



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

March 2009

VOL. 38

#7

General Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church



32 Years (And Counting) Of The Corvallis Bluebird Trail

Elsie Eltzroth and Friends:
Do Bluebird Boxes Make
A Difference?

Ask Elsie Eltzroth, Raylene Gordin, and sub-banders Rita Snyder, Carole Steckly, and Deb Savageau on Thursday, March 19, 2009.

Elsie became a charter member of the Audubon Society of Corvallis (ASC), Oregon Field Ornithologists, and the North American Bluebird Society in the 1970s. She has enjoyed a very personal friendship with Western Bluebirds for 32 years as coordinator, monitor, bander, and rehabilitator of orphaned chicks. The ASC Trail has been acknowledged in Stokes' *The Complete Birdhouse Book* and *The Bluebird Book*. Bluebird articles have appeared in newspapers, the NABS journals, *Sialia*, now called *Bluebird*, in Connie Troop's *Forever Bluebirds*, *Avian Diseases* (1979, 2001), the *Birds of Oregon—A General Reference* (2003), and *The Birds of North America*, No.510, 2000, The Western Bluebird Monograph.



You are invited to visit the table with some of the study skins of our bluebirds and other cavity nesters, eggs, nests and copies of records sent to the USGS Banding Laboratory. Some outstanding photos of our Bluebirds will be featured in the program—there is no such thing as an ugly bluebird!

Upcoming Presentations:

- 16 April:** A Mid-Valley Safari with Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank of the Neighborhood Naturalist program
- 21 May:** Grassland Birds of the Willamette Valley by Anne Mary Myers, Willamette Valley Grassland Biologist, ODFW

Doors open at 7:00 pm for refreshments and visiting. The chapter meeting commences at 7:30 pm, followed by the guest lecture at 8:00 pm. Questions about the series can be directed to Diana Brin, 908-6166, dianaasc@gmail.com

Diana Brin

Directions

The chapter meeting is in the meeting hall of the First Presbyterian Church (upstairs), 114 SW Eighth Street.

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New Oregon Recycling Laws

(Adapted from the Oregon Conservation Network)

Electronics: Electronics components contain many toxic and recoverable materials. After January 1, 2010, electronics will be required to be recycled at established recycling centers, with disposal in landfills prohibited. As this system is paid for by the manufacturers, it also sets an example of having manufacturers take the responsibility for a product's full lifecycle.

Water bottles: Water and flavored water containers are now included in Oregon's Bottle Bill, which should greatly increase their recycling rate. The recycling rate for containers covered by the Bottle Bill is 82%, compared to 37% for non-covered containers. In 2005, the state Department of Environmental Quality estimated that 125 million disposable water bottles were sold in Oregon, more than the number of soft drink bottles. Most of these will now be recycled. Better than bottled water, of course, is a reusable water bottle or cup.

Future work: The work to improve both laws continues. As the Oregonian editorialized, both bills represent progress but don't go far enough. Oregon E-Cycles program should cover the collection and recycling of all electronic items and should better ensure that Oregon exports of hazardous electronic waste to developing countries are eliminated. Similarly, the Bottle Bill needs to be expanded to include all beverage containers.

Dave Mellinger

What Basis for Conservation?

Two local issues help illustrate when we might take credit for measures to conserve and protect our environment, or perhaps they better illustrate how a baseline can be shifted for other reasons.

In the first case, I've written in the *Chat* about the Benton County Prairie Species incidental take permit application, known as a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). This US Fish and Wildlife Service law focuses merely on conserving the species into the future, not on recovering the species. After many years of declines of these targeted species, populations levels known in 2006 are the baseline for HCP maintenance. So our endangered or threatened prairie species will only need to be maintained with now relic population levels, levels that are severely depressed and in danger of extinction.

In the second case, forests are known for their substantial atmospheric carbon uptake and storage capacity. To foster and reward management that increases carbon sequestration, the rapidly expanding carbon trading market allows CO2 emitters to appear more carbon neutral by purchasing CO2 credits from storers. Corvallis and Benton County would like to sell credits for their current management of the Corvallis Watershed and Beazell Memorial Forest, though they plan no adjustment to increase storage.

In fact both agencies are now implementing forest thinnings that both actually reduce standing carbon volumes and reduce photosynthetic capacity that drives carbon storage, after years of no forest manipulations or disturbance that reduce atmospheric carbon uptake.

In these two cases, the basis for conservation measures can be seen as convenient, or disingenuous—convenient in that little costs will be required to protect relic species, disingenuous in claiming credit when no changed behavior is required. In both cases, little actual conservation or protection may occur.

Jim Fairchild

Species Protections Restored By President Obama

Washington, DC, March 3, 2009 - "Much needed change is becoming reality at the Interior Department. For years, the previous administration undermined science and stoked a culture of corruption at Interior. President Obama today helped restore sound science and good judgment with the stroke of a pen."

"Global warming and habitat destruction are pushing more and more species toward the brink of extinction. The President's actions will help ensure America's wildlife has a fighting chance."

During remarks at the Department of the Interior today, President Obama announced he was signing a memorandum to "help restore the scientific process to its rightful place at the heart of the Endangered Species Act."

The memorandum, which the White House sent out this afternoon, reverses a move made by the Bush administration in December.

Audubon decried the Bush rule as the most significant, detrimental change to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in years. Last December, Audubon urged then President-elect Obama to take this action.

The Bush rule eliminated the requirement for consultation with federal biologists on projects that could affect imperiled animals and plants. The plan allowed action agencies (e.g. the Department of Transportation) to decide for themselves whether projects they permit or license might harm endangered species.

During the public comment period, Audubon submitted a 12-page analysis examining the federal government's own data and specific examples from around the nation, leading Audubon to conclude the proposal was "based on false assumptions, unsupported by data, and was otherwise fatally flawed."

The strongest federal safeguard against the extinction of bird species in the United States is the ESA. Enacted in 1973, the ESA has helped save some of America's most critically imperiled birds and wildlife, including species like the bald eagle, the peregrine falcon, the gray wolf, the grizzly bear, and the whooping crane.

National Audubon Website, <http://www.audubon.org/>

Field Trip Schedule

Monthly Year-Round Saturday Field Trips

Mar 14: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am
Apr 11: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am
May 9: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of every month at the Benton Center parking area, 757 Polk Ave, in 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. Contact Rich Armstrong at richarmstrong@comcast.net or 541-753-1978 with questions.

Special Half-Day Trip

Mar 11: Meet at E.E. Wilson parking lot at 7:30 am

We will join the Salem Audubon group for this special half-day trip. Meet at the pheasant pens near the parking lot on E.E. Wilson (on the north side of Camp Adair Road) at 7:30 am.

Spring 2009 Weekend Field Trips

Mar 20-22: Bandon Coast

April 17-19: Klamath Basin

May 1-3: Rogue Valley

May 28-31: Malheur NWR

June 12-14: Summer Lake/Ft Rock/Fremont NFS

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 at vanderp@peak.org with your requests.

Please note:

- The Rogue Valley deposit is \$40 for the play.
- The Music Man will be the play seen this year at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.
- The Malheur deposit is \$50. Each deposit must be made payable to Fred Ramsey at 3550 NW Glen Ridge Pl. Corvallis OR 97330.

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.

Rich Armstrong

Kids at Hesthavn

Art and Nature for kids: March 22, 1 – 3 pm

Our spring Art and Nature workshop for kids will explore the beautiful early spring environment at Hesthavn. With paints and clay, the students will make art about what they see around them. We will encourage them to explore and enjoy the art materials, putting less emphasis on technique.

When a quietly excited group of kids focuses on colors and soft clay, the uniqueness of each child emerges.

Led by Leslie Green, the workshop will be for kids aged 6-11, and will take place on Sunday, March 22 from 1 – 3 at Hesthavn. Preregistration is required, so please contact Paula Vanderheul at 541-752-0470 or vanderp@peak.org. Suggested donation \$10/child. All proceeds go to ASC.

Leslie Green

Migratory Bird Festival

April 3 – 5, Burns, Oregon

Spend an amazing weekend witnessing the spectacular spring migration in the Harney Basin of Southeast Oregon. View thousands of migratory birds as they rest and feed in the wide-open spaces of Oregon's high desert. The festival offers non-stop birding activities as well as historical and cultural information sure to entertain you and your family.

For more information or to register, see <http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com/Highlights.htm>.

from the Migratory Bird Festival web site

March Hesthavn News

March 21, 9 am – 1 pm: Work Party

March 21, 10 am – 1 pm: Open House

A work party is scheduled for Saturday, March 21 from 9 am to 1 pm. Please contact me if you are available to volunteer that day to help with the work party. Bring your shovels, loppers, weeding tools, gloves, boots, and work clothes for a morning of service work.

We will hold an open house on the same day as the work party from 10 am to 1 pm. If you would like to greet visitors during the open house, please contact me.

You can find map directions to Hesthavn Nature Center, which is located at 8590 NW Oak Creek Drive, from the ASC website at www.audubon.corvallis.or.us. The nature trail is open to the public every day of the week for visiting.

A volunteer email bulletin board that publishes work party dates and other events as they happen at Hesthavn Nature Center is available at www.corvallisaudubon.org/mailman/listinfo/hesthavn-news. The website has information on how to subscribe to the Hesthavn-news bulletin board.

Paula Vanderheul

Field Notes

23 January – 24 February 2009

The period began with dry and pleasant, but cool, weather. Overall, we continued to lag behind long-term averages in precipitation. Temperatures were a couple degrees below average as well. Snow on Feb 10 and 26 reached the valley floor, but did not last long. Signs of spring, such as blooming flowers in town, increased throughout the period. Avian highlights of the period were a Pine Grosbeak on Marys Peak and a flock of 21 Lapland Longspurs at Corvallis airport. The Pyrrhuloxia continued in Peoria. Spring arrivals included Rufous Hummingbird, Band-tailed Pigeon, Tree Swallow, and Turkey Vulture.

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 Diamond Hill Road wetland is in Linn County.

Eight **Greater White-fronted Geese** were near Airlie, Polk County, 9 Feb (J. Geier). Three were at Cabell Marsh, 31 Jan. Two **Snow Geese** and one **Ross' Goose**, rare during winter, were at FNWR, 14 Feb. A **Canada Goose** got an early start at breeding, it was on a nest at EEW, 3 Feb (J. Geier).

Forty-eight **Trumpeter Swans** near Airlie, Polk County, 9 Feb, was a good local count (J. Geier). **Tundra Swan** numbers peaked at 695 at Cabell Marsh, 31 Jan; they declined to less than 200 by end of the period.

Numbers of dabbling ducks declined conspicuously during the period as many birds left our region. A female **Eurasian Wigeon** at Stewart Lake was last seen 23 Jan (J. Simmons); a male was there 5 Feb (N. Lidstrom, J. Simmons). A pair of **Cinnamon Teal** were at ANWR, 15 Feb (D. Boucher). One to four were seen on and off at Toketie Marsh throughout the period (m.ob.).

Diving ducks arrived as some species started moving northward. A single **Redhead** was at EEW, 8 Feb, for the only report of that species (J. Geier). Nine **Canvasbacks** at Philomath STP, 25 Feb were spring arrivals; 14 were also at Stewart Lake, 29 Jan, where they overwinter (J. Simmons). Small number of **Ring-necked Ducks** were arriving by 20 Feb. Scaup numbers broke 100 at Philomath STP, 14-26 Feb, all of which were Lessers. Scattered reports of 1 to 3 **Greater Scaup** from small ponds in the area occurred in the latter two weeks of the period (m.ob.). **Buffleheads** began appearing in larger numbers, 7 Feb, when 9 were at Philomath STP; previous high counts earlier in the year were of 3 birds. Four **Common Goldeneyes** were along the Willamette River at Willamette Park, 26 Jan (H. Herlyn); the species has been very rare this winter. A female **Red-breasted Merganser** was near Corvallis airport, 26 Feb.

Two **Mountain Quail** were near Coffin Butte, 4 Feb (J. Geier).

A **Turkey Vulture** passed by Bi-Mart in Corvallis, 26 Feb (R. Enck), but did not stop for any of the cheap prices. Even Bi-Mart prices are too high for a bird that prefers free roadkill.

Fifty **Red-tailed Hawks** and 9 **Rough-legged Hawks** were detected along the central Benton County raptor route, 17 Feb (M. Cutler, J. Landau). A **Prairie Falcon** was seen in southern Polk County, 10 Feb (J. Geier), where they are regularly encountered.

Shorebirds were fairly uncommon this winter, perhaps because of

the relatively dry conditions. A flock of 16 **Long-billed Dowitchers** at FNWR, 21 Feb, was the largest number of that species reported.

Coffin Butte again attracted gulls. In late Feb, up to 72 birds were there, including **California, Herring, Glaucous-winged, Mew,** and **Thayer's Gulls** (J. Geier, WDR).

Band-tailed Pigeons returned by 20 Feb, when one flew over McDonald Forest (WDR). They were back in small numbers by 22 Feb (B. Proebsting).

Feb is often a good time to hear owls because they start courting early in the year compared with many other species. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard near EEW and Coffin Butte, **Short-eared Owls** were found at FNWR and southern Polk County, and the more common **Western Screech-Owls, Barn Owls,** and **Great Horned Owls** were found during the period (ASC, J. Geier, m.ob.). The Lewellyn Rd **Burrowing Owl** continued at least through 17 Feb (M. Cutler), but activity at the airstrip after that time may have forced it to move elsewhere.

Anna's Hummingbirds were heavily engaged in courtship during the period. The first **Rufous Hummingbird** was a male in Corvallis, 19 Feb.

Northern Shrikes were reported from EEW and the FNWR prairie during the period (J. Geier, L. Millbank, B. Proebsting).

Two **Gray Jays** were encountered near Lewisburg Saddle, 1 Feb (G. Andrews).

Horned Larks winter in relatively good numbers at Corvallis airport. On 12 Feb, 95 birds were seen there (R. Moore, WDR).

Tree Swallows returned 21 Feb to FNWR, when one was at Cabell Marsh and another was at McFadden Marsh.

Flocks of **Western Bluebirds** were found regularly in and around town in late Jan and early Feb. By mid-Feb, some pairs were investigating nest boxes.

A **Northern Mockingbird** and a **Say's Phoebe** were north of Brownsville, Linn County, 7 Feb (R. Campbell).

Cedar Waxwings have been scarce this winter, so a flock of 100 at Stewart Lake, 24 Feb was noteworthy (J. Simmons).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at McFadden Marsh, 22 Feb (L. Millbank, D. Boucher); they are rare during winter; migrants are expected to return during late March.

A **Vesper Sparrow** was south of Greenberry Rd, 22 Jan (M. Cutler, J. Landau).

At EEW, 10 Feb, a **Swamp Sparrow** was cooperative enough to give J. Geier a good look at it.

Perhaps the largest flock ever found in the area, 21 **Lapland Longspurs** were at Corvallis airport, 12 Feb (WDR, R. Moore; see photo).

The Peoria **Pyrrhuloxia** continued at least until 12 Feb (R. Campbell).

A **Pine Grosbeak** was found (see photo) near the Marys Peak campground, 5 Feb, establishing the first documented record for Benton County.

American Goldfinches were generally present in low numbers in town, except for a flock near Stewart Lake. E-bird maps (ebird.org) showed that goldfinches were being most regularly detected in eastern Washington and California this year.

Next issue

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

W. Douglas Robinson
Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331
(541) 737-9501
Douglas.robinson@oregonstate.edu



This Lapland Longspur was one of 21 at Corvallis airport, 12 Feb (photo by W. D. Robinson)



This russet-plumaged Pine Grosbeak was found on Marys Peak, 5 Feb, and established the first photo-documented record for Benton County (photo by W. D. Robinson)

Atop the Nest Box

A tale of mistletoe berries and Neighborhood Naturalists

A major source of food for the winter survival of bluebirds is the berry of the mistletoe plant. I frequently find the seeds of mistletoe berries on posts and nest boxes and other places that bluebirds perch. The freshly passed seeds are very sticky, as they are coated in a layer of slime that is not destroyed by the birds' digestive process. On January 18th, during a Neighborhood Naturalist Adventure, I discussed this topic with Don and Lisa. They told me about an Australian bird known as the Mistletoe Bird. This is because the bird lives primarily on the fruit of mistletoes. The bird is known for doing a cute little dance to wipe its cloaca free

of the sticky seeds while they are being passed.

On the very same day that Don and Lisa told me of this, I stopped at a property where I occasionally provide homemade suet for overwintering bluebirds. A flock of five bluebirds was present. They went to the feeder, then perched in an isolated tree to preen when their hunger was satisfied. I was watching one of the females through my scope in order to identify her bands. She eliminated a blob of scat and, lo and behold, it remained suspended three or four inches below her, on a glistening strand reminiscent of a spider web. I realized at that moment that I was witnessing the passing of a mistletoe seed! She did not seem to be aware of her attachment. After two or three minutes, she turned 180 degrees on the tree limb and the "spider web" broke. I was quite amused by this, as I have observed many, many bluebirds in winter and found hundreds, if not thousands of eliminated mistletoe seeds, but never have I observed the elimination process.

I wonder if I would have noticed or recognized the process if Lisa and Don hadn't told me of the Mistletoe Bird. Thank you, Neighborhood Naturalists!

Raylene Gordin

Things to Consider Before Putting Up a Bluebird Box

Did you know that there is a Bluebird Nest Box Project? The Audubon Society of Corvallis (ASC) started this special project in 1976. Nearly 400 property owners in Benton and neighboring counties now participate. This effort resulted in a dramatic increase in the Western Bluebird population. A Bluebird Trail is a series of bluebird boxes at several sites. There are Bluebird Trails all across the United States and Canada.

What is a Bluebird Nest Box? A bluebird box is a wooden box that provides bluebirds, a cavity nester, with a place to nest. Bluebirds nest in holes made by other birds in decaying trees and wooden fence posts. Most of these cavity nest spots have disappeared due to changes in rural and forest habitat. We help bluebirds survive when we put up nest boxes and they help us by eating a huge number of insects. And, they sure are beautiful and enjoyable to watch! Please note that bluebirds require a nest box with a 1½-inch entrance hole. If you decide you would like to participate in the project by building and putting up a bluebird box or if you need a nest box, call Elsie Eltzroth at 541-745-7806 (ASC Bluebird Trail).

Got a Bluebird Nest Box? Now What? Put up the nest box now! Leave it in place all year. Location is everything. Bluebirds like open, sunny locations with short-cropped grasses and nearby perches. Place the box with the entrance hole facing east or northeast (away from the normal storm direction). If possible, face it toward trees so the young can fly into them when they leave the nest box

see "Atop the Nest Box" on next page

Atop the Nest Box, *continued from page 54*

for the first time. Hang the box from a fence post, pole, tree or the side of a building with the bottom 5 to 6 feet from the ground (to allow for easy monitoring). Bluebirds prefer and do better with a territory of about 100 yards from another nest box.

Protection and Competition: Predators can destroy all eggs, young and adults. Bluebird predators include cats, snakes, racoons, skunks, House Sparrows, humans and other birds. Keep the area beneath the nest box clear of dense brush and tall grass. Remove vines from the post or building since they will allow snakes easy access. Other cavity nesting birds may try to use the nest box and these may include Tree Swallows, Violet-green Swallows, House Wrens and Black-capped Chickadees. These are all native species, protected by law, and if they nest in the box you may not interfere, so enjoy them! House Sparrows and Starlings are non-native species and must be discouraged from using nest boxes and harassing nesters. For more information on managing predators and competitors, contact the Audubon Society of Corvallis or Elsie Eltzroth.

Want To Be A Bluebird Nest Box Monitor? Anybody with the desire can be a monitor. A Bluebird monitor is a volunteer who checks on one or more nest boxes during nesting season. Records are kept of nest box activity and a trail coordinator is notified once eggs are laid so nestlings can be banded for research being done by various organizations. Monitors can put up and monitor their own nest box and/or monitor other boxes on a Bluebird Trail. Monitoring usually starts in March and ends by early September. Learn as you go—no special skills needed. The job does require a commitment, but it is very rewarding! Call Elsie Eltzroth at 541-745-7806 for guidance and to get started.

Please note that this information sheet is just a summary. To begin, contact ASC, or Elsie Eltzroth and visit www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

Deb Savageau

Olympic BirdFest 2009

April 3 – 5, Sequim, Washington

Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic BirdFest 2009 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 3-5, 2009.

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!

Follow your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 5-7, 2009. Visit San Juan and Suci Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort.

Check out the offerings by going online (<http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>), or calling 360-681-4076 for a brochure.

Bob Hutchinson

Oregon's Botanical Heritage

Art show by M. Frances Stilwell

Mar 2 – 30: Corvallis Public Library Meeting Room

Oregon's Botanical Heritage, an art and science exhibition by Corvallis Audubon member M. Frances Stilwell, will be on view in the Corvallis Public Library meeting room, March 2-30. Twenty plein-air paintings in a variety of media honor Oregon's diverse landscapes and flora. Information about plant distribution of each species is included as well.

The show is open to the public during library open hours when the room is not in use. Call the library administration 766-6928 to check the schedule.

In 2000, Frances published *Come Walk Through Spring* with Bessie Gragg Murphy and her *Willamette Valley Wildflowers*, which she wrote and illustrated. She began her career in Biology and later crossed-over into Art. Since then she has exhibited throughout the Pacific Northwest.

M. Frances Stilwell

Many Birds are Moving North

Nearly 60% of the 305 species found in North America in winter are on the move, shifting their ranges northward by an average of 35 miles. Audubon scientists analyzed 40 years of citizen-science Christmas Bird Count data — and their findings provide new and powerful evidence that global warming is having a serious impact on natural systems. Northward movement was detected among species of every type, including more than 70 percent of highly adaptable forest and feeder birds.

Only grassland species were an exception - with only 38 percent mirroring the northward trend. But far from being good news for species like Eastern Meadowlark and Henslow's Sparrow, this reflects the grim reality of severely-depleted grassland habitat and suggests that these species now face a double threat from the combined stresses of habitat loss and climate adaptation.

It is the complete picture of widespread movement and the failure of some species to move at all that illustrate the impacts of climate change on birds. They are sending us a powerful signal that we need to 1) take policy action to

curb climate change and its impacts, and 2) help wildlife and ecosystems adapt to unavoidable habitat changes, even as we work to curb climate change itself.

National Audubon Website, <http://www.audubon.org/>

Lamentable Demise of a Carp

Photos by Neil Lidstrom



Contributors to the Chat

Diana Brin, Dave Mellinger, Karan and Jim Fairchild, Rich Armstrong, Leslie Green, Paula Vanderheul, Douglas Robinson, Raylene Gordin, Deb Savageau, Bob Hutchinson, M. Frances Stillwell

Migrant Arrivals

Bird phenology records in Corvallis date from 1970. The last phenology table was published in the Chat in March 1994. This list updates the arrivals through the spring of 2002. (M): Migrant, does not spend the season or breed in our area.

Average	Species	years	Earliest
Feb. 10	Tree Swallow	27	1/10
19	Turkey Vulture	29	1/17
27	Horned Grebe (M)	03	2/03
March 2	Rufous Hummingbird	32	2/14
3	Violet-green Swallow	29	2/21
13	Cinnamon Teal	27	1/31
16	Band-tailed Pigeon	20	2/04
19	Long-billed Dowitcher (M)	20	1/19
21	Orange-crowned Warbler	30	2/11
22	Osprey	30	1/28
31	Cliff Swallow	25	3/17
April 2	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	24	3/22
3	American Bittern	17	2/16
4	Common Yellowthroat	31	3/18
5	Barn Swallow	27	3/22
	Sora	20	2/22
8	Lesser Yellowlegs (M)	19	1/20
10	Black-throated Gray Warbler	30	3/15
	House Wren	24	2/21
11	Chipping Sparrow	26	3/07
14	Vesper Sparrow	13	3/19
15	Nashville Warbler	18	3/18
17	Cassin's Vireo	30	3/26
	Wilson's Warbler	28	4/03
20	Vaux's Swift	30	4/05
21	Solitary Sandpiper (M)	21	4/08
	Yellow-headed Blackbird	20	2/21
22	Hammond's Flycatcher	11	4/14
23	MacGillivray's Warbler	29	4/02
24	Semipalmated Plover (M)	17	2/07
	Warbling Vireo	28	3/20
26	Western Kingbird	23	4/15
27	Calliope Hummingbird (M)	13	4/06
	Western Tanager	27	2/28
28	Hermit Warbler	18	4/01
	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	26	4/02
29	Yellow Warbler	22	4/10
May	Purple Martin	10	3/17
3	Swainson's Thrush	24	4/05
	Western Wood-Pewee	27	4/07
5	Black-headed Grosbeak	29	4/03
	Bullock's Oriole	23	4/11
6	Blue-winged Teal (M)	20	4/21
	Lazuli Bunting	26	4/22
7	Olive-sided Flycatcher	23	4/20
	Red-necked Phalarope (M)	13	4/23
10	Wilson's Phalarope (M)	20	4/20
12	Yellow-breasted Chat	21	4/04
16	Willow Flycatcher	18	4/25
19	Black Tern (M)	07	4/02
June 4	Common Nighthawk	13	5/10
7	Eastern Kingbird (M)	04	5/23

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

President: Will Wright, Will.Wright@Monroe.k12.or.us,
753-4395
Vice-president: Diana Brin, dbrin13@yahoo.com, 908-6166
Secretary: Karan Fairchild, alderspr@peak.org, 929-4049
Treasurer: Judith Hays, haysj@comcast.net, 745-5692

Board Members

Board member: John Gaylord, gaylordjohng@aol.com,
745-5088
Board member: Linda Campbell, lcampbell@peak.org,
929-9420
Board member: Jerry Paul, jlpaul2006@msn.com, 745-3934
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491-3934
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745-5323

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DavidKMellinger@yahoo.com, 757-7953
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752-4313
Bluebird Trail Chair: Elsie Eltzroth, eltzroth@peak.org,
745-7806
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758-2275
Field Trip Chair: Rich Armstrong, richarmstrong@comcast.net,
753-1978
Sales Table team: Sally Shaw, 757-2749, shaws@peak.org
Bev Clark, oreflygirl12@earthlink.net,
753-4456
Refreshment Chair: Gail Nickerson, gailhops@aol.com,
754-0406
Field Notes Compiler: Douglas Robinson, douglas.
robinson@oregonstate.edu, 737-9501
Newsletter Editors: Joan Newhouse and Neil Lidstrom,
chateditors@gmail.com, 754-3120

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

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the **CHAT**

*Renew your membership before the date on the
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Calendar

Mar 2-30: Oregon's Botanical Heritage art show
Mar 14: Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
Mar 19: General meeting
Mar 21: Hesthavn work party and open house
Mar 22: Hesthavn Kids' workshop
Mar 24: Field notes submission deadline for April Chat
Mar 26: Article submission deadline for April Chat
Apr 3-5: Migratory Bird Festival, Burns, Oregon
Apr 3-5: Olympic BirdFest, Sequim, Washington
Apr 11: Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
Apr 25: ASC Birdathon
May 2: Annual Hesthavn Open House



Yellow-rumped Warbler photo by Matt Lee

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