



# Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

October 2012

VOL. 42

#2

## General Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
First Presbyterian Church  
8th and Monroe

### Midway

#### A Journey with 500,000 Albatrosses and Brilliant Azure Seas

*Kim Nelson*

On Oct. 18, Kim Nelson, an Avian Ecologist at Oregon State University, will talk about her recent trip to Midway Atoll in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. As part of the Pacific Seabird Group, Kim traveled to Midway last February to help re-band Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses and study the undertail coverts of known-aged Black-foots to look for age-related patterns. When not capturing albatrosses, she learned a great deal about the history of Midway and the conservation challenges on a small, isolated atoll. Her presentation will include a discussion of research, history, and conservation issues, focusing on the birds and other wildlife she encountered while on this spectacular atoll.



Kim Nelson is an Avian Ecologist with the Oregon Co-operative Wildlife Research Unit in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University. The focus of her research has been on the status and nesting and foraging behavior of seabirds of the



Pacific, including Marbled Murrelets, Long-billed Murrelets, Kittlitz's Murrelets, Caspian Terns, Double-crested Cormorants, and a variety of species at mixed seabird colonies in the Bering Sea. She has also studied seabird diet and productivity, contaminants in predators and prey, and bird and mammal distribution, abundance and habitat use in forests, deserts, and prairies. Much of this work has been conducted in coastal Oregon, but also in the Willamette Valley, Cascade Mountains and eastern Oregon, and coastal California, Washington, Alaska, and Japan.

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](mailto: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*

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## Field Trip Schedule

### Local Monthly Second 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](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com) or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley Listserve, [www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/](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.

### Half Day Field Trips

**October 13** Finley NWR

**November 10** Luckiamute Landing

*Bill Proebsting*

## Hesthavn News

At last! The Hesthavn footbridge is under construction! (See photo by Karl Hartzell) We are expecting the bridge to be completed by mid-October after which we will be holding our ribbon-cutting ceremony to honor those of you who have contributed to our cause. If you would like to attend this ceremony, please send me your email address that I might include you in our email announcement with the date and time for this event. [susan.atkisson@oregonstate.edu](mailto:susan.atkisson@oregonstate.edu)



The ASC is currently working on its annual report and I'm very pleased to mention that over 40+ volunteers have come out to Hesthavn to pitch-in during this last fiscal year. We very much appreciate your involvement with Hesthavn and hope you will continue helping us to maintain the Nature Center.

*Susan Atkisson*

## Hesthavn Volunteers Needed

Ray Drapek will be working at Hesthavn from 9 to 5 on Sunday Oct 21 and on Sunday Nov 11. Anyone wanting to help out is welcome to come for whatever portion of that time period works for them. Activities will include mowing and weed control around the barn and the parking lot, maintenance of the trails, blackberry removal, possibly some planting, and whatever else may come up. I plan to be out there rain or shine, but if there's a monsoon I may cut the day short.

*Ray Drapek*

## Hesthavn Education News

The education team with ASC is gearing up for fall programs, and needs your help. In October/November we will be guiding students in riparian restoration out at Evergreen, a property owned by Greenbelt Land Trust. If you are interested in volunteering with this project that is supported by a grant through National Audubon Society, please contact Michelle at [hesthavneducation@gmail.com](mailto:hesthavneducation@gmail.com). We could also use photographers to help document our programs!

This season we are offering twelve programs for students to sign up for. The topics are listed on our website - if you or anyone you know is interested in signing up, they only need to choose a date and time and we will show up with our lessons and props, ready to go. The programs are science-based and hands on, filled with games and activities that help students learn.

*Michelle Shula*

## Atop the Nestbox

Due to inexplicable no-hatches and fledge failures, our bluebird numbers may be down a little bit this year. We will update you when all of the data are in.

Now is a good time to repair and replace nest boxes, before the weather gets cold and wet. If you need replacement nest boxes, please contact Bev Clark at [clark.bev9@gmail.com](mailto:clark.bev9@gmail.com) or 541-753-4456.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who continue to keep the bluebird trail operational, all of the people who provide us with valuable information about our local birds, and those who assist the cause by providing appropriate nesting locations for Western Bluebirds.

We will soon be able to finalize our nesting data for the 2012 nesting season, so stay tuned!

*Raylene Gordin*

## Bag Ban News

Members of Audubon Society Corvallis have been contributing reusable tote bags for the use of staff at the Linn Benton Food Share program. The bags are to be used by needy folks to carry groceries home from the food share warehouse.

Councilor Jeanne Raymond, Ward 7, asked ASC to help provide reusable bags since the 2.25 mil plastic bags will not be available after January 1, 2013. Jeanne felt ASC was the most experienced organization to head this project up.

A call to Audubon National resulted in additional assistance as VP State Programs and Chapter Services, Lynn Tennefoss, endorsed our project and pledged to help us obtain high-quality bags. The bags are en route now and should arrive shortly, and along with ours, will be presented to Susan James, Food Share Coordinator. We are thankful for our chapter's quick response and generosity and to Audubon National for their action to help provide high quality tote bags for our needy citizens. We should continue to save bags as other groups will need assistance too.

The next project that will require our assistance is the introduction phase of the bag ban. A working group has been formed to pay special attention to canvassing neighborhoods, assisting at markets as needed. This group will include ASC, Marys Peak group of the Sierra Club, the Surf Writers group and OSU Sustainability.

A local group has filed to stop the bag ban by filing a referendum and is currently soliciting signatures. About 2650 signatures are required. The outcome is unknown at this time, but we need to stay on target to help this ban succeed in protecting our seabirds and wildlife. Stay tuned.

*John Gaylord*

## Bandon Field Trip Report



*Common Loon photo by Fred Ramsey*

Seventeen ASC birders participated in the year's final extended weekend field trip, September 7-9, to Bandon and other parts of the south coast. The trip began with a productive stop at Fern Ridge Reservoir, where a PEREGRINE FALCON was harassing a VIRGINIA RAIL, where an AMERICAN BITTERN circled the group, and where we released a DUSKY-FOOTED WOODRAT that had managed to get its tail stuck on a blackberry barb.

At Weyco ponds north of Coos Bay there was a large flock of mostly RED-NECKED PHALAROPES including a few RED PHALAROPES (which rarely come inland). A walk through Millicoma Marsh ended birding for the day, and Bandon's Wheelhouse restaurant offered a fine selection of seafood for dinner.

Saturday morning, the tides were right for extended viewing of shorebirds at Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. In addition to the usual peeps and gulls, a nice

group of WHIMBREL and MARBLED GODWITS was found. At the south jetty, we spotted a PEREGRINE FALCON on the opposite, north jetty. The peregrine flew across the harbor directly at stunned birders, and then grabbed a small shorebird off the rocks before returning to the north. A group of only three DOWITCHERS obligingly foraged close below, allowing superb views of tertial patterns: two SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS and one LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER.

The afternoon's birding highlighted a drive to Port Orford's dock. Distant, but identifiable, were two MARBLED MURRELETS in different stages of molt, our first PIGEON GUILLEMOT, and three RHINOCEROS AUKLETS. BROWN PELICANS dove into the water to capture small fish near the surface and were then hounded by HEERMANN'S GULLS trying to steal the catch. A GRAY WHALE surfaced nearby - only a hundred yards away - several times.

Two COMMON LOONS put on a fascinating display. One started the encounter by stretching its wings out and rocking back to sit upright on the water. It went after the second, running grebe-like on the water's surface. The second flapped rapidly across the water's surface some 50 meters away, then turned to see where the first was. But the first had dived. The second stuck its head under water to find that the first had kept up with it by flying under water. This whole proceeding was then repeated.

Sunday began with another visit to the marsh refuge, where PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER and RED KNOT had arrived overnight. Heading north, we visited Simpson's Reef, overlooking hundreds of STELLER'S and CALIFORNIA SEA LIONS and two gigantic NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEALS. Half a dozen HARLEQUIN DUCKS splashed around the reef rocks while BLACK OYSTERCATCHERS prowled their surfaces. A huge flock of SOOTY SHEARWATERS was spotted well offshore.

The trip logged 106 bird species, along with 13 mammals, one reptile, 4 butterflies, a dragonfly and one damselfly. The weather cooperated magnificently, putting an enjoyed finale to the year's weekend field trips.

*Fred Ramsey*

## Conservation Corner

It is with regret that I announce the resignation of Tom Penpraze from the Conservation Chair position. He has always done an excellent job, in whatever capacity, for Audubon, and we thank him for his service and wish him well.

There are several important areas where the Audubon Society of Corvallis has involved itself in current conservation matters. One is the local issue of how the City of Corvallis will deal with water from its sewage treatment plant. While the water is clean enough to discharge into the Willamette River, the temperature is higher than the state allows. Corvallis has been given some time to come up with a solution, but the clock is ticking. ASC was originally in alignment with a plan proposal that would have used the

Orleans Site (straight across the river from downtown, upstream from the Harrison Bridge) to build a number of cooling ponds with trails winding among them. We thought this would be wonderful for birds and other wildlife while accomplishing the cooling goal.

Since we signaled our intention to support such a plan, a number of problems with the plan have surfaced. One is the Parks Division plan for that property, which differed significantly from the cooling pond plan. Another is the potential historic nature of the site. Another is the possibility of flooding taking out the whole thing. Access is problematic, and State Highway people did not like the plan. In short, enough problems for ASC to reconsider our original support. We have sent a letter to the city restating our position, which is that we support “green solutions” that do not interfere with existing positive situations and will not create additional problems down the road.

The second issue that is screaming for attention, is a statewide one from Klamath Falls. We have all heard about the water wars from that area, with Native Americans, farmers, and refuge managers attempting to get their share of the precious liquid. Going back to 1903, when Theodore Roosevelt first designated Lower Klamath Refuge, these refuges were reserved primarily for waterfowl, and water rights to the refuges were established.

Of course, Roosevelt also was responsible for the actions of the Bureau of Reclamation, who were sent to drain wetlands and “reclaim” these lands for agriculture. The balancing act between providing for wildlife and providing for humans has always been a tricky one. Never the less, water rights were given to the refuges, as well as the leeway to allow farming on refuge land, should it be prudent.

This spring, in April 2012, over 20,000 ducks, geese, and swans died of fowl cholera because the refuges were not given sufficient water. Farmers were given water. Now the lakes have dried up and millions of waterfowl are headed for their traditional wintering grounds—the lakes and marshes of Klamath Falls. What they will do when they find no water is anyone’s guess. This is a disaster.

The Audubon Society of Corvallis, and 35 other signatories, have endorsed a letter sent to Interior Secretary, Ken Salazar, requesting water to the refuges immediately, and some form of settlement for the long term regarding water rights.

[Take Action!](#)

*Will Wright*

## Field Notes

8/24/12-9/27/12

The general area covered by the field notes is a rough circle centered on Corvallis, extending to around Sweet Home, Monroe/Harrisburg, Marys Peak and the nearby Coast Range, and Monmouth/Dallas.

Location abbreviations: Finley = William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Ankeny = Ankeny National Wildlife Area, Philomath STP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds, LSNA = Luckiamute State Natural Area, TWG/SP = Talking Water Gardens and Simpson Park in Albany

Observers: Douglas Bilsland (DBi), Don Boucher (DB), Susan Brown (SB), Howard Bruner (HB), Pam Comeleo (PCo), Randy Comeleo (RCo), Shawneen Finnegan (SF), Jeff Fleischer (JFI), Becky Geier (BG), Joel Geier (JG), Roy Gerig (RG), Jeff Harding (JH), Kaynor Heineck (KH), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Frank Kolwicz (FK), Tim Johnson (TJ), Mike Lippsmeyer (ML), Lisa Millbank (LM), Mark Nikas (MN), Lars Norgren (LN), Suzanne Ortiz (SO), Pam Otley (PO), Bill Proebsting (BP), Doug Robinson (DR), Will Wright (WW)

There was almost no measurable precipitation this period, with warm, clear weather predominating. Many breeding birds departed, and winter visitors began to arrive. Shorebird numbers were good at some locations, but some wetlands were just fields of cracked mud by the end of the period. We can expect a great increase in waterfowl and plenty of raptors over the coming months.

Only one lonely **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Ankeny 8/31 (TJ), where it was hanging out with some **Canada Geese**, but large flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese began to pass over the valley in early September. About 50 flew over the Monmouth area 9/3 (ML). The first **Cackling Goose** flocks passed over Corvallis 9/25 (HH, LM), soon to be joined by tens of thousands of their kind as they make their way south. There were 46 **Wood Ducks** at Philomath STP 9/13, along with 365 **Northern Shovelers**, 15 **Green-winged Teal** and 115 **Northern Pintails** (HH). The first reported **American Wigeon** showed up at Philomath STP 8/31 (HH), and low numbers continued throughout the period. 250 **Mallards** visited Eagle Marsh at Ankeny 8/31 (TJ). A single **Blue-winged Teal** showed up at Philomath STP 9/9 and 9/13 (HH). A large flock of 48 **Cinnamon Teal** visited the Philomath STP 8/31 (HH). A surprising flock of 18 **Redheads** visited Philomath STP 9/23 (HH, PO) – an extremely high number of these uncommon ducks, although a few had been hanging around there for most of the period. A few scattered **Ring-necked Ducks** arrived this period, and the first reported **Bufflehead** was swimming with 26 **Hooded Mergansers** at Philomath STP 8/29 (HH). A family group of 12 **Common Mergansers**

floated on the Willamette River at LSNA 9/16, but a nearby River Otter may have caused them to take flight (JG). 20 **Ruddy Ducks** at Philomath STP 9/23 were the largest flock reported (HH, PO).

Although **California Quail** were easily found, and 1 **Mountain Quail** was seen on Marys Peak 9/26 (HB), no one reported any grouse, turkeys or pheasants.

There were 11 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Eagle Marsh at Ankeny 8/31 (TJ). 2 **Horned Grebes** were at Philomath STP 9/2, and 3 were there 9/26 (WW). An **Eared Grebe** showed up at Philomath STP 8/25 and hung out there for almost a week (DR). Single **Western Grebes** were at Ankeny 8/28 (TJ), at Philomath STP 9/9 (WW), and 2 were at Philomath STP 9/20 (HH).

3 **Green Herons** flew back and forth along the dike at Pintail Marsh 9/25 (TJ); most of these are on their way south, while additional **Great Blue Herons** should begin to show up in the valley. 16 **Great Egrets** were feasting on carp at drying Cabell Marsh at Finley 9/23 (HH, PO).

**Ospreys** are nearly gone, and **Turkey Vultures** are drifting south in large concentrations—35 rode the thermals along Tampico Ridge 9/24 (JG, BG). A **Northern Harrier** and **Red-tailed Hawk** harassed 2 **Peregrine Falcons** at Ankeny 9/24 (TJ). Peregrines were regularly spotted hunting and eating their prey at Philomath STP throughout the period, and **Merlins** were seen all over the area as they moved south along with their shorebird and passerine prey. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported from Ankeny multiple times this period, 1 was S of Monmouth 9/6 (ML), 1 was at Diamond Hill Rd. 9/24 (LN), and 1 was at LSNA 9/16 (JG). A **Swainson's Hawk** was S of the Snag Boat Bend unit of Finley 9/16 (MN); a very uncommon migrant. An even bigger surprise was a **Broad-winged Hawk** flying over Willamette Park in Corvallis 9/2 (DR), a species whose range is mostly east of the Rocky Mountains.

A **Sora** and a **Virginia Rail** emerged from tall vegetation at TWG/SP 8/30, giving birders great looks at these shy birds (SO). 650 **American Coots** were at Philomath STP 9/24 (HH, PO).

One **Black-bellied Plover** was at Philomath STP 9/25 (WW) and a **Pacific Golden-Plover** turned up there 9/6 (WW). A few **Semipalmated Plovers** were found at Philomath STP, Ankeny and Finley throughout the period. Both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** continued throughout the area, with 15-20 Greaters still at Ankeny 9/25 (RG). 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** were still at Ankeny 8/27 (SF). There was still 1 **Spotted Sandpiper** at Philomath STP 9/13 (HH); although most have headed out of our area for the winter. 115 **Western Sandpipers** were at Ankeny 8/28 (TJ), and about 70 **Least Sandpipers** visited the Beta Dr pond S

of Albany 8/29 (JF1), but most “peeps” had moved on by the end of the period. Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found at Philomath STP 8/27 (DR), and Ankeny 9/9 (HH, PO). A rare **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** showed up at Ankeny 9/9 (RG). 1 **Baird's Sandpiper** was seen at the Philomath STP 8/27 (HH), 8/29 (DR), and 9/6 (WW), and one was at Ankeny 9/26 (RG). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported fairly regularly on their way south, turning up at Philomath STP, the Beta Dr pond S of Albany and at Ankeny and Finley. A **Stilt Sandpiper**, a rare migrant, showed up at Ankeny 8/24 (RG) and stayed until at least 8/28, long for quite a few birders to get a look. 15 **Long-billed Dowitchers** were poking around at Ankeny 9/24 (TJ), and 5 **Wilson's Snipes** were found there 8/27 (RG, PO). More than 100 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at Philomath STP 8/27 (DR).

20 **California Gulls** 9/21 was the high count at Philomath STP, though smaller numbers had been reliable there for most of the period (WW). 1 **Bonaparte's Gull** at Philomath STP was a rare visitor on 9/20 (WW, HH).

**Rock Pigeons** still had begging young under the downtown Corvallis bridges in the middle of September, as most pigeons and doves will breed year-round. **Band-tailed Pigeons** were at a mineral spring near Airlie 9/16 (JG).

A **Barn Owl** roosting in the trees at Sunset Park in Corvallis was driven from hiding by a flock of crows 9/9 (LM, DB). A calling pair of **Great Horned Owls** with squawking young visited a SW Corvallis neighborhood 9/1 (WW). One **Northern Pygmy-Owl** tooted at Dunn Forest 9/16 (PCo, RCo). A **Barred Owl** in Soap Creek Valley attacked a person's head, drawing blood (DBi). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen along Glaser Rd near Tangent 8/29 (JF1).

**Vaux's Swifts** put on a show at traditional roosting sites they use during migration. 1850 of them spiraled into the Wiegand Hall chimney at OSU the night of 9/23 (SB), and on 9/18 there were 900 in a chimney on 2nd St in Lebanon (KH).

Our resident **Anna's Hummingbirds** can have the feeders all to themselves now, as **Rufous Hummingbirds** have mostly left the area, although some were reported as late as 9/19 (BP).

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** was spotted at Finley 9/6 (DR); one or two seem to spend the winter there annually. **Acorn Woodpeckers** were starting to collect some of this fall's bountiful Oregon White Oak acorn crop by the end of the period.

A single **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and **Willow Flycatcher** on Tampico Ridge 9/2 seemed to be the last reports

of these species (JG); and most other flycatchers were gone by then as well, except for the regularly-reported **Black Phoebes**. A **Western Wood-Pewee** continued until 9/16 on Mulkey Hill NW of Corvallis (PCo, RCo). A probable **Gray Flycatcher** was at Ankeny 9/24 (RG, TJ), this would be an uncommon migrant from east of the Cascades. Unidentified *Empidonax* flycatchers continued to be seen through mid-September.

A **Warbling Vireo** was still at LSNA 9/17 (JG), and a **Cassin's Vireo** was still singing 9/16 on Mulkey Hill NW of Corvallis (PCo, RCo).

**Gray Jays** continued to visit a suet feeder at a surprisingly low elevation on Mulkey Hill NW of Corvallis throughout the period (PCo, RCo). **Western Scrub-Jays** and **Steller's Jays** were taking advantage of a massive Oregon White Oak acorn crop. **American Crows** and **Common Ravens** snapped up the rodent carnage created by plowing fields.

There were 2 **Purple Martins** at Philomath STP 8/31 (WW), and 4 there 9/5 (HH). **Violet-green** and **Barn Swallows** lingered until just about the end of the period, with some Barn Swallows still having nestlings as late as mid-September (HH). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were still along the Willamette River 9/1 (LM). **Bank Swallows** at Philomath STP were an unexpected sight (8/29), along with late-lingering **Cliff** and **Tree Swallows**.

**Chestnut-backed Chickadees** seemed to be making their way into nonbreeding areas, mingling with **Black-capped Chickadees**.

**Pacific Wrens** appeared to have moved downslope to LSNA by 9/16 (JG). A young male **House Wren** was still in McDonald Forest 9/2 (LM, DB), enthusiastically practicing his song.

A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** arrived near Adair Village 9/6 (JG), but these weren't widely seen until the end of the period. Good-sized flocks of **Western Bluebirds** were feeding on Creek Dogwood berries at Starker Park in Corvallis in mid-September. **Swainson's Thrushes** were conspicuous nighttime migrants throughout most of the period, and 30 were counted at LSNA 9/16 (JG). A singing male **Wrentit** in residential Corvallis was a surprising visitor 9/5 (HH); likely a youngster looking for his own territory. **American Pipits** began showing up in small numbers at Philomath STP 9/21 (WW), and continued through the period. Several were spotted on Marys Peak 9/26 (HB). **Cedar Waxwings** were still very numerous, taking advantage of late summer fruit and insects.

**Orange-crowned** and **Wilson's Warblers** continued to move through at the beginning of the period, while

**Common Yellowthroats** stick around longer—3 were found 9/24 at Ankeny (TJ). A late **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was still at Finley 9/23 (HH, PO). Newly arrived **Townsend's Warblers** were attracted to a yard sprinkler near Lebanon 9/8 (JH), and to a Monmouth yard 9/19 (FK). A **Hermit Warbler** visited a yard near Adair Village 9/2 (JG). A **Western Tanager** lingered until 9/25 near Adair Village (JG).

There was a single **Brewer's Sparrow** at Philomath STP 8/25, a bird not often seen on this side of the Cascades (DR). 1 **Vesper Sparrow** was along a fenceline S of Brownsville 8/29 (JF1). A somewhat early **Fox Sparrow** showed up near Adair Village 9/6 (JG), and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Finley 9/6 was the first one reported (DR). **Golden-crowned Sparrows** began to show up in mid-September, with one at LSNA 9/16 (JG).

A late first-fall male **Black-headed Grosbeak** was lingering at LSNA 9/16, most were gone last period (JG). 2 **Western Meadowlarks** visited Philomath STP 9/8 (WW). An off-course flock of 8 **Bobolinks** flew over Finley 9/10, an unusual number of these birds from east of the Cascades (DR).

**American** and **Lesser Goldfinches** were visiting native tarweeds and garden sunflowers as the seeds ripened this period. **Pine Siskins** seemed to be moving from forested breeding areas into towns. The number of **Red Crossbills** visiting the valley floor this year was unusual, and small, scattered flocks continued into through the period. Small flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** could also be heard around Corvallis in mid-September (LM).

Please post your reports to [midvalleybirding.org](http://midvalleybirding.org), send them to [lisaaves@peak.org](mailto:lisaaves@peak.org), or leave a message at 541-753-7689 by 10/25/12.

*-Lisa Millbank*

## Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 18-21, 2012

Come to where the birds are and join Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for our 17th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway and one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots. The area is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is sponsored by MCAS and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers

workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

Our keynote speaker Saturday, January 18th will be Alvaro Jaramillo, presenting a program on how our brains identify birds. Alvaro has authored many books about birds and runs a birding and nature tour company, Alvaro's Adventures.

To register and for more information about the Festival, check out our website at [www.morrobybirdfestival.org](http://www.morrobybirdfestival.org). Registration starts on October 1, 2012 and our brochure will be available then. The deadline is January 6, 2013, but early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.

*Judy Sullivan*

## Board Meeting Summary

### ASC March Meeting

1. The Board agreed to table final voting on the 2012-13 budget until the November meeting when all the Committee Chairs will have submitted their budgets.
2. Portland Audubon drafted a letter to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, entreating him to enforce the law that provides water to the Lower Klamath and Tulle Refuges. These areas have not received the proportion of water they are due since early spring, and migratory waterfowl there are suffering huge losses. The ASC Board voted unanimously to join as signers of this letter.
3. The Conservation Committee drafted a letter to the City of Corvallis Urban Services sub-committee, working on a big waste water temperature control plan, clarifying the position of the Board as neither favoring nor disfavoring any one site for wastewater treatment through created wetlands. This corrects a perceived bias toward one site that was mistakenly included in a previous letter submitted to the sub-committee last year. The vote to approve this letter was unanimous. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be at the home of Fred Ramsey, 3005 NW Glen Ridge Road, on October 11th at 7pm.

*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 meeting location.

## Welcome New Members

Janet Converse  
Janet Farrell  
Jessica Greer  
Diane Kaldahl  
Jennifer McKay  
Jim Mitchell

If you have moved or changed your email address, please forward your new contact information to Suzanne Ortiz at [ortizsv@gmail.com](mailto:ortizsv@gmail.com).

*Suzanne Ortiz*

## Contributors to the Chat

Dave Mellinger, Bill Proebsting, Susan Atkisson, Ray Drapek, Michelle Shula, Raylene Gordin, John Gaylord, Fred Ramsey, Lisa Millbank, Will Wright, Judy Sullivan, Linda Campbell, and Suzanne Ortiz.

## Chat Articles

The Chat editors welcome monthly articles from all members of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. Please submit articles to the Chat editor by the 4th Thursday of the month. Always submit text using Microsoft Word.



*Peregrine Falcon photo by Matt Lee*

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

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*the* **CHAT**

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## Calendar

- October 11 Board Meeting at Fred Ramsey's, 3005 NW Glen Ridge Road, 7pm.
- October 13 Second Saturday Field Trip, Finley NWR
- October 18 General Meeting, 7 pm., 1st Presbyterian Church, Corvallis
- October 21 Hesthavn Volunteer Work Day
- October 25 Articles & Field Notes deadline for CHAT



*Northern Pintail photo by Sue Powell*

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