



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

December 2013

VOL. 43

#4

General Meeting

Dec. 19 Thursday, 7:00-8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church; 8th and Monroe



Calling All ASC Members: Show Us Your Photos!

December's ASC meeting is Member Slide Night. Gather your best nature photos, videos, sound recordings, or whatever and share them with us the evening of Dec. 19. Any fun or interesting photos of birds, other animals, plants, nature scenes, etc., are welcome. Plan to bring up to 20 of your favorites, along with any stories to tell about them. Please submit digital photos by Tuesday, December 17, via e-mail to dmell3.14159@gmail.com. (Sadly, I will be unable to attend, but Dave has kindly agreed to step in). If you have film photos (slides), please bring your own slide projector. If you would like to bring film slides, or high-resolution photos on a thumb drive, please tell Dave ahead of time how many you have and your general topic (birds, scenery, butterflies, etc.) and then show up at 6:30 PM so that we have plenty of time to set up and test your photos.

*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 mathewsc2@comcast.net, or at 541-754-1172.

Directions

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

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 ListServ, www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/, a couple of days before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Return to Benton Center by noon.

Half Day Field Trips

December 14. Talking Water Gardens and Simpson Park, Albany

Bill Proebsting

In this issue:

President's Corner	26
Hesthavn News	26
Corvallis CBC	26-27
Conservation Corner	27
Green Living Tips	27-28
Field Notes	28-30
Atop The Nestbox	30
Homer Campbell Award	30-31
Board Mtg. Summary	31
GBBC	31
Book Chat	31
Membership Updates	31

President's Corner

Since its inception, the Audubon organization has promoted the well-being of birds in the general public. Our membership follows that long tradition, recognizing the importance of having an abundance and diversity of our feathered friends around, not only for their inherent beauty, but as indicators of the health of our surroundings.

Reflecting that tradition, our Audubon Chapter promotes birds in many ways: sharing and publishing field notes; building identification skills through field trips; offering bird and nature education programs; improving habitats at homes, work and other places; performing or assisting in field studies; and advocating for needed bird protections. At ASC, these programs are led by dozens of committed volunteers, who are buoyed in their work by your continued interest and enjoyment of watching birds in nature.

All these activities, now called "Citizen Science," have built our members' ability to contribute to the general knowledge base about birds. General observations, submitted to our newsletter, to Oregon Birds on Line (OBOL), Oregon Bird Notes, or to eBird (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), help build an overview of bird diversity, while more structured programs, like Project Feeder Watch, Migratory Bird Counts, and Christmas Bird Counts, Winter Raptor and Breeding Bird Surveys help illuminate trends in multiple species populations.

Some Citizen Science projects, like our Bluebird Trail and Swift Watch, focus on monitoring and promoting habitat needs for certain species. Others, like Marbled Murrelet surveys and a coming new Streaked Horned Lark Survey, train volunteers specifically to monitor and contribute breeding season presence and use to the agency responsible for listed species protection and recovery, especially as that agency, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is financially unable to adequately monitor many listed species.

We welcome all the ways you help participate in Citizen Science projects, and any of our Board members will help get you more involved. Of course your financial contributions to ASC make it possible for us to continue in all these efforts, it's more than just for the birds!

Happy Holidays with the birds!
Jim Fairchild

Hesthavn News

Memorial Bench, Students Volunteer

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 1960s. 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.

If you have visited Hesthavn and hiked across our bridge you know there is a trail on the far side of the creek called "Paula's Trail," named after our past Hesthavn chair Paula Vanderheul, in appreciation for her many hours of hard work at Hesthavn. Up until now Paula's Trail has been a one-way trail. On Sunday November 17 students from Oregon State's GEO 300 class assembled at Hesthavn to create a loop section for Paula's Trail. It still is a fairly short trail and the entire loop can be hiked within a few minutes, but it adds a nice little section that passes through the west-side Oak Creek flood plain. Many thanks to students Ben Cowan, Natalie Roseta, Maggie Sherwood, Christopher Ellorriaga, James Morris, and Liam Yackley for their enthusiastic and hard work.



Students from Oregon State's GEO 300 class help with trail work at Hesthavn.

Hesthavn Work Parties

The December work party will be on Saturday Dec 21 at the usual time: 9am to 1pm. Both work parties will probably focus on blackberry control and trail maintenance.

Ray Drapek

Corvallis Christmas Bird Count

Changes Afoot for the 2013 Corvallis CBC — Thank You Odd Fellows!

Good news for everyone who hasn't been able to volunteer for the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count (CBC) because it's been held on a weekday. This year it will be held on SATURDAY, December 21st. Participation in the count is now free.

The Christmas Bird Count is an organized, continent-wide, survey which documents every bird seen on a given day from sunrise to sunset. Since the turn of the 20th century, the Christmas Bird Count has contributed to the knowledge base of wintering birds in North America.

The count is an all-day event open to anyone wishing

to participate. This is an excellent opportunity for novice bird watchers to join with seasoned veterans and learn more about identifying and finding the local birds. Half-day participants and home feeder-watchers are also welcome. I would like to particularly encourage any one with feeders in the count circle who can spare at least one hour to watch their yard to participate. Some counts, particularly in Canada are mostly made up of feeder watchers. Even Eugene has about 30 feeder watchers compared to the 4-6 Corvallis usually gets, so there is room to grow in this area. Winter feeder watching can be quite rewarding as birds try to expend the least amount of energy to get the most amount of food.

The Corvallis count circle is a 7.5 mile radius centered near the Corvallis airport and is usually divided into 13 sections, with a team of 3-6 individuals assigned to each section. A link to a map of the count circle is posted on ASC's website under bird counts.

Team leaders for each section will make arrangements with the rest of their group for a meeting place and time (usually between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m.) the morning of the count.

Participants should bring cold-and wet-weather gear, binoculars, a scope, if you have one, and snacks for the day. A notepad and pencil or electronic recording devices, field guides, camera and a thermos with something hot are always good ideas as well.

There is also a new location for the countdown potluck held after the count. Marie Martin has graciously offered to sponsor our use of the Corvallis Odd Fellows Lodge, located downtown at 223 SW Second St. The entrance is between the New Morning Bakery and Grassroots Bookstore. We will be using the north hall on the second floor. This room has plenty of seating and a nice kitchen area that will be available for our use. Please let me know if any handicapped access needs to be arranged.

If you are interested in participating or would like further information I will be happy to hear from you; my contact information is at the back of the Chat or on-line at the ASC website.

Marcia F. Cutler

The Dallas CBC will be on Friday, December 27th They will meet at the little coffee shop inside the Dallas Safeway at 7am. Please email me if you would like to join us so that I can plan appropriately. Thank you. bmwboarder@gmail.com

Brandon Wagner

Conservation Corner

Forest Management/Good or Bad?

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) has just released his long-anticipated forestry proposal for the O&C lands, and it's a decidedly mixed bag. The good:

- It would create jobs in timber-dependent counties in southwest Oregon. Many people there are really suffering.
- It would designate 85-90,000 acres of new wilderness areas, including the proposed Devil's Staircase Wilderness and an expansion of the Wild Rogue Wilderness; it would conserve about one million acres of O&C lands; and it would add 165 miles of "wild and scenic" designation to various rivers.
- It would preserve some environmental review of timber cuts.
- It would prevent cutting of timber older than 120 years (i.e., land logged before 1893). The bad:
- It doubles the amount of timber to be logged, from 150 million board feet per year to 300-350 million.
- Environmental consideration of the impact of timber cuts on birds, salmon, and other wildlife would be done in two very broad reviews, one for "wet forests" and one for "dry forests", within 18 months. Once these reviews are done, further environmental consideration would be curtailed. It's very hard to see how the diversity of Oregon's forests can be adequately addressed with only two categories. Further, the strict timeline doesn't allow for unexpected or disputed findings to be taken into account in any reasonable way.
- Trees up to 119 years old would be available for clearcutting. The bill eliminates the old-growth forest reserve system, which was designed to promote old and ancient forests and the species dependent on them.
- The protections of the Northwest Forest Plan would be tossed out.
- It would not address the plethora of issues that cause funding problems in southwest Oregon – the lack of stumpage fees, the counties having by far the lowest property taxes in the state (no wonder they can't pay their police), the raw logs being shipped to Asia for milling.
- The "ecological forestry" practices that the bill calls for have been tried only on small test plots, not in landscape-scale tests. Before we jump fully in with this practice, we should know more about it.

We'll be saying more about this proposal in next month's Chat.

Dave Mellinger

Green Living Tips

How About That thermostat?

You always hear a lot about turning down the thermostat to save energy, but how much difference does it really make?

A lot, as it turns out. Heating is the single largest en-

ergy drain in any home in Corvallis (in hot climates, it's cooling). Residence heating and cooling consume about HALF of all the energy used at home. And lowering the thermostat by only 3 degrees can cut your home energy use by 9-12%, preventing a large amount of carbon from contributing more to global warming, making the US more energy independent, and cutting your bill. So this winter, put on a sweater and dial it down a few degrees.

Other easy things you can do to conserve energy in heating are

- 1 replace your furnace filter once a month (or as recommended),\
- 2 on the south side of your house, keep your curtains and blinds open during the day and closed at night,\
- 3 turn kitchen and bath exhaust fans off within 10-20 minutes of bathing so they don't blow all your warm air out.

Dave Mellinger

Field Notes

10/31/13 – 11/28/13

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.

Wintering waterfowl and raptors are highlights of November birding, but a few other surprises showed up around the area this period. Fairly mild fall weather was followed by a cold high pressure system that brought clear skies and frigid winds to our area.

Observer abbreviations: Don Boucher (DB), Mike Brawner (MB), Susan Brown (SB), Bob Burke (BB), Theresa Byrne (TB), Randy Comeleo (RCo), Darrel Faxon (DF), Laura Faxon (LF), Jeff Fleischer (JF), Joel Geier (JG), Jeff Harding (JHr), Jon Hazen (JHz), Oscar Harper (OH), Stephanie Hazen (SH), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Christopher Hinkle (CH), Wayne Hoffman (WH), Tim Johnson (TJ), Michel Kleinbaum (MK), Erik Knight (EK), Jim Kopitzke (JK), Spencer Mair (SM), Lisa Millbank (LM), Suzanne Ortiz (SO), Cliff Pereira (CP), Bill Proebsting (BP), Jamie Simmons (JS), Ray Temple (RT), Brandon Wagner (BW), Will Wright (WW)

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, TWG/SP = Talking Water Gardens & Simpson Park in Albany

Small numbers of **Greater White-fronted Geese** continued to mix with **Canada** and **Cackling Geese** this period, but birders also noted good numbers of white *Chen*

sp. geese. While not all could be identified to species, a notable flock at Finley 11/25 contained 12 **Snow Geese** and 2 **Ross's Geese** (HH, OH). Single **Brants** were noted at Finley 11/17 (EK) and flying over N Albany 11/28 (JS). Small flocks of **Tundra Swans** were reported regularly, and a pair of **Trumpeter Swans** had returned to DeArmond Rd by 11/7 (BP). A flock of about 20 swans, including Trumpeters, was at Airlie & Maxfield Cr Rd 11/28 (DF & LF). A few **Wood Ducks** paddled in a quiet backwater at Willamette Park 11/21 (LM). A **Gadwall** was at Ankeny 10/31 (TJ), and at least 10 were at TWG/SP 11/24 (WH). **Eurasian Wigeons** were frequently found within flocks of **American Wigeons**, and at least 1 apparent American x Eurasian hybrid was at Philomath STP 11/24 (WW). Another 2 unusual drakes were found at TWG/SP 11/24 (WH). **Cinnamon Teal** continued at the Philomath STP (WW) and TWG/SP (WH) this period, and there was a possible but unconfirmed sighting of 3 female **Blue-winged Teal** at TWG/SP 11/24 (WH). While high numbers of common wintering duck species are typical in November, a few standout numbers included 1250 **Northern Shovelers** at Philomath STP 11/7 (HH), 400 **Green-winged Teal** at Ankeny 11/3 (EK), and 411 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 166 **Buffleheads** and 209 **Lesser Scaup** at Philomath STP 11/15 (HH). Less-common ducks included 18 **Canvasback** at Philomath STP 11/15 (HH) and 3 **Greater Scaup** there 11/7 (HH). 2 **Common Goldeneyes** and 2 female **Redheads** showed up at Monmouth STP 11/26 (BW). 22 **Hooded Mergansers** were at Eagle Marsh at Ankeny 11/21 (TJ). 9 **Common Mergansers** visited Stewart Lake 11/20 (JS).

2 **Ring-necked Pheasants** were heard at EEW 11/11, likely surviving captive-bred birds recently released on the wildlife area (JG).

Up to 6 **Eared Grebes** were consistently reported from Philomath STP this period, and 2 **Western Grebes** were there 11/2 (WW).

8 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at Waverly Park in Albany 11/20 (JK).

Great Blue Herons were conspicuous in fields this period, and a **Great Egret** made an unexpected visit to Stewart Lake 11/7 (JS).

A few hardy **Turkey Vultures** seem to be sticking around. 1 was flying near Coffin Butte 11/24 (SM) and 1 was at Finley 11/25 (HH, OH). **White-tailed Kites** were very reliable at the Finley prairie, but 3 were found in the Airlie vicinity 11/17 (SH, RT) and 1 was in the Kings Valley area 11/9 (BP). A **Golden Eagle** was seen by many observers at Ankeny 11/23, and it's likely that a couple will overwinter in the valley. 17 **Northern Harriers** and 41 **Red-tailed Hawks** were found on the SE Polk Co raptor survey route 11/17 (SH, RT). 2 **Cooper's Hawks** were perched together in Martin Luther King Jr Park 11/26 (MB). **Bald Eagle** numbers were rather low, but more should arrive by mid-winter. A Linn Co raptor survey near Scio

found 3 **Red-shouldered Hawks** and 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** 11/24 (JHr, BB).

A **Virginia Rail** was at Ankeny 11/21 (TJ); they regularly overwinter but are often difficult to detect.

Hundreds of **Killdeer** shared open fields with robins this period. Several **Spotted Sandpipers** continue along the riverbanks at Willamette Park (LM) and 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** persisted at Ankeny 11/21 (TJ). 115 **Dunlin** were also at Ankeny 11/21 (TJ). 22 **Long-billed Dowitchers** and a late flock of 15 **Western Sandpipers** were at Ankeny 10/31 (TJ). 7 or more **Wilson's Snipes** flushed from a pasture at OSU when a harrier frightened them 11/8 (LM).

6 **Bonaparte's Gulls** and 2 **Glaucous-winged Gulls** were at Philomath STP during a search for a possible Black-headed Gull that was seen 11/9, but the rare gull could not be found again to confirm it (HH, OH). A **Heermann's Gull** was a great find at Monmouth STP 11/7 (BW). Several **Ring-billed Gulls** at Grand Prairie Park in Albany mingled with a mixed crowd of Glaucous-winged and hybrid "**Olympic**" **Gulls** – Glaucous-winged x Western hybrids (WH).

A late, or possibly overwintering flock of 10 **Band-tailed Pigeons** was seen in SE Polk Co 11/17 (SH, RT).

A **Barn Owl** was reported from EEW 11/11 (JG). At least 2 pairs of **Great Horned Owls** were duetting at Bald Hill Park by the end of the period (LM, DB). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was mobbed by small songbirds at Bald Hill Park 11/8. A **Barred Owl** perched on a power line near OSU 11/22 (SB).

An **Anna's Hummingbird** at LSNA 11/22 may have been the first record at that site (JG, SO).

Acorn Woodpeckers may be establishing a new colony at EEW (JG), and on 11/26 **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpeckers** and **Northern Flickers** were also nearby. A bright "Yellow-shafted" flicker was at Ankeny 11/26 (TB). At least one **Lewis's Woodpecker** was seen in the NW corner of Ankeny this period.

Along a raptor survey route around Scio, 26 **American Kestrels** (JHr, BB) were found. Another survey route in SE Polk Co turned up 2 **Merlins** 11/17 (SH, RT), and a "Taiga" Merlin perched with its meal at Stewart Lake 11/7 (JS). Peregrine Falcons were seen at Ankeny 11/1 (JHz), over Bald Hill Park 11/8 (LM), and on a central Benton Co. raptor survey route 11/24 (JF).

5 **Black Phoebes** seem to have taken up residence at EEW this period (JG). A **Say's Phoebe** was an unusual yard bird near Independence 11/16 (BW); its presence was not tolerated by the resident chickens. A wayward **Empidonax sp. flycatcher** at LSNA 11/22 (JG) was likely a Pacific-slope or Cordilleran Flycatcher; hopefully it managed to find enough food to sustain itself in the cold weather. Yet another odd flycatcher was a **kingbird** at Ankeny 11/22 (MK), which was more likely to have been a Cassin's or Tropical Kingbird than a Western. It was not reported again

after the initial sighting.

A **Northern Shrike** was reported from Finley 11/17 (EK). **Hutton's Vireos** were foraging with mixed flocks, providing a challenge for birders when Ruby-crowned Kinglets were also present.

When a **Common Raven** entered their territory in S Corvallis 11/13, a flock of **American Crows** gathered in a nearby tree and gave alarm calls until it left (LM). A **Western Scrub-Jay** carried a dead vole at Bald Hill Park 11/8 (LM).

Several **Horned Larks** called from the fields around the Corvallis Airport 11/1 (LM).

Bushtits and **Black-capped & Chestnut-backed Chickadees** enjoyed Western Poison-Oak fruits at Bald Hill Park 10/31; the chickadees cached the fruits in tree bark and moss (LM).

A **Brown Creeper** going up a tree trunk met a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** going down at Willamette Park 11/21; each moved out of the other's way after pausing and giving numerous soft calls (LM).

Marsh Wrens have turned up in non-breeding locations over the last period or two, and can sometimes be detected in weedy ditches and even flooded, brushy fields. A **Pacific Wren** turned up at Stewart Lake 10/28 where they are somewhat unusual (JS).

A morning sunbeam coaxed a brief song from a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 11/25 (DB), and at least 90 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were at Willamette Park 11/21 (LM).

A total of 8 **Wrentits** were found at EEW 11/11-11/12 (JG).

Thousands of **American Robins** feasted on fruits of hawthorn, barberry and other ornamental trees and shrubs. **Varied Thrushes** gave a bit of song at the top of Bald Hill 11/8 (LM), while **Hermit Thrushes** just gave a few "chup" calls. 15 **Western Bluebirds** feasted on mistletoe berries at Coffin Butte 11/20 (JG).

An estimated 35,000 **European Starlings** gathered at Finley 11/9 (CH); they were frequently observed in precisely coordinated flight throughout the period. **American Pipits** were abundant in some agricultural fields in our area.

Cedar Waxwings continued to eat fruit from ornamental trees and shrubs in urban areas, but can expect to gradually leave our area over the next period or two.

While **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were abundant in many locations, **Townsend's Warblers** were showing up at some suet feeders, and could also be found foraging through trees in parks. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** joined a mob of little birds scolding a Northern Saw-whet Owl at Bald Hill Park 11/8 (LM).

A notably late **Western Tanager** was heard and then seen on the OSU campus 11/26 (CP).

Over a two-day period from 11/11-11/12, 120 **Song Sparrows**, 80 **Fox Sparrows**, 20 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, 60 **Spotted Towhees** were found at EEW (JG). A **Swamp**

Sparrow called from a grassy field with sparse brush at EEW 11/12 (JG). Among **Golden-crowned** and **White-crowned Sparrows** were good numbers of **White-throated Sparrows**, and in a yard just W of EEW 11/6 was a possible hybrid Golden-crowned x White-throated Sparrow (JG). A “Slate-colored” **Dark-eyed Junco** visited an Independence yard 11/21 (BW); possibly the same bird from last year since many sparrows exhibit strong fidelity to wintering sites.

More than a dozen **Western Meadowlarks** sang and chattered together among the **Red-winged** and **Brewer’s Blackbirds** on Airport Rd 11/21 (LM). A female **Rusty Blackbird** drew birders to the Monmouth STP after she was found 11/1 (BW); this species is a very rare vagrant in Oregon.



Rusty Blackbird photo by Brandon Wagner

Numbers of most finches seem low, with sparse **Purple Finches** and **American Goldfinches**, and no Pine Siskins reported. Among the finches, **House Finches** and **Lesser Goldfinches** seem to be the most active feeder customers.

A female **House Sparrow** was carrying grass in her beak 11/25 (RCo).

Please post your reports to midvalleybirding.org, send them to lisaaves@peak.org, or leave a message at 541-753-7689 by 12/26/13.

- Lisa Millbank

Atop The Nestbox

While celebrating Thanksgiving this year, an elderly neighbor expressed his appreciation for our work. He said that when he was a young boy, here in the Willamette Valley, the bluebirds were “as thick as robins.” In the following decades he didn’t know why they disappeared, but he was sad that they were gone. He thought they were extinct until a few years ago when a family of bluebirds from my property came to his birdbath.

When he found out about the ASC Bluebird Trail, he joined our efforts by placing nest boxes in his yard

and was immediately rewarded by bluebird tenants. From his perspective, bluebirds are part of the normal order of things. They are supposed to be here. Along with many others, he feels that whatever mankind did to affect the bird’s population so drastically, we are obligated to repair the harm. Most likely, until the day that wild nest cavities are abundant and non-native predators and competitors are not, the Western Bluebird will continue to require our help.

Here are the corrected 2013 nesting data for the ASC bluebird trail:

Nesting attempts	251
Failures	43
First broods	146
Second broods.....	60
Third broods	8
Eggs laid	1245
Eggs per attempt	5
Eggs hatched.....	968
% hatched	78
Banded	763
Fledged	796
% fledged	82
Fledged per occ box.....	5.5

This holiday season, let’s call on everyone to give the gift of restoration. Whether it be a small patch of garden returned to native flora, a nestbox to help a depressed avian species, or some time spent volunteering for a conservation cause, the world will be a better place...one bit at a time. Happy holidays!

Raylene Gordin

The Homer Campbell Award

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

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

Both long-standing and short-term but significant contributions will be considered for this award. A committee from ASC will recommend one of the nominees for approval by the entire Board. The selected awardee will then be recognized at the April ASC General Meeting and presented with an engraved plaque. The awardee’s name will also be engraved on a permanent plaque that hangs at Hesthavn. Nominations should consist of a letter that describes how the actions or activities of the nominee fit the

above-described (or related) criteria. Nominations should include contact information for both the nominee and the nominator and will be accepted until January 31st.

Email submissions may be sent to Linda Campbell, lcampbell@peak.org; Karan Fairchild, alderspr@peak.org; or to Dave Mellinger, dmell3.14159@gmail.com

Snail mail submissions should be addressed to:

ASC

PO Box 148

Corvallis OR 97339

ATTN: HC Award Committee

Board Meeting Summary

ASC Meeting

No motions were made.

Next Meeting: Marcia Cutler's house, 991 Sequoia on December 12th at 7pm.

Linda Campbell

Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) Update

The National Geographic November Issue offers a brief summary of the "Soaring Numbers" of birds counted every February. Now the GBBC gets birders from 110 countries.

The US is tops with 120,500 submissions. The House Sparrow was the most widespread. It was counted in 43 countries! Red-breasted Nuthatches had the biggest increase showing up on from 6,865 to over 17,500 lists. Red Crossbills also saw a healthy increase. Both of these are often seen/heard in Corvallis.

The article states that "Most people know more birds than they give themselves credit for." Citizen "Scientists" can cover vast areas thereby aiding the collective knowledge. GBBC organizers review rare or unusual reports to confirm reliability of the count.

Andrea Foster

Book Chat

Browse our Book & Raffle table this month and you'll discover many wonderful holiday gift choices. Do you know someone who routinely drives I-5 south and would enjoy a unique I-5 birding book? We've got bird-related playing cards for children that serve as a wonderful introduction to familiar birds. Our laminated coastal bird guides at only \$5.00 each continue to be popular gift items. And don't forget our numerous guides to wildflowers and dragonflies as well as birds and raptors. Love warblers? We've just one copy left of a newly published definitive warbler guide.

I could ramble on and on about how appealing every single Book & Raffle table item is – but oh, did I mention

the window stickers that help prevent birds from crashing into your windows? We try to make it easy for you to delight friends and family and help ASC all at the same time. Merry, Merry.

Sally Shaw

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!

Leslie & Bill Glassmire

Membership Corner

The 2013 ASC Annual Appeal is still in progress. Your contributions help to support the Audubon Society of Corvallis!

Membership Renewal: To renew your membership go to the ASC website www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml & renew via Paypal, or you can mail a check to ASC, PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

Email Notifications: To receive email notifications about ASC events, field trip locations & volunteer work parties, email our listserve administrator, Karan Fairchild, and request to be added to the listserve: alderspr@peak.org

Have you changed your contact information? 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 Mathews, Bill Proebsting, Jim Fairchild, Ray Drapek, Marcia F. Cutler, Brandon Wagner, Dave Mellinger, Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank, Raylene Gordin, Linda Campbell, Sally Shaw, 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.

Audubon Society of Corvallis

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

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Interested in volunteering?

Please let us know: volunteerasc@gmail.com

*Northern Saw-whet Owl photo
by Lisa Millbank*



The Chat is published 10 times a year by the Audubon Society of Corvallis, PO Box 148, Corvallis OR 97339. Annual ASC memberships are \$25 for an individual; \$35 for a family; \$15 for student; \$15 for Chat only subscriptions (email delivery only); \$50 for Supporting Level; \$100 for Patron Level; and \$200 for Benefactor Level.

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the **CHAT**

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

Calendar

Dec. 5 Conservation Comm. Mtg. 5:15 at New Morning Bakery
Dec. 12 Board Mtg. 7:00, Marcia Cutler's house
Dec. 14 Field Trip—Talking Water Gardens/Simpson Park
Dec. 17 Submit photos for Photo Night
Dec. 19 Members' Photo Night Gen. Mtg.
Dec. 21 Corvallis CBC—Potluck at Odd Fellows Hall
Dec. 21 Hesthavn Work Party, 9 to 1:00
Dec. 26 Chat submission & Field Notes deadline
Dec. 27 Dallas CBC

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