



# Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

Summer 2010

VOL. 39

#10

## General Meeting

*Please note: There will be no ASC general meeting during summer months.*

## Board Election Results

The new ASC board was elected by acclaim during the May general meeting. Thanks and congratulations to all. Officers for 2010-2011 are:

President: Will Wright

Vice President and Program Chair: Dave Mellinger

Secretary: Karan Fairchild

Treasurer: Fred Ramsey

Board Members-at-Large: Gail Nickerson;

Glenn Aikens; Raylene Gordin; Lori McGovern;

Tom Penpraze; Linda Campbell

*Will Wright*

## Summer Board Meeting

**29 July: Hesthavn Nature Center**

8590 NW Oak Creek Drive.

Potluck 5:30pm, meeting to follow.

All members welcome to attend!

*Karan Fairchild*

## Gulf Oil Spill

The oil platform explosion off Louisiana's Gulf Coast continues to be a monumental environmental disaster as millions of gallons of oil head for land, putting birds, other wildlife and the coastal environment in grave danger. All of you are aware of this on-going tragedy and may be asking how you can help.

### Audubon Mobilizing to Help

Audubon staff across the country are marshalling resources and personnel to respond to the looming disaster. Audubon Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi staff and chapters are working to prepare for impacts to birds, wildlife and important habitat as the spill makes its way toward land.

Audubon is coordinating volunteer efforts and you can help! While every hand is needed and welcome, it's vital that volunteers offer their help through coordinated efforts like this so that the greatest good can be focused where it is needed the most. Audubon has our people on the ground and is working with state and federal agencies leading the response - we can help find the best volunteer job for you.

If you have not already submitted comments on the Interior Department plan to expand offshore oil and gas drilling, now is the time. A long-term energy strategy should focus on clean, job-producing, renewable technologies, not expanded drilling off our sensitive coasts.

*Philip B. Kavits, V.P.,  
Audubon Chief Communications &  
Marketing Officer*

### eBird Keeps Tabs on Birds

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has affected everyone who cares about birds and nature. As oil continues to gush into the ocean from the Deepwater Horizon well, Gulf Coast bird watchers are now taking action by surveying beaches and marshes for birds. By entering their counts at <[www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)>, they are helping scientists track hundreds of species that could be affected as the oil spreads toward land.

*See "Oil Spill" on next page*

#### In this issue:

10th Annual Birdathon	74
24th Oregon Shorebird Festival	74-75
Field Trip Schedule	75
Bicycle Birding	75
Hesthavn News	75
Field Notes	76-77
Who's Being Seen	78
Green Tip of the Month	78
Atop the Nestbox	79
Contributors to the Chat	79

## **Oil Spill** *continued from front page*

eBird, is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society. Anyone can view maps showing where each species is and how many are being reported up to the hour by visiting [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org). The new eBird Gulf Coast Oil Spill Bird Tracker on the site enables people to gain quick access to interactive maps showing the latest bird reports.

Launched in 2002, eBird gathers data on all North American bird species, amassing more than 1.5 million bird observations per month. Scientists analyze these data with landscape information such as climate, human population, and habitat to see how birds are affected by environmental changes, not just during disasters, but all the time.

The Cornell Lab and Audubon have mobilized birders in all the Gulf Coast states to report their sightings to eBird. Since May 4, volunteers have submitted more than 175,000 observations--key data that can be compared with past years to understand the oil's impact on birds and pinpoint locations for immediate and long-term recovery. Please contribute your sightings to [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org).

Unlike birds, which thousands of people monitor every day, no baseline data exist to help scientists assess the oil's impact on the Gulf's largest animals--whales. This week, the Cornell Lab's bioacoustics team is deploying autonomous underwater recorders in the Gulf to record the sounds of sperm whales, Bryde's whales, other marine mammals, and fish. These data will provide key information about how marine life is responding in areas affected and unaffected by oil--the first step in taking action to help.

The success of recovery from the oil spill depends on our nation's ability to anticipate and assess the damage, prioritize clean-up efforts, and implement long-term recovery. Gathering information about the effect of oil on animals is crucial to each of these steps. Please join us in making a positive difference by reporting your sightings to eBird or by making a donation to support our work. Please use our secure server to donate online or call (866) 989-BIRD.

*Kenneth V. Rosenberg  
Director, Conservation Science  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

## **10th Annual Birdathon A Big Success**

Another year, another successful Birdathon! Eight teams, made up 19 people (plus one field-trip crew), participated in this year's Birdathon: finding sponsors to pledge to their team, then going out one weekend in April to see as many bird species as they could see. Most teams birded the mid-Valley and the Newport-area coast, but some ranged as far as Klamath Basin and Arizona

We spotted a total of 751 species and raised \$4350 in pledges for Hesthavn Nature Center and Sanctuary. These funds will make up the bulk of Hesthavn's budget for the coming year, and as we've seen in the past, this money will

go far in creating lasting structures, native plant and wildlife habitat, and meaningful nature-education programs.

A special thank you goes to our business sponsors. Wild Birds Unlimited gave a pledge to every team again this year, jump-starting everyone's fundraising efforts. And Peak Sports donated a set of hiking poles, which were awarded by random drawing among all team participants.

We also had three generous people who sponsored every team up front. Don Boucher, a faithful Birdathoner, wasn't able to participate on a team this year, so instead he gave a group pledge. Elsie Eltzroth likewise continued her generous support of the Birdathon. And Raylene Gordin, in addition to making a group pledge, offered special incentives for Western Bluebird sightings, with a bonus for banded birds. (No bands were spotted this year, but 22 bluebirds were counted.) In addition, 71 people or families supported Hesthavn by sponsoring a team. Thanks to all of you for your generosity.

On a personal note, I had a couple of great sightings that weekend. A Peregrine Falcon -- always a treat -- buzzed overhead on the beach near Seal Rock. And at Jackson-Frazier Wetland, I saw a Western Flycatcher -- which turned out to be my 300th North American Life Bird. Whoopee! Thanks to Dodie and John Wilson for spotting that one. I'm not a big lister, but it sure made my day.

Finally, THANK YOU to everyone who raised pledges and went birding for a good cause. You guys make it happen, year after year.

*Mary Derr Van Brocklin*

## **24th Oregon Shorebird Festival**

Experience the wonder of shorebird migration along the scenic Oregon coast at the 24th Oregon Shorebird Festival to be held August 27-29, 2010. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Cape Arago Audubon Society, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and many other sponsors will have a full weekend of activities planned for birders of all skill levels. The festival is headquartered at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, OR. Activities include expertly guided land based field trips to Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, Millicoma Marsh and the greater Coos Bay area. And for those who want to experience birding on the water, The Bird Guide, Inc. will offer a five hour pelagic trip on Saturday. Expected seabirds include Black-footed Albatross, Parasitic Jaeger, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Sooty & Pink-footed Shearwater, Pomarine Jaeger, Red-necked Phalarope, Cassin's Auklets, and more. The Friday evening programs will feature Ram Papish and the "The Great Oregon Bird Quiz." Saturday's keynote speaker will be Peter Moore "Saving the Chatham Island Oystercatcher."

Bring your best pair of binoculars as Bandon Marsh and Coos Bay are renowned for shorebird watching and

each year a few rarities have delighted festival attendees. Regular migrants include Black-bellied plover, Semipalmated plover, Western sandpiper, Least sandpiper, Dunlin, Whimbrel, Long-billed dowitcher, and Red-necked phalarope. Please join us for on the southern coast of Oregon for a weekend of birding fun and challenges. To register for the festival or for more information please visit our website at [www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/shorebirdfestival.htm](http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/shorebirdfestival.htm) or contact Dawn Grafe at 541-867-4550.

## Field Trip Schedule

### Monthly Year-Round Saturday Field Trips

July 10: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

August 14: 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](mailto:richarmstrong@comcast.net) or 541-753-1978 with questions.

### Bicycle Birding

By “going green” and forgoing the automobile for a birding trip, you won't be sacrificing your potential bird encounters. I like to think of bicycle birding as high-density birding. When you're driving down the highway, you're whizzing by hundreds of birds without seeing or hearing them. By bicycle birding, we won't miss anything, and we'll be covering more ground than hiking.

### June through Sept:

Last Sunday of each month. 9am - Noon.

June 27, July 25, August 29 and September 26

Meet at Avery Park Rose Garden: 1210 SW Avery Drive in Corvallis.

Trips are free. Bring a bicycle helmet, water and binoculars. We ride slowly, listen for birds and stop frequently. Trip lengths are usually less than 10 miles. For more information, contact Don Boucher, 541-753-7689, [bouchdon@peak.org](mailto:bouchdon@peak.org).

*Don Boucher*

### Summer Butterfly Field Trips

We are pleased to present a full schedule of field trips in July. July is the best month locally for butterflies and their flowers.

July 7, Wednesday. Metolius Seeps and Prairies. We are fortunate to be guided on this trip by Susan Anderson who is an entomologist and naturalist who lives in Sisters. She knows, and has access to, all the special places where butterflies reside in the warmth of Eastern Oregon.

We can expect to see many butterflies special to that area including several Fritillaries Checkerspot, Sulphurs, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Great Arctic, and Indra Swallowtail. Another title for this hike could be Sorting Out the Blues because 7 or 8 species are anticipated. We will meet at the Campbell Senior Center (155 High St., Eugene) at 8am. This early start is needed to arrange car pools and drive to Sisters.

July 17, Saturday. Marys Peak—the Queen of the Coast Range. NABA members, Randy and Pam Comelo will be our guides for exploration in their home grounds of Marys Peak. NABA officers and possibly Gary Pearson will help lead with butterfly identification. Marys Peak is renowned in the Coast Range for its diversity of plants. In its wildflower meadows and woodland edges butterflies can be abundant. With sun we can expect to see perhaps 20 species of butterflies and swirls of blues. We'll meet at 8am at the Campbell Senior Center (155 High St., Eugene) to arrange carpools to drive to Corvallis. Local Corvallis residents will arrange a meeting place by registering. To pre-register call Ellie.

July 24, Saturday. July Butterfly Count: Browder Ridge, Iron Mountain, Cone Peak

Our annual count in the meadows of the central Cascades each year finds almost 40 species and hundreds of individual butterflies. Two or three groups will visit a number of sites with trails. You are welcome to participate in learning about butterfly identification while enjoying good company and stunning mountain vistas. Meet at Campbell Senior Center (155 High St. Eugene) at 8am. There is a requested donation of \$3 to participate which supports NABA's national advocacy for butterflies.

To register for any of these trips, call or e-mail Ellie at 541-684-8973 or [<woodnymph3000@gmail.com>](mailto:woodnymph3000@gmail.com).

*Ellie Ryan*



*Cedar Waxwing photo by Matt Lee*



## Hesthavn News

### July 31 is scheduled for the next work party and open house at Hesthavn Nature Center.

Volunteers are needed for the work party from 9am to 1pm or any portion of that time. We have plenty of weeds to pull from the trail, and fenced shrubs and weed wacking along the trail edge.

July 31 the Nature Center Open House will be from 10 to 1 pm. Two volunteer greeters are needed at the nature center to welcome visitors.

The public is welcome to visit Audubon's Hesthavn Nature Center daily from sunrise to sunset to walk the nature trail viewing native habitat and wildlife. A great place to picnic to look for birds, butterflies, and especially streamside critters for young children wearing their boots and play clothes. The nature center building has a museum, and display cases about birds and other wildlife that is open to the public on set monthly dates which are posted on the website.

Special educational programs are given throughout the year for children and adults.

Volunteer opportunities to help with special maintenance projects, restoration projects, educational presentations, administration duties, public relations and advertising programs with the community.

Contact Paula Vanderheul for information about joining the Nature Center volunteer team.

You can find map directions to Hesthavn Nature Center which is located at 8590 NW Oak Creek Drive from ASC website at [www.audubon.corvallis.or.us](http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us)

Paula Vanderheul <[vanderp@peak.org](mailto:vanderp@peak.org)>

## Field Notes

25 April 2010 – 18 June 2010

Spring is here as new arrivals were reported all through the period. May is easily the best month to bird here! A bad weather stretch brought some rare birds including **Clark's Grebe**, **Whimbrel**, **Pacific Golden-Plover**, **Dusky Flycatcher**, **Lark Sparrow**. Other rarities included Benton's 1<sup>st</sup>-ever **Ruff**, **Black Terns**, **White Pelicans**, **Black-necked Stilts**, **American Avocets**, **White-faced Ibis**, **Northern Mockingbird**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**.

*Abbreviations and Locations:* m.ob. = many observers. Observer names are noted in parentheses after their reports. Observations without a name (or with RAA) are the editor's. ASC indicates observations made by Audubon Society of Corvallis field trips. EEW = E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area north of Corvallis. FNWR = Finley National Wildlife Refuge, and includes Cabell, Cheadle, and McFadden marshes. STP = sewage treatment ponds; Philomath STP are off of Bellfountain Drive south of Philomath. Stewart Lake is at Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis. The Diamond

Hill Road wetland is in Linn County.

A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at Thornton Lake in Albany 6/9 (Tristen). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Ankeny 5/13 (M Kleinbaum). A Great Egret was at EEW 5/3 (J Geier). **American Bittern** were at Jackson-Frazier 5/9 (L Millbank, D Boucher), at Finley 5/19 (A Booth), on Bruce Rd 5/29 (M Cutler, M Garrard), on Robison Rd 6/13 (P Adamus), and Evergreen Wetlands 6/16 (R Fiori). 4 **White-faced Ibis** were at Ankeny 6/7 (M Monroe). Many **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported. An **American White Pelican** was at Cabell 4/28 (M Monroe) and 2 were there 5/16 (S Pepin), still there 5/19 and 6/4 (Tristen). There were 28 White Pelicans at Ankeny 5/30 (M Kleinbaum). A **Clark's Grebe** (3rd Benton record I think) and a **Western Grebe** were at Cabell 5/3 (D Robinson), another at Ankeny 5/23 (R Gerig). The Clark's stayed through 5/7. 1 **Eurasian Wigeon** was at McFaddin 5/3 (D Robinson). **Blue-winged Teal** were at McFaddin and EEW 5/15 (Tristen, M Garrard).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was drumming at Fitton Green 4/30 and 6/17 (Tristen, A Booth), another was off the Homer Campbell Boardwalk 5/4 (G Andrews, N Armstrong), and 1 along Plunkett at Bezell 6/6 (J Geier). **Mountain Quail** are never easy. Some continue to be heard and sometimes seen behind Forest Dell Park (J Paul) and off 34 West of Philomath (J&K Fairchild). Although undoubtedly an escaped bird a **Chukar** was seen on Marys Peak 5/9 through 6/17.

Terrible weather 5/3 brought in unusual birds. Doug Robinson found 4 **Whimbrel**, 1 **Short-billed Dowitcher** with 9 Long-billed, 1 **Black-bellied Plover**, 4 **Semipalmated Plover**, and 45 **Western Sandpipers** on McFarland Rd, and 30 **Red-necked Phalaropes** at Philomath STP (3 were there 5/19, R Hoyer). Later in the day there were 15 **Black-bellied Plovers** there, but no whimbrel (P Vanderheul). Bad weather continued 5/4 and there was a **Pacific Golden-Plover** on Bruce Rd (G Andrews, P Vanderheul, confirmed by D Robinson) with 1 Black-bellied Plover and 7 Semipalmated Plovers. There were 7 **Semipalmated Plovers** on McFarland Rd 5/7 (Tristen, M Garrard). There were continuous shorebird reports from the NW corner of EEW, not a traditional spot, up to 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers 5/13 (J Geier)** and a **Solitary Sandpiper (A Booth, Tristen)**. **Solitary Sandpipers** continued at Sunset Park, EEW, McFaddin, and Tyee Winery 1st half of May. The 1st **Wilson's Phalarope** report came from Basket Slough (J Geier), a pair are between Cabell & Pigeon Butte (B Proebsting, D Robinson), and a nest was found at Evergreen Wetlands 6/16 (R Fiori). There were 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** at Philomath STP 5/7 (Tristen, M Garrard) and at least 5 5/8 (M Cutler, P Vanderheul). 2 **American Avocets** were at Diamond Hill 5/10 (M Nikas) for about the 5th Linn record, and still there 5/17 (J Fleischer). A female **Ruff**, always rare but extremely rare in Spring, was at Basket Slough 5/16 (A Contreras, Tristen), and on private property near Finley 5/17 (D Robinson) for Benton County's 1<sup>st</sup> record. Also on this private property were a **Pectoral Sandpiper**, a **Black-necked Stilt**, and 6 **Wilson's Phalaropes** (D Robinson). A **Long-billed Curlew**



*Pacific Golden-Plover photo by Douglas Robinson*



*Black Tern photo by Douglas Robinson*

was at Basket Slough 5/18 (D Faxon).

2 **Black Terns** were at Cabell 5/16 (S Pepin) and 1 at Philomath STP 5/17 (D Robinson). 7 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, a 1st Summer **Herring Gull** were at Philomath STP 5/7 (Tristen, M Garrard).

A **Peregrine Falcon** was over Coffin Butte 4/25 (J Geier). **Bald Eagles** were seen by many near Finley at dead sheep. 8 were together 4/29 (S Seibel).

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** continue to expand as new spots get reported every month. **Great-horned Owl** reports have been very few this year, but 1 was reported on Riverside Dr 5/2 (D Boucher). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard in North Albany 4/28 (Tristen). A **Barred Owl** was calling from McDonald Forest 5/10 (P Otley) and on way up to Marys Peak 6/12 (L Millbank, D Boucher). The **Barn Owl** box at EEW is active with at least 1 young (A booth). **Vaux's Swifts** roost in chimneys at Monroe Grade School (W Wright), in Lebanon (K Heineck), and at 30th/Campus Way in Corvallis (S Brown) with even 1000 birds noted. The 1<sup>st</sup> **Common Nighthawk** was in Peoria 5/15 (R Campbell), then 1 near Lewisburg 5/27 (B Altman), near the river in Corvallis 6/6 (M Monroe), and 1 on Marys Peak 6/13 (L Millbank, D Boucher). 2 **Purple Martins** were at Finley 5/19 (R Hoyer) and 5/29 (M Cutler, M Garrard). A colony with at least 3 nest holes and at least 6 birds was on Tampico Rd 6/12 (M Garrard, ASC) through 6/18 (Tristen).

The FNWR **Lewis's Woodpecker** was at least through 5/2. There seem to be very few reports of **Pileated Woodpecker**, but there were 2 at Fitton Green 5/8 (M Cutler, P Vanderheul). **Calliope Hummingbirds** (rare but the area seems to get a couple every spring) were reported more than normal with 1 on Grandview 4/23 (M Alig), 1 South Corvallis 4/29 (W Parrott), 1 in Corvallis 5/4 (M Dossett), 1 on EEW 5/4 (J Geier), 1 off 34 West of Philomath (J&K Fairchild), 1 in Peoria 5/7 (R Campbell), 1 Jackson-Frazier 5/8 (M Cutler, P Vanderheul), 1 in Albany 5/17 (Tristen), and 1 North Corvallis 5/22 (N Armstrong). A **Gray Jay**, unusual at low elevations, was over Pigeon Butte (FNWR) 5/13 (B Proebsting), high up Marys Peak 6/13 (L Millbank, D Boucher), and 1 was fairly low heading up Marys Peak 6/17 (A Booth).

A **Black Phoebe** was at Stewart Lake 4/27 (J Simmons), another at Muddy Creek Bridge on Bruce Rd 5/2 (P Vanderheul) seen again 5/29 and 6/17 (Tristen), and 2 at Ankeny 5/13 (M Kleinbaum), still there 5/23 (R Gerig). **Western Kingbirds** were in more locations than normal with 1 at Jackson-Frazier 4/25 (M Van Brocklin), 2 at Wiles/Military 4/28 (M Dossett), and at Finley Prairie (mob). A **Dusky Flycatcher** was at EEW 5/3 (J Geier) in same spot as year before. 3 different flycatchers of the dusky/Hammond's type were reported without being seen well enough to be sure - 1 at Owen's Farm 5/3 (RAA), 1 near EEW (J Geier), and 1 at Finley (A Booth). The 1st **Hammond's Flycatcher** report came from off 34 West of Philomath

(J&K Fairchild). The 1st **Willow Flycatcher** report came from Thornton Lake 5/4 (Tristen). The 1st **Western Wood-Pewee** report came from Cabell (J&K Fairchild). The 1st **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reports came 5/5 from Wilamette Park (D Boucher,



*Northern Mockingbird photo by Douglas Robinson*

L Millbank) and Forest Dell Park (J Paul).

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was at EEW 5/12 (B Proebsting). A **Sage Thrasher** was South of Brownsville 5/19 (T Snetsinger). A **Northern Mockingbird** was near the barn on Finley Rd 5/16 (S Pepin), again 5/26 (D Robinson), and 1 at new HQ 6/14 (T Nelson). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was on Belts Rd in Linn 5/10 (M Nikas). **American Dipper** nested again at Alsea Falls as a fledgling was seen with adult 6/18 (Tristen). A **Red-eyed Vireo** was along the river near Independence 5/27 and near Crabtree 6/5 (B Altman). The 1<sup>st</sup> **Cassin's Vireo** report was from Finley 5/2 (P Vanderheul). The 1<sup>st</sup> report of **Hermit Warbler** came from McDonald Forest on 4/25 (B Proebsting). **Nashville Warblers** put on a good show this year with more reports than normal. The 1<sup>st</sup> **Yellow-breasted Chat** report came from EEW on 5/2 (D Boucher, L Millbank). Now **Chats** are all over EEW and in clear cuts on Soap Creek Rd and on Tampico Rd.

There was a quite early **Lazuli Bunting** at a feeder in South Corvallis 4/22 (M Monroe). A **Lark Sparrow** was photographed off Peoria Rd 5/8 (M Dossett) and another was at Ankeny 5/23 (T Gerig). 2 **White-throated Sparrows** were EEW on 4/25 (J Geier) and 1 at bald Hill 4/30 (Tristen). The 1<sup>st</sup> **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at Finley Prairie 4/29 (B Altman). This is the only location they get reported in Benton County that I have heard of. A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was still near EEW 5/24.

The 1<sup>st</sup> **Western Tanager** report came from near EEW 4/26 (J Geier). **Bullock's Orioles** were reported from Bonnie (M Garrard), at base of Coffin Butte (Tristen), and at Finley HQ (M Monroe). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** showed up at the scrape on Bruce Rd 5/3 (D Robinson) and has been joined by 3 females at least through 5/19 and there were 2 males and more females on 6/18 (Tristen). There were 5 at Ankeny 5/18 (A Booth). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visited a feeder 6/4 but was not reported until 6/8 and another visited a feeder in NW Corvallis 6/9 (C Miller), but did not stay even an hour for others. **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported in many places this month and were all over OSU.

#### Next issue

Please send your reports for the next issue by 10 August.  
 Rich Armstrong <richarmstrong@comcast.net>  
 (541) 753-1978

## Who's Being Seen

### The Quiet Times of Mid- and Late Summer

In June, breeding activity was high and birdsong filled every landscape. After mid-July, that intensity relaxes. Since many birds no longer have to defend territories or feed rapidly growing nestlings, summer is a time to take it a bit easy. Unlike some regions in North America, the onset of our dry season compounds this slowdown. Many birds must shelter themselves from hot, dry days and they decrease activity because many food sources are less productive. The best times for birding are early morning and an hour before sunset.

You should notice fledglings of various kinds, especially migratory birds who started breeding season later than all-year residents or larger birds whose young take longer to grow. Your seed feeders may have seen little activity in spring and early summer, but get them ready again. American Goldfinches nest later in the season and take advantage of the production of plant seeds like tarweed, thistle and other weeds. They'll have a renewed appetite for nyjer seed at your feeder. Look for large aggregations of swallow parents and their fledglings on telephone cables. In July, you will see the first Osprey fledglings.

Not long after you've gotten used to real hot summer days, migration starts again. In August migratory shorebirds pass through from the north. The shrunken late-summer wetlands concentrate these migrants and offer easy birding opportunities. Look for yellowlegs, dowitchers, peeps and possibly more rare species. Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons and Green Herons are easy to spot for similar reasons. Starting in late August and lasting until early October, families of Swainson's Thrushes migrate at night. Their soft "weep?" calls can be heard in quiet places after sunset or before dawn.

Don't be discouraged if you don't hear the same amazing morning bird chorus you heard in June. Summer birding takes a little more observation and patience but is nevertheless rewarding. If the heat and dryness gets to you, try going up to Marys Peak and enjoy late spring all over again. In the next issue, I'll discuss the arrival of fall migrants.

*Don Boucher*

## GreenTip

OF THE MONTH

Watching the numbers whirl by and pump motor grind on as the amount owed goes up is enough to give anyone gas pains. The future for lower gasoline prices does not look good. Many ASC members have taken steps to combat this situation and have moved to more economical cars, including hybrids. Meanwhile back at the ranch automakers have been doing creative things with existing engines to get more MPG out of them including such improvements as variable valve timing, active fuel management and direct injection fuel metering. All these ideas have merit but still fall short

of giving us really great mileage and clean emissions. Now the story is about to change.



*Nissan Leaf*

In December 2010 the new Nissan "Leaf" will arrive in Corvallis. The new Leaf will not have any gasoline or diesel engine but will have only battery power. This new concept car is expected to go at least 100 miles and up to 90 MPH on one charge. The Leaf will come with a home charger to operate on 110 household volts but is best charged on 220 volts or 440 which is very hard to find. Charging stations are being set up now throughout Oregon. After a sizeable tax break the cost for the car will be about 26 K dollars. Eventually the car will be made in the USA however all the originals will come from Japan. The biggest problem I see will be a slow charge time of up to 18 hours on 110volts but much faster on the higher voltage. A 100 mile range should be fine for most all shopping needs but if we want to go to Malheur Wildlife Refuge, this will not work.



*Chevrolet Volt*

Chevrolet has a possible answer as their new 'Volt' model is about to roll off the assembly lines. This leading edge auto uses a battery as the primary source of power, but also has a small fuel generator to allow the car to travel long distances. When the battery gets low, the generator cranks up and the car continues to travel. Prices for the Volt are not released as yet but will probably be competitive with other high mileage autos. The Volt and Leaf are just the leading edge of the new generation of fuel efficient vehicles and can be considered in their infancy at this point. Still its nice to know that soon you might be able to go to the gas pump and come away with a very small bill. Perhaps

there is an answer for “gas pains“ just around the corner ?

*John Gaylord*

## Atop the Nestbox

Thanks to the footwork of our bluebird trail volunteers, the efforts of our “reconnect project” volunteers, and our new collaborations, we have record numbers of documented bluebird nestings in the Mid-Willamette Valley this year. Unfortunately, the prolonged cold and wet weather of May and early June has taken a heavy toll. Many nestlings have been lost in spite of supportive efforts. However, if we can avoid a prolonged heat wave this summer, we may still be able to document record numbers of fledglings. We will have to wait and see.



*Male Western Bluebird photo by Lisa Millbank*

Bob Altman of the American Bird Conservancy was able to translocate two pairs of bluebirds to the San Juan Islands. He took one from his own property in Corvallis, and another was donated by Jim Rivers of the OSU Dept. of Forest Ecosystems. Three of the birds were banded, and we have confirmed the age and origin of each bird. Our best wishes go to the ABC and its bluebird conservation project.

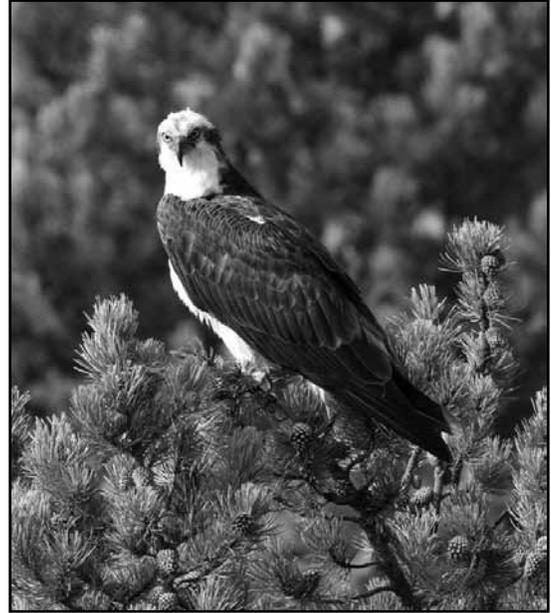
I would like to give special thanks to Doug Robinson and Jim Rivers, who are conducting swallow studies at Oregon State University. Due to our collaboration, we have at least 16 additional bluebird pairs this year. I hope we can be as helpful to them as they have been to us

For those of you with nest boxes in sunny locations, be sure to open the ventilation holes when warm weather comes, which thankfully should be soon! When temperatures are expected to be above 90 degrees for more than 2 days, or more than 95 degrees for even one day, be sure to provide heat relief for your nestlings. Details are available on our web page in the “Nest Boxes” section, or you may call Rita Snyder at 752-6457 or me at 541-258-6625.

*Raylene Gordin*

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Will Wright, Karan Fairchild, Philip Kravits, Kenneth Rosenburg, Mary Derr van Brocklin, Dawn Grafe, Rich Armstrong, Ellie Ryan, Paula Vanderheul, Don Boucher, John Gaylord, and Raylene Gordin



*Osprey Photo by Matt Lee*

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*the* **CHAT**

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**Calendar**

July 7	Butterfly field trip
July 10	Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
July 17	Butterfly field trip
July 29	Summer Board meeting
July 31	Hesthavn work party and open house
Aug. 10	Field notes submission deadline for Sept. Chat
Aug. 19	Article submission deadline for Sept. Chat
Aug. 14	Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am

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