Feb (D. Irons). Dunlin numbers peaked at 500 at Cabell Marsh, 15 Feb. At the Robison Road wetland in northern Benton/southern Polk County, 100 Dunlin and 50 Long-billed Dowitchers were busy foraging, 11 Feb (R. Armstrong).

Gulls put in a fair showing locally. A Western Gull and a Herring Gull were at Toketie Marsh, 1 Feb (N. Strycker). Two Thayer's and two Glaucous-winged Gulls, along with one Herring, were at Coffin Butte, 11 Feb (R. Armstrong, m.ob.); nearby a flock of 120 gulls included Mew (1), Western (1), Thayer's (1), and many Herring and Glaucous-winged Gulls (m.ob.). A Ring-billed Gull was at Bellfountain Wetland, 19 Feb (N. Strycker). Overall, the numbers of gulls in Benton County continue to be low. No data on the gull flocks in Linn County were received. The season's first Band-tailed Pigeon arrived near Philomath, 21 Feb, pretty much right on schedule (K. Fairchild).

Breaking the winter doldrums was a very productive owling trip by ASC, 15 Feb. The weather cooperated beautifully, with clear skies and calm winds allowing detection of calling birds. The ASC trip turned up 5 species of owls, including Great Horned, Northern Saw-whet, Western Screech-, Short-eared, and Barn (D. Boucher, ASC). The Llewellyn Road Burrowing Owl continued through the period despite an increase in air and vehicle traffic at the airstrip as the season for crop-dusting ensued (m.ob.). Meanwhile, Great Horned Owls were already on nests in mid-Feb at several locations (m.ob.) Like Great Horned Owls, Anna's Hummingbirds were busily working on breeding. By 13 Feb, they were gathering nest material in Corvallis (C. Craven).

Black Phoebes seemed to survive the cold weather fairly well, with several continuing at and near the Willamette River (m.ob.) and one along 53rd Street south of Corvallis (J. Adair). Northern Shrikes continued to be scarce. Singles were found at 53rd St, 12 Feb (N. Strycker), at EEW, 15 Feb (R. Armstrong, J. Geier) and near FNWR, 19 Feb. Swallow numbers built after the mid-January incursion, but not quickly. Seven Tree Swallows were at Cabell, 15 Feb, and several continued at FNWR through the end of the period. Two Barn Swallows were at Bellfountain Wetlands, 19 Feb (N. Strycker), but otherwise they were scarce.

The nice weather made finding some Coast Range birds a bit easier, too. Good counts were 31 Red-breasted Nuthatches and 58 Golden-crowned Kinglets at Lewisburg Saddle, 16 Feb.

Always a pleasant surprise was a brilliant male Mountain Bluebird with a flock of Western Bluebirds along Robison Rd on the border of Benton and Polk Counties, 28 Jan (R. Gerig); it was still there, 29 Jan. Also quite rare on the Valley floor was a Townsend's Solitaire in Monmouth, 31 Jan (B. Waite). In contrast, American Robins were moving through the region in Feb, especially the second and third weeks, in large numbers. Daily counts in the hundreds were routine as flocks foraged in grass fields and around town. A couple thousand were in fields northwest of Coffin Butte during Feb (J. Geier). Sometimes in the same fields with flocks of robins were American Pipits. On 19 Feb, two especially large groups were located, including 250 in southern Polk County (J. Geier) and 224 at FNWR.

There were few reports of Cedar Waxwings with most observations coming from town. Normal numbers of Townsend's Warblers continued

at feeders around town, including Witham Hill (J. Gibson) and several other sites (m.ob.). Surviving the snow and various cold spells this winter, a Common Yellowthroat was at the scrape along Bruce Rd, 19 Feb, for a very rare February record.

First discovered in southeast Benton County in November, a Clay-colored Sparrow was still with its 40 Savannah Sparrow buddies through at least 11 Feb (m.ob.). Another Clay-colored Sparrow was at a feeder at the ODFW research lab off of Hwy 34 just east of Corvallis, Linn Co (Lisa Borgerson), flying under the birder radar until 9 Feb when word got out and many observers went to see it. Also at a feeder, but well publicized, the Harris' Sparrow at Becky Schwiebert's Corvallis feeder continued through at least 20 Feb. It is not clear if anyone searched for the two EEW Harris' Sparrows during Feb.

There may have been a small movement of Brown-headed Cowbirds in early Feb. Ten were at the Linn County ODFW office, 11 Feb (R. Armstrong) and 28 near the Corvallis airport, 2 Feb. They were largely unreported prior to that time.

In the realm of non-bird sightings, Western Pond Turtles were enjoying the sun at Thornton Lake, 17 Feb (K. Higinbotham).

### Next issue

Please send your reports for the next issue by 22 March.

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## Call for Volunteers

### Volunteers sought to staff Audubon table

Corvallis Audubon has been invited by the OSU Student Sustainability Coalition to staff a table at their annual Earth Week Community Fair on Tuesday, April 22nd, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the OSU Memorial Union Quad. At this annual event 30 to 40 environmentally-oriented groups present informational displays. Corvallis Audubon has participated in this event in the past. To do so again this year we will need four or five volunteers willing to help plan the display and to sit at the table for about two hours each, to interpret our display and answer questions about Audubon and its activities. If you are would like to participate, please contact Chris Mathews at mathewsc2@comcast.net.

*Chris Mathews, President*

## Grant from Kiwanis Club

The Audubon Society of Corvallis has received a grant of \$250 for art supplies for educational programs at Hesthavn Nature Center. Elise Elliott-Smith, ASC Board Member/Hesthavn Programs, was invited to a luncheon of the Kiwanis Club in February to speak about the educational programs provided at HNC. Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Corvallis!

*Paula Vanderheul*

## March Hesthavn News

### Mar 29: Next Hesthavn work party

The scheduled February work parties on Saturday 16 and 23 were successful with twelve OSU Geoscience students volunteering on each of those dates. The students planted Serviceberry, Douglas Spiraea, Cascara, Pacific Crabapple, Mock Orange and Tufted Hairgrass along the trail on the 16th. On the 23rd, the students removed blackberry brambles along the southwest Oak Creek bank where the brambles have become a huge jungle in recent years. I want to thank Norma Booke and Bev Clark for their services on February 23. A thank you goes out to Kate Mathews and Marcia Cutler for reorganizing the educational supplies in the filing cabinets donated from Hewlett Packard.



*February 24 Art and Nature class  
Photo by Paula Vanderheul*

Leslie Green presented an "Art and Nature" class on February 24 for 13 children ranging from 5 to 11 years old. It was interesting to watch Leslie guide the kids with a short nature walk to listen, feel, and notice nature and talk about this experience before heading into the center to draw something from what they saw. After drawing Leslie provided pottery clay that the kids busily worked into fine art pieces. The next "Art and Nature" class will be in May.

The next scheduled Saturday work party will be March 29, 2008. Please plan on arriving at the Hesthavn Nature Center at 9:00 am for a day of blackberry removal and transplanting grasses and wildflower seedlings. Please bring tools such as shovels, pruners, gloves, and a lunch for a day of service. Individuals are welcome to volunteer during weekdays as well. Please contact me if you are interested in working alone on weeding brambles, etc.

You can get map directions to Hesthavn Nature Center which is located at 8590 NW Oak Creek Road, from our website at [www.audubon.corvallis.or.us](http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us). The nature trail is open to the public every day of the week for visiting.



*Children's artwork from the class  
Photo by Paula Vanderheul*

Also on the website is a volunteer email bulletin board that publishes work party dates and other events as they happen at Hesthavn Nature Center. The website has information on how to subscribe to the Hesthavn-news bulletin board. For more information, contact me at [vanderp@peak.org](mailto:vanderp@peak.org) or 541-752-0470.

*Paula Vanderheul*

## Tales of a Chump

### Birdwatcher

#### Birdwatching Can Be a Pun-ishing Experience

It all began at 3:30 am when the alarm buzzard went off robin me of many hours of sleep. I had to pry my eyes open with a crowbar. I was with my mother and my sister, Linda. My name is Rich and if she calls me Dick sis'll get hit. The black smoke was going up the chimney swiftly since my mother had been up early. I had even seedher waxwing the floor.

I thought I would spruce up so I wouldn't be so grouse. Now I've used a razor bill-ions of times but today I cut myself. My baird was at least as ruff as a rock and felt like sandpiper so I left a lot more heron my face and spent the day harrier than normal. I ate a baygull and even though I've used a spoon bill-ions of times I spilled my bowl of corncrakes so my breakfast was skimmer. I tried one of the varied pastries that were so old they looked rustic and when I ate a bun ting-les went through me. I was feeling a little blue but they talked me indigoing anyway. I looked out the win-dowhicher feeder was near but there wasn't even a flicker of daylight. This battle in the mourning war blurred my outlook so I did oestrich or two to loosen up.

Finally I went out and got in my brown Falcon with this pairegrinning females. There we were, the three of us, a strange trianguill e mot-ley crew. I felt like I was in the catbird seat especially when the donut my mom dropped in my laplanded sugar side down. It was a long spurious drive and I must admit I was nobby behind the wheel. Just

inside the refuge they looked at some bird with a forked tail and I royally missed a tern. Then my audio bonked out with rattling sounds coming from the piping and the ringed valves and I had to plover on the upland side of the road. This was not surprising since my car was not brandt new – just a piece of slate junc o-ver an engine anyway. To add to our troubles many blackcapped clouds indicated a storm might be brewing and I was afraid I was out of petrel but the scaled gage was at the fulmark. When I called to see abert a tow hee said forget it. Well the trouble turned out to be fairy small, just a little bobo linked to my failing to chick a dee-tail over and over.

My sister said it would be a pheasant day and if it wasn't she knew she might get a ringed neck. Indeed, it got ruffed and the blue sky got grouse and when the wind began to whip, poor will developed between us. Then all of a sudden she yelled “ Stop the car”. At that moment I wasn't intecrested even in a myna way and it hardly mallard since the bird was so high in the sky I needed a crane or a sandhill to climb or at least stilts to see it. At first glance I thought it was a duck flying upside down and I was afraid it would quack up but it turned out to be a common yellow baloon. I decided to get higher by taking a little stint up a tree, but I scared a woodpecker away so I came downy and put the ladder back.

We finally arrived at our first stop but I was the greater chicken about the three of us sitting together in a toilet so I asked for a prayer e-ven though I'm not a b-lesser or even a faithvul turch goer. So I began, “Let osprey. Oh God wit us be.” I would swear it was gos-pel I can not do this today. But my complaining was just an oldsquawk and they paid no attention.

The next place we traveled was a mountain that had to be scaled to quailify us as real birders. It was a gambel but I be-gannet anyway. About a quarter of the way up we saw a pochard in a field who wood cock his bow and hisp-arrow but he was just a common sniper who only wanted to killdeer. The binoculars felt like an albatross around my neck and I really didn't feel like walking-let alone climbing so high. I figured with such a steller choice of climbing or walking eider way I would make a spectacled of myself. So I walked along this part-ridge and part cliff swallowing my fear banking that I wouldn't fall in a cave but let me tell you it was goshawkward. On the way I picked Linda a rose just to becardial. I wondered how a peewee like my sister wood get up this mountain. I would hoyster up a ledge and then try to catcher, but she climbs so well she got way ahead and I could gnat catcher. Soon I saw what turned out to be a log a head and let out a shriek. Since it was wet I slipped on a rock and began sliding down into this canyon, almost grabbing a cactus wrendering a few expletives deleted. I had tried to make an elegant tern when the least tern would have been better. So I ended up redfaced warblering loudly in this ravine surrounded by

cattle, egret-fal a rope couldn't be lowered. I was being stared at by a horribul bul and at that point I knew I was yellow and couldn't wag tail I got home.

When I finally got out it seemed I had walked a-cross bill-ions of miles looking for this one species. It was hot as an oven bird watching and the sun gave my skin a scarlet tan a ger-ontologist could look forward to. Canaray of sun really do that much? Back on level ground, in a field farely close I thought I was heron something but I couldn't see anything and I wondered willet come out? I think I am on a wild goose chase so I screech owl I ever find it mys-elf if I don't give a hoot?

My skin was brown by this time and I must have looked like a real thrasher even though I was trying to creeper at least titter as quiet as a mouse. I sure felt like a nut hatcheting my way through the pygmy sized sage brush. When I tripped over this brambling bush tit-ering almost falling, it grackled and birds flew everywhere and I thought I was having a close encounter of the bird kind. They were loud enough to keep a kittiwake and I figured I had comitted the cardinal sin of birding by scaring them. But I guess I had dun Linda a favor although I'm not raven about it. She never even finched even when she had at least overmillion flys trying to catcher as she ran through the wields down the traills. I'm actually not shore she saw the birds in her wandering but I'm no tattler.

*[Continued in the April Chat]*

*Rich and Nanette Armstrong*

## Contributors to the Chat

Sue Haig, Chris Mathews, Paula Vanderheul, John Gaylord, Don Boucher, Douglas Robinson, Rich and Nanette Armstrong



*Wrentit photo by Lisa Millbank*

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*the* **CHAT**

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**Calendar**

Mar 8 Local birding field trip\*\*  
Mar 13 Board meeting  
Mar 20 General meeting\*  
Mar 21-23 Bandon Coast weekend trip\*\*  
Mar 22 Submission deadline for Field Notes  
Mar 27 Submission deadline for April Chat  
Mar 28-30 Aleutian Goose Festival\*\*\*  
Mar 29 Hesthavn work party\*\*\*\*  
Apr 12 Local birding field trip\*\*  
\*see pg 49  
\*\*see pg 51  
\*\*\*see February Chat  
\*\*\*\*see pg 54



*Red-legged Frog photo by Matt Lee*

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