



# Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

March 2014

VOL. 43

#7

## General Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 7:00-8:30 pm  
First Presbyterian Church; 9th and Monroe

### Tropical Wetlands of Borneo and Beyond

The program speaker at our March 20 chapter meeting will be J. Boone Kauffman, of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at OSU. Dr. Kauffman is a Professor of Ecosystems Ecology and a Senior Associate with the Center for International Forestry Research in Bogor, Indonesia.



Dr. Kauffman's research focuses on the ecology and dynamics of wetlands, particularly mangroves, tropical freshwater wetlands, and riparian zones. The mangrove work, which will be the focus of his ASC talk, includes dynamics of land use and the influence of climate change on ecosystem services, especially carbon dynamics. He has conducted research and technical transfer activities in more than a dozen countries, as well as Guam, Oregon, Idaho, California, and Hawaii. He currently contributes to the international Blue Carbon Working Group on climate change and mitigation (UNESCO-IUCN-CI).

Dr. Kauffman received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. He served on the OSU faculty from 1986 until 2003, when he moved to Hawaii as Director of the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry with the U.S. Forest Service. He returned to OSU in 2011.

For those with access to recent copies of the Daily Barometer at OSU, the February 27 issue had a nice front-page article about Dr. Kauffman and his research—"Mucking Around for Answers to Climate Change." Come to the March 20 ASC meeting and hear the story from the source.

*Chris Matthews*

Doors open at 6:30 PM for refreshments and visiting. Chapter meeting begins at 7:00 pm, followed by the

guest speaker at about 7:30. Questions about the series can be directed to Chris Matthews at 541-754-1172 or [matthewssc2@comcast.net](mailto:matthewssc2@comcast.net).

### Directions

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

## Field Trip Schedule

**March 28-30** Bandon and the south coast

**April 18-20** Klamath Basin wildlife refuges

**May 9-11** Rogue Valley, with a performance of the Marx Brothers classic *Cocoonuts* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival

**June 5-8** Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

**June 27-29** Summer, Agency & Crater Lakes

**July 9-13** The Wallowas

**August 14-17** Steens & Hart Mountains

**September 5-7** Return to Bandon for shorebirds

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There will be sign-up sheets at the Field Trips desk at monthly general meetings, or you can register by email at [flramsey5@comcast.net](mailto:flramsey5@comcast.net). We request a \$50 deposit for each trip.

*Fred Ramsey*

### Local Second Saturday & Half Day Field Trips

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of each month 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, birders new to Oregon's mid-valley area and persons looking for a pleasant outing. Contact Bill Proebsting at [proebstw@gmail.com](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com) or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley ListServ, [www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/](http://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, unless otherwise noted.

### Upcoming Field Trips

**March 8** Newport. All day. Bring lunch and dress for the weather.

**April 12** E.E. Wilson State Wildlife Area.

*Bill Proebsting*

## President's Corner

### Examining Drought's Impact on the Birds

A few of us are enjoying a return to more normal weather in recent weeks here in the Pacific Northwest. Of course a little more sunshine would be welcome between the rains, but by now we all understand how winter rains and snowfall in the mountains give assurance of a summer water supply, and a bit more green than this winter provided earlier.

Farther south of us, California is experiencing a historically significant drought. Though not unprecedented in environmental records, we don't know how this will affect the timing and abundance of northbound avian migrants here in the Northwest. Most of these species need to 'refuel' on their northward travel, so some may arrive earlier or later than normal, in poor condition, or not arrive at all.

There are likely ecological consequences to any major changes to migrant bird abundances. Most easy to understand might be the missing controls insectivorous birds like swallows have on insects we consider pests. Many of our migrant passerines are insectivorous.

Birding reports, gathered en masse, could begin to give a picture of how our migrant birds might be affected by this drought. This is especially true for common species. By showing up more frequently in sampling efforts, common migrant species' presence and abundances can more rapidly indicate any possible effect. Of course the more unusual and truly rare vagrant species are the most fun finds.

As spring migrants are beginning to arrive now, please

consider keeping track of the birds you see, even if it's not every time you are out. If you can contribute your sightings to a larger data base, through Oregon Bird Notes, or Cornell's eBird, you might help us all gain a better understanding of how migrant species may be responding to regional weather change.

*Jim Fairchild*

## Audubon Board of Directors Seeks Nominees

Each year our Chapter elects officers and board members to continue directing our programs and activities. We have been very fortunate to have many skillful and enthusiastic members who've been willing to volunteer some of their time to keep our efforts organized and effective.

That energy and commitment helps us reach more and more community members—through field trips, public programs, bluebird nest monitoring, educational activities for young and old, support for conservation advocacy, this newsletter and our website. All these efforts and more keep people informed and engaged with Audubon opportunities. Collectively, we more effectively educate about, advocate for, and protect birds, wildlife, and their habitats locally, regionally, and at the national and global level.

Terms of service of elected Board members are mostly limited to 3 consecutive years in any one position. This means we will soon have to bid a fond farewell and hearty thank you to several Officers and Member-at-large Directors serving in those capacities until this summer. We hope they can all return in another role, but we also want to bring new people in, and welcome their ideas and perspectives.

Please consider joining our Board of Directors, or nominating another person who you think might be interested and willing to help our Audubon Chapter. To do so, please contact me or any Board member listed on the back page of the Chat. The Nominations Committee will then introduce nominees to the membership, and recommend a slate of Officers and Directors for our annual election in May, based on your recommendations. And many thanks to all for your contributions to the Audubon Society of Corvallis.

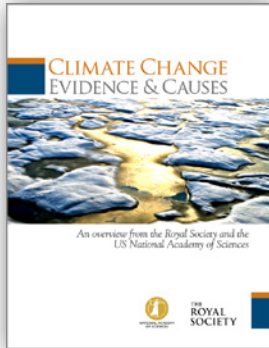
*Jim Fairchild, President*

## Conservation Corner Climate Change Is Happening

*"CLIMATE CHANGE IS ONE OF THE DEFINING ISSUES OF OUR TIME. It is now more certain than ever, based on many lines of evidence, that humans are changing Earth's climate. The atmosphere warmed, accompanied by sea-level rise, a strong decline in Arctic sea ice, and other climate-related changes."*

These are the opening lines of a recent overview of climate change. Why is another report about climate change significant? Two reasons:

- 1 It's a highly readable booklet that covers the evidence for, and causes of, climate change. It's laid out in a highly readable question-and-answer format with good graphics. You can get it here: <http://tinyurl.com/p75xa8l>



- 2 The booklet comes from the most distinguished scientists in the US and Britain—the US National Academy of Sciences and the British Royal Society. These are nationally-funded organizations whose assignments are to advise the government on science-related matters. That's exactly what they're doing here: saying loudly and clearly that climate change is happening, that it's due to human activities, and that some of the consequences for our future are pretty bad. Someone needs to push back against the climate-change denialists, and this is a strong message.

I urge you to download the booklet from the above web site, read it, and take action:

Take steps in your own life to reduce your carbon footprint. There are many simple, good ideas at <http://carbonfund.org/reduce>, including reducing your carbon in traveling (by car or plane), in your home, at work, etc.

Urge your president, representatives, and senators to take a lot more action on climate change than they've been doing.

*Dave Mellinger*

## Audubon at local Farmer's Markets — You Can Help!

Every year Corvallis and Albany Farmer's Markets offer booth space, free of charge, to area non-profits. This helps groups become better known around the community. Audubon Society of Corvallis has been invited to participate again this year. We'll have a chance to display materials and activities to the passing crowds for one or more weeks during the Market season. This spot is offered on a rotating basis to participating non-profits. We hope enough ASC members and friends can be available to assure our pres-

ence for whichever day(s) we're asked to attend.

Volunteers have remarked afterwards that this is quite a fun experience. We won't be selling anything, or actively "hawking," so volunteers will have plenty of time to talk with people stopping by. We have many interesting display materials. You'll likely be visiting with your friends and acquaintances.

If you think you'd like to help by tabling at the market, please contact Kate Mathews at 541-754-1172, or [kate.mathews@comcast.net](mailto:kate.mathews@comcast.net). Someone will be getting back to you as soon as the schedule is set later this month.

*Jim Fairchild*



*Rufous Hummingbird photo by Matt Lee*

## Field Notes

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.

Heavy snowfall followed by mild, rainy weather and minor flooding characterized this period. But by the end of the period, Indian-plum was blooming and migrating Turkey Vultures and Rufous Hummingbirds were being seen throughout our area.

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, Philomath STP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds, Stewart Lake = lake on Hewlett-Packard campus in Corvallis, TWG/SP = Talking Water Gardens & Simpson Park in Albany

Observer abbreviations: Pete B. (PB), Mark Baldwin (MB), Don Boucher (DB), Pam Comeleo (PCo), Randy Comeleo (RCo), Pat Cummins (PCu), Diana Dunnington (DD), Deanna Emig (DE), Jim Fairchild (JFa), Karan Fairchild (KFa), Lukas Ferrenburg (LF), Linda Fink (LF), Andrea Foster (AF), Joel Geier (JG), Roy Gerig (RG), Julie Gibson (JGb), Jeff Gilligan (JGI), Jeff Harding (JH), Oscar Harper (OH), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Carol Hiler (CH), Adrian Hinkle (AH), Christopher Hinkle (CH),



Jarod Jebousek (JJ), Tim Johnson (TJ), Karin Lamberson (KL), Sylvia Maulding (SM), Lisa Millbank (LM), Molly Monroe (MM), Randy Moore (RM), Russ Namitz (RN), Mark Nikas (MN), Kelsey O'Sullivan (KO), Pam Otle (PO), Jerry Paul (JP), Bruce Pratt (BP), Eric Pratt (EP), Doug Robinson (DR), Owen Schmidt (OS), Joshua Scovil (JSc), Steve Seibel (SS), Viviane Simon-Brown (VSB), Jim Smith (JSm), Jean Thompson (JTh), Bill Tice (BT), John Tietjen (JT), Dawn Villaescusa (DV), Brandon Wagner (BW), Rich Wendland (RW), Will Wright (WW), Walt Yungen (WY)

A few flocks of **Greater White-fronted Geese** have been overwintering in the valley; 34 were at Philomath STP 2/23 (KO, LF). Individual **Snow Geese** among the **Canada** and **Cackling Geese** have been noted at Ankeny, Finley, Philomath STP this period, and a single **Ross's Goose** was seen at Finley 2/27 (DR). A **Brant**, rare inland, was spotted at Finley 1/25 (PB), and presumably the same individual was seen again sporadically at Philomath STP (DR, DE). On 2/5, a Brant was spotted at Ankeny (RG), and it's hard to say if this was the same lonely bird. 3 **Trumpeter Swans** were found on a private pond S of Corvallis 2/2 (DR). A huge flock of about 980 **Tundra Swans** were in the American Dr area in Linn Co. 2/5 (HH, OH). **Wood Ducks** and **Cinnamon Teals** were reported from TWG/SP (JT, PCu). 4 **Gadwall** were seen at Ankeny 2/16 (TJ). Among **American** and **Eurasian Wigeons**, a few **Eurasian x American hybrids** were still being found, with 1 at Philomath STP 1/24 (SM), 1 at Finley 1/25 (DR) and 1 at Grand Prairie Park in Albany 2/16 (JH). **Canvasbacks** were found fairly regularly at Philomath STP, Ankeny and Stewart Lake throughout the period, but just one **Redhead** was seen at a pond along Eicher Rd in Linn Co 1/30 (DR). After February's winter storm, ice- and snow-covered wetlands concentrated common waterfowl like **Mallards**, **Northern Shovelers**, **Northern Pintail** and **Green-winged Teal** into small areas of open water. 5 **Greater Scaup** were at Philomath STP 2/22 (RN, WW), and at least 2 were hanging out with about 30 **Lesser Scaup** and **Ring-necked Ducks** at the Adair Village sewage treatment ponds 1/25 (JG). 150 **Buffleheads** were reported from Philomath STP 2/24 (EP). Male **Hooded Mergansers** were displaying for females and chasing other males at Finley HQ ponds 1/30 (MM). 16 **Common Mergansers** were seen at Ankeny 2/16 (TJ). 269 **Ruddy Ducks** bobbed on the brown lagoons of Philomath STP 1/27 (HH).

4 **Mountain Quail** were regular visitors to the foothills SW of Philomath in mid-February (KF, JF). A male **Sooty Grouse** was "hooting" in McDonald Forest 1/31 (JGb). There were 45 **Wild Turkeys** along Hwy 20 near the intersection with Kings Valley Hwy 2/18 (HH, OH).

1 **Horned Grebe** was at Philomath STP 2/17 (DR), and 2 were there 2/21 (RN, WW).

A **Great Blue Heron** gobbled a huge bullfrog at Finley

HQ (MM). There were 6 **Great Egrets** at Ankeny 2/16 (TJ).

It's hard to determine if late Jan./early Feb. **Turkey Vultures** are overwintering birds or early migrants, but by mid-February it is clear that they are moving north. Single vultures were seen over Bald Hill (LM, DB) and OSU (AH) on 2/2, and one fed on a road-killed Virginia Opossum on Pettibone Dr 2/3 (JT). Surprisingly, there were 2 sightings of **Ospreys**, 1 along the Willamette R in Linn Co 2/17 (RG), and another near Bellfountain Rd and SW 53<sup>rd</sup> St 2/23 (SM). A **White-tailed Kite** paid a brief visit to EEW 2/4 (JG). An adult **Golden Eagle** was spotted soaring over S Polk Co 1/31 (BT). A male **Northern Harrier** was performing a display flight of steep dives and climbs for a female at EEW 2/4 (JG). A young **Sharp-shinned Hawk** took a brief break from hunting the neighborhood feeders and perched right outside a kitchen window 1/27 (AF), and likewise, a young **Cooper's Hawk** perched by some feeders in SW Albany (JS). The Tangent **Bald Eagle** roost was well-used this period, with up to about 99 eagles on 1/25 (SS). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen mating 1/31, near the area where they nested last year in the NW Highland Dell area (JP). A "Harlan's" **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen near Tangent 2/25 (RM). 5 **Rough-legged Hawks** were found on the S Benton Co raptor survey route 1/25 (WW).

A **Sora** called from the vegetation at TWG/SP 2/16 (DB, LM); 2 were noted there last month. 171 **American Coots** were at TWG/SP 2/16 (JSc). An immature **Sandhill Crane** was hanging out with geese E of Albany 1/29 (DE), and a flock of 47 cranes flew over the Scio area 2/16 (JH).

A huge flock of 167 **Black-bellied Plovers** was found SE of Peoria 1/25 (MN); by 2/5 there were 190 there, along with 1800 **Dunlin** (HH, OH). **Killdeer** were showing up in odd places as they searched for food in the snow this period. There were 4 **Greater Yellowlegs** at Ankeny 2/16 (TJ). Only a few **Least Sandpipers** were present this period; 20 were found NW of Halsey 2/19 (DR). "Dozens" of **Long-billed Dowitchers** were seen at Ankeny 1/30 (DV, LF). A concentration of more than a dozen **Wilson's Snipes** at TWG/SP this period may have indicated that the slightly warmer water at the treatment plant enabled them to find food during the cold weather. A single **Red Phalarope** was at Philomath STP 2/16 (PO); they are rarely found inland except when blown in by storms.

A flock of about 600 gulls near Tangent included **Mew**, **Ring-billed**, **Western**, **Herring**, **Glaucous-winged**, **Western x Glaucous-winged Gull hybrids**, 1 **California** and 2 **Glaucous Gulls** (RM). The gulls were probably feeding on worms. A possible second-winter **Iceland Gull** was found near Halsey 2/4 (DR), which would be one of only a handful of records of this gull. Identification of Iceland Gull is very problematic.

**Band-tailed Pigeons** began to show up in our area; some paid a visit to a feeder in SW Polk Co 2/22 (JT).

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** were performing courtship with calling and bowing displays by 2/22 (JSm).

For many owl species, courtship and raising young is already in full swing. A **Barn Owl** carrying prey at midday got itself into trouble with a flock of crows in S Corvallis 2/24 (LM). **Great Horned Owls** were nesting in a hollow oak snag in W Corvallis 1/31 (PCo). **Single Northern Pygmy-Owls** were noted at the Sulphur Springs area of McDonald Forest 2/3 (DR) and in the foothills SW of Philomath 2/21 and 2/24 (KF, JFa). A **Spotted Owl** and a **Barred Owl** were reported from a NW Corvallis park 2/5 (DR); it is also possible to find hybrids of these species where their preferred habitats overlap. 6 **Short-eared Owls** were flying over new snow at Finley 2/6 (BP), and they were often seen hunting over the fields near the Tangent Bald Eagle roost, with 3 on 1/30 and 4 2/27 (VSB). Calling **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were regular in the foothills SW of Philomath this period (KF, JFa).

5 **Anna's Hummingbirds** crowded onto a feeder together near Independence 2/7 (BW). A male **Rufous Hummingbird** was at Bald Hill Park 2/26 (CH), the first one reported locally.

The resident **Lewis's Woodpecker** at Ankeny was spotted regularly this period. A male and a female **Hairy Woodpecker** fed from a suet block together in SW Albany 2/23 (JSm). A male "Yellow-shafted" **Northern Flicker** with a red crescent on his nape and a black mustache mark visited a suet feeder in SW Corvallis 2/7 (WW).

A male **American Kestrel** performed a swooping display flight and the female kestrel harassed a Red-tailed Hawk along Campus Way 2/2 (DB, LM). A female **Merlin** had claimed a favorite perch at the EEW headquarters driveway (JG). 1 **Peregrine Falcon** was reported on the S. Benton raptor survey route 1/25, and one flew over Finley 1/30 (MM). The only report of a **Prairie Falcon** was from SE of Albany on 1/31 (CH).

A **Black Phoebe** was flycatching over a flooded area at TWG/SP 2/16 (LM, DB).

A **Northern Shrike** was reported from EEW 2/13 (HH, OH).

**Gray Jays** were reported from McDonald Forest 1/28 (JG), and a flock of 4 have spent most of the winter along Old Peak Rd (RW). Many of the food caches of **Steller's Jays** and **Western Scrub-Jays** were buried under heavy snow this period. 30 **Common Ravens** frolicked over Coffin Butte 1/26, and 1500 **American Crows** congregated to roost in the Soap Creek area (JG).

A dozen **Horned Larks** were in a field NW of Halsey 2/5 (HH, OH), and 10 were spotted on Bruce Rd at Finley 2/6 (BP).

At least 24 **Tree Swallows** were flying over wetlands S of Monroe 2/20 (JJ), and over a dozen were feeding in the Philomath STP vicinity 2/21 (RN, WW). At Ankeny on 2/23, a few **Violet-green Swallows** were mixed into a

large flock of **Tree Swallows** (JH).

A few **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** traveled with a flock of **Black-capped Chickadees** in Pioneer Park 2/6, and one Black-capped persistently harassed and chased a single Chestnut-backed until it left the flock (LM).

**White-breasted Nuthatches** were giving their "dog-whistle" song this period, and male **Brown Creepers** started to sing their high-pitched songs in mid-February.

By the end of the period, male **Pacific Wrens** were singing full songs each morning. Among the **Marsh Wrens** at EEW was a single vagrant **Sedge Wren** 1/29 (JG). Sedge Wrens have been found at EEW and LSNA in recent years, but not annually.

2 **American Dippers** were along Crooked Cr just past Marys Peak Rd 2/8 (KL); they often move downslope in winter. A few male **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were beginning to sing this period. A female **Mountain Bluebird** was spotted with a flock of **Western Bluebirds** S of Philomath 1/25 (DR). The **Townsend's Solitaire** at OSU continued for a week or more into this period, and the one at EEW was also found again on 2/3 (WY). Many **American Robins** were killed on highways as they were forced to forage on roads when the ground was covered with snow. About 15-20 **Varied Thrushes** squabbled over apples provided for them after the snowstorm on 2/7 (PCo, RCo). Varied Thrushes could be heard singing on February mornings.

The fields SE of Peoria were full of **American Pipits**, with one report of about 325 on 1/25 (MN) and others reporting "hundreds." An extremely rare vagrant, 1 **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** was found along American Rd in Linn Co 2/5 (JG, OS). This would be one of only a very few Oregon records of this species. **Cedar Waxwings** were scarce as expected, with 2 at OSU 2/10 (AH), 1 at Chintimini Park 2/11, and 1 at Ankeny 2/17 (RG).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was a frequent visitor to a NW Corvallis yard in mid-February (DD), and the first migrants should start trickling in by the end of the next period. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were frequent visitors to suet feeders during the snowstorm. A **Townsend's Warbler** visited a NW Corvallis feeder in February, where one had not been seen for a few years (AF). The famed and celebrated **Yellow-throated Warbler** visiting a feeder near Ankeny continued to draw admiring birders this period.

**Spotted Towhees** were singing by 2/6, and continued in spite of the snow-covered landscape in which they soon found themselves. Other common sparrows, such as **Dark-eyed Juncos**, **Song**, **Fox**, **White-crowned**, **Golden-crowned** and **Lincoln's Sparrows**, fed on exposed weed seedheads or visited backyard feeders while snow covered their usual food sources. A **Swamp Sparrow** was calling at EEW 1/25 (JG), perhaps one of a few overwintering there. An estimated 20 **White-throated Sparrows** were in or around EEW this period (JG).

A flock of hundreds of **Red-winged Blackbirds** de-

scended on a feeding station in SW Albany 2/8 after the snowstorm (JSm). About 25 **Western Meadowlarks** were near Adair Village (JG). A flock of at least 99 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** at EEW 2/13 was an extremely high number of overwintering birds (HH, OH).

**House Finches** probably suffering from mycoplasmal conjunctivitis (eye disease) were noted by several observers. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology recommends frequent sanitizing of feeders with bleach when diseased birds are seen. Both **Purple Finches** and **American Goldfinches** were reported in very small numbers, most reliably in NW Corvallis. Only one **Pine Siskin** was reported from the S end of SW 53rd St in Corvallis on 2/16 (DR). Male **Lesser Goldfinches** were giving their complex songs, complete with brief imitations of other species.

Male **House Sparrows** sang their repetitive, chirping song and chased potential rivals this period.

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 Wednesday, 3/26/14.

- Lisa Millbank

## Atop the Nest Box

Bluebird Trail Chair Raylene Gordin and a cadre of 15 knowledgeable volunteers held their annual Spring Bluebird Workshop March 1. More than 34 guests came to learn about these beautiful little avian gems. Gordin's informative presentation covered a 40 year history of bluebird support, population decline and recovery, habitat needs and specific ways the public can support the local population.

Some things we can all do to help include: providing food sources (i.e., Oregon grape, mistletoe, and Cascara for berries or suet during winter snow and ice), 2 inch deep, fresh "bath" water, and nest boxes that are safe from predators. You can also help monitor sections of the Bluebird Trail, and report sighted bands. As nesting begins soon (March – April), it's time to clean out last year's boxes so they are free of mice, wasps, and parasites.

For more information, please visit the ASC website and click on Bluebird Trail on the left side of the page or go to: [www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/bluebird\\_trail.shtml](http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/bluebird_trail.shtml). You can also join our discussions on Facebook.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the workshop and continue to support the bluebird trail in Linn and Benton Counties.

*Raylene Gordin*

## OSU's Bird Nerds Report

Since fledging in the fall of 2012, the Oregon State University Bird Nerds have officially set a new standard for student clubs. Our mission from the beginning has been to "provide students with an opportunity to learn more about the amazing world of birds through bird-related activities,

speakers, and field trips and to share this knowledge with the Corvallis community through volunteer, education and conservation involvement," and I'm proud to say that we are doing a great job of this and more!

We have not only become popular among students and faculty on campus, we have also plugged in with other bird-centric groups such as the Audubon Society of Corvallis, the East Cascades Audubon Society, AVES, and our campus TWS chapter to share our efforts for conservation.

Our membership is diverse and unique with students of all ages and with majors such as Engineering, Zoology, and Natural Resources. We have led many field trips around Corvallis, to the Oregon Coast, and Eugene's Cascades Raptor Center, and a special trip with the Bird Guide out of Newport where we saw three species of Albatross including the rare Short-tailed Albatross!

Our efforts to promote and engage our membership in conservation have gone a long way. We coordinate with Jeff Fleischer of Albany to run raptor surveys and help in the effort to determine wintering populations of raptors in Oregon. We work with Doug Robinson and others on projects such as Gobs of Grosbeaks, Oregon 2020, and Purple Martin surveys. We have coordinated tree climbing workshops so that our members can reach new heights in their exposure to field sampling methods!

In the future we hope to lead even more exciting birding field trips exposing our membership to places beyond the coast and valley, such as Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and into Spotted Owl habitat. We will continue to bring in guest speakers and invite grad students to present their bird-centered research. We look forward to visiting campus research labs, coordinating more skills workshops such as bird banding and mist netting and joining up with the Audubon Society for a wonderful spring Birdathon!

As I leave the warm nest of the Bird Nerds, I am proud to see new bird-savvy recruits shadowing our officers and can only hope that their fresh ideas enable them to take the reins and steer the group even deeper into the wonderful world of bird-related conservation, education, and community collaborations.

*ShyAnne Woods, OSU Bird Nerds, Event Coordinator*

## First Mountain Bird Festival

**Ashland May 30–June 1**

Have you ever seen a White-headed Woodpecker, Caliope Hummingbird, or Great Gray Owl? Would you like a chance to witness these and other spectacular mountain birds while helping advance their conservation? If so, the first Mountain Bird Festival may be for you!

This unique conservation festival will be held in Ashland, Oregon from May 30th to June 1st, 2014. It combines a celebration of the region's birds with the stewardship ethic needed to ensure thriving landscapes for humans



and wildlife. Every festival participant will receive a conservation stamp for their stewardship of the science of bird conservation. This Festival offers guided bird walks, keynote presentations, a fine art auction, cocktail parties, music, and local foods. To register, visit the festival website at: [www.KlamathBird.org/Education/MountainBird](http://www.KlamathBird.org/Education/MountainBird)

*Teri Engbring*

## Sustainability Fair March 10

Join ASC at the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's annual Sustainability Fair (exhibits, music and local food) from 5-7 pm on Monday, March 10, at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center on the OSU campus. Then stay for a Town Hall Meeting from 7-9 pm, which includes: 1) a slide show and discussion of local sustainability accomplishments of partner groups and action teams, and 2) Keynote speaker Vicki Robin, author of *Your Money or Your Life; and Blessing the Hands That Feed Us: What Eating Closer to Home Can Teach Us About Food, Community, and Our Place on Earth*. All are welcome, and registration is not required for the Sustainability Fair, just for the Town Hall at [www.sustainablecorvallis.org](http://www.sustainablecorvallis.org)

*Teri Engbring*

## Board Meeting Summary

### ASC Meeting

At their February 2014 Board Meeting:

- 1 The ad hoc Nominating Committee for 2014 elections is ShyAnne Woods, Will Wright, & Jim Fairchild. Contact any of these folks if you would like to volunteer to be on the Board of Directors or if you know of someone you would like to nominate. Email addresses are found on the back page of The Chat.
- 2 The Board voted unanimously to approve adding ASC's name to letters (to Senators Wyden and Merkely) generated by a broad coalition of conservation groups opposing the O&C lands logging plan and legislation.
- 3 The March Board Meeting will be held at Teri & John Engbring's house at 602 NW Mirador Place in Corvallis on Thursday, March 13th, 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.

## Membership Corner

### Welcome New Members!

Ken & Robin Corcoran  
Susan Nicholas  
Beth Daniel

### Membership Renewal:

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

### 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](mailto:ortizsv@gmail.com).

*Suzanne Ortiz*

### Email Notifications:

To receive email notifications about ASC events, fieldtrip locations & volunteer work parties, email our listserv administrator, Karan Fairchild, and request to be added to the listserv: [alderspr@peak.org](mailto:alderspr@peak.org)

## Contributors to the Chat

Chris Mathews, Fred Ramsey, Bill Proebsting, Jim Fairchild, Dave Mellinger, Lisa Millbank, Teri Engbring, Linda Campbell, Suzanne Ortiz, ShyAnne Woods

## 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**

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www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

**President:** Jim Fairchild, [alderspring@peak.org](mailto:alderspring@peak.org), 541-929-4049  
**Vice-President, Program Chair:** Chris Mathews,  
[mathewsc2@comcast.net](mailto:mathewsc2@comcast.net), 541-754-1172  
**Secretary:** Linda Campbell, [lcampbell@peak.org](mailto:lcampbell@peak.org), 541-929-9420  
**Treasurer:** Fred Ramsey, [framsey5@comcast.net](mailto:framsey5@comcast.net),  
541-753-3677

**Board Members**

Teri Engbring, [engbring@hotmail.com](mailto:engbring@hotmail.com), 541-829-2601  
Gail Nickerson, [gbnickerson@comcast.net](mailto:gbnickerson@comcast.net), 541-754-0406  
Stacy Moore, [peterandstacy@peak.org](mailto:peterandstacy@peak.org), 541-929-2063  
Peter Moore, [peterandstacy@peak.org](mailto:peterandstacy@peak.org), 541-929-2063  
Will Wright, [willwright26@q.com](mailto:willwright26@q.com), 541-753-4395  
ShyAnne Woods, [woodssh@onid.orst.edu](mailto:woodssh@onid.orst.edu), 541-232-4706  
**Alternate Board Member and Birdathon Coordinator:**  
Karan Fairchild, [alderspr@peak.org](mailto:alderspr@peak.org), 541-929-4049

**Committee and Coordinators**

**Field Trip Chair:** Bill Proebsting, [proebstw@gmail.com](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com),  
541-752-0108  
**Education Chair:** Michelle Shula,  
[hesthavneducation@gmail.com](mailto:hesthavneducation@gmail.com), 614-579-1406  
**Conservation Chair:** David Mellinger,  
[dmell3.14159@gmail.com](mailto:dmell3.14159@gmail.com), 541-757-7953  
**Membership Chair:** Suzanne Ortiz, [ortizsv@gmail.com](mailto:ortizsv@gmail.com),  
917-273-4917  
**Christmas Bird Count Compiler, Historian:** Marcia Cutler,  
[marciacutler@comcast.net](mailto:marciacutler@comcast.net), 541-752-4313  
**Hesthavn Chair\*:** Ray Drapek, [raydrapek@gmail.com](mailto:raydrapek@gmail.com),  
541-754-7364  
**Publicity Chair:** Juliana Masseloux, [masseloj@onid.orst.edu](mailto:masseloj@onid.orst.edu),  
415-847-0738  
**Sales Table Chair:** Sally Shaw, [shaws@peak.org](mailto:shaws@peak.org), 541-757-2749  
**Refreshment Chair:** Becky Garrett, [becky.bittern@yahoo.com](mailto:becky.bittern@yahoo.com),  
541-757-7474  
**Bluebird Trail Chair:** Raylene Gordin, [gordin@centurytel.net](mailto:gordin@centurytel.net),  
541-258-6825  
**Webmaster:** Tom Haig, [tomhaig@hotmail.com](mailto:tomhaig@hotmail.com), 541-231-6583  
**Chat Newsletter Editor:** Will Wright, send submissions to:  
[chateditors@gmail.com](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com), 541-753-4395  
**Field Notes Compiler:** Lisa Millbank, [lisaaves@peak.org](mailto:lisaaves@peak.org),  
541-753-7689

**Interested in volunteering?**

Please let us know: [volunteerasc@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerasc@gmail.com)



*Violet-green Swallow by Matt Lee*

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Audubon Society of Corvallis  
P.O. Box 148  
Corvallis, OR 97339

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*Audubon Society of Corvallis*

*the* **CHAT**

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

**Calendar**

- Mar. 8 Field Trip to Newport (all day)
- Mar. 13 ASC Board Mtg., 7:00 pm at Engbrings
- Mar. 20 General Meeting, 7:00 pm at church
- Mar. 26 Field Notes submissions due
- Mar. 27 Chat submissions due
- Mar. 28-30 Bandon and South Coast field trip

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