



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

April 2008

VOL. 37

#8

General Meeting

Thursday, April 17, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church

ASC Goes Down Under: The Fall 2007 Trip to Australia

A presentation by Fred Ramsey, Oregon State University

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.

Homer Campbell Award

2008 award goes to Bill and Karla Chambers

Corvallis Audubon is pleased to recognize Bill and Karla Chambers, owners and operators of Stahlbush Island Farms, as this year's recipients of the Homer Campbell Award. The award is given annually, in memory of one of our most beloved former leaders, to recognize local contributions to conservation or environmental education. For the second year in a row, Audubon is honoring local farmers. However, last year's award, to Wally and Mary Eichler, was made primarily for wildlife habitat creation and conservation on their farm. The 2008 award to Bill and Karla is made primarily for the responsible stewardship of their farmland through sustainable agricultural practices.



Bill and Karla have owned the 4000-acre Stahlbush Island Farms since 1985. Since then they have transformed the farm to fulfill their vision of environmentally friendly, sustainable agriculture. Some of the practices that they have either adopted or pioneered include the following: (1) Rotating crops annually to break insect and disease cycles, control weeds, and reduce or eliminate pesticide use; (2) Strip tilling, to save fuel, improve soil quality, and control weeds; (3) Growing cover crops to enrich soil organic matter, replenish soil nitrogen, and reduce soil erosion; (4) Maximizing recycling and composting practices; (5) Eliminating herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides for many of their crops and using minimal amounts of organic products, when necessary, on the rest; (5) Pioneering no-till drilling, a technique that minimizes release of soil carbon dioxide to the atmosphere while improving water-use efficiency and increasing plant growth; (6) Rigorous testing by independent laboratories of soil and product samples for chemical residues. In addition they work extensively with OSU agricultural specialists to learn how nitrogenous compounds move through soil and how this can be controlled to eliminate leaching of nitrogen into ground water. Bill and Karla have promoted their practices throughout the agricultural community.

We are far from the first to honor Bill and Karla for their achievements in sustainable agriculture. Previous recognition of Stahlbush Island Farms has come from (among others) Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, The Food Alliance, AGRI-Business Council of Oregon, KEZI

see "Homer Campbell Award" on next page

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Homer Campbell Award *continued from front page*
ABC Channel 9, Oregon Department of Energy, and Sustainable Northwest.

The Homer Campbell Award consists of a plaque and inscription of the awardees' names in the perpetual award record, which is on permanent display at Hesthavn. Karla Chambers will attend our April chapter meeting (April 17) to accept the Homer Campbell Award on behalf of both Bill and herself, as well as Stahlbush Island Farms.

Chris Mathews

8th Annual ASC Birdathon

Coming up on May 3rd and 4th

Yes, once again it's time to get it in gear for the Birdathon! It's time to get out, see some springtime birds, and raise a few bucks for a good cause. If you're new to Audubon, here's the scoop:

What is the Birdathon anyway?

The Birdathon is a fundraiser for Hesthavn, our local nature center, and it raises awareness about birds and the Audubon Society in our community. It's basically a birding marathon. First you ask your relatives, friends, co-workers, and/or neighbors (like the ones who've hit you up to buy cookies and candy bars for their kids' fundraisers) to pledge a certain amount for each species of bird you might see, by yourself or as part of a team. Then, on the weekend of May 3 (or another spring weekend if that one doesn't work for you), you go out and bird for however long you want, wherever you can get to in one weekend (Willamette Park, the coast, Belize). This event is open to all skill levels and team participation is encouraged. If you're an armchair birder or don't want to go all out, you can still participate by birding your own backyard or pledging to a team.

If you want to participate but feel uncomfortable asking people for money, consider pledging to yourself, in honor of a favorite aunt or grandparent! Then send them a letter telling where you went, what you saw, and what the money is going for.

Who benefits from the Birdathon?

All proceeds from the Birdathon go directly to Hesthavn Nature Center, ASC's 5 3/4 acre patch-o-heaven out on Oak Creek Road (west of 53rd Street). Hesthavn is dedicated to educating the community about our local environment. In the past seven years, the Birdathon has raised around \$34,500 for Hesthavn! Proceeds have gone to such worthy projects as museum display cases, a new floor and weather-tight doors and windows, and a composting toilet.

The other benefactor of the Birdathon, of course, is YOU. Use this challenge to get yourself out the door, dust off your binoculars, and lift yourself out of that winter slump.

Business owners and teachers take note:

Could your local business benefit from some publicity? Consider being a business sponsor of the 'thon. Teachers: would you like to get your students out of the classroom for a day? Consider forming a student team, with an emphasis on the competition rather than the fundraising.

I'm in - Sign Me Up!

Just send me an email or call to let me know you plan to participate; then print out a sponsor sheet (available on the website) and start collecting pledges. This year we've streamlined the paperwork. Everything will be at our website, and we're only asking you to submit one short form (the birders' report form). Or contact me, Karan Fairchild, and I'll send or email you the info you need (929-4049; alderspr@peak.org). We'll announce results at our May meeting and in the summer Chat, including winners for highest species count and highest amount of pledges collected. Go Team!

Karan and Jim Fairchild

"Big Look" Taskforce

Join Oregon's "Big Look" at Land Use Planning

The "Big Look" Task Force received funding during the Oregon legislature's Special Session for a work plan to engage more than 10,000 Oregonians and inform 1.2 million people. You are encouraged to attend task force meetings to speak up for improving land use planning laws.

The Big Look's next meeting will be on April 28 in Salem (in the DLCD Basement Hearing Room, 635 Capitol Street NE, Salem). Check out <http://www.oregonbiglook.org/> for information about the Big Look and other meetings, or to submit comments on land use planning in Oregon. Also look at 1000 Friends of Oregon's "Blueprint for Oregon's Future" (<http://www.friends.org>) for ways we can make land use planning work to protect the special nature of Oregon. Effective planning can also help solve climate change by enabling people to drive less.

Dave Mellinger

Measure 49 News

Development claims will be reviewed

The State Legislature also approved funding for the Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Department of Justice to review and process Measure 49 claims. Staffing will be available to both claimants AND NEIGHBORS (this might be you) as the claims are processed. All parties will get questions answered promptly and valid claims "will be processed in a manner that honors the will of the voters."

For more information, contact Dan Eisenbeis at 1000 Friends of Oregon (dan@friends.org) or Peggy Lynch at the League of Woman Voters of Oregon (lwvor@lwvor.org; mention that you're writing to Peggy).

Dave Mellinger

April Hesthavn News

Work party and Open House this month

April 19 Hesthavn work party, 9 am – 2 pm
May 4 Hesthavn Open House, 10 am – 4 pm

A work party is scheduled at Hesthavn on Saturday April 19 from 9 am to 2 pm. There will be more blackberry removal and some transplanting of native wildflowers and grasses from the donor garden.

The Hesthavn Annual Open House will be on Sunday May 4th from 10 am until 4 pm. We will have fun activities for children and adults. The new nature trail will provide a chance for family and friends to explore the restoration of native plants and view the natural habitat along Oak Creek.

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. The nature trail is open to the public every day of the week for visiting.

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.

Paula Vanderheul

Field Trip Schedule

Year-Round Monthly Saturday Field Trips

April 12: Meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 am
May 10: Same as above
June 14: Same as above
July 12: Same as above
Aug 9: 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 and follow the instructions.

Spring 2008 Weekend Field Trips

April 25-27 Klamath Basin
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 wild flowers, butterflies, mammals, and reptiles. The field trips fill up early in the fall. Sign-up sheets are available at the general meeting or email Paula Vanderheul with your requests: vanderp@peak.org.

The Rogue Valley deposit is \$40. The Malheur deposit is \$50. Make each deposit payable to Fred Ramsey 3550 NW Glen Ridge Pl. Corvallis OR 97330.

Paula Vanderheul

Bicycle birding

May:

May 25 9am – noon

E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, North of Adair Village. 29555 Camp Adair Rd, Monmouth, OR. East of Hwy 99W and opposite of the Coffin Butte Landfill. Meet at the Pheasant cage parking lot on the north side of Camp Adair Drive.

June through September:

Meet at Avery Park Rose Garden: 1210 SW Avery Drive in Corvallis. For more information, contact Don Boucher, 753-7689, bouchdon@peak.org.

June 22 9am – noon
July 27 9am – noon
Aug 24 9am – noon
Sept 28 9am – noon

Bring a bicycle helmet, water and binoculars. We ride slowly, listen for birds and stop frequently. Usually less than 10 miles.

Don Boucher



Great Horned Owl Photo by Sue Powell

A Few Words

From the new membership chair

Since recently assuming the duties of your membership chair, I have been making sure that the name, address, Chat delivery preference (electronic or paper copy), expiration date for dues/Chat subscription (found above the name/address block on the back of the Chat), and other info I have listed for each ASC member is current and correct. In addition, seconding what Chris Mathews has written in the Chat and stated during two general meetings, I am hoping to get email addresses for nearly every member, excepting those who either don't have an email account or prefer not to disclose an address. For those possessing the latter leaning due to fear of having their email address disseminated to other organizations, I can assure you that the email database I will keep will be used ONLY for ASC communication. Member email addresses will be used for two purposes: alerting ASC members of soon-to-happen events that could not be announced in the Chat and sending an electronic Chat to those members who prefer it. And on that note, I'd like to put in my plug for encouraging members to opt for an emailed Chat and thus help to reduce our printing and postage costs.

If you think I don't have your email address, please send it to my address listed on the back of this Chat (or give it to me during a general meeting). Also, if ever you do not receive a Chat, have a question about your dues expiration date, or wish to update your member information (including desire to do volunteer work in a chosen capacity), please do not hesitate to email or call me.

Karl Hartzell

Field Notes

24 February to 24 March 2008

The tug of war between winter and spring was readily apparent during the period. Spring won in late February with several dry and sunny days, but winter fought back in March, bringing many consecutive days with measurable rain and cool temperatures. Some days rain was quite heavy, reaching a maximum of 0.6 inches on 8 March. Cool temperatures brought snow on several occasions during March to elevations above 1500 feet. Nevertheless, spring arrived officially. Fruiting trees bloomed, yards were carpeted with early season flowers, and spring ephemerals graced our woodlands. As flowers arrived, many waterfowl departed northward to breed in Alaska. Some hardy local species such as Great Horned Owls already had nestlings to feed.

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.

This is the season for migrating waterfowl. Many of our local wintering birds head north and those that spent the winter further south take a short break here on their way through. By the end of the period, numbers of most waterfowl are just a fraction of what they were a couple weeks earlier. Yet, some species that wintered south of here are just beginning to arrive, their peak numbers still a few weeks away. **Greater White-fronted Geese**, for example, pass through in late Apr but a few occur in Feb and Mar. Two were near Halsey along with 400 **Tundra Swans**, 25 Feb (M. Blakeley-Smith). In Linn County, Mark Nikas counted 1214 Tundra Swans on 3 Mar. An estimated 48 **Trumpeter Swans** were along Robison Rd and in southern Polk County, 28 Feb (J. Geier).

Also a late arriver, **Cinnamon Teal** show up in numbers in Apr. The first male of the spring was at Philomath STP, 18 Mar.

Among the diving ducks, **Lesser Scaup** numbers peaked at 176 at Philomath STP, 22 Mar. No Redheads, a rare spring migrant, were reported. A few **Canvasbacks** continued through the period, but most departed the region at the end of Feb; a female lingered at Philomath STP, 22 Mar. **Ruddy Ducks** reached a maximum count of 285 at Philomath STP, 22 Mar. At Waverly Lake in Albany, 6 Ruddy Ducks were seen, 12 Mar (J. Lawrence).

Wild Turkeys became much more conspicuous starting in mid-March: 20 were near EEW, 19 Mar (J. Geier), one was in Corvallis near NW Clarence Circle, 20-22 Mar (A. and S. Liston), and several flocks were apparent around FNWR and Marys River Natural Area (m.ob.). Turkeys are not native to our area, but seem to have adjusted fairly well because their numbers continue to climb.

Wintering **Pied-billed Grebes** moved out of the area in early Mar. Numbers at a pond near the Corvallis airport fell from 55 to 8 over the course of a week. The first spring **Horned Grebe** appeared near Corvallis airport 24 Feb and continued through the period. Another was at Philomath STP, 18-24 Mar.

Great Blue Herons were on nests by early Mar at several locations, including 34 at a colony at Irish Bend, 11 Mar, and smaller numbers at Willamette Park and FNWR (m.ob.).

An excellent count of 7 **Rough-legged Hawks** near Adair Village, 15 Mar, was quite a sight (S. Seibel). A few Rough-legged Hawks continued at various locations through the end of the period (m.ob.).

A flock of 120 **Long-billed Dowitchers** along East Ingram Island Road in southeastern Benton County, 11 Mar, was surprising; that number of birds is unusual so early in spring. The first spring **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Philomath STP, 10 Mar, about right on schedule.

The Coffin Butte dump is finally serving up enough yummys (depending on your perspective, of course) to attract gulls regularly. Gulls were roosting at Toketie Marsh, 26-28 Feb, between foraging runs. On the 27th there were 38 **Herrings**, 6 **Thayer's**, and 4 **Glaucous-winged Gulls** (N. Strycker). By 28 Feb, numbers reached 100 with 65 Herrings and a single adult **Western Gull**. The largest regional concentration was 1500 **Mew Gulls** in Linn County, 3 Mar (M. Nikas).

Band-tailed Pigeons continued to trickle in. One was in west Corvallis, 25 Feb (R. Armstrong) and a few others were in MacDonald Forest in early March.

A **Long-eared Owl**, of which only a few Benton County records exist, was calling the evening of 25 Feb at Knoll Terrace in Corvallis (R. Moore). Apparently it was a one-night wonder because it was not detected again after that date. Was it a migrant or a breeder or a winter resident that happened to call when Moore was out late one night? Whoooo knows?

A **Barred Owl** was calling each night on the west side of Highway 99W just north of Adair Village, 20-23 Mar (J. Geier). The Davis Rd, Linn Co, and Llewellyn Rd, Benton Co, **Burrowing Owls** had departed by 10 Mar (C. Whelchel, m.ob.).

The first **Rufous Hummingbirds** of the spring arrived 25 Feb when adult males appeared in Corvallis (R. Armstrong, C. Miller).

Females first appeared about 8 Mar and by the end of the period Rufous Hummingbirds were numerous and aggressive at feeders in town. But **Anna's Hummingbirds**, which are a good bit bigger than Rufous, still ruled the roost at most feeders.

A rare spring migrant, a **Say's Phoebe** was at the Marys River Natural Area in south Corvallis, 22 Mar (W. Wright), but was gone the next day (D. Boucher). **Black Phoebes** sang frequently at several sites along the Willamette River (m.ob.).

Tree Swallows arrived in numbers by 28 Feb and peaked with 201 birds at FNWR, 15 Mar. On 29 Feb, the first **Violet-green Swallows** of spring arrived at McFadden Marsh, about right on time. **Barn Swallows** typically lag about 4 weeks behind, so one at Corvallis airport, 21 Mar (R. Moore), was about one week ahead of the average arrival date. A surprisingly early **Purple Martin** was flying high over Philomath STP on 22 Mar.

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was in NW Corvallis, 24 Feb through the end of the period for a rare winter record (A. and S. Liston). On 22 Mar it was seen eating cotoneaster fruits. Another surprising gray bird was a **Northern Mockingbird** along 13th Street in NW Corvallis, 24 Feb-1 Mar (M. Hunter, m.ob.); Matt thought he might have been hearing it call in the neighborhood for a couple weeks before the date he finally saw it. During its stay, some birders heard it singing on sunny afternoons.

Spring is time for warblers to arrive, which we always enjoy because of their wonderful songs and colors. The first **Orange-crowned Warbler** of the spring arrived north of Corvallis, 24 Mar (B. Altman). Small groups of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** became regular by 15 Mar and were beginning to transition out of their drab winter plumages into spring colors.

The **Clay-colored Sparrow** first found 16 Nov along Old River Road in southeast Benton Co was still there 15 Mar. A **Swamp Sparrow** was at the OSU Sheep Farm, 8 Mar, in the foothills of the Coast Range.

Pine Siskins began appearing more regularly at feeders and in small flocks in the countryside in early Mar (m.ob.). Always a welcome sign of spring, **Evening Grosbeaks** arrived in Philomath, 8 Mar (L. Westbrook) and in Corvallis 12 Mar (L. Millbank, D. Mellinger), but were still not common even by the end of the period.

Next issue

Please send your reports for the next issue by 24 April.

Douglas Robinson

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Great Backyard Bird Count

Record number of species tallied this year

A record-breaking 85,000 checklists were submitted during the Great Backyard Bird Count this year, tallying more species than ever before - 635. The Audubon and Cornell Lab media teams also had a banner year, generating 450 stories coast to coast.

National Audubon Society

Crane Cam

Live From Rowe Sanctuary

Can't make it to Nebraska to see the Platte River region's famous sandhill cranes? Stop over online with the Audubon Rowe Sanctuary Crane Cam and see the nearly 500,000 sandhill cranes along with hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese converge on the Platte.

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/cranecam/>

National Audubon Society

Intl Migratory Bird Day

May 12

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), held annually on the second Saturday in May, is an invitation to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation.

Cause for Celebration

Each year, hundreds of thousands of people observe International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). They will gather in town squares, community centers, schools, parks, and refuges across the Western Hemisphere to learn more about wild birds, take action to conserve birds and their habitats, and simply have fun. Like any day of recognition, IMBD exists to focus attention on something important and marvelous – in this case, the journey birds undertake between their summer and winter homes. IMBD was created specifically to highlight the migration of nearly 350 species of migratory birds between nesting habitats in North America and non-breeding grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. However, the day serves as an opportunity to celebrate all the species of birds whose annual movements enliven our lands, waters and skies.

Migratory birds are some of the most beautiful, observable, and remarkable wildlife that share our world. Many know migratory birds as symbolic harbingers of spring and melodious songsters of the woods. Migratory birds are also an important economic resource, controlling insect pests and generating billions in recreational dollars.

Unfortunately, research has shown that many migratory bird species are in decline, facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in both their summer and winter habitats. Thus, IMBD, in addition to being a day to foster appreciation, is a call to action.

A Partnership for Birds

IMBD is the hallmark outreach event for Partners in Flight (PIF)—a unique, diverse consortium of individuals and groups who share a vision of healthy bird populations. Partners in this consortium include government agencies, conservation organizations, private businesses, academic institutions, chambers of commerce, and everyday citizens.

The 1993 creation of IMBD can be credited to a PIF

see "International Migratory Day" on page 60

Membership *continued from page 57*

member, the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and the principal responsibility for its national coordination currently rests with two other partners, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife's Division of Migratory Bird Management. In the decade it has existed, PIF has successfully developed research programs and management strategies to further bird conservation, in addition to promoting outreach and education via IMBD and other activities.

In the decade it has existed, PIF has successfully developed research programs and management strategies to further bird conservation, in addition to promoting outreach and education via IMBD and other activities.

For more information, see <http://birds.fws.gov/imbd>, phone: 703-358-2318.

Bird-Safe Building

New York City Audubon has just published Bird-Safe Building Guidelines, a 55-page manual for architects, landscape designers, engineers, glass technicians, developers, building managers, city, state, and federal officials, and the general public. It reveals the magnitude of bird-collisions with glass and describes the conditions that cause these deadly collisions. Bird-safety in buildings is integral to the "green" sustainable building movement, and the guidelines suggest strategies that complement the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating system. The guidelines also suggest ways to retrofit existing buildings. NYC Audubon's Bird-Safe Building Guidelines are an important resource for all people in the building and design industries as well as policy makers. To read the guidelines, go to <http://www.nycaudubon.org/home/BirdSafeBuilding-Guidelines.pdf>

NY City Audubon



Banana Slug photo by Matt Lee

Tales of a Chump

Birdwatcher

[Continued from March Chat]

After recuperating from that day we went to a park and I must admit I was ruddy to see ducks. Since I was reared to be at least a little grebe I should have checked at the gate to see what the guard say's what would the phoebe. It was so high I used my nest egg and still ended up going black into hawk. We saw birds that made tweet music and they all called me cheap cheap cheap. I was just walking along whistling swanee river, the nutcracker suite, and humming bird tunes when something rufous high tailed around a broad log. I wondered what kind of wood would wood ducks duck if wood ducks would duck wood.

There was this old coot sitting nearby who could really spintails, he could really shoveler it. He was a farmer and I figure a common far-mer gan certainly see ducks from the hood of his truck. I managed to see tree ducks or maybe four but had no idea widgeon to look at since they were feather away than I like. Every once in a while a duck would bob white in front of me. One had been so low in the water only a teal was showing. And it never came up again, as if Merlin had made it magically disappear. I feel buffleheaded when I can't identify ducks and my siskin tell you how I pine away. She knows all and I wood pecker as an expert hands downy. When my mother is asked about birds she always says her dotterel answer.

Anyway, the ducks were all under the green water after a lur-king fish er some bugs and I figured they were inca hoots together against me. I hadn't spotted anything and in frustration I dove in next to a turtle but hit ground immediately. Only a real dodo would have done that. I didn't realize that varied amounts of cold dark sooty shear water wood thrush upon me but indeed did the water thrush upon me.

When I got out I had goose bumps and looked like a blue footed boob e-ven though it was funny. I wasn't herring well but, since franklin I am veery gullable, I was laughing so hard I thought my funny bone a parte. I should have let my sister dipper foot in first to test the water but she had to scrub Jaymes baby face after she blue Jaymes nose and then had to pinyon Jaymes diaper. I remembered she had even birded when pregnant knot knowing what was in stork for her. Everybody wanted to chukar out, a gal in uletimate purple maternity clothes.

I finally warmed up and we went to the sea to sea what sea birds we could sea. Now I'm not the least bittern when others see all the birds because my attitube nose only pessimism, but it was veery frustrating leaning over that black forsa-king rail until I was sora and still not seeing anything. Other people were going out to sea in an old magnificent frigate bird watching but we got a boat that was so small I

couldn't sit down till I rolled the canvasback.

I got tired and decided to av e sit. So I took a break for a banana, quit moving, glanced at the meadow on shore, and then took a gander at the sky just for a lark. It had been so long since breakfast I ate my piece of nutmag pie. I had that since I had seen my sandwich tern mushy. My mother had sunflower seeds but I'm not a seed eater. My sister kept saying wren are we going to get marshing along and I told both of them I'd be ever glade if they would go fly a kite – the pair ot to know I eat a lot, and I don't like to chat o-verdinner. So I red pollitely from the bird book and condor into watching for me. I was ready with my pen guinever I needed to take notes. Actually I would like to chuck a laca bird books – they are really gross beakause the birds never look like the pictures.

On the way back to shore I was hutton for and saw a solitary veery vireold bird. It was just on a whim breliant it was not. My siskin veerify that. I thought with the blue and green on its wing it was no big teal but she said it was a real pipit was. It had been a frustrating day and, even though I willow my first official bird count to this, I figured I'd never retarmigan. So I left a shot wigin, some cold duck, and a case of wild turkey on the rocks on shore so that I would leave no tern unstoned.

Walking back we were passed by a jogger, obviously a dedicated road runner, and a guy on a common black motor scoter. Then I spotted a bird, a real buteover head. I wanted to crow and yelled to my sister, ee gad walk over here. My mother tried not to scare it and whiskered awklet me look too. Now I can't tele scope from binoculars (my sister has the greater scaup) but there I was maningha scope and I always sku a scope out of focus. I tried to tell them to give me the camurre let me take pictures but it was nearly dusky at seaside. And since the sunset was barrowly golden eye missed another probably common bird.

As the sunset terned an elegant reddish collar it was finally the end of another egretful day of great bird watching and I lay on the grass quitting and feeling a little down trogon. I took my shoes off and spotted sand er lingering dirt in both of them. It had been ruff an I was puffin so hard my nostrils were flamingo-pen. I was limpkin and I had gotten four scormorant bites so my legs were a greater yellow color and were smartin. My scaup was dry orcharred or I ole-der than I think and I was starling to go bald. I also had a migrating headache. My throat was yellow and getting more red starting to hurt.

I tried two or tree swallows but my mouth was eider tasting like a barnyard or I was about to kiskadeemon. My stomach was in such a knot I even considered kestrel oil. To top it all off I had a yellow belly, my strength was sapped, and I knew I had been a sucker to go.

I felt like my mistakes had been mountain up and I really blue bird watching. It had been a golden opportunity and I had tried my best to be eagle eyed and not be a stool

pigeon but I knew I had been acting wild and been a turkey. I was like a mangroveling and going cuckoo and I figured I better duck out before I committed hari caracara.

So I'm a bird brain. The question was wood I bis-mally try again.

Frankolen I don't care if I never go black. I guess I could take my honey to the Bahamas instead, where jeepers creepers even I might be a king bird watcher.

Now I'm not mocking bird watching you understand, because I really love birds. But I must con-cur lewsly that there is no vulture in it for me. I guess I'll have to give up badmitten because even it's for the birds.

Rich and Nanette Armstrong

Contributors to the Chat

Chris Mathews, Karl Hartzell, Karan and Jim Fairchild, Paula Vanderheul, Don Boucher, Douglas Robinson, Dave Mellinger, Rich and Nanette Armstrong.

Death Camas?



Death Camas

Occasionally in a camas meadow one may find a white blossom or two. Death Camas (*Zigadenus venenosus*), pictured to the left, is somewhat uncommon and always has a cluster of small white blossoms. Great Camas (*Camassia leichtlinii*) pictured below, although usually blue, is occasionally white. Another species not pictured is Small Camas (*Camassia quamash*). It is very similar to Great Camas and occasionally white too.

photos by Lisa Millbank



Great Camas—white variety

Audubon Society of Corvallis
www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

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the **CHAT**

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

Calendar

Apr 10 Board meeting
Apr 12 Local birding field trip**
Apr 17 General meeting*
Apr 19 Hesthavn work party
Apr 24 Submission deadline for May Chat
Apr 24 Submission deadline for field notes
Apr 25-27 Klamath Basin weekend field trip**
May 2-4 Rogue Valley weekend field trip**
May 3&4 ASC Birdathon
May 7&14 Beginning birding class
May 10 Local birding field trip**
May 12 International Migratory Bird Day
May 15-18 Malheur NWR weekend field trip**

*see pg 55

**see pg 57

***see March Chat



Western Meadowlark Photo by Sue Powell

The Chat is published 10 times a year by the Audubon Society of Corvallis, PO Box 148, Corvallis OR 97339. Annual ASC memberships are \$25 for an individual, \$30 for a family, \$15 for a student. Chat-only subscriptions are \$15.

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