



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

September 2009

VOL. 39

1

General Meeting

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

On the Wing

a film directed by Dan Viens from Real Earl Productions



On the Wing tells the story of a remarkable flock of Vaux's Swifts that, since the early 1980's, have taken up residence in the chimney at Chapman Elementary School in Portland during the month of September.

Each night during the swifts' residency, thousands of them fill the sky above Chapman Elementary School. Just before sunset, the birds form a dramatic vortex and dive into the chimney in an amazing aerial display. In years past, the flock, at nearly 40,000 birds, has been estimated to be the largest collection of roosting swifts in North America.

The film documents the birds' 2007 residency. Interviews with members of the crowd, neighbors and faculty of Chapman Elementary, Audubon Society of Portland staff and a cast of characters explain how the phenomenon came to be and how it has evolved into what it is today. Amazing footage of the birds, including a view from inside the chimney, gives audiences an extraordinary, never-before-seen view of the swifts.

On the Wing captures the quirky community, energy and excitement of the entire swifts phenomenon and exhibits what can happen when people step up to take care of the beauty that exists in their own back yard. A similar swift-watch takes place in Corvallis in early fall – come to our meeting to hear about it.

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.

Directions

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

From <http://www.swiftsmovie.com/film.html>, with editing by Carroll DeKock and Dave Mellinger

Vaux's Swift Migration Survey

Vaux's Swift counters needed

Vaux's Swifts are unique to western North America. During spring and fall migration, they use communal roosts for flocks of dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of birds. Historically, these roosts were mainly in large-diameter hollow snags, but with the disappearance of most ancient forests, Vaux's Swifts have become more reliant on chimneys. This makes them vulnerable to disturbance of their roosting sites.

The Vaux's Swift Migration Survey is Oregon's contribution to the Vaux's Happening (<http://vauxshappening.org/>) migration roost survey that started with a few Audubon Society chapters in the northern Puget Sound region of Western Washington, and has now expanded to include all of the states along the Pacific Coast.

see "Swift Counters Needed" on next page

In this issue:

Bluebird trail news	2
When Birders Drink Folger's, part 2	2
Fall migratory bird count	3
Malheur Refuge plan	5
Crow Planet	5
Note from the new conservation chair	6
Kids' Day for Conservation	6
November silent auction	6
Chocolate Birds	6
Wildlife photography exhibition	7

Swift Counters Needed

continued from front page

The aim is to identify and monitor as many Vaux's Swift roosting sites as possible in order to improve understanding of their population and whether it might be declining. The survey aims to document as many roosts for as much of the migration season as possible, depending on the number of volunteers. **On September 12, 2009, we have a special goal of surveying all major migration roosts.**

If you would like to volunteer to count Vaux's Swifts, please visit the website at http://www.oregonbirds.org/vauxs_swift_survey.html. Here you'll find a video of a tornado of swifts (scroll down a bit in the website and look on the right side), surveying tips, a data sheet you can print and use to record what you see, and a calendar to sign up on.

Nicole Nielsen-Pincus

Bluebird Trail News

Elsie hands the Bluebird Trail baton to Raylene Gordin

My illness this summer came as a complete surprise and as a result, I recommended to the Audubon Society of Corvallis that management of the entire ASC Bluebird Trail be turned over to Raylene Gordin.

Raylene has the confidence, the expertise, the willingness and the passion to work with the volunteers, home/property owners and sub-banders who have performed wonderfully throughout the years making our Trail a nationally known ASC educational grassroots endeavor. She has the knowledge to create additional monitoring teams now that the ASC Bluebird Trail has expanded to include Linn County with a few boxes established in Marion and Polk Counties.

I would like the ultimate goal of the ASC Bluebird Trail to be: to develop a cohesive group of volunteers, sub-banders, and property owners, who will work together to continue to expand this most worthwhile project.

Along with Rita Snyder, Raylene Gordin and all the other Bluebird helpers, I wish to thank my children, Bruce Eltzroth, Karen Harvey, and Bobbie Kelley for their monumental tasks of helping create a Power Point Program for future educational purposes; and for compiling records of nest boxes, banding information, names and addresses of the hundreds of Bluebird enthusiasts who currently participate in the ASC Bluebird Trail.

Elsie K. Eltzroth, ASC Bluebird Trail Chair (Retired)

When birders drink Folger's, part 2

*Taken from Coffee & Conservation,
<http://www.coffeehabitat.com/>*

[Part 1, which was published in the Summer Chat, made the point that shade grown coffee preserves habitat and is very important to birds, and that mass produced coffee and grocery store brands are bad for the environment.] Last Saturday was International Migratory Bird Day. This annual event coincides with the peak of spring migration and is intended to increase awareness of birds and their conservation throughout the Western Hemisphere. Lots of organizations,

and refuges have birding events. I was reading about one of these celebrations (I later heard 15,000 people showed up) and the author made this comment on a picture of a throng of birders lined up on the trail: "There is tens of thousands of dollars of camera hardware in this photo, and the total value of optics and camera equipment on the trail would be utterly staggering if it could be tallied." I immediately wondered how many of these affluent people spent a few extra bucks to make sure that the coffee they drank supported the birds they were photographing, watching, and enjoying so much.

Probably not that many; I've written before about how resistant birders can be to changing their coffee-buying habits. The top reasons I've heard over and over are that shade-grown/sustainably-grown coffee is too expensive, or too inconvenient (certified shade coffee, in large part due to lack of demand, can be hard to find). The latter is really related to the former. I can't imagine anything more easy than ordering coffee online to be delivered to my door, and there is plenty of sustainable coffee available this way. But this adds shipping to the cost, so it again comes down to price.

For the most part, this is a flimsy excuse coming from most active birders. Here are some facts:

A 1991 profile of American Birding Association members showed that 46% of members responding to the survey had incomes over \$50,000.

The same study showed that ABA members spent \$3,374 annually on birding, with 74% of that total going toward travel to see birds, and 17% on equipment.

Around the same time, a survey of active birders in the general public showed 16% had incomes greater than \$50,000 (at a time when the average U.S. income was \$20,000).

That study provided an annual expenditure per birder of \$1,852, of which 71% was travel related.

A more recent survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that 27% of people who lived in households earning greater than \$75,000 identified themselves as bird watchers.

I've already pointed out that great, sustainably-grown coffee doesn't actually cost that much on a per cup basis. How about on an annual basis, to put the expense in line with the figures above?

While your mileage may vary, a pound of coffee generally yields about 40 to 45 eight-ounce cups of coffee. If you drink two cups a day, you go through 18 to 20 pounds of coffee a year. If you buy cheap, unsustainable supermarket coffee you probably pay between \$5 and \$7 a pound. I'm asking you to buy tasty, sustainably-grown coffee from a smaller specialty roaster, at around \$10 to \$13 a pound, or somewhere around \$100 to \$150 more a year.

Another report described birders as "... the major, perhaps only, user-group of neotropical migratory birds." Many of the active birders I know wouldn't blink an eye at gassing up the car and taking off to see a rare bird hundreds of miles away, and many I know do this several times a year. But they are unwilling to spend the money to make sure those birds are around in years to come. Maybe the goal is to make all birds rare. If so, by drinking cheap coffee, they are doing a good job.

(Please see Ms. Craves' website at coffeehabitat.com/2009/02/when-birders-drink-folgers.html for her sources.)

Julie Craves

Field Trip Schedule

Monthly Year-Round Saturday Field Trips

Sept 12: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

Oct 10: 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, 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.

Full-Day Birding Trips

Sept 19: Fern Ridge Reservoir Wildlife Area

About three or four times a year we schedule full-day trips to the coast and to refuges within Oregon. On these trips we carpool, sharing the cost of gas with the drivers. Everyone should bring a large lunch, water/drinks, binoculars, spotting scope (if available), and layers of warm clothing, sturdy shoes, and rain gear. We meet at the Benton Center (LBCC) parking lot, 757 Polk Ave, in Corvallis. Contact Rich Armstrong at richarmstrong@comcast.net or 541-753-1978 with any questions.

Spring 2010 Weekend Field Trips

Mar 19 – 21: Bandon/South Coast

Apr 16 – 18: Klamath Basin

Apr 30 – May 2: Rogue Valley

May 20 – 23: Malheur NWR

June 18 – 20: 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 Fred Ramsey with your requests at framsey5@comcast.net.

Please note:

The Rogue Valley and Malheur trips require deposits by February 28, 2010.

The Rogue Valley trip includes a play at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. The play this year will be Hamlet. A deposit of \$40 is required for the play.

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

Rich Armstrong

Bicycle Birding (last one until next May!)

Sept 27 Destination: Starker Park, Community Garden & Sunset Park

The rides happen from 9 am until noon. Meet at Avery Park Rose Garden, 1210 SW Avery Drive in Corvallis.

The trip is free. Bring a bicycle helmet, water and binoculars. We ride slowly, listen for birds and stop frequently. Trip length is less than 10 miles. For more information, contact Don Boucher, 753-7689, bouchdon@peak.org.

Don Boucher

Fall Migratory Bird Count

Mark September 19 on your calendar

The North American Migration Count (NAMC) is like the Christmas Bird Count, but with a few twists. The area is not a 15 mile diameter circle but an entire county. The big twist is the timing: unlike Christmas Bird Counts, which are spread over several weeks, this count is done in Oregon over a single weekend.

The goals of the NAMC are:

- Have fun
- To obtain a “snapshot” of the process of spring and fall migrations
- To obtain information on the abundance and distribution of each species
- Initiate more participation among birders within a state and between states
- Create challenges and goals among birders while collecting useful information
- Aid in organization and centralization of data

The North American Migration Count is an event not affiliated with any particular organization and there is no fee to participate. In Oregon, the East Cascades Bird Conservancy (ECBC) coordinates the event.

The count has been designed so that it is outside everyone's house, and not limited to a set of widely-spaced, discrete circles. After all, migratory birds are everywhere and should be of concern to everyone. But you should remember to count all the birds (not just migrants). Participation by ALL birders, irrespective of skill or style, is encouraged. So whether you just count the birds in your yard, visit a favorite spot for an hour or two or spend the entire day birding, I would appreciate a report from you. Please provide a count for each bird seen listed by location (this way, I can amalgamate counts from the same location such as Cabell Marsh, Philomath Sewage Pond, etc.). Also provide the amount of time spent birding and mileage broken down by method of transportation (i.e. foot, car, bicycle, etc.).

If possible, please let me know ahead of time if you plan to participate. Also feel free to ask me any questions. I can be contacted at marciafcutler@comcast.net or 752-4313.

Marcia F. Cutler

Field Notes

8 July – 25 August 2009

Late summer is time for plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, great weather, and lots of outdoor activities. Birds are finishing up their nesting activities and some species have started heading south already. Among the birds that really get moving are the shorebirds. This period found several species arriving at the few local wet spots, although no shocking rarities were reported. Waterfowl migration also began as dabbling ducks arrived. In the next month, many songbirds will be on the move, the first waves of white-fronted geese will appear, and some raptors will be moving through our area.

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.

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** in a field next to Philomath STP were the first fall arrivals, 23 Aug (C. Karlen, P. Sullivan). The two were well ahead of the major push, which will come next month.

No reports of unusual breeding records of ducks were received this time. However, fall migration, particularly of teal, was well underway. Numbers of **Cinnamon Teal** increased to 11 on 25 Jul at Philomath STP, which was up from the two that were there most of the previous three weeks. The arrival of new birds suggests the start of the fall migration. The highest count at Philomath STP was of 113 on 15 Aug. A few **Blue-winged Teal** joined them, with a high count of 12 on 8 & 9 Aug at Philomath STP. **Gadwall** returned to Philomath STP 12 Aug, when two were there. An **American Wigeon** arrived at FNWR, 25 Aug. The first **Northern Shoveler** was one at Philomath STP, 2 Aug. By the end of the period, numbers had climbed to 60. A **Northern Pintail** at Philomath STP, 9 & 10 Aug, was the first of fall. On 24 Jul, 5 **Green-winged Teal** arrived at Cabell Marsh, and were the first individuals of the fall.

Divers had not yet begun to appear in the area. A female **Ring-necked Duck**, perhaps injured, was at EEW, 13 & 15 Aug (J. Geier). **Hooded Mergansers** bred at EEW; 4 kids were there, 22 Jul (J. Geier). Up to 16 Hooded Mergansers spent the period at Philomath STP; the species has been rare to uncommon there during past summers.

Broods of **Mountain Quail** were detected on Marys Peak, 13 & 19 Aug. No reports of observations from lower elevations were received.

An immature **Eared Grebe** arrived at Philomath STP, 18 Aug and was still there through 25 Aug. The arrival date seems to be the earliest on record for our area. A **Western Grebe** stopped at Philomath STP for a few hours on 21 Aug.

American White Pelicans continued throughout the period at Cabell Marsh; numbers fluctuated from a few to about 15. Two **Double-crested Cormorants** at Philomath STP, 22 Aug, were the first of fall.

A **Great Egret** returned to Cabell Marsh, 11 Aug, after being absent for several weeks. One was also at EEW on 13 Aug (J. Geier). Ten had returned to McFadden Marsh by 25 Aug. Annual in late summer, but rare, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** foraged in a puddle at McFadden Marsh, 25 Aug (m.ob., see photo).

A **White-tailed Kite** was at the FNWR prairie, 13 Aug (M. Monroe). Two were along Bellfountain Rd, 24 Aug.

A **Merlin** returned to Philomath STP, 27-29 Jul, for an uncommon late summer sighting. A different individual was there 15-24 Aug; it

spent much of its time catching and eating dragonflies and Violet-green Swallows.

Quite surprising was an **American Golden-Plover** that called as it flew over Philomath STP, 22 Jul, representing about the second local record of the species.

An early **Solitary Sandpiper** passed by Philomath STP, 11 Jul. Another, or perhaps two different individuals, were at Cabell Marsh, 22 & 25 Aug. The species can be quite hard to find during autumn, so three records is above normal.

The first **Greater Yellowlegs** of fall was found at Philomath STP on 14 Jul. Another was flying over Safeway on Philomath Blvd, 27 Jul (L. Millbank). The first **Lesser Yellowlegs** were two weeks behind their larger relatives; two were at Philomath STP, 28 Jul.

It was an above average showing for **Whimbrels**. One was at Baskett Slough NWR, 12 Jul (R. Gerig). One flew over Cabell Marsh, 11 Aug, and another flew over Philomath STP, 25 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpipers also made a good showing. Philomath STP had singles, 13-14 Jul and 1 Aug; and two, 6 Aug. One was at Cabell Marsh, 25 Aug, as well. At least two were at the Diamond Hill Rd wetland in Jul, too (R. Moore). The first **Western Sandpipers** were 12 on 7 Jul at Philomath STP. **Least Sandpipers** were earlier; one was at Philomath STP, 1 Jul. Numbers of Leasts peaked at 108 on 8 Aug at Philomath SP.

Several **Baird's Sandpipers** passed by, largely without stopping. One was at Diamond Hill Rd wetland, 31 Jul (R. Moore). At Philomath STP, flybys were detected 4, 15, 18 (2), and 21 Aug.

A **Pectoral Sandpiper** stopped to forage at Philomath STP, 4 Aug. **Short-billed Dowitchers** are rather uncommon during fall. Three to six stopped by Cabell Marsh, 22 & 25 Aug. The first **Long-billed Dowitchers** of fall were three at Philomath STP, 11 Jul. A **Wilson's Snipe** at EEW, 15 Aug, was probably a returning migrant (J. Geier).

Four juvenile **Wilson's Phalaropes** foraged at Philomath STP, 12-15 Jul. The first **Red-necked Phalaropes** arrived at Philomath STP, 22 Jul; the maximum count so far this fall was 15 there, 25 Aug.

A rarity during summer, a **Bonaparte's Gull** spent the day at Philomath STP, 15 Jul. **Ring-billed Gulls** returned to Philomath STP, 22 Jul, when three were there. **California Gulls** were two weeks ahead of them; the first arrivals were two juveniles on 7 Jul at Philomath STP. Numbers of California Gulls peaked at 58, 22 Jul. A single California Gull was at Toketie Marsh, 27 Jul (J. Geier).

Caspian Terns flew by Philomath STP, 16 Jul (2) and 1 Aug. **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continue to increase in numbers. 9 were along Llewellyn Road, 9 Aug (J. Geier).

No **Common Nighthawks** were detected at EEW or Luckiamute Landing this year (J. Geier), but a few were found at their regular haunts in the Coast Range (W. Wright, m.ob.).

Hummingbirds fledged their kids and began leaving the area, especially Rufous males. Unusual out of town, an **Anna's Hummingbird** was near Camp Adair, 18-19 Jul (W. & J. Geier).

Black Phoebes wandered around the Valley floor, as they typically do, during Aug. Singles showed up at Philomath STP, 9 & 15 Aug, and at Cabell Marsh, 11 Aug.

A **Red-eyed Vireo** was singing at EEW, 13 Aug (J. Geier); none were detected at Luckiamute Landing, where they have been regular in the past, this year. One was at Philomath STP, 20 Aug; it and the EEW bird were likely to be fall migrants.

Swallows finished breeding and began leaving the area or congregating in local roosts. **Tree and Cliff Swallows** had largely departed by the end of the period, whereas large groups of **Barn and Violet-green Swallows** were beginning to appear in mid-Aug. Small concentrations of **Purple Martins** were noted, including 5 at Philomath STP, 6 Aug, and 13 at Cabell Marsh, 25 Aug. A single **Bank Swallow** at Philomath SP, 23 Jul, was the only report during the period.

Swainson's Thrushes finished up breeding and were just beginning their migration at the end of the period. Nocturnal calls were first

heard 21 Aug.

An **Audubon's Warbler** at Cabell Marsh was unusual, being about 4 weeks ahead of the first fall migrants. Perhaps it was a bird dispersing from a breeding site in the Coast Range. The first **Townsend's Warblers** of fall migration were six on Marys Peak, 19 Aug. They joined 103 **Hermit Warblers** counted there that same day. A count of 25 **MacGillivray's Warblers** on Marys Peak, 5 Aug, reveals the timing of peak passage for that species; quite a bit earlier than one might expect.

Wilson's Warblers do not breed at Cabell Marsh, so the first birds of the fall indicate the beginning of post-breeding movements. This year, the first one detected at Cabell was there 11 Jul.

Like Wilson's Warblers, **Dark-eyed Juncos** do not breed at Cabell Marsh; the first juveniles of the year arrived there, 11 Jul. **Brewer's Sparrows** were found twice at Cabell Marsh. Two were there 24 Jul and one was present, 3 Aug. In the Soap Creek Valley, Joel Geier counted 14 **Vesper Sparrows** and 18 **Chipping Sparrows** on 10 Jul. No Vespers were at Luckiamute Landing this year (J. Geier).

Bullock's Orioles migrate very early. Some were moving by late Jul, when 5 were at EEW (J. Geier).

Please send your reports for the next issue by 22 September to:
W. Douglas Robinson
Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331
(541) 737-9501
Douglas.robinson@oregonstate.edu



An immature Black-crowned Night-Heron stalked tadpoles in a puddle at McFadden Marsh, 25 August (photo by Andy Hoffman).

September Hesthavn News

Work parties and open house scheduled for Sept 26, Oct 24, & Nov 21

Come join us from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday September 26, October 24, and November 21 to pull invasive teasel, thistle and false brome.

From 10 am to 1 pm on the same dates, Hesthavn will have open house visitation. Stop by to check out the new rainwater catchments system. Take a walk along the trail to discover the fall experience of wildlife, trees and shrubs, stream bank habitat and native plants. Visit the Nature Center museum bird specimens and see the egg and nest display.

Map directions are available at www.audubon.corvallis.or.us. The nature trail is open to the public every day.

The Nature Center educational program for children age 6 to 11 is in need of adult instructors to present nature classes on birds, habitats, wildlife, and stream ecology to be held at Hesthavn. Our Art and Nature class instructor Leslie Green offers four opportunities during the year for children. The classes are two-hour presentations. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering with our educational program.

We offer nature classes to schools and other community groups as well.

If you are looking for an opportunity to volunteer during a weekday at the Nature Center, we have plenty of tasks to offer someone who could help with weeding invasive weeds, mowing, watering native trees and shrubs and other odd jobs. Contact me at 541-752-0470 or vanderp@peak.org.

Paula Vanderheul

Malheur Refuge Plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has begun work on its comprehensive conservation plan for Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and will be soliciting initial comments until October 15. The process kicked off in early June with a four-day biological review, followed by a visitor services review last month; both sessions included "non-traditional" participants from the local community and non-government organizations. The service has committed to make this a collaborative process and will be working closely with the Oregon Consensus Program and the High Desert Partnership, a community-based organization that received funding earlier this year from the Intermountain West Joint Venture to help support conservation efforts in the Harney Basin.

For more information, visit the website for the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge: <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2009/June/Day-29/i15271.htm>

Marcia Cutler

Book Review: Crow Planet

Recently I read Lyanda Lynn Haupt's new book *Crow Planet, Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness*. Haupt blends her own crow experiences with science, philosophy, history, mythology and the experience of others to make an emotionally mature and thoughtful assessment of crows. She makes it clear that crows are complex, intelligent, native birds without romanticizing or demonizing them.

To Haupt, crows represent a part of nature that society must to come to terms with. The boundary between wild nature and urban blight may seem self evident, but Haupt's lesson from crows shows that this boundary is a human abstraction. She describes her own discovery of the intimate relationship between her family and the wild things in her urban neighborhood of Seattle and credits a crow for inspiring this discovery.

Read this book and you learn a thing or two about crows. Haupt also brings to you a message of concern and hope for the future of this planet and all its inhabitants.

Don Boucher

Protecting our Planet

Note from the new conservation chair

Hopefully the winds of change are blowing for the cause of conservation. Some major changes have recently taken place which are noteworthy. Oil drilling has been curtailed on National Parks. Drilling rigs near Canyonlands Park, Utah have been dismantled and taken away. Roadless forest areas have been reaffirmed, thus protecting countless acres of pristine forest and streams. Here near home, the infamous WOPR clear cutting plan for millions of acres of old growth has been laid to rest. But all is not finished and efforts are needed to achieve action on global warming, renewable energy, and sustainable living. Let us continue with determination on Audubon Society of Corvallis environmental awareness and help make the light at the end of the tunnel a green one

John Gaylord

Kids Day for Conservation

Saturday, October 3

Once again ASC will have a booth at Kids Day for Conservation which will be held at the Benton County Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 10 am until 4 pm.

This seventh annual event is free, fun, and focused on hands-on natural resources education designed to help kids make a difference for conservation in their community. Over 40 natural resources-connected organizations and businesses will be on hand to present a wide variety of activities suitable for children of all ages.

You will explore wind and solar energy. There will be do-it-yourself nature art projects. You can build a bird house to take home, climb a "rock wall", and shoot a bow and arrow. Explore a "soil tunnel" to see what goes on underground. Learn how to conserve energy. Participate in the Oregon Forest Scavenger Hunt and learn about farm and forest products that are produced locally. Come and throw an atlatl and discover the magic of wood! Shoot a bow and arrow! This is only a sample of all that you can see and do at Kids Day!

The event will be held under cover, rain or shine. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

ASC's booth will feature a "Fill the Bill" exploration of how birds use different bill types to eat food. If you are interested in helping out at the booth for a few hours, please contact Marcia Cutler at marciacutler@comcast.net or 752-4313.

Marcia F. Cutler

November Silent Auction

Don't miss your chance to take a look at this signed and numbered print by Maine biologist and wildlife artist, Mark McCollough, which will be the feature of a silent auction at our November 19th meeting. It will be available for viewing at the Book and Raffle table during the September and October general meetings.

Bidding can be done through any of our Audubon officers if you are unable to attend the November meeting. Between meetings, the print can be viewed privately at Sally Shaw's home. Call her at 541-757-2749 to make arrangements.

Sally Shaw



Signed and numbered print by Maine biologist and wildlife artist, Mark McCollough, will be auctioned at our November 19th meeting

Chocolate Birds

I'm a birder; "birdwatcher" is mildly derogatory these days. I usually seek regular birds; I also look for irregular ones. In particular, I'm always on the lookout for chocolate birds. These creatures can sometimes be found hanging out in chocolate trees or sleeping in confectionary boutiques. They are fairly easy to spot and even catch, because of their limited mobility.

These birds range from white to dark brown and are usually sweet little animals; but they can be somewhat bitter, but not vicious or mean. In seeking these birds, look in shaded, cool locations, avoiding direct sunlight. The chocolate bird's call is seldom heard, but is reported to sound like "cocoa, cocoa."

Chocolate birds exhibit a special versatility, as they can be melted, poured into a mold of your choice, and the result used in various ways. I once poured some into a Cessna 172 mold. I flew down to Monterey Bay with my girlfriend – who I also got from a mold – for a romantic dinner on the waterfront at sunset.

Chocolate birds are marvelous creatures!

Gary Gibson

Book Chat

A note from the sales table team

An important new revised publication, Handbook of Oregon Birds, compiled by our own Hendrik Herlyn and Eugene's Alan Contreras, has just been published by OSU Press. It is in paperback, has a complete new map set, vagrant seasonality maps, and revised distribution information.

Thanks to Oregon Field Ornithologists' (OFO) financial support, this new edition of Handbook of Oregon Birds has a section of color plates in the middle featuring both photos and art. All royalties from the sale of this wonderful book go to OFO. We'll have copies available for purchase for \$20.00 at our September meeting.

Sally Shaw, CFS Book and Raffle Table

Wildlife Photography Exhibit

Audubon members and wildlife photographers, Sharon and Larry Rosenkoetter, will have their photography exhibited from August 31 until September 27 at the LaSells-Stewart Center at Oregon State University. The exhibit is co-sponsored by the OSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. The Rosenkoetters would like to extend an invitation to Audubon members to join them for the exhibit and for a reception on September 11 from 4:30 to 8:30 pm. For a sneak preview, visit pargonsofnature.com.

Sharon and Larry Rosenkoetter

GreenTip OF THE MONTH

Home solar rebates

Starting this year, a federal tax credit covers up to 30 percent of a residential solar system's cost. In addition, Oregon also offers a tax credit of up to \$1,500 each year for four years. The Energy Trust of Oregon offers a \$6,000 rebate for solar installers. Combined, those credits can reduce the cost of a \$22,000 residential solar system by nearly 85 percent, bringing the installation cost down to about \$3,400.

A solar system will save you about a third of your energy bill, which, in the long run, will pay for the system. In addition, having a solar system will add value to your home. The life span of a solar system is typically more than 25 years. But you'll have to pay several thousand dollars upfront because tax credits will be paid out over a number of years.

For more information, go to www.oregon.gov/energy/renew/solar.

Dave Mellinger

Contributors to the Chat

Carroll DeKock, Dave Mellinger, Nicole Nielsen-Pincus, Elsie Eltzroth, Julie Craves, Rich Armstrong, Don Boucher, Paula Vanderheul, John Gaylord, Douglas Robinson, Marcia Cutler, Sally Shaw, Gary Gibson, Sharon and Larry Rosenkoetter.



This Green Heron photo was taken on the Willamette River by Neil Lidstrom

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

President: Will Wright, willwright26@q.com, 753-4395
Vice-president: David K. Mellinger,
DavidKMellinger@yahoo.com, 757-7953
Secretary: Karan Fairchild, alderspr@peak.org, 929-4049
Treasurer: Fred Ramsey, flramsey5@comcast.net, 753-3677

Board Members

Raylene Gordin, gordin@centurytel.net, 258-6825
Gail Nickerson, gailhops@aol.com, 754-0406
Jerry Paul, jlpaul2006@msn.com, 745-3934
Carroll DeKock, candgdecock@centurytel.net, 491-3934
Becky Schwiebert, Schwiebert@linkline.com, 310-729-5039
Gail Andrews, gailandrews@peak.org, 745-5323
Alternative: Glen Akins, gnlakins@comcast.net, 745-5447

Committees and Coordinators

Conservation Chair: John Gaylord, gaylordjohn@aol.com,
745-5088
Education Chair: Marcia F. Cutler, marciafcutler@comcast.net,
752-4313
Bluebird Trail Chair: Raylene Gordin, gordin@centurytel.net,
258-6825
Christmas Bird Count Compiler: Marcia Cutler,
marciafcutler@comcast.net, 752-4313
Hesthavn Chair: Paula Vanderheul, vanderp@peak.org,
752-0470
Publicity Chair: Don Boucher, bouchdon@peak.org, 753-7689
Webmaster: Tom Haig, tomhaig@hotmail.com, 231-6583
Birdathon Coordinator: Mary van Brocklin,
maryvanbrocklin@yahoo.com, 745-7170
Membership Chair: Karl Hartzell, karlerun@yahoo.com,
758-2275
Field Trip Chair: Rich Armstrong, richarmstrong@comcast.net,
753-1978
Sales Table team: Sally Shaw, shaws@peak.org, 757-2749
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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 56
Corvallis, OR



Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

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

Calendar

Sept 10: Board meeting
Sept 12: Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
Sept 17: General meeting
Sept 19: Full day birding at Fernridge
Sept 22: Field notes submission deadline for Oct Chat
Sept 24: Article submission deadline for Oct Chat
Sept 26: Hesthavn work party
Sept 27: Bicycle birding
Oct 3: Kids Day for Conservation
Oct 10: Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
Oct 24: Hesthavn work party



Role Reversal? Photos by Matt Lee

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, \$35 for a family, \$15 for a student. Chat-only subscriptions (email delivery only) are \$15.

Printed on Recycled Paper