



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

January 2011

VOL. 40

#5

General Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church

Oregon's Wild Areas

A presentation by Erik Fernandez

Wild, pristine wilderness areas are a precious — and unfortunately endangered — part of Oregon's natural heritage. Erik Fernandez of Oregon Wild (formerly the Oregon Natural Resource Council) will discuss the progress in wilderness protection in Oregon over the last several years. We'll see amazing photos of areas that Oregon Wild recently helped garner designated wilderness protection for, such as Mount Hood, the Copper Salmon area, and Soda Mountain. We'll also learn about threatened natural treasures now being prioritized for protection, like Crater Lake and the Siskiyou Wild Rivers region.

The presentation will touch on both ecological issues pertaining to wilderness as well as political issues affecting wilderness conservation. We'll explore the important role wilderness protection plays in the age of climate change.

As wilderness coordinator for Oregon Wild for the past 10 years, Erik Fernandez has been involved in numerous wilderness campaigns, including efforts to protect Mount Hood, the Columbia Gorge, the Rogue River, and Devil's Staircase.

Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and visiting. The chapter meeting commences at 7:00 pm, followed by the guest lecture at 7:30 pm. Questions about the series can be directed to Dave Mellinger at David.Mellinger@oregonstate.edu 757-7953.

Directions

Note: New meeting room

Starting in January, our monthly meeting will be in Dennis Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 114 SW Eighth Street.

This is the meeting space in the new wing of the church. You can get there by entering the church through the usual doors on 8th St., but instead of turning right to go up the stairs, walk down the long hall straight ahead and

turn right after you're in the new wing. We'll have signs up directing you. You can also enter the new wing directly from outside if you like, though parking on that side of the building is a bit tight.

Dave Mellinger

2010 Corvallis CBC Highlights

A total of 45 field observers and 3 parties of feeder watchers participated in the 50th Corvallis Christmas Bird Count on Tuesday, December 21, 2010. While most people birded on foot or by car, one person kayaked the Willamette River and one mother counted birds while wheeling her young child in a stroller. Pleasant weather, dry and with highs in the low 50's, made this count a truly enjoyable experience for everyone. final species total of 129 sets a new record and is a testament to the dedication of the many participants.

A Say's Phoebe spotted along the Willamette River marks the overdue debut of this species to the Corvallis count after 2 previous count week sightings. Other unusual bird species include: Trumpeter Swan, Greater Scaup, Common Loon, Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Spotted Owl, Gray Jay, Nashville Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow and Lapland Longspur.

Several species set new highs or tied the previous

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Corvallis CBC *continued from front page*

high including Peregrine Falcon, Anna's Hummingbird, Common Raven (second year in a row), Spotted Towhee and Lincoln's Sparrow. One shrike was seen, probably Loggerhead, but it is unclear whether there is enough supporting description to confirm this. Maddening misses were Mountain Quail and Barred Owl. Both were seen the day before the count but eluded the efforts of counters on the actual date.

Special honors go to the team of Rich Hoyer, Jr. and Hendrik Herlyn who walked the older residential areas of Corvallis and tallied 39 Townsend's Warblers! The old record for the entire count circle was 28. The central residential areas of Corvallis and Philomath are often overlooked which is a pity since many of the less hardy over-wintering birds may be found in this habitat. In addition to Townsend's Warblers, Anna's Hummingbirds and Ruby-crowned Kinglets are other birds that appreciate the warm microclimates surrounding our homes. The many seed and suet feeders mean that birds congregate in these areas.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated. Thanks also go to Marie Flamme who made turkey chili for the potluck and Gail Nickerson who helped with setting up the count-down at the Tunison Community Room.

The final results appear in this issue. Here is an explanation of the count areas shown.

1A: Oak Creek; NW Corvallis (west of 35th/36th Sts./ Witham Hill, north of Circle and Timberhill)

1B: NE Corvallis (North of Circle Dr. and east of Kings Blvd.)

1C: Central Corvallis (Between 9th and 35th/36th Sts/ Witham Hill Dr and between Circle and Philomath Blvds)

2: Orleans (Tangent Dr. to Riverside Dr.)

3: Oakville

4: Peoria

4R: Willamette River and Snagboat Bend by Kayak

5: SW Corvallis, Neabeck Hill

6: S. Corvallis

7: Airport

8: Greenberry

9: Finley, Eureka Rd.

10: N. Philomath, West Hills

11: S. Philomath, Evergreen

12: Beaver Cr.

RR: Railroad line in Areas 3 and 4

*Marcia F. Cutler
Corvallis CBC Compiler*

Call For Nominations

Homer Campbell-ASC Environmental Award 2011

The Homer Campbell ASC Environmental Award, established in 2005, recognizes a local (Linn, Benton, Lincoln & Polk Counties) individual or organization that has made significant contributions in the areas of environmental stewardship, awareness, and outreach. Contributions worthy of recognition might include, but are not limited to:

- promotion of environmentally sustainable practices
- leadership on local environmental issues
- classroom education of environmental stewardship
- restoration or preservation of habitat

Both long-standing (life-long) and short-term but significant contributions will be considered for this award.

A committee from the Audubon Society of Corvallis will recommend one of the nominees for approval by the entire Board. The selected awardee will then be presented with an engraved plaque at the April ASC General Meeting. The awardee's name will also be engraved on a permanent plaque that hangs at Hesthavn.

Nominations should consist of a letter that describes how the actions or activities of the nominee fit the above described (or related) criteria. Nominations should include contact information for both the nominee and the nominator and are due by January 31st, 2011.

Email submissions may be sent to Linda Campbell, lcampbell@peak.org, Karan Fairchild, alderspr@peak.org, or Dave Mellinger, David.Mellinger@oregonstate.edu. Snail mail submissions should be sent to ASC, PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339 Attn: HC Enviro Award Committee. Previous awardees of the Homer Campbell-ASC Environmental Award:

2005- Elzy Eltzroth

2006- Bob & Liz Frenkel

2007- Wally & Mary Eichler

2008- Bill & Carla Chambers, Stahlbush Island Farms

2009- Elsie Eltzroth

2010- Jeff Mitchell

Karan Fairchild

Field Trip Schedule

Monthly Year-Round Saturday Field Trips

January 8: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

February 12: 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.

Rich Armstrong

Spring Weekend Field Trips—2011

ASC offers five weekend field trips to a wide selection of Oregon locations. Four of them are three-day trips covering Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The other—to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge—covers Thursday through Sunday. All trips are led by Fred Ramsey, with Jim Faulkner and Tom Penpraze driving and providing substantial guiding expertise. Except for the Malheur trip (where we stay at the Malheur Field Station, now with an operational mess

hall), we stay in motels and eat in restaurants. Enterprise 12-passenger or 15-passenger vans transport us. We have a maximum of 8 participants in each van so that everyone has a window seat. Expenses are shared.

BANDON and the South Coast—March 18-20. This is a warmup trip specializing in coastal birds—loons, grebes, cormorants, etc. It is too early for puffins, but there are some very special birds available: Red-shouldered Hawk, Black Phoebe, and Allen's Hummingbird head the list. We hope to repeat last year's gull bonanza. A single flock of about 60 gulls sat obligingly close enough to study differences between the eight (!) species present. And there are some surprises ... Elephant Seals are often seen basking at Simpson's Reef. Maximum tour size: 16 persons.

KLAMATH BASIN—April 22-24. This trip hits the tail end of the massive migration of ducks, geese, and shorebirds which pause in the Klamath Basin wildlife refuges before continuing north to breeding grounds. Four refuges offer a variety of habitats. The south end of Upper Klamath Lake nets 5 species of grebe with some doing their unique dance across the surface. And a Sunday morning walk through Moore Park picks up the earliest songbird arrivals. Maximum tour size: 24 persons.

ROGUE VALLEY—May 13-15. Here we hit the songbird migration in full swing. A hike to the top of Upper Table Rock presents a magnificent wildflower display as the trail winds through Oregon's little piece of California chaparral. Here we find the chaparral specialties Oak Titmouse, California Towhee, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. We sample some of Ashland's famous restaurants and then attend a performance of *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Maximum tour size: 16 persons.

MALHEUR National Wildlife Refuge—May 26-29. Our signature trip, and the 40th year led by Fred. The refuge is Oregon's most famous birding area, but this tour also hits many great spots going over the Cascades, following the Crooked River, and coming back through the High Desert. We usually see over 100 species each of the four days and around 175 species overall. Maximum tour size: 32 persons.

SUMMER LAKE and a return to KLAMATH—June 17-19. Our 2010 tour scored a rare Oregon Swift Trifecta: Black (Salt Creek Falls), White-throated (Fort Rock), and Vaux's. Add Snowy Plover, Common Poorwill, American Bittern, and Yellow Rail and you understand that this is a special conclusion to the spring offerings. Maximum tour size: 21 persons.

Come join us! Signup sheets for these trips are available on the Field Trip table at all of the general meetings. Also, you may sign up by sending an email to Fred at flramsey5@comcast.net. But here is a new twist: confirming a reservation on any one of these trips requires a \$50 deposit by February 28. The deposits will be refundable only if a replacement exists on the waiting list.

Fred Ramsey

Hesthavn News

Hesthavn Nature Center Family Program Birding 101 –January 29th 12-2:15 pm

Come join park naturalist for an exciting afternoon all about birds! Learn what "birding" is, how to identify ten common birds in Oregon, how to spot birds using binoculars, and venture into the woods to hone your newly acquired skills. All ages welcome, dress for the weather. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Suggested donation of 10.00/family (but any donation will get you in the door) All proceeds go towards educational programming at Hesthavn.

Meet at Hesthavn Nature Center – 12 pm.

Michelle Croft

Atop the Nestbox

We will be holding our annual Spring Bluebird Workshop on Saturday, March 19th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm at the Corvallis Public Library. This year, we will focus on how to monitor bluebird nests. Donations (cash or check) to the trail will be gratefully accepted and we will be selling nest boxes and predator baffles.

The coming year will mark the second season of our bluebird longevity/ survivorship study and we continue to invite everyone, from the casual observer to the expert birdwatcher, to participate. Please report banded bluebirds on your properties and any that you may see in your travels. You can use the reporting form on our web page at www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/bluebird_trail.shtml. Most of the birds banded in 2010 have 3 colored bands in unique sequences in addition to the numbered metal band. In 2011, we will be banding all nestlings with a single orange band in addition to the numbered metal band. The position of the orange band will tell us whether the bird came from a first, second or third brood, but the bird's point of origin will only be known by the specific numbers on the metal band. Nonetheless, we will be happy to get general "head counts" in the coming years.

We are desperately in need of monitors for the bluebird trail. Most of the nest boxes are easily accessible with minimal walking. We would be happy to provide training for any volunteers, and you can cover as little or as much territory as you want. If you are interested, please call Rita Snyder at 541-752-6457 (Benton and Polk counties) or Raylene Gordin at 541-258-6625 (Linn and Marion counties).

Raylene Gordin

Field Notes

28 NOVEMBER– 24 DECEMBER 2010

Winter birds are showing up. Highlights of the month were **Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-naped & Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, American Tree Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lapland Longspurs, Ross's Goose, and gulls.** Unfortunately the best birds were on private land with no access for normal birders.

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Red-throated Loon (left) and Horned Grebe (right).

Photos by Douglas Robinson

Abbreviations and Locations: mob = many observers. Observer names are noted in parentheses after their reports. Philomath means the Philomath Sewage Treatment Ponds. EEW = E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area north of Corvallis. ASC = Audubon Society field trip. CBC = Corvallis Christmas Bird Count on 12/21.

A **Western Grebe** was found on Stahlbush Island on CBC (P Vanderheul). A **Horned Grebe** was at Philomath 12/13 (D Robinson) and stayed through 12/16. A **Red-throated Loon** was on private property 11/28 (D Robinson). This was the 1st for Benton in about 27 years. A **Common Loon** was on private property on CBC (D Robinson). **Green Heron** were in 3 places - still in Albany (Tristen), private property in Philomath (J Gibson), and Peoria area on CBC (P Vanderheul).

Tundra Swans spend the winter at Cabell but 547 was an exceptional number (M Monroe). A **Ross's Goose** was across from Philomath 11/26 (M Garrard) and at Finley 12/23 (D Robinson). A **Snow Goose** was at Finley 12/19 (P Otley). **Dusky Canada Geese** seem to be making a good comeback as there were 1500 at Finley 12/1 (M Monroe) and are up about 2000 over last winter. A **Common Goldeneye** was on private property 11/28 (D Robinson). A **Barrow's Goldeneye**, only the 2nd ever for Benton County, was with a **Common Goldeneye** on private property 12/12 (D Robinson). A **Cinnamon Teal** was at Finley 12/13 (P Otley), rare in winter.

A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at Philomath 12/16. A **Greater Yellowlegs** was on the Greenbelt Land Trust's Little Willamette property 12/19 (L Millbank). **Gulls** put on a show again. About 300-400 gulls were at Waverly Park in Albany 12/19 so it is possible a rarer gull might be around if we check gull flocks. **Thayer's Gulls** were seen at the dump on 12/4 (P Vanderheul, M Garrard), Philomath (d Robinson), and Albany (Tristen). **Mew Gulls** were at Philomath a couple times (D Robinson). **Western Gulls** were at the dump (mob) and also in Albany (Tristen) and with 48 **Glaucous-winged Gulls** near OSU 12/20 (N Armstrong). 55 **Ring-billed Gulls** in Albany 12/12 was an unusually high number (Tristen).

An **Osprey**, rare in winter, was in Albany 12/7 (Tristen). A **Gyrfalcon** was near Tangent 12/13 (J Fleischer) and a **Prairie Falcon** was there as well. **Peregrine Falcon** were in a few locations (mob). A **Golden Eagle** continued at Finley various times during the period (mob). A **Northern Goshawk** was at Peterson Butte near Lebanon 12/13 (S Siebel). **Short-eared Owls** were seen from the Finley Prairie overlook (D Robinson) and from Llewellyn Rd (W Wright), and on Davis Rd in Linn 12/20 (A Booth). Raptor runs are done monthly in winter by Jeff Fleischer, Marcia Cutler, and Will Wright. In December they have found over 50 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 50 **Kestrels**, 10 **Rough-legged Hawks**, 15 **Bald Eagles**, 40 **Harriers**, and a few **Red-shouldered**, **Cooper's** and **Sharp-shinned Hawks**. 7 **White-tailed Kites** were in Kings Valley 12/20 (J Fleischer) which may be why none seem to be at Finley. For those who love raptors, winter is a good time.

The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** continued all month at EEW (mob). A **Red-naped Sapsucker** was at EEW 12/17 (T Rodenkirk). 2 **Gray**



Golden Eagle photo by Douglas Robinson

Jays were at the end of Airport Rd on CBC (J Fairchild). A **Say's Phoebe** was on private property 11/28 (D Robinson), another near Basket Slough 12/17 (B Altman), and another near Peoria on CBC (R Campbell). **Black Phoebes** continue to be all over - still at Finley HQ various times (mob), and at Willamette Park 11/30 (D Boucher), near the Mary's River 12/19, another near downtown 12/21 (L Millbank), 2 in Peoria on CBC (R Campbell). A **Northern Shrike** was at Finley 12/13 (D Robinson) - the only 1 of the season. A possible **Loggerhead Shrike** was in Peoria on CBC (R Campbell).

Increased numbers of **Varied Thrushes** and **Evening Grosbeaks** are being seen for hopefully a good winter for both. A **Nashville Warbler** was found downtown Corvallis on CBC (R Hoyer, H Herlyn).

An **American Tree Sparrow** was on private property on CBC (D Robinson). **Swamp Sparrows** continued at EEW (J Geier) throughout the period and 1 on private property on CBC (D Robinson). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was in SW Corvallis 12/20 (N Armstrong, R Hoyer) and seen on CBC. A **Chipping Sparrow**, rare in winter, was in Albany 12/7 (Tristen), and another was found on Stahlbush on CBC (P Vanderheul). An almost completely white white-crowned sparrow was in South Corvallis from 11/28 and through the CBC. 13 **Lapland Longspurs** were on private property on CBC (D Robinson).

Next issue

Please send your reports for the next issue by 23 January.

Rich Armstrong (541) 753-1978

richarmstrong@comcast.net

Rich Armstrong



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker photo by Tristen Gholson

Feral Cat Management

A new, peer-reviewed report titled *Feral Cats and Their Management* from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has put the annual economic loss from feral cat predation on birds in the United States at \$17 billion. The report analyzes existing research on management of the burgeoning feral cat population—over 60 million and counting—in the United States, including the controversial practice of Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR).

A key finding of the report was the statement by the authors that they do not recommend the TNR method to eliminate colonies of feral cats. In their extensive research, they were unable to find a single real-world example of TNR succeeding in eliminating a feral cat colony. Some of the many findings of the report include:

- Feral cats are invasive and pose a threat to native fauna and public health.
- Three separate studies showed that most feral cats (62 to 80 percent) carry the parasite responsible for toxoplasmosis—a condition of special concern to pregnant women.
- Cats are responsible for the extinction of at least 33 species of birds.
- Feral cats kill an estimated 480 million birds in the U.S. each year (the study did not address the question

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2010 Corvallis Christmas Bird Count Results

Species	1A	1B	1C	2	3	3-4RR	4	4R	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Feeder	Total	Historic High	Counts seen
Gr. White-fronted Goose													3					3	62	29
Snow Goose													1					1	39	26
Ross's Goose													cw					cw		
Canada Goose		101	100	5,372	9		53	330	133	1,284	55	225				562		8,224	38,623	7
Cackling Goose	850	120	250	4,000			56	800	2,000	130	273	2,450		237		220		11,386	40,463	7
Can/Cac Goose, sp.		5,000						420					27,045					32,465	78,141	50
Trumpeter Swan													2					2	5	6
Tundra Swan					6		494	12					300					812	1,313	42
Wood Duck				2		15		10			2		4					33	518	47
Gadwall													2					2	31	39
Eurasian Wigeon													2					2	8	28
American Wigeon		13		34		13		13	19	1	1		2,108		10	6		2,218	15,630	49
Mallard	20	30	2	33		32	3	25	12	21	10	2	13,000	4		8		13,202	35,342	49
Northern Shoveler		33		212									30		260	27		576	904	46
Northern Pintail												39	4,000			20		4,059	25,475	48
Green-winged Teal				16		1		12			112		3,000	50	90	100		3,381	21,309	49
Canvasback		9		50														59	104	20
Ring-necked Duck		3		66									3	162	30	2	1	267	2,743	39
Greater Scaup												1						1	8	10
Lesser Scaup		10		31								3		2		42		88	488	36
Bufflehead		3		42						1	2				7	10	1	66	206	40
Common Goldeneye											cw							cw	11	19
Hooded Merganser				4					2	7			12	10		10		45	49	37
Common Merganser		3		3											2			14	196	37
Ruddy Duck				4											100			104	297	39
Ring-necked Pheasant									2				2					4	194	48
Wild Turkey	2		3						6			5				31		47	84	13
Mountain Quail	cw																	cw	17	22
California Quail				5		30	10	2	32	1	2	2	20			3		107	560	49
Common Loon												1						1		
Pied-billed Grebe		3		4				4					4	1				52	135	42
Eared Grebe															1			1	6	14
Western Grebe				1														1	4	13
D-c Cormorant		13		131	1		1	5	5	7	14		24	1				202	565	29
Great Blue Heron	1	1		32	1		2	4	3	12	2		3	7	2			70	76	49
Great Egret				1						1			1	2				5	18	21
Green Heron				1														1	3	15
Bald Eagle				6		2	4		1	1	3	3	9				1	30	39	36
-Ad./Im.					A-8-S-6											S-1				
Northern Harrier	1	1		5	30	3	3		5	4	4	11	15	1	1	1		85	135	49
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	1			3	1		1					1		1			11	18	47
Cooper's Hawk	1				1	2		1	1			1	2			1	1	11	14	46
Red-shouldered Hawk						1			1				1	3		1	2	9	6	7
Red-tailed Hawk	10	3		29	25	5	23	6	7	4	20	25	20	9	4	13		203	229	49
Rough-legged Hawk					3	1	1					1	5	5			1	17	47	45
Buteo, sp.	1																	1		
Golden Eagle													1					1	2	7
American Kestrel	3	1		19	27	2	18		11	6	11	11	7	5	5	5		131	167	49
Merlin	cw						1					1	1					3	10	29
Peregrine Falcon							1	1	2			1					1	6	5	19
Raptor, sp. large							1											1		2
American Coot		9		4							42		2	1	40	1		99	1,924	48
Killdeer				11	27		1	2	2	2	77	5						127	10,728	49
Spotted Sandpiper								4										4	13	27
Dunlin												2						2	2,937	46
Long-billed Dowitcher												1		1				2	305	26
Wilson's Snipe				63	7	3		3				3	3					82	829	49
Ring-billed Gull							43											43	2,145	38
California Gull							2											2	136	27
Herring Gull							5		cw									5	210	12
Western Gull									cw									cw	5	3
Glaucous-winged Gull			1			1	13		11									26	188	23
Glauc.-wing x Western Gull		1																1		
Gull, sp.					12		59											71	167	19
Rock Pigeon	4		10	21	80				5			2						122	750	37
Mourning Dove	17	11		1		1		2	33		171	2		4	26	2	2	272	496	49
Eurasian Collared Dove		1						2				2			1			6	8	3
Barn Owl													2					2	13	42
W. Screech-Owl	1							1									1	3	6	28
Great Horned Owl	3							3				4	2	3	2			17	21	46
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1																	1	3	25
Spotted Owl	1																	1	1	7
Barred Owl			cw															cw	1	5
Short-eared Owl					7							1	1					9	29	37
N. Saw-whet Owl	1																	1	6	20

Species	1A	1B	1C	2	3	3-ARR	4	4R	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Feeder	Total	Historic High	Counts seen
Anna's Hummingbird	6	3	10						12	1	1	1		2			9	45	28	36
Belted Kingfisher		1		1		1			1	1	3	2	3	1		1		15	22	49
Acorn Woodpecker	21	1	1	4	7	4	11		24	4	1	10	9	7	3	5		112	110	49
Red-breasted Sapsucker		2		1			1	3	1			1				3		12	29	49
Downy Woodpecker	2	4	1		1	3	2	10	3	2	1	5		4	1	2	3	44	358	49
Hairy Woodpecker			1			1		3					1					6	16	44
Northern Flicker, red-s.	21	5	17	4	16	7	10	9	19	21	9	20	10	14	16	13	3	214	427	50
Pileated Woodpecker								2					1		1			4	9	42
Black Phoebe								2	1		2	1	1					7	6	11
Say's Phoebe								1										1	1	1
Northern Shrike								1	1	1								1	11	44
Hutton's Vireo			1	1					3						2			7	19	37
Gray Jay															2			2	1	7
Steller's Jay	58	8	6	9			4		16	13	4	12	1	3	11	3	1	149	379	49
Western Scrub-Jay	45	29	77	50	17	14	20	34	147	24	20	29	2	54	7	12	5	586	675	49
American Crow	561	104	110	10		2	6	5	161	22	114	76	3	99	32	15		1,320	2,491	50
Common Raven	2			2	16	4	13	7	2	1	41	25	2	1	34	8		158	118	45
Horned Lark											99							99	315	38
Bl.-capped Chickadee	78	13	51	15	17	31	24	38	144	22	13	29	4	36	8	28	11	562	836	50
Ch.-backed Chickadee	7	5	8					4						1	19	2		46	362	48
Bushtit	37	6	27		25			25	15	43	16					68	57	319	554	49
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	3	28	2				2	12	4	1			2	2	5	7	78	120	49
White-breasted Nuthatch			4		2	3	6		10	3	1		2	3	1	6		41	99	50
Brown Creeper	2		3	3			1		4	1	1		5	1	1	1		23	50	50
Bewick's Wren	5	1	10	11	11	14	8	8	16	7	10	8	1	11	2	8		131	153	49
Pacific Wren	20		3		4	4	1	2	4	3					2	10		53	129	50
Marsh Wren								1			4		4	1				10	30	39
Golden-crowned Kinglet	15		13		19	14	9	6	44	14	3	2	2	24	29	35		229	908	50
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	18	2	43	7	5	11	8	12	23	15	11	8	1	19	2	17	1	203	346	49
Western Bluebird	23	8		6	4		5		34		19	53	33	3	5	41		234	440	46
Hermit Thrush		1	1		1	1				3	2				1	2		12	46	40
American Robin	38	56	142	190	40	132	120	44	785	227	43	30	32	82	13	91	4	2,069	9,386	50
Varied Thrush	7	4	20			4	10	4	9	6	3	5	2	4	4	2	8	92	356	48
Wrentit	1								2	2	1							6	30	25
European Starling	110	954	160	1,000	6,500	520	4,262	230	1,700	231	1,764	1,072	6,000	190	180	5		24,878	64,774	49
American Pipit				50	50	2	1	40				41	7		1	2		194	1,581	49
Cedar Waxwing			2						18				36					56	346	47
Orange-crowned Warbler				1														1	7	19
Nashville Warbler			1															1		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	13	4		2	3		7	38	6	2		13		8	18	5	3	122	251	48
- Audubon			14						6		11	4	7				5	47	151	25
- Myrtle			20								8		1				1	30	32	25
Townsend's Warbler	1		39					1	2	4	1			1	1	1	1	52	28	44
Spotted Towhee	43	11	24	21	15	29	19	30	138	4	26	15	6	28	14	20	8	451	399	50
American Tree Sparrow											1							1		
Clay-colored Sparrow									1									1		
Chipping Sparrow				1														1	9	12
Savannah Sparrow				50	8	3	1				239	3	5		1			310	542	44
Fox Sparrow	11	2	7	5	2	12	7	5	93	4	11	3	2	14	6	7	6	197	422	49
Song Sparrow	21	14	31	35	29	107	42	70	237	10	75	43	10	29	25	13	2	793	1,418	50
Lincoln's Sparrow	1		1		3	4	1	4	34		4	17		1		1		71	64	41
Swamp Sparrow											1							1	4	11
White-throated Sparrow	1		9	1		1		6	3		1					1	1	24	30	43
White-crowned Sparrow		41	3	3	27	36	22	6	48	14	33	15		9				257	539	49
Golden-crowned Sparrow	28	3	39	41	23	28	37	45	77	11	45	9	61	87	32	31	2	599	990	49
Dark-eyed Junco	199	71	304	91	60	69	65	53	560	41	94	145	45	181	132	226	45	2,381	3,518	50
- slate-colored	1																	1	9	7
Lapland Longspur											13							13		4
Red-winged Blackbird		9		8	40	17	55	35	5	2	234	71	12		10	32		530	23,111	49
Western Meadowlark				21	12	7	2			20	10		3					75	892	50
Brewer's Blackbird		275		117	50	5	487	15	65	17	97		1	37	43	95		1,304	8,735	50
Brown-headed Cowbird											57							57	304	39
Blackbird, sp.								70										70		2
Purple Finch		5		3		10		10	1	2	2	4		1				38	104	47
House Finch	5	11	31	33	24	5	20	33	115	31	22	17		9	12	19	6	393	739	47
Pine Siskin	2		2	5						2		14			1	2	3	31	2,699	39
Lesser Goldfinch	2			6				12	4		4			1	3		1	33	110	34
American Goldfinch	9	17	33	4			2	5	11	33				2				116	367	49
Evening Grosbeak	4	73	37					39	37	1							56	247	155	28
House Sparrow		11	6	2		4	5	2	40	6	6	5		12	4			103	614	49
Total birds	2,348	7,127	1,706	12,018	7,270	1,222	6,088	2,596	6,988	2,392	4,166	4,560	56,064	1,350	1,308	1,821	252	119,276		
Total Species	52	56	46	67	45	50	54	63	67	55	85	55	67	55	56	58	25	129	127	
Scoops	4		1	3			3	3	1		8		7		2					

Feral Cats *continued from page 32*

of bird predation by owned cats. Studies suggest that there are 80 million owned cats in the U.S. and that 43 percent have access to the outdoors. Total cat predation on birds is likely around one billion birds per year, though some analyses suggest much higher figures.)

- Feeding feral cats encourages them to congregate which encourages the chances of diseases being transmitted.
- The supplemental feeding of feral cats should be prohibited.
- Cats kill far more native wildlife species than nuisance (invasive) species.
- Cats will kill wildlife no matter how well they are fed.
- One reference to TNR success claimed that one particular feral cat colony numbered 920 cats before TNR, and then 678 after. However, when migrations and births were factored in, the colony had actually increased in size — to 983 cats.
- The life expectancy of a feral cat is 3-5 years as opposed to 15 years for owned cats.

The report can be viewed by going to the following website and then scrolling to report EC1781: <http://elkhorn.unl.edu/eublic/pages/index.jsp?what=subjectAreasD&subjectAreasId=38>

Susan Haig

Conservation Report Oregon Closing In on Plastic Bags

The Northwest Grocery Association, led by retailer Fred Meyer, is proposing a restriction in the use of single use plastic bags. Fred Meyer hopes customers will switch to reusable bags made from recycled products. Customers would be charged at least five cents for a paper bag.

Plastic bags have created havoc with wildlife around the world and especially in our rivers and oceans. ASC has been encouraging members to utilize reusable cloth bags for some years in hopes of curtailing the plastic dilemma. ASC members Peter and Stacy Moore have worked for some years at Campbell Island in the South Pacific for the New Zealand government, and have photographed many dead albatross killed as a result of plastic ingestion.

California recently lost their battle in banning plastic bags, due to a major effort by the chemical industries.

Opposing Oregon efforts is the American Chemistry Council that says “the damage is exaggerated”. If the proposal is acted upon, Oregon will be the first state to adopt a state-wide ban. Please call your representative now to ask them to support the ban. To help even more, buy an ASC cloth tote bag and use it each time you shop.

John Gaylord



Here are some useful winter driving hints:

Keep your headlights clear with car wax.! Just wipe ordinary car wax on your headlights as it contains a special

water repellant that will last at least 6 weeks

Squeak-proof your wipers with rubbing alcohol. Wipe the wipers with a cloth saturated with rubbing alcohol or ammonia. NO more squeaks!

Ice-proof your windows with vinegar. Frost on its way? Just fill a spray bottle with vinegar and spray it on your windows at night. In the morning they'll be clear of icy mess.

Prevent car doors from freezing shut with cooking oil. Spray cooking oil on the rubber seals around car doors and rub it with a paper towel. Will open easily in freezing weather.

Fog-proof your windshield! Spray some shaving cream on the inside of your windshield and wipe it off with a paper towel. Shaving cream has ingredients found in commercial defoggers. Happy motoring.

John Gaylord

Open ACS Board Meetings

ASC Board of Directors meetings are open to all ASC members, and the board encourages you to come and see what we do. Our monthly board meeting is on Thursday one week before the General Meeting. See the calendar on the last page of *The Chat* for the meeting location.

How Crossbills Unlock Cones

Remarkable video footage shows how crossbills do what no other birds can: extract 3,000 seeds a day from tightly closed spruce cones. Watch the video at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_profilepage&v=1NvU8WG9bg0

Olympic BirdFest 2011

Date: April 8-10, 2011, Sequim, WA

Visit the rain shadow of the Olympic Peninsula to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, dippers, Black Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks, and more. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, silent auction, and a gala banquet at the Sunland Golf & Country Club. The festival with the most spectacular setting!

Immediately following BirdFest, join us for a three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 10-12, 2011.

Website address: www.olympicbirdfest.org

E-mail address: opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com

Contact name: Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, 360-681-4076

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Dave Mellinger, Marcia Cutler, Rich Armstrong, Fred Ramsey, Michelle Croft, Raylene Gordin, Susan Haig, John Gaylord

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Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

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

Calendar

- Jan. 8 Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
- Jan. 13 January Board meeting 7 pm at
Paula Vanderheul's home. For directions, please phone
541-752-0470
- Jan. 20 January General meeting
- Jan. 27 Article submission deadline for February Chat
- Jan. 23 Field notes submission deadline for February Chat
- Feb. 12 Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am



*Western Screech-Owl photo
by Tristen Gholson*

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