



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

November 2013

VOL. 43

#3

General Meeting

November 21, Thursday, 7:00-8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
8th and Monroe



Koloa (Hawaiian Duck) photo by USFWS

Our program speaker at the November 21 ASC chapter meeting will be Bruce Dugger. Bruce is an Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology at OSU. His research focuses on the ecology and conservation of waterbirds, particularly waterfowl, and their wetland habitats. He is an Elected Member of the American Ornithologists Union and a member of the Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group for IUCN. Ongoing research projects with his students include species such as Hawaiian Duck, Cackling Goose, Northern Pintail, Sandhill Crane, and Wild Turkeys, and modeling the impact of sea level rise to estuarine-dependent birds along the Pacific Coast.

The Hawaiian duck or Koloa maoli (*Anas wyvilliana*) is endemic to Hawai'i and one of three waterfowl species resident on the Hawaiian Islands. Relatively common during the early 1900s, the Koloa has since experienced a significant statewide population decline because of factors that include wetland loss, overharvest by hunters, and introduced mammalian predators. More recently, the genetic integrity of the species has been threatened by hybridization

with feral Mallards. Consequently, the Koloa was listed as a federally endangered species in 1967 and has the highest recovery priority for the four listed wetland birds that occur on the main Hawaiian Islands. Beginning in December of 2010, Bruce and colleagues initiated a joint conservation action and research project to begin identifying and removing hybrids from Hanalei and Hulē'ia National Wildlife Refuge on Kauai and investigate basic aspects of Koloa ecology that could aid in species recovery including movements, survival, nest success and habitat use. Since 2010, they have captured and banded 844 individual Koloa, implanted 65 radio transmitters into males and females, and attached 6 satellite radio tags. Bruce's talk will summarize key findings of the work and on ongoing research.

*Chris Mathews
See you there!*

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 Chris Mathews at mathewsc@comcast.net or 541-754-1172

Directions

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

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The 2013 Annual Appeal

As we approach the end of the calendar year, Audubon Society of Corvallis invites you to be a part of our enthusiastic community of volunteers and supporters. There are many ways you can contribute to our annual appeal. Your donation can help our Conservation and Bluebird Trail Committees in their efforts to provide and protect habitat for wildlife. You can support the Education Committee's workshops at the Hesthavn Nature Center and other outreach activities. Your donation can support the maintenance of Hesthavn Nature Center, our fieldtrips, lectures and other important programs.

For this month only, every ASC member will receive a hard copy of our newsletter, *The Chat*, with an envelope insert. Please use this envelope for your donation, for gift memberships to family and friends, and for your membership renewal. You can also go to the ASC website and use Paypal to donate or renew: www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

With your help we can make 2014 a great year!

Suzanne Ortiz
ASC Membership Chair

Field Trip Schedule

Local Monthly Second Saturday Field Trips

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of from September through June at the Benton Center parking area, behind the Cannery Mall, 777 NW 9th St., Corvallis at 7:30 am. This field trip is geared towards beginning birders and birders new to Oregon's mid-valley area. Contact Bill Proebsting at proebstw@gmail.com or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley List-Serv, www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/, the week before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Return to Benton Center by noon.

Upcoming Field Trips

November 9. Kings Valley: some combination of Beazell Forest, Fort Hoskins and other sites

Bill Proebsting

President's Corner

An O&C Lands Bill—Too Close to Home?

"Not in my backyard" is used to characterize opponents as hypocritical—as if there couldn't be anything worse than a homeowner who protests a shopping center proposed next door, or a treehugger who uses paper to appeal a timber sale. The Corvallis Municipal Watershed is literally my backyard, and a forest I've come to know very well. So I want let my Corvallis readers know of this threat in their backyard.

Corvallis gets a third of its water from forests just east of Marys Peak, from the protected Rock Creek watershed. Established by Congress and managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Corvallis is rightly proud of this clean water resource. Congress consolidated O&C lands here into USFS management decades ago, so maps don't show this distinction. But one could say our Chapter drinks water from O&C forest lands.

About 1500 acres of O&C lands that drain directly into water intakes will be under consideration for increased logging, under either already House-passed legislation, or Senate legislation Senator Wyden is developing as I write. This is a small, but demonstrable fraction of more than 1 million acres, much in forests over 80 years old, about to look like all the rest of industrial forestland you can already recognize, and likely never to become 40 years old again.

Decades of watershed research tell us that fully forested watersheds provide the cleanest, most consistent year-around water supply—good for us and fish and wildlife, especially during our dry summers. Reduced forest cover and associated roadbuilding contribute to higher peak stream flows and increased stream turbidity—bad for water supply managers. It reduces stored carbon and large wood for wildlife and stream channels. It also reduces forests' ability to store carbon, clean the air, and no surprise, store water.

If increasing the land base for logging is the only way to increase revenues for counties, then logging has proven itself an unsustainable revenue source. Any O&C Lands Bill will thus sacrifice more forests, more fish and wildlife, and water that sustain us for a short term "fix". I am proud to say, and I hope Corvallisites and Oregonians will tell our representatives "Not in my backyard."

Jim Fairchild

Hesthavn News

The November work party will be on Sunday, Nov. 24 and there will be a December work party on Saturday, Dec. 21. The usual times: 9am to 1pm. Both work parties will probably focus on blackberry control and trail maintenance.

Also on Wednesday, Oct 23rd, we installed the Verna Berg memorial bench in the yard on the east side of the barn. Present at the installation was Steve Anderson, Verna's son. Verna purchased the Hesthavn property with her husband Alan in 1962. Steve and his sister Carol have many memories of playing on the property as children in the 1960's. The new bench will be a nice addition to the nature center. It faces the barn and provides views of the native plant garden, the bird feeders, and the bird-bath.

Ray Drapek

Hesthavn Education News

Audubon Society Nature Programs September–January 2013

Please join us for a fun-filled 2-hour nature program each month starting in September! These programs will cover specific topics and are great for homeschooled children as well as those who just love to get out and explore nature. Each program is only \$5.00 per family and includes a craft, games, hands-on nature exploration, science experiments, amazing things to touch, and much more!

Ages are from 4-12.

Where: Hesthavn Nature Center: 8590 Oak Creek Drive, Corvallis, Oregon - right next to the access to McDonald Forest.

Please RSVP by emailing hesthavneducation@gmail.com with the name and age of your child, and which program you'd like to attend.

September: Feathered Friends 2-4 p.m. September 28

We will be exploring the bird world by getting up close and personal with bird feathers, bones, skins, skulls, and much more! Learn about birding, try binoculars, discover bird calls and take a walk to find these amazing creatures. Hesthavn has many bird feeders so we are sure to see and identify many common species.

October: Survival Skills 2-4 p.m. October 26

We will learn the basics of survival! Try your hand at making fire without matches, build a shelter, learn what to do in the presence of a predator, be prepared with a safety kit and learn what to do if you get lost! Lots of hands-on activities and some very good information.

November: Art in Nature 2-4 p.m. November 23

We will be exploring different art techniques and mediums. Paint with natural dyes, build a sculpture, and create collages. Bring a T-shirt for leaf printing and learn how to find patterns in the natural world! If you love art and nature, this is the program for you.

December- No Program - Happy Holidays!

January: Eco-Explorers 2-4 p.m. January 25

Learn about native Oregon habitats as we explore a riparian area, prairie, and forest. We will compare and contrast each habitat, look for signs of life and experience a bio-blitz! This program is full of games and adventures, as well as a few science experiments.

Michelle Shula

Conservation Corner

20 Minutes for Conservation

Please take a few minutes to write a letter to help preserve our forest lands. A hot topic these days is Oregon's "O&C lands", the lands once logged heavily for county revenue. Oregon's Senator Ron Wyden will have a large say in bills about public-lands logging and Rep. Peter DeFazio's "Timber Trust" proposal for the O&C lands. Here are talking points for writing about these issues. Please choose a few of these and re-write them in your own words, or add your own:

- It is vital to preserve Oregon's clean water, endangered species, other fish and wildlife, and recreation opportunities that draw so many visitors to Oregon.
- Logging in Benton County under Rep. DeFazio's proposal will threaten Corvallis's supply of clean water.
- Most of the O&C land is already "checkerboarded", so that saving half of it for clean water and wildlife really means saving a quarter of the overall land.
- Rural counties, which have suffered from declines in logging, would be well served by a small tax on raw logs.
- These are public lands, not land belonging to timber companies or counties. They should be managed for the benefit of ALL the public.
- Effectively dismantling the Northwest Forest Plan, developed through an arduous process with many stakeholders, is not the right thing to do.
- It's not right to remove protections of the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, and National Environmental Policy Act.
- We should protect all remaining old-growth forest and mature (>80 year) forest.
- Public-lands logging has indeed declined since 1990, but that is because timber cutting was highly unsustainable in that year and the decades before, particularly because of old-growth logging.
- Further fragmentation of the O&C lands to emphasize timber harvest could worsen existing environmental problems in Western Oregon.
- Variable Retention Harvest (VRH) is essentially "clearcutting with reserves", and it does very much the same damage to waterways and wildlife that plain old clearcutting does.
- Restoration-based thinning work has been done without controversy on the Siuslaw National Forest. We should follow that path rather than more clearcutting.

Also, there's a good history of logging issues on the O&C lands, "Decades of Evading Laws Led to Timber Woes": <http://tinyurl.com/kojabfy>.

Address your letter to
Senator Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Oregon's forests thank you!

Dave Mellinger

Field Notes

9/27/13 – 10/30/13

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

A powerful storm drenched the area with record-breaking rainfall at the beginning of the period, taking a serious toll on migrating Barn and Violet-green Swallows, as well as some Vaux's Swifts. Birders were unable to access most areas of Ankeny and Finley during the federal government shutdown for the first few weeks of October. By the end of the period, our wintering populations of songbirds, raptors and waterfowl were well established.

Location abbreviations: Ankeny = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, Finley = William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, LSNA = Luckiamute State Natural Area, Monmouth STP = Monmouth sewage treatment ponds, Philomath STP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds

Observers: Amber Beck (AB), Doug Bilsland (DBi), Don Boucher (DBo), Scott Carpenter (SC), Pam Comeleo (PCo), Randy Comeleo (RCo), Joel Geier (JG), Jeff Harding (JH), Oscar Harper (OH), Kaynor Heineck (KH), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Adrian Hinkle (AH), Christopher Hinkle (CH), Evan Jackson (EJ), Frank Kolwicz (FK), Jim Kopitzke (JK), Mike Lippsmeyer (ML), Aaron Liston (AL), Sara Liston (SL), Peter Low (PL), Greg Metcalfe (GM), Lisa Millbank (LM), Molly Monroe (MM), Bill Proebsting (BP), Roger Robb (RR), Doug Robinson (DR), Steve Seibel (SS), Ev Sherr (ES), Brandon Wagner (BW), Kalila Webster (KW), Will Wright (WW), Pete Ziminski (PZ)

While most **Greater White-fronted Geese** passed through our area last period, there were still 200 along Duckflat Rd in Marion Co 10/12 (JH). Among them were 4 juvenile **Snow Geese**, and 4 Snow Geese were also observed at Finley 10/29 (BP, MM). Thousands of **Cackling Geese** were settling into the valley this period, and a few Dusky **Canada Geese** were at Finley 10/29 (MM). 17 **Tundra Swans** flew over OSU campus 10/29 (AH), and were also reported from Finley the same day (BP). **Wood Duck** numbers were down from last period. 20 **Gadwall** visited Philomath STP 10/3 (CH),

but numbers declined to just a few through the rest of the period.. The first reported **Eurasian Wigeon** was among about 150 **American Wigeons** at Philomath STP 10/26 (DR). While numbers of **Green-winged Teal** continued to be high in some locations, with about 300 along Duckflat Rd in Marion Co 10/12 (JH), most **Cinnamon Teal** had headed south, with up to 9 reported from Philomath STP this period. 1405 **Northern Shovelers** paddled the brown lagoons of Philomath STP on 10/20 (HH), and 200 **Northern Pintails** were along Duckflat Rd in Marion Co 10/12 (JH). 8 **Redheads** were at Philomath STP 10/5 (PZ), and up to 4 **Canvasbacks** were seen there from mid-October through the end of the period. 370 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at Philomath STP 10/25 (HH), and 10 **Greater Scaup** with 15 **Lesser Scaup** was a notable count 9/30 (CH). A **Surf Scoter** at Philomath STP 9/28 was an early record, and 5 were there on 9/30 (HH). There were 26 **Buffleheads** at Philomath STP 10/25 (HH). 21 **Hooded Mergansers** were at Philomath STP 10/5 (HH, OH), and there were 21 **Common Mergansers** at the confluence of the Willamette & Marys R in downtown Corvallis 10/7 (HH). 49 **Ruddy Ducks** 10/20 was the high count at Philomath STP this period.

1 **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen at Monmouth STP 10/10 (BW). A site near Alsea Falls provided good looks at a **Ruffed Grouse** and a covey of 14 **Mountain Quail** 10/1 (OH, HH). 6 **Sooty Grouse** were at Marys Peak 10/3 (OH, HH). Some male **Wild Turkeys** quarreled near Lebanon 10/21, leaping and bumping their bellies against one another (KH). There were 15 **California Quail** at Philomath STP 9/30 (HH).

A **Horned Grebe** was seen at Philomath STP for much of the period, but one showed up at the Willamette/Marys R confluence in downtown Corvallis 10/8 (LM, DBo), and another was at Monmouth STP 10/10 (BW). A **Western Grebe** was at the same downtown Corvallis site 10/7 (LM), and 2 were also at Philomath STP on the same day (DR). **Eared Grebes** were present at Philomath STP throughout the period, but 6 were there 10/20 (AH, CH).

Arguably the most unexpected visitor this period was a **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel** seen fluttering around sports field lights on the OSU campus 10/6 (AH, CH). It's hard to say what brought this small seabird bird inland, and with luck it managed to find its way back to where it belonged.

A single **American White Pelican** was seen at Ankeny in the first week of the period. Numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** continued to increase.

2 **American Bitterns** were seen at Ankeny 10/20 (KW); these seem to winter in low numbers in our area, but are mostly silent and may be under-reported. A **Great Blue Heron** had some difficulty in eating a large snake at Finley 10/14 (FK). 8 **Great Egrets** were at

Ankeny 9/30 (JK).

There were quite a few reports of **Turkey Vultures** into the second week of October, but none after 10/10; although it's likely that a few will be seen throughout the winter. **Ospreys** were on their way out at the beginning of the period, and no sightings were reported after 10/9, when one was seen at the Marys/Willamette R confluence (LM). A **White-tailed Kite** was on the Finley prairie 9/28 and 10/1, but 3 had arrived there as of 10/19 (SS). Now that large flocks of Cackling Geese are back, **Bald Eagles** will be harassing them regularly. Numbers of **Northern Harriers** and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** have increased as birds arrive from colder climates. An ambitious juvenile **Cooper's Hawk** chased, but did not catch, a Pileated Woodpecker in Soap Creek Valley 10/2 (DBi). Among the many wintering **Red-tailed Hawks** is an individual of the "Harlan's" subspecies S of Monmouth, who has been returning to the same neighborhood for about 10 years (ML). 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** had returned to the Finley prairie by 10/19 (SS). An immature **Golden Eagle** was seen near Blodgett 10/20 (PL), and one was at Finley 10/29 (BP), a site where Golden Eagles occasionally spend the winter.

While no Soras or Virginia Rails were reported this period, there were plenty of **American Coots**: up to 1780 at Philomath STP 10/25 (HH). **Sandhill Cranes** migrated through our area late in the period, with at least 2 over Philomath STP 10/21 (DR), and more than 100 over Lcomb (AB).

1 **Black-bellied Plover** turned up at Philomath STP 10/12 (AH, CH), and 2 **Pluvialis plovers** (possibly American Golden-Plovers) were along Duckflat Rd in Marion Co 10/16 (JH). **Killdeer** numbers were on the increase.

Not many **Greater Yellowlegs** were still present this period, but there were 6 at Finley 10/11 (WW) and 1 **Lesser Yellowlegs**. 4 **Spotted Sandpipers** were still present along the river at Willamette Park 10/29 (LM), and it's likely that some will stick around through the winter. Duckflat Rd in Marion Co had a good collection of shorebirds 10/12, with 1 **Pectoral Sandpiper**, good numbers of **Dunlin** and **Long-billed Dowitchers**, and a few **Western** and **Least Sandpipers** (JH). Lots of **Wilson's Snipes** were showing up in wet fields and streamsidess this period. 4 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at Philomath STP 9/30 (HH).

An immature **Heermann's Gull** (possibly the third county record) was with one **California Gull** at Philomath STP 9/30 (HH); perhaps it had gotten a bit off-course during the weekend's storm. A **Mew Gull** visited the Monmouth STP 10/10 (BW). A few **Glaucous-winged Gulls** (maybe along with some Glaucous-winged x Western hybrids) were showing up around Corvallis this period.

Band-tailed Pigeons were still being seen in mid-October, but many were on their way out of our area. A flock of 15-20 were eating acorns in NW Corvallis (Mulkey Hill) in early October (RCo, PCo).

Few owls were reported this period, but **Northern Pygmy-Owls** were found on Marys Peak 10/10 (RR) and 10/28 (HH, OH).

"Thousands of birds" was how birders described the vortex of **Vaux's Swifts** descending into the chimney at Phi Theta Delta fraternity house in the first week of October. The last report of swifts was from E.E. Wilson 10/12 (BP).

A notably late **Rufous Hummingbird** visited a garden along Oak Creek Rd 10/11 (BP), before leaving the feeders to the **Anna's Hummingbirds** until March.

Acorn Woodpeckers continued to work on their acorn granaries through most of October. A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** in Starker Arts Park in Corvallis had an Anna's Hummingbird stealing some of its sap supply 10/20 (LM, DBo). A male **Downy Woodpecker** and a male **Hairy Woodpecker** seemed to pose for birders to compare on a field trip at Bald Hill Park 10/26. **Northern Flickers** were numerous as many descended from higher elevations and higher latitudes. A Red-tailed Hawk made an attempt to catch a **Pileated Woodpecker** at the Oak Cr entrance to McDonald Forest 10/25 (EJ).

American Kestrels and **Merlins** were seen frequently through the period, as wintering birds settled in. What appears to be an immature "Peale's" **Peregrine Falcon** was found along Duckflat Rd in Marion Co 10/12 (JH); this subspecies is a year-round resident along the coast of WA, BC and AK, and is a very uncommon migrant.



"Peale's" Peregrine Falcon photo by Jeff Harding

While **Black Phoebes** are pretty common near water, a dull immature **Say's Phoebe** along Campus Way 10/26 was the star flycatcher this period (AL, SL). An

unusually late **Western Wood-Pewee** was found in SW Corvallis 10/3 (AH, CH).

Hutton's Vireos were still singing on occasion this period, as one did near EEW 10/5 (JG). **Northern Shrikes** started to turn up, with one at Finley and another at Philomath STP 10/19 (DR, WW).

Gray Jays visited a relatively low-elevation suet feeder on Mulkey Hill in NW Corvallis early in October (PCo, RCo). A group of about 15 **Common Ravens** were playing aerial games at the summit of Marys Peak 10/28 (HH, OH). **American Crows** and European Starlings dove for cover just S of downtown Corvallis 9/30 as a Peregrine Falcon glided over (LM).

2 **Horned Larks** of the *arcticola* subspecies were on Marys Peak 10/30 (DR).

A few unidentified swallows were still being reported in mid-October, they were likely **Barn Swallows**, although a few **Violet-green Swallows** could have been mixed in.

Early in the period, **Black-capped** and **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** were busy extracting wasp larvae from oak galls. A couple of **White-breasted Nuthatches** strayed away from oak habitat at LSNA 10/18 (JG).

Good numbers of **Pacific Wrens** occupied the undergrowth in Willamette Park 10/29, with several singing in the sunshine (LM). One seemed to provoke a mild scolding from its **Bewick's Wren** neighbor when it got too close.

Bushtits and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were adding a bit of Western Poison-Oak fruit to their generally insectivorous diets this period. Numbers of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at low elevations increased dramatically at the beginning of the period.

6 **Western Bluebirds** foraged for large mayflies at Finley 10/14 (FK). 2 **Townsend's Solitaires** perched in the firs surrounding the meadows of Marys Peak 10/26 (WW). The last unequivocal report of **Swainson's Thrush** was 1 bird eating fruit along Oak Creek 10/11 (WW). **Hermit Thrushes** began to show up in the lowlands this period, and numbers of **Varied Thrushes** continued to grow. **American Robins** swarmed over English Hawthorns and other fruiting trees and shrubs.

While increasing numbers of **American Pipits** arrived in open fields, one particular pipit was of particular interest. A single **Red-throated Pipit** called as it flew over Marys Peak 10/30 (DR), one of only a handful of Oregon records for this Eurasian species.

Along with American Robins, **Cedar Waxwings** took advantage of late-season fruit on ornamental shrubs and trees, although their numbers will decrease over the next period.

Orange-crowned Warblers were occasionally reported throughout most of the period, and it's likely that a few will be seen throughout the winter. A

Nashville Warbler was found at Willamette Park 10/26 (CH), a **Wilson's Warbler** was found there 10/17 (CH), and a **Yellow Warbler** (another late migrant) was at Philomath STP 10/12 (AH, CH). The last report of a **Common Yellowthroat** was from Philomath STP 10/18 (HH, OH), although a few could stick around through the winter. A lingering **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was still at EEW 10/3 (BP). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were abundant, and a few **Townsend's Warblers** should show up at suet feeders. A rare **Palm Warbler** was seen at Philomath STP 10/3-10/5.

The latest reported **Western Tanager** was at Peoria 10/20 (GM).

Spotted Towhees ate English Hawthorn berries alongside robins and waxwings this period. A **Chipping Sparrow** was reported from SW Corvallis 10/3 (CH, AH), and some are likely to be found throughout the winter. A **Vesper Sparrow** was visiting Philomath STP 9/29. **White-throated Sparrows** seem to be more abundant than usual this fall, frequently visiting feeders alongside **White-crowned**, **Golden-crowned**, **Fox**, and **Song Sparrows**. While **Savannah Sparrow** numbers were decreasing as some birds leave our area, **Lincoln's Sparrows** were starting to show up in brushy wetland areas.

A rare but regular visitor to our area, a **Snow Bunting** flew over the Marys Peak upper parking lot 10/23 (DR).

A male **Red-winged Blackbird** sang from a parking lot on 9th St in Corvallis 10/7 (ESh). Wintering **Western Meadowlarks** were fairly numerous in a few areas, most notably along Campus Way, where 21 were seen 10/29 (AH). A **Brown-headed Cowbird** was lingering on the OSU campus 10/26 (AH).

As the last sunflowers ripened early in the period, **American Goldfinches** feasted on the seeds. Very few **Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins** were seen this period, and just a few flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** and **Red Crossbills** were found by those venturing into the Coast Range. A **Cassin's Finch** was on Marys Peak 10/20 (DR), and 2 were found 10/26 (WW). Also on Marys Peak was a "Hepburn's" **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** on 10/30 (DR); hopefully more of these alpine finches will visit throughout the winter.

Please post your reports to midvalleybirding.org, send them to lisaaves@peak.org, or leave a message at 541-753-7689 by 11/28/13.

- Lisa Millbank

Bird Nerd News!

October 25th was the first field trip for the Bird Nerds. We headed on a Fall Migration Tour with the Greenbelt Land Trust!! We saw 29 species! We will be conducting winter raptor surveys starting next month!! Our next member

meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 6 from 5-6pm. Stay tuned for up & coming events! Anyone and everyone are welcome to come!!!

Spencer Mair

Atop the Nestbox

Below are the bluebird trail nesting data for the 2013 season. There was a slight uptick in the Linn County numbers with a corresponding downtick in the Benton County numbers, bringing our totals to about the same as last year. For some reason, the birds on the east side of the valley were more productive in the summer, with a 70% rate of repeat nests, while those on the west side repeated at a slightly low rate of 42%.

For a look at our numbers each year since 1999, go to the “bluebird potpourri” section of our webpage at www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/bluebird_trail.shtml.

Nesting attempts.....	223
Failures.....	31
First broods	130
Second broods.....	55
third broods	7
Eggs laid.....	1098
Eggs per attempt	5
Eggs hatched	873
% hatched.....	79
Banded	763
Fledged.....	738
% fledged	85
Fledged per occ box.....	5.2

My heartfelt thanks to the bluebird trail volunteers and to all the landowners/managers who continue to make our efforts successful.

Raylene Gordin

Book Chat

Our November Book and Raffle Table will feature an opportunity for you to purchase slightly used books for only \$3.00 each. Fiction as well as non-fiction will be available. Among the books offered will be copies of *The Big Year*, *The Charm of Birds*, a terrific mystery, *The Boreal Owl Murder*. There will also be an assortment of birding guides, new and used, which will make fine gifts for beginning birders. This \$3.00 used book table will be separate from our main book table that features our new titles and raffle items.

If you have some once read books related to birding or the outdoors that are in good condition, we'd love to add them to our \$3.00 table. We'll be happy to help tidy up your bookcases. Please bring them by 6:30 PM on the evening of our next general meeting, Thursday, November 21st. If

you can't bring them that evening, give me a call at (541) 757-2749 or e-mail me at shaws@peak.org and one of our Book and Raffle Table team will be glad to pick them up. Thanks for your help.

Sally Shaw

Board Meeting Summary

ASC Meeting

The budget was approved!

Linda Campbell

Open ASC 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

Nancy Baumeister
Penny Signalness

ASC also wants to thank all of our renewing members for their invaluable support!

To renew your membership, go to the ASC website (www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml) & renew via Paypal or send your check to ASC PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339. You can also renew at the ASC general meetings.

If you have moved or changed your email address, please send your new contact information to Suzanne Ortiz at ortizsv@gmail.com.

Suzanne Ortiz

Contributors to the Chat

Chris Mathiews, Suzanne Ortiz, Bill Proebsting, Jim Fairchild, Ray Drapeck, Michelle Shula, Dane Mellinger, Lisa Millbank, Spencer Mair, Raylene Gordin, Sally Shaw, Linda Campell

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.

Audubon Society of Corvallis

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

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the **CHAT**

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

Calendar

Nov. 7 Conservation Comm. Mtg.—7:00 pm at Moores' House
Nov. 14 Board Meeting at Gail Nickerson's House—7:00 pm
Nov. 21 General Meeting—7:00 pm
Nov. 28 Chat and Field Notes submissions due



Wilson's Snipe photo by Matt Lee

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