



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

January 2012

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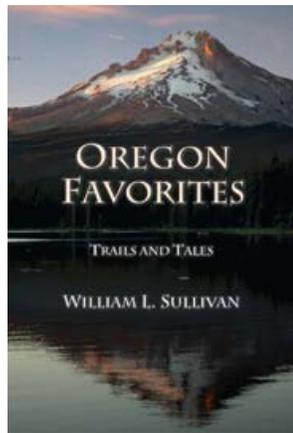
General Meeting

First Presbyterian Church,

Thursday, January 19, 7:00–8:30 PM

Bill Sullivan:
Favorite Oregon Hikes & Adventures

Oregon hiking guru Bill Sullivan takes us on a tour of his favorite trips—hikes and adventures in all parts of the state, recommending top trips for every month of the year. Based on his new book, “Oregon Favorites,” the show includes tips on new trails, as well as anecdotes about history, geology, wildlife, and people along the way.



A fifth-generation Oregonian, Sullivan has written 7 books about Oregon’s outdoors, as well as two books on Oregon history, two adventure memoirs, and three novels. His journal, *Listening for Coyote* was chosen by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission as one of the 100 most significant books in the state’s history. His popular five-volume series of *100 Hikes* guidebooks cover virtually every trail in the state, and his 1,361-mile hike across Oregon (he took

the long way) was chronicled in *Listening for Coyote*.

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 or 541-757-7953.

Directions

The monthly chapter meeting is in Dennis Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 114 SW Eighth Street.

Dave Mellinger

2010 Corvallis CBC Preliminary summary

More than 50 participants in the field and at least 8 feeder counters made this the highest turnout for the Corvallis CBC since I became the compiler in 2002. The count was also unique in having 3 bicycle teams!

The species total so far stands at 128 which would make it the second highest after last year’s 129 species. I suspect that many high counts will be established for individual species, but you will have to wait until next month’s Chat to see the final results.

Two bird species made their debut in this count: the **Blue Jay** which has been seen for the past 10 days at Bald Hill Park was successfully located on count day. And a flock of 11 **Sandhill Cranes** flew over a person walking

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Campus Way between the covered bridge and the OSU agricultural buildings. **Pacific Loon** and **Common Yellowthroat** were seen for just the second time. **Common Loon** and **Snow Bunting** were seen for the third time and **Mountain Plover** (4) and **Lapland Longspur** (5) round out the cast of uncommon birds for the count.

For the second straight count, Ring-necked Pheasant was missed after an unbroken string of sightings from the earliest counts. Shorebirds were also very scarce, perhaps a reflection of the unusually dry weather we've been having. As of the day of the count only about one-quarter inch of rain had fallen for the entire month of December.

I'd like to thank Ev Sherr for making the arrangements for the countdown potluck and Marie Flamme for providing the Turkey Chili and Gail Nickerson for providing the hot and cold drinks. And a big round of applause for all the people who participated in the count. Thank you!

*Marcia F. Cutler
Corvallis CBC Compiler*

Call For Nominations

Homer Campbell-ASC Environmental Award 2012

The Homer Campbell ASC Environmental Award, established in 2005, recognizes a local (Linn, Benton, Lincoln or Polk County) individual or organization that has made significant contributions to environmental stewardship, awareness, or 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, and
- habitat restoration or preservation.

Both long-standing and short-term but significant contributions will be considered for this award. A committee from the Audubon Society of Corvallis (ASC) will recommend one of the nominees, who will then be voted on by the Board of Directors. The selected awardee will then be recognized at ASC's April or May General Meeting and presented with an engraved plaque. The awardee's name will also be engraved on a permanent plaque that hangs at ASC's Hesthavn Nature Center. Nominations should consist of letter(s) from one or more people that describe how the actions or activities of the nominee fit the criteria described above. Nominations should include contact information for both the nominee and the nominator and are due by January 31st, 2012. Email submissions may be sent to Linda Campbell, lcampbell@peak.org ; Karan Fairchild, alderspr@peak.org; Dave Mellinger, david.mellinger@oregonstate.edu; or Will Wright, willwright26@q.com. Postal mail submissions should be addressed to ASC, attn: HC Award Committee, PO Box 148, Corvallis OR 97339.

Previous winners of the Homer Campbell ASC Environmental Award:

2011: Steve Northway
2010: Jeff Mitchell
2009: Elsie Eltzroth
2008: Bill & Carla Chambers, Stahlbush Island Farms
2007: Wally & Mary Eichler
2006: Bob & Liz Frenkel
2005: Elzy Eltzroth

Karan Fairchild

Field Trip Schedule

Local Monthly Saturday Field Trips

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of every month at the Benton Center parking area, behind the Cannery Mall, Corvallis at 7:30 am. This field trip is especially interesting for beginner birders and birders new to Oregon's mid-valley area. We focus on identifying local birds by sight and song while enjoying the outdoors. We visit the valley national wildlife refuges—Finley, Baskett Slough, and Ankeny, as well as other birding areas throughout the year. Contact Bill Proebsting at proebstw@gmail.com or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley ListServ, <http://www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/>, the week before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately.

Present Plans:

Jan 14: Baskett Slough NWR and Livermore Rd.
Feb 11: Snagboat Bend

Bill Proebsting

ASC Resolution

Regarding Transfer of Administrative Authority of Federal Lands

The following resolution was approved by the ASC Governing Board and sent on December 8, 2011, to Oregon's two senators, 3rd, 4th, and 5th district congressmen, Linn and Benton County Board of Commissioners, and the Governor of Oregon:

Whereas Audubon Society of Corvallis, a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, seeks to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity;

Whereas natural forest ecosystems support a broad range of human benefits, including clean air, clean water, an abundance and diversity of birds, wildlife, plants, and the habitats that sustain them;

Whereas Audubon Society of Corvallis and its members have been leaders for the conservation of native forests in western Oregon, and for the fish and wildlife dependent on them;

Whereas this Society supports the full range of current administrative and judicial remedies necessary to ensure full and continued compliance with a range

of natural resources laws, including the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act;

Therefore, Audubon Society of Corvallis supports the continued administration of all federal forest lands in Western Oregon under the Northwest Forest Plan, including all revested Oregon & California railroad (O&C) lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management; and

Therefore supports other federal remedies for the economic support and protection of Oregon counties, local industries, and their citizens, such as a federal tax returned to counties of origin on all raw log exports; and

Therefore opposes the transfer of administrative authority of O&C Lands to quasi-federal fiduciary trusts, regardless of their administrative charge, if citizens do not have direct access to review or appeal decisions of such trusts equal to or greater than lawful remedies currently in place; and

Therefore opposes any such transfers that jeopardize the recognized biological values of forests identified in the Northwest Forest Plan, including the established network of Late Successional Reserves and Key Watersheds, under which national forest lands, particularly the Siuslaw National Forest, have been successfully administered.

*Respectfully submitted,
Co-President, Audubon Society of Corvallis*

Hesthavn News

Bridge Buy-In?

The Audubon Society of Corvallis' Hesthavn Nature Center is planning upon expanding their facility trails by creating a new nature trail through the maturing forest on the property. To accomplish this expansion, there is a need to cross Oak Creek in two places. For this purpose, we need two footbridges. This project will cost between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

At the December 15, 2011, Corvallis Audubon Society general meeting, it was announced that the National Audubon Society has awarded Hesthavn \$1,000 towards the bridges project. With that \$1,000 and a required match, Hesthavn has the funding to go forward in contacting structural engineers to oversee this project. We were surprised, during the general meeting, by an anonymous donor stepping forward with a donor matching proposal. Through March 15th, 2012, up to \$5,000 will be matched! And, if we meet this goal, with your donations, we will be able to complete the project and have "Loop Walkers" by the summer of 2013.

Please send your tax-deductible donations to the Audubon Society of Corvallis, PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339. Donations of \$1,000 or higher, will have the donors

names engraved on an appreciation plaque that will be installed at the footbridge crossings, upon their completion. Thank you.

Hesthavn work party schedule

January 21

February 25

March 24

These are all Saturdays. We'll work from 9 AM to 12 PM, however I will probably stay until 1 PM each day. The focus will be on the removal of invasive plants.

Atop the Nestbox

In the Summer 2011 issue of *Bluebird, the Journal of the North American Bluebird Society*, Elsie published an account of our oldest known wild Western Bluebird. He was banded in May 1997 in the Soap Creek Valley. He is presumed to have nested in the area through 2004, his color band combination being seen at several sites until his USFWS metal band numbers were photographically confirmed in 2005. He was again seen in the spring of 2006 before his final disappearance. At last sighting, this male Western Bluebird was almost 9 years old. He had become known as Big Boy Blue.

Although we know that 9 years is an extraordinary age for a bluebird, the question of the average lifespan of a wild Western Bluebird is as yet unanswered. We ask for your help in gathering data for a prospective study that we began two years ago. Between the months of March and June, 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. Alternatively, you can call or e-mail me directly with your sightings at 541-258-6625, gordin@centurytel.net. Thank you. Without your help, our study may be meaningless.

Raylene Gordin

Field Notes

11/25/11-12/22/11

A persistent strong inversion trapped a cold, foggy airmass in the valley for most of the period. Rainfall was far below average, but dense fog often limited viewing distances. Despite the fog, we were also treated to some sunny days, and several rare birds were found in our area this period.

Locations: Finley = William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Snag Boat Bend = Snag Boat Bend Unit of William L. Finley NWR, Ankeny = Ankeny NWR, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, TWG/SP = Talking Water Gardens & Simpson Park in Albany, Philomath STP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds

Observers: Matt Blakeley-Smith (MBS), Austin Booth (AB), Don Boucher (DB), Howard Bruner (HB), Bob Burke (BB), Nancy Butler-Neary (NBN), Alan Contreras

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Field Notes *Continued from previous page*

(AC), Randy Campbell (RCa), Pam Comeleo (PCo), Randy Comeleo (RCo), Marcia F. Cutler (MFC), Marie Flamme (MFl), Woody Fitzgerald (WF), Jeff Fleischer (JFl), Becky Geier (BG), Joel Geier (JG), Tristen Gholson (TG), Julie Gibson (JGb), Andy Gray (AG), Jeff Harding (JH), Susan Hatlevig (SH), Kaynor Heineck (KH), Dave Hill (DH), Richard F. Hoyer (RFH), Erik Knight (EK), Jan Landau (JL), Thomas Meinzen (TM), Lisa Millbank (LM), Anne Mary Myers (AMM), Jerry Paul (JP), Gayle Peterson (GP), Holly Reinhard (HR), Bill Ripple (BR), Doug Robinson (DR), Stefan Schlick (SS), Don Schrouder (DS), Brandon Wagner (BW), Cheryl Whelchel (CW), Rhett Wilkins (RW), Will Wright (WW), m.obs = multiple observers

A few **Greater White-fronted Geese** were scattered among **Cackling & Canada Goose** flocks throughout the area, but there was a flock of 50 E of Brownsville 12/16 (JFl). A single **Ross's Goose** was found in a flock of Cackling and Canada Geese at Finley 11/26 (KH). **Snow Geese** were occasionally found within similar flocks at Finley 11/26 (KH), 12/8 (MC) and 12/19 (EK). At least two **Trumpeter Swans** were swimming with **Tundra Swans** in SE Polk County along DeArmond Rd 11/30 (JG & BG). 3 male **Eurasian Wigeons** were at Grand Prairie Park in Albany 12/10 (TM). 3 female **Common Goldeneyes** showed up at Philomath STP during the first week of the period. One had a yellow bill, which is an unusual feature for females (DR). A flock of 18 **Hooded Mergansers** were at Ankeny 11/27 (TG, AC). 2 pairs were at Cronemiller Lake in McDonald Forest 11/28, a favorite location (JGb). Relatively low water levels in local wetlands led to impressive concentrations of waterfowl, including 2400 **Mallards**, 1000 **Green-winged Teal**, 250 **Northern Pintail** at Finley 12/18 (EK). 4 **Canvasback** were at Ankeny 11/27 (EK); the only report this period.

A **Mountain Quail** visited a feeder on NW Highland Dell in Corvallis 11/30 (JP).

2 **Common Loons** and a single **Pacific Loon** were found on 12/20 on the Corvallis CBC (Christmas Bird Count), on private land in count area 7 (DR). **Eared Grebes** were reported from the Philomath STP 11/28 (AB). A single **Western Grebe** was at the confluence of the Marys and Willamette Rivers 12/7 (LM).

Impressive collections of **Great Egrets** could be seen in some local fields; there was a gathering of 15 in a field on Hwy 99W near Finley 11/26 (SH) and 11 just S of McFarland Rd on Hwy 99W 12/19 (RFH).

1 **Turkey Vulture** circled over Dawson Rd in S Benton County 12/11 (WW). A **White-tailed Kite** found on the Brownsville area raptor survey route 12/16 was the first one found on that route (JFl). Another kite was at EEW 12/18; an area where they are seen infrequently (RW, SS). 4 **Bald Eagles** took part in the chasing and killing of a single Cackling Goose on Hwy 34 E of Corvallis 12/5 (WF). 52 eagles arrived at the same cottonwood roost they used

last year W of Tangent 12/20 (JFl). A **Northern Harrier** harassed a Bobcat at MRNA 12/20 (LM & DB). 51 harriers were counted on the Linn County Unit 3 raptor survey route on 11/20 and 11/26 (JFl, CW). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reliable at Finley and Ankeny (m.obs.). 2 were at NW Highland Dell in Corvallis 11/29 (JP) and one was at EEW 12/1 (JG). 338 **Red-tailed Hawks** were counted on the Linn County Unit 3 raptor survey route on 11/20 and 11/26 (JFl, CW). At least 1 **Golden Eagle** continued at Finley; it was frequently reported last period as well. Another was found at the Corvallis airport 12/12 on a central Benton County raptor survey route (MC, JL). 140 **American Kestrels** were counted on the Linn County Unit 3 raptor survey route on 11/20 and 11/26 (JFl, CW). **Merlins** were reported frequently throughout the period, but 5 were found on a Corvallis CBC route in Philomath and SW Corvallis 12/20 (LM & DB). **Prairie Falcons** were fairly well-represented this period, sometimes even equaling numbers of **Peregrine Falcons** on raptor survey routes. 2 Prairie Falcons were on the Linn County Unit 3 raptor survey route 11/26 (JFl), 1 was on the Scio raptor survey route 12/10 (JH, BB), 2 were on the Linn County Unit 4 route 12/12 (JFl), and 1 was SW of Corvallis 12/20 (JFl).



Sandhill Crane Photo by Matt Lee

A **Virginia Rail** called at EEW 12/2 (JG); decent numbers of these overwinter locally, while almost all of their Sora relatives leave our area.

3 **Sandhill Cranes** were N of Lebanon on Tennessee School Dr 12/5 (JFl), 1 was S of McFarland Rd on Hwy 99W (RFH) and 11 flew over the OSU campus on the Corvallis CBC 12/20.

A flock of 56 **Black-bellied Plovers** were E of Peoria 12/15 (RCa). One of the period's avian celebrities was the **Mountain Plover** on Llewellyn Rd S of Corvallis. The bird was found 12/2 (DS, DH) and continued through the period, and is one of only about a dozen Oregon records. 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** was reported from Ankeny 11/27 (EK); just a few may overwinter locally. A **Long-billed Curlew** E of Albany 12/5 (JFl) was a rare visitor, especially in December. The curlew was seen for nearly a week in the



The Snowy Owl in Albany. Photo by Lisa Millbank

same location. 70 **Dunlin** were at Ankeny 11/27 (EK). The **Ruff** reported last period E of Tangent apparently stayed until at least 11/26, but wasn't reported after that. There were 10 **Long-billed Dowitchers** at Ankeny 11/27 (EK). A **Wilson's Snipe** probed for food in an Independence garden 12/13 (BW). A flock of 24 snipes were found SW of Corvallis on the CBC 12/20 (JFI).

A **Thayer's Gull** was found on the Corvallis CBC 12/20; they are uncommon locally in winter, and distinguishing them from Herring Gulls requires a good look.

50 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were at Ankeny 11/27 (EK).

A major irruption of **Snowy Owls** has delighted birders across North America this year; and the first local sighting was one on Marys Peak 11/26 (AG). However, the immature owl reported 12/4 from Albany (KH) was the real star, being featured in the newspaper and enjoyed by hundreds or even thousands of people. 6 **Great Horned Owls** were found in part of the SW Corvallis section of the Corvallis CBC 12/20 (DB & LM). A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was found near the top of Marys Peak 12/4 (PCo, RCo), 2 were on the Scio raptor survey route (JH, BB) and 1 was at Connor's Camp on Marys Peak 12/17 (PCo, RCo, BR). A single **Burrowing Owl** was reported SE of Peoria 11/26 (JFI). Usually just one or two are found overwintering in our area each year. **Short-eared Owls** were active and easily observed at Finley throughout the period. A report from 11/25 included 4 owls wing-clapping, barking and gliding over fields with Northern Harriers (AMM, MBS), and there was a similar display 12/1 (WW). 1 was flushed at EEW 12/1, and 2 were east of Tangent 12/12 (JG). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** called from Avery Park in Corvallis 12/6 (LM), perhaps just a stop on its way to a different wintering area, as it wasn't detected there again.

2 cheeky **Anna's Hummingbirds** relentlessly dive-bombed a Merlin in Philomath 12/20 (LM & DB).

2 **Lewis's Woodpecker** seemed to have made themselves at home in the oaks of Bald Top at Finley, as they were noted throughout the period (m.obs.). A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** got the attention of a 5-year-old beginning birder as it foraged in his grandmother's yard in SW

Corvallis 11/28 (NBN).

Black Phoebes were seen regularly at Finley throughout the period (m.obs.) and just south of downtown Corvallis 12/19 (LM).

1 **Northern Shrike** was in Dunn Forest (RCo & PCo), another was at EEW (SS, RW) and 1 was at Finley (EK), all on 12/18 – apparently, a great day for shrikes!

A **Blue Jay** at Bald Hill Park was tentatively identified by voice 11/26 (DB & LM), but wasn't actually seen and confirmed until 12/14 (RCo). Blue Jays are rare but regular in Oregon, showing up just about every winter.

115 **Horned Larks** were at the Corvallis airport 12/2 (DR), while 79 were found in area 3 of the Corvallis CBC (SE of Corvallis) 12/20 (JFI).

A **Barn Swallow** was seen 12/20 in Corvallis CBC count area 7 (DR); they're rarely but regularly seen in December. At least 1 **Tree Swallow** was at TWG/SP 12/10 (HB); very late indeed.

Chestnut-backed Chickadees were not abundant in the valley this period; but some were reported from McDonald Forest 12/1 (JGb). More may move to lower elevations with more severe winter weather.

Multiple large flocks of **Western Bluebirds** brightened the meadows of Marys Peak 12/1 (MFC, JL, GP, MFI). **Hermit Thrushes** seem rather scarce this year, but perhaps more will descend from higher elevations as snow accumulates. **American Robins** are some of the most abundant birds in towns during winter, as they feed on fruit of exotic landscaping plants and find insects and worms in lawns. 1117 were found in part of the SW Corvallis section of the Corvallis CBC 12/20 (DB & LM).

A night roost of **European Starlings** at Finley was estimated to contain 95,000 birds 12/20 (DR).

400-500 **American Pipits** along Glaser Rd E of Tangent 12/12 were the largest flocks reported this period (JG).

While most have left our area, 73 **Cedar Waxwings** were still lingering in part of the SW Corvallis section of the Corvallis CBC 12/20 (DB & LM).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at TWG/SP 12/10 (HB), and another was found on the Corvallis CBC 12/20, and although uncommon in winter, a few typically linger in the valley. A **Nashville Warbler** was seen in an Independence yard 12/1 (BW); an even less common overwintering warbler. A single female **Common Yellowthroat** was found by boat, at Snag Boat Bend on the Corvallis CBC 12/20 (RCa).

Savannah Sparrows were numerous along Blatchford Rd E of Tangent, with dozens of them foraging along the roadside 12/12 (JG). An unusual, bright rusty-red **Fox Sparrow** at EEW 12/1 (JG) was of undetermined subspecies, but was quite different from our common chocolate-brown "Sooty" Fox Sparrows visiting feeders throughout the valley. 100+ **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported from EEW 12/18 (SS, RW); although shy and easily missed, these can be abundant in wet, brushy habitats. 14 or 15

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Field Notes *Continued from previous page*

White-throated Sparrows were at EEW 12/10 (JG). **Dark-eyed Juncos** of the “Slate-colored” form were found in Sodaville 11/26 (KH) and at least 1 at EEW 12/2 (JG). 477 of the usual hooded “Oregon” form were found in part of the SW Corvallis section of the Corvallis CBC 12/20 (DB & LM). 13 **Lapland Longspurs** were at Corvallis airport 12/3 (DR), while 5 longspurs and a **Snow Bunting** were at the airport 12/20 (DR). The longspurs are uncommon but regular, but the bunting is a very rare bird in the valley.

A **Western Meadowlark** was presumably killed by a car on Robison Rd in SE Polk County 12/12, and another with a wing injury was taken to Chintimini (JG). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 11/28 (HR), a very uncommon overwintering bird locally.

20 **Evening Grosbeaks** were at Marys Peak 12/1 (MFC, JL, GP, MFI). 3 **Common Redpolls** were found on Marys Peak 12/3 (DR) (and 1 was heard at the Corvallis airport 12/2); very rare W of the Cascades.

Please post your reports to midvalleybirding.org, send them to lisaaves@peak.org, or leave a voicemail at 541-753-7689 by Thursday, January 26.

Migratory Birds, Take II: Another Look at Threats

Last week, American Bird Conservancy (ABC) sponsored a “Webinar” on wind power development in the United States. This webinar examined wind power’s effects on birds, and ongoing efforts to have the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service develop stronger rules under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to protect birds, while affording some level of certainty to wind energy planning. I was unable to “attend”, but will continue the series next month.

Perhaps stepping back to view this from the many hazards migrant birds face is instructive. The June 2011 ABC newsletter *Viewpoint* article gives an excellent perspective, attempting to address cumulative mortality in bird populations. The greatest sources for mortality to most migrant passerines are in fact natural—severe weather events and natural predation. Most migrant songbird reproductive strategies readily make up for these losses. Habitat losses undermine those strategies, however, and make quantitative loss measures difficult. Still, habitat amount is the primary control for bird populations.

Wind power is likely to kill one to four million birds each year in the U.S., once full build-out is in place. For comparison, collisions with vehicles and losses to feral cats are estimated to kill hundreds of millions of birds each year, possibly approaching one billion. Collisions with communication towers and electrical transmission lines, and attraction to night-time lighting or toxic open impoundments of liquids from industrial operations take a further toll. Considering all these factors, many people wonder when species will reach unrecoverable tipping

points towards extinction.

Yet workable solutions can lessen mortalities and move populations away from these tipping points: screened effluent ponds, bird-deterrent glass and film coatings, altered night lighting of equipment and buildings, and placement of wind turbines and communication arrays away from migration corridors. These solutions should be applied across bird migratory ranges, which for many North American species extend beyond our U.S. borders.

-Jim Fairchild

Conservation Report Plastic bag issue heats up

Single-use plastic bags versus multi-use bags continue to catch the news in Corvallis and elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest. The *Gazette-Times* newspaper frequently has colorful editorials with letters in favor and against banning plastic bags.

Corvallis City Councilor Dan Brown, who previously spoke in favor of keeping single-use bags, recently sent a letter to the Corvallis Administrative Services Committee making a number of assertions and recommendations. Basically, he believes that the majority of people around the world want plastic single-use bags and the size of Corvallis does not warrant banning plastic bags. He further believes that engineers can solve plastics fouling recycling machines. It appears he feels the movement against single use plastic bags has little support in Corvallis and recommends groups advocating the ban of plastic single-use bags gather 2700 citizen signatures to show support for the bag ban.

The push to more sustainable practices is gaining momentum around the globe and many cities have already banned plastic bags because of plastics’ destruction of wildlife and fouling of streams and oceans. Seattle recently voted to ban plastic bags along with Mukilteo, Edmonds, and Bellingham, WA. San Jose, CA has banned the single-use bags as well as much of Los Angeles, County. I believe the only winner with the use of plastic single-use bags is the oil industry. They spent over 12 million dollars in lobbying California legislators and over 130 thousand dollars was spent by the oil industry in Oregon in lobbying efforts.

Further discussions with Corvallis City Council and interested parties will take place over the next several months with a final vote by councilors possibly in May. The public will be expected to make comments in March.

John Gaylord

Another Friend Who Passed: David B Marshall 1926-2011

David Brownell Marshall peacefully joined his ancestors in the early morning hours of November 22 following a prolonged illness. The first of three children born in Portland to Earl and Dorothy Marshall, David was known as an outstanding naturalist and bird expert. He grew near Mt. Tabor, where he made frequent forays into the fields and woods to observe birds. He attended Washington High

School where he met Georgia Leupold in 1943. They would marry 56 years later. David served in the Army Air Corps as a gunner during World War II. He married Betty Jones in 1948 and subsequently graduated from Oregon State College with a degree in Fish and Game Management. In the 1950's he worked on various wildlife refuges, including Malheur National Wildlife Refuge where he served with refuge manager John Scharff. Later he was instrumental in establishing Basket Slough, Finley, and Ankeny wildlife refuges in the Willamette Valley. In 1960 David returned to Portland to take a position as regional refuge biologist. In 1973 he became chief biologist for birds and mammals in the endangered species program in Washington, D.C. David retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1981 at the age of 55 and subsequently worked as a consultant to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. In 2003, he co-authored a seven hundred page reference book *Birds of Oregon*, which has been called "the definitive source for Oregon ornithology". David is survived by his daughter Janet, son John, brother Albert, sister Nancy, triplet grandchildren, and his beloved Georgia.

A celebration of David's life will be held at noon on Saturday December 10 at the Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland. In lieu of flowers please make contributions to the David Marshall Endowment Fund of the Oregon State University Foundation or the Audubon Society of Portland.

Karan Fairchild

GreenTip OF THE MONTH

The Holiday season is a wonderful time of year with food, friends and local color. Sometimes we might have a small chore in removing candle wax left over from our merry table. Have no fear because there are nice ways to accomplish wax removal. Once wax has dried onto a tablecloth, cloth napkin, or placemat, several steps are required to remove it properly and completely. The first thing to do is to apply an ice cube or ice pack to the wax. This will make the wax brittle, allowing you to scrape off what you can. Never use a regular dull knife that has serrated edges since this could damage the cloth. Once you have removed as much wax as you can, it will be necessary to get your iron and a few paper towels or a paper bag. Place one paper towel underneath the cloth while you set the iron to heat on medium high level, depending on the fabric. Place a second paper towel on top the wax. Gently iron the area until the wax has been transferred to the paper towel. Continue this process until all the wax is gone.

John Gaylord

Benton SWCD 2012 Native Plant Sale

68 varieties: conifers, broadleaves, shrubs, flowers, grasses
\$0.50 to \$4 each

Plants must be pre-ordered!

Call 541-753-72088 *OR* order online at

<http://plantsale.bentonswcd.org/pages/index.html>

Deadline for Orders: Friday, Jan 27

Order pick-up date : Saturday, Feb 11

Alice Fairfield

Board Meeting Summary ASC December meeting

By general consensus, it was decided to send to DeFazio's office the newly drafted (by the Conservation Committee) statement opposing his concepts for potential legislation in which half the Oregon O&C (BLM managed) lands would be put into a "production" fiduciary trust. The trust then would have sole discretion on how to harvest timber on these lands; public comment would not be allowed. The other half of the lands would be put in a "conservation" fiduciary trust; again public comment would be stifled by the structure of the trust. As the legislation is developed, ASC will develop more detailed comments.

The Conservation Committee's 2011-2012 budget was approved by unanimous vote.

Also by unanimous vote, discussion of suggested changes to the By-Laws concerning email meetings by ASC committees and the Board as a whole was tabled until the January Board meeting.

Linda Campbell

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.

ASC listserve

ASC has started a new listserve. Sign up and get email messages about meeting changes, special events, event reminders, etc. Send a request to Karan Fairchild, alderspr@peak.org.

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Dave Mellinger, Marcia F. Cutler, Karan Fairchild, Bill Proebsting, Ann Brodie, Jan Landau, Susan Akisson, Raylene Gordin, Jim Fairchild, Lisa Millbank, John Gaylord and Alice Fairfield

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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. 12 January Board meeting 7 pm at
Gail Nickerson's house, 1695 NW Arthur Circle,
Corvallis
- Jan. 14 Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
- Jan. 19 January General meeting
- Jan. 21 Hesthavn work party
- Jan. 22 Field notes submission deadline for February Chat
- Jan. 26 Article submission deadline for February Chat
- Feb. 11 Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am



American Robin photo by Matt Lee

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