



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

May 2014

VOL. 43

#9

General Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 7:00-8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
9th and Monroe, Corvallis

Colombia: Land of Birds

Our final 2013–14 program consists of a photographic tour of Colombia and its birds, by Christopher Calonje, with information on Colombian geography, cuisine, culture, and people. Chris will talk about the increasingly improved security situation. The Colombian government, at



Christopher Calonje



Chestnut-bellied
Flowerpiercer

all levels, has made great strides in bringing peace and prosperity to the country. Colombia boasts the world's longest list of birds, now over 1890 species (more than North America and Europe combined). Much of this diversity is due to the country's complex topography, which includes three Andean ranges and the valleys between these ranges, Atlantic and Pacific coasts, vast grasslands bordering Venezuela, and a large portion of the Amazon Basin. Birding in Colombia promotes responsible

environmental and social ecotourism and provides an opportunity of a lifetime for birdwatchers.

Christopher Calonje was born and raised in Cali, Colombia, and earned a degree from Humboldt State University in Natural Resources Planning. For the past several years he has lived in Klamath Falls, where he works for a small environmental consulting firm. He specializes in wetlands, botanical surveys, environmental education, and biological assessments.

Chris has been conducting birding tours in his native Colombia for many years, and has had the pleasure to travel throughout the entire country photographing its amazing avian diversity.

As usual, the meeting will be preceded by visiting and refreshments, beginning at 6:30. The chapter meeting commences at 7:00, and the guest lecture will begin at about 7:30. For further

information, contact Chris Mathews, Vice President and program chair, at 541-754-1172 or mathewsc2@comcast.net. See you there!

Chris Mathews

Directions

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

Field Trip Schedule

Local Monthly Second Saturday Field Trips

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

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

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

July 9-13 **The Willows**

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

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

Fred Ramsey

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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, Corvallis.

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 or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley Birding listserv, <http://www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding>, a couple of days before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans, so watch the forecast and dress appropriately. Trips return to Benton Center by noon.

Upcoming Field Trips

May 10 Cheadle Marsh & McFadden Marsh at Finley NWR. Coordinated by Bev Clark. This day is also the official 50th anniversary celebration for Finley Refuge, so you may want to stay for their celebration in the historic area of the refuge after the field trip.

June 14 Lewisburg Saddle. Last local trip until September.
Bill Proebsting

Bicycle Birding 2014

May through September

Trips are free. Bring a bicycle helmet, water and binoculars. We ride slowly, listen for birds and stop frequently. Trip lengths are less than 10 miles. For more information, contact Don Boucher, 541-753-7689, bouchdon@peak.org.

All trips are on the 4th Sunday of each month. May – Sept., 9am - Noon

Sunday, May 25: E.E. Wilson Chat-o-Rama—north of Adair Village

Meet at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area. Parking at E.E. Wilson requires a permit (see www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/parking.asp). We'll start at the pheasant cage parking area, north of the road, 29555 Camp Adair Rd, Monmouth, OR (map: <http://goo.gl/maps/4rH6f>). Consider parking for free at Adair County Park (get there 20 minutes early) and riding the 2.8 miles north to E.E. Wilson.

Sunday, June 22: Willamette Park/Kendall Natural Area—Corvallis

Meet at the Crystal Lake Sports Fields/boat landing parking area at 1199 SE Fischer Ln. (map: <http://goo.gl/maps/GgJMy>)

Sunday, July 27: Downtown Corvallis to Sunset Park and back

Meet at the free parking area in Downtown Corvallis Western Blvd and 2nd St. (map: <http://goo.gl/maps/q6LSp>). Includes a short walk down the Sunset Park wetland boardwalk.

Sunday, Aug. 24: Albany Bike Trails and Talking Water Gardens

Meet at Monteith Park in downtown Albany. There's a parking area at the corner of Water Ave. and Washington St. (map: <http://goo.gl/maps/b9CXN>) May include a short walk at Talking Water Gardens.

Sunday, Sept. 28: Benton County Fairgrounds, Bald Hill Park and Campus Way Covered Bridge—Corvallis

Meet at the Benton County Fairgrounds near the intersection of 53rd St. and Reservoir Ave. (map: <http://goo.gl/maps/a6nbi>)

Don Boucher

President's Corner

Neighbors of our Hesthavn Nature Center and Sanctuary have recently begun organizing, concerned about lethal predator trapping contracted out by managers of the OSU Animal Sciences sheep operations. If OSU reports of a 50% loss in the last year are correct, the U.S. taxpayer-funded trapping efforts of USDA Wildlife Services are ineffective. They also alienate neighbors whose pets and children are at risk from unmarked traps. Perhaps worse yet is the risk of an ill-advised, but well-intentioned, effort to release a live, injured wild animal from a trap. Some of our neighbors maintain livestock without significant losses to predators, and could teach OSU a bit about co-existence. This situation in Oak Creek is ripe for collaboration, and as an Oak Creek neighbor to OSU, Audubon will be involved.

Audubon Society of Corvallis has been a well-spring for community-based activities and advocacy. For those new to the area, ASC got involved many years ago when the sheep farming operation expanded to include grazing across Oak Creek, and saw the conversion of many cottonwood snags along the stream into firewood. These snags were favored roosts for Turkey Vultures. OSU no longer grazes the banks of Oak Creek.

We know collaboration is possible, and examples include: 1) Bringing back Western Bluebirds: Elsie and Merlin Eltzroth for many years did bird rehabilitation before the very capable efforts of Jeff Picton and Chintimini Wildlife Center came to Benton County. 2) Jackson-Frazier Wetlands would be another housing development without our member advocacy, along with Bob and Liz Frenkel and other local conservationists. Such collaborations included securing congressional protections of forests in the Old Cascades of Linn County, roadless areas across Oregon, and threatened species listing for Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets.

It is harder to pin down the influence of more than thirty years of Audubon efforts in schools and classrooms around Benton and Linn counties, but we know having youngsters engaged in nature extends to a lifetime of care for birds, fish, wildlife, and the habitats they depend on. Maybe these youngsters have become the adults who still enjoy nature education classes, birding field trips, and actively working for better conservation of our own local environment.

We are delighted to have your membership, and your engagement!

Jim Fairchild

May Meeting and Election of New Board of Directors

As an Oregon not-for-profit charitable organization, Audubon Society of Corvallis holds annual elections for all Officers and Member-at-Large Directors, who may generally serve no more than 3 consecutive terms (years) in any one position. The Board has sought out willing members they feel can represent the interests of the membership, our communities, and our Audubon Chapter, and offer the following slate of candidates interested in serving next term:

President:

Vacant (candidates needed)

Vice-President:

Chris Mathews is currently serving ASC as Vice President. Chris moved to Corvallis in 1978 with Kate, to assume the chairmanship of the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at OSU, after previous service on the faculties of Yale University and the University of Arizona. He retired from OSU in 2002, but continues with part-time teaching, writing, and reviewing. He served as President of ASC from 2005 to 2008. Currently he is serving as President of the Great Basin Society; a nonprofit corporation that oversees Malheur Field Station.

Treasurer:

Fred Ramsey co-founded ASC in 1970, was its first president, and served in this position again in the 1980s. He is our current Treasurer. Fred has led weekend field trips since 1971, edited the *Chat* and served in many other positions. As a world-traveled and respected ornithologist, his other interests include music, theatre, fishing and baseball. Fred is also Professor Emeritus of Statistics at OSU. His many publications include *Birding Oregon*, one of the first site guides, published by ASC in 1978.

Secretary:

Gail Nickerson is a native Oregonian, who moved to Corvallis to go to Oregon State College and never left. When she retired from OSU in 2003, she discovered she didn't recognize the birds in her back yard, so she joined the ASC and has enjoyed the experience. She has served as Refreshment Chair and Member-at-Large.

Members-at-Large:

Will Wright has served as ASC President and is a 3rd/4th grade teacher. He has been a teaching interpretive naturalist at Mt. St. Helens, biology instructor for O.M.S.I., instructor at Camp Hancock, Outdoor School, and staff member for Puffin Project in Maine for National Audubon Society. He spent one year following Spotted Owls with radios; two seasons doing cavity nesting bird surveys; and four seasons doing Marbled Murrelet surveys. He has traveled for birding and education in Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Hawaii, Japan, India, Nepal, Kenya, and Europe.

Linda Campbell moved from San Juan Island, WA, back to her native Willamette Valley in 2004. She has been active in ASC since then, primarily in the effort to get the Homer Campbell Memorial Trail boardwalk built at Finley Wildlife Refuge, and as Board secretary. Linda works at OR Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Teri Engbring joined the Board as an at-large member last year, and has been an active ASC volunteer with our Education and Outreach programs since moving to Corvallis in 2012. She is a retired Environmental Educator who worked with schools in WA State, CA Dept of Fish and Game, and non-profit foundations coordinating volunteers in education and conservation programs. She is also co-editor of the *Chat* newsletter.

Karan Fairchild is currently a member at large and has been involved with the Audubon Society of Corvallis for over 25 years. She's served in many capacities during that time, including publicity, secretary and fundraising chairperson. She instigated the successful Birdathon fundraisers, and currently serves on the bylaws committee, nominations, Homer Campbell Award, and Hesthavn committees, and in several other capacities.

Oscar Harper who was born and raised in Coos Bay, Oregon, moved to Corvallis over 20 years ago. Among other things, he spends time doing apartment maintenance work and pursuing

his passion as a singer/songwriter and performing musician. For many years, his main focus in nature was on mycology, but in the last couple of years he has become an active birder. He and his husband, Hendrik Herlyn, have spent a lot of time exploring Oregon (and Europe) while birding, hiking and fishing. A relative newcomer to Corvallis Audubon, Oscar would like to work toward a greater involvement of young people in the Audubon Society and be more involved with public relations in the community.

Marie Martin has been an active participant in numerous ASC field outings, fills in at the book and raffle table, and is rarely found without binoculars in hand. Recently retired as a pharmacist (you might have met her when she worked downtown at the old Albright and Raw Pharmacy.) Marie applies the same detailed attention to birding and her hobby as a fledgling wildlife artist. Formerly of Santa Cruz, CA, in 1992 she attended Pharmacy School at OSU so she could explore the natural beauty of Oregon. She is pleased to be nominated as an at-large board member of ASC.

Spencer Mair is the founder and events chair of the OSU Bird Nerds. He grew up in Sacramento, CA, growing his love for birds, and wildlife on the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge. He banded birds at Big Sur, participated in curlew nest surveys at Malheur, and Common Murre studies at Yaquina Head, did point counts on farms in the Willamette Valley, helped with the Oregon 2020 project, and numerous birdathons. He has been an active member of the Corvallis Audubon Society for three-plus years.

Candidates may also be nominated from the floor at the general members meeting.

Jim Fairchild & Teri Engbring

Hesthavn News

Open House at Hesthavn on June 15

ASC will be holding an Open House on Father's Day from noon to 5 pm. Please consider coming out. It should be great fun. We will have an array of activities that adults and kids can participate in. Michelle and Jessica, our Education Volunteer Team, are preparing some fun kid activities. I am working with some of our Audubon and Hesthavn volunteers to set up nature walks, a tour of our restoration projects, a tour of our rainwater collection system, a show-and-tell of our museum bird specimens, a slide show of the history of Hesthavn, and more!

We are hoping volunteers from the Chintimini Wildlife Center will be there with some live birds. It is also likely that some players from the Albany Civic Theater will be there to perform some songs. I have requested songs with a bird or nature theme if possible and they are looking through their repertoire to see what they might have that fits the bill (I hear rumors that the gangster Moonface Martin will be there to sing his rendition of "Be Like the Bluebird"). So please come, hike some of our trails, look over Oak Creek from our lovely new bridge, eat some of the goodies that we will have on hand, and partake in some of the activities.

We are looking for volunteers to donate cookies and baked goods to the Open House. Please contact Ann Brodie if you can help at: (annbrodie143@comcast.net).

Ray Drapek

ASC Education News

We are delighted to welcome the newest member of our ASC Education Committee—Jessica Brothers, and look forward to working with her on programs, outreach events, and within the community. Here's Jessica's intro in her own words:

"I am ever amazed and recharged by our natural world. I enjoy outdoor explorations around Oregon and delight in sharing my reflections on wildlife, waterways, and wildflowers. Sharing knowledge and environmental perspective is something that resides close to my heart, alongside my love for photography, art and poetry, my family, and my partner. I love sharing what I learn and teaching what I know, especially when it comes to working with children and families!

I was born and raised in Missouri and have lived in Corvallis since 2009. I am excited to further focus my energy on environmental education and build stronger connections within the community. Some of my past experiences have revolved around educational and collaborative projects with farmers, community members, schools, and partnerships. I currently work at First Alternative Co-op in marketing and maintain the Co-op's website. I am also a freelance photographer. You can follow my outdoor adventures at: www.thebrightnessofbeing.com"

Join Jessica and Michelle on Fridays from 11am-3pm at our Hesthavn Nature Center (8590 Oak Creek Drive, on the west side of Corvallis), where they will be on hand to introduce visitors to a wide variety of wildlife materials and activities and answer questions. It's a great place to see birds and native plants, take a little walk, and relax in Nature.

Plus, there are two more Nature Programs scheduled at Hesthavn from 2 to 4 pm:

Critters in the Creek on Wednesday, May 21 – Come tromp around Oak Creek as we search for macro invertebrates and other aquatic life. We will learn about this amazing ecosystem through exploration and discovery. Bring water shoes or boots, as we will be getting wet! This is a fun learning opportunity for homeschoolers!

Summer Solstice on Saturday, June 21 – Celebrate the summer solstice (longest day of the year) through games, stories and exploration. We will discover why this is an important time and how animals thrive at this stage of the year.

Please RSVP to Michelle at hesthavneducation@gmail.com if you would like to attend either or both programs, geared to ages pre-school to 6th grade. A \$5 per child donation helps cover supplies.

Michelle Shula and Teri Engbring

Celebrate Natural Areas in 2014

The 5th annual Natural Areas Celebration Week is almost here! These are the programs for the week of May 3-11, including two ASC events:

Bird Banding Workshop at Hesthavn Nature Center

Saturday, May 3rd – 7:30am – noon

Please join us at Hesthavn, for this introduction to songbird mist-

netting techniques for beginners. We will introduce the concepts and methods involved, and demonstrate mist-netting and songbird handling techniques. First come, first served. Come and go as you please throughout the morning! Please carpool if possible, as parking is very limited at Hesthavn. Parking is also available at the end of Oak Creek Road adjacent to the OSU Oak Creek lab, a short walk from Hesthavn. Contact Information, including directions and more details: Molly Monroe, 541-230-0578 or monroemolly@hotmail.com

Sponsor: Audubon Society of Corvallis

Wildlife Photography at NW National Wildlife Refuges: Past and Present

Sunday, May 4th – 4-6pm

This presentation will highlight William L. Finley's important role in the early development of wildlife refuges and will celebrate the wildlife, especially birds, for which he advocated so tirelessly. Join biographer, Worth Mathewson, for a slide presentation about Finley and his life's work. Learn about how Finley's photographs, short films, and advocacy during a critical wildlife conservation era, (1890s-early 1900s) were a catalyst for protecting wildlife. Finley was instrumental in establishing three Oregon refuges and giving his name to the refuge just south of Corvallis, and his legacy of conservation is reflected in all west coast refuges. Along with the historical presentation, we'll hear from a handful of today's wildlife photographers and see images captured in some of the very same regions Finley traveled over 100 years ago. Location: Corvallis-Benton Library – Main Meeting Room Contact Information: Molly Monroe at 541-230-0578 or monroemolly@hotmail.com Sponsor: US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Friends of Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Naturalist Exploration Walk at Bald Hill Natural Area

Tuesday, May 6th – 6pm
A family-friendly naturalist adventure through Bald Hill Natural Area. Come and explore the abundant wildlife and plants that make up this popular natural area. We'll go slow and investigate the world around us. Meeting Location: Bald Hill Natural Area Parking Lot – Oak Creek Drive Contact Information: Don Boucher at 541-753-7689, or bouchdon@peak.org, Sponsor: Neighborhood Naturalist

2nd Saturday Birding Tour and Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 10th 7:30-10am
Join the Audubon Society of Corvallis for an easy walk at Finley Wildlife Refuge to look for birds at the peak of spring migration. This is a good walk for all skill levels. Remember to dress appropriately for the weather. Reminder: the Finley Refuge's 50th Anniversary Celebration follows the bird tour, so drive separately if you'd like to stay and take part in the festivities. Meeting Location: Benton Center north parking lot (757 NW Polk Ave.) Contact Information: Audubon Society's Bill Proebsting at proebstw@gmail.com Sponsor: Audubon Society of Corvallis

Morning Birdsong Walk at McDonald Forest

Sunday, May 11th, 8am
Get up early and come listen to the birds with us! Tour leaders will help with bird ID and provide naturalist education throughout the walk. Learn about bird calls and enjoy a morning avian

chorus! Meeting Location: Oak Creek Drive parking lot to McDonald Forest (end of Oak Creek Drive). Contact Information: Don Boucher, 541-753-7689, bouchdon@peak.org, or www.neighborhood-naturalist.com Sponsor: Neighborhood Naturalist

For more info on all activities, check out <http://tinyurl.com/kxxd8h8>
Molly Monroe

Mountain Bird Festival

The 2014 Mountain Bird Festival hosted by Klamath Bird Observatory has announced their keynote speakers for Saturday, May 31, in Ashland. They are: “The Mountains of Everywhere” by author, ornithologist and world traveler, Dr. Pepper Trail; and “Shakespeare and the Corvids” by actor, author and educator Barry Kraft. For additional information on the festival activities, or to register for the May 30-June 1 event, go to their website at: www.klamathbird.org/education/mountainbird

Conservation Corner

Klamath Refuges Promise of Crop Water without Wildlife Plan Draws Suit

The following is an excerpt from a recent email we received from Quinn Read of Oregon Wild:

“The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act is a law that requires the US Fish and Wildlife Service to develop plans to protect wildlife and refuges from destructive commercial activities. However, summer plans have already been announced to provide 100% water deliveries to private agribusiness operations that lease refuge lands—even as adjacent wetlands and wildlife habitat go dry. Not only does the US Fish and Wildlife Service not have a plan to solve this problem—they haven’t even started one. Because the Fish and Wildlife Service is 18 months overdue in developing a plan to protect wildlife and wetlands from agribusiness, we [the Audubon Society of Portland, Water Watch of Oregon, and Oregon Wild] have gone to court to compel the agency to obey their own law. Our case simply requests that the agency obey the law and create a long-term plan that puts wildlife first. By failing to do so, the agency is denying all of us who care about wildlife our legal right to participate in and influence what happens on the refuges. This isn’t a decision that was made lightly. Court cases are expensive and time-consuming. But this may be the only way to save these refuges and the wildlife that depend on them.”

The Audubon Society of Corvallis will consider whether to join in this effort at their next board meeting, but wanted our members to be aware of the situation in the meantime.

Jim Fairchild

Field Notes

3/27/14 – 4/23/14

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.

Spring migration kicked into high gear this period, with obvious, large-scale movements of warblers, sparrows, waterfowl and many other birds. Mild spring weather meant plenty of insects for migrating songbirds, and wildflowers brightened forests and fields alike.

Observers: Bob Altman (BA), Mark Baldwin (MB), Aaron Beerman (AB), Gloria Beerman (GB), Don Boucher (DB), Susan Brown (SB), Howard Bruner (HB), Pam Comeleo (PCo), Randy Comeleo (RCo), Marty Cunningham (MC), Barbara Dolan (BD), Mike Ellis (ME), Deanna Emig (DE), Karan Fairchild (KF), Niels Garlick (NG), Joel Geier (JG), Roy Gerig (RG), Julie Gibson (JG), Tyler Hallman (TH), Jeff Harding (JH), Oscar Harper (OH), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Sally Hill (SH), Adrian Hinkle (AH), Christopher Hinkle (CH), Charlotte Hottmann (CHt), Scott Jennings (SJ), Tim Johnson (TJ), Donald Joseph (DJ), Karen Koepl (KK), Mike Lippsmeyer (ML), Sylvia Maulding (SM), Lori McGovern (LMG), Lisa Millbank (LM), Andrew Pratt (APr), Bruce Pratt (BPr), Eric Pratt (EPr), Bill Proebsting (BP), Nick Ratcliff (NR), Doug Robinson (DR), Steve Seibel (SS), Jamie Simmons (JS), Jim Smith (JSm), Evan Smouse (ES), Mike Unger (MU), 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

Flocks of **Greater White-fronted Geese** began passing through this period, although the last week of April usually is the time when the majority of these geese move through our area. 1 **Ross’s Goose** was seen at Finley 4/23 (SH, SM, TH). 1 or 2 **Snow Geese** were seen by many observers at Ankeny this period within a flock of several thousand **Cackling Geese**. Resident “Western” **Canada Geese** had newly-hatched goslings 4/16 (JG). Many birders reported a single **Trumpeter Swan** hanging around with **Tundra Swans** at Ankeny until 4/3; most Trumpeters had already left our area a month earlier. 8 **Gadwall** were found at Ankeny 4/13 (TJ). Numbers of common ducks, such as **American Wigeon**, **Mallard**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail** and **Green-winged Teal** fluctuated and gradually decreased over the period, as locally-wintering birds moved east and north, and migrants from farther south passed through our area. 2 **Blue-winged Teal** were seen at Ankeny 4/10 (OH, HH, AH, CH), soon to be followed by more sightings there; 5 were seen at Finley 4/13 (DJ). Numbers of **Cinnamon Teal** increased over the period. A few **Canvasback** lingered at Philomath STP and Ankeny this period. 168 **Lesser Scaup** were at Philomath STP 4/9 (HH), and 160 were at Monmouth STP 4/23 (BW). Within these flocks of Lesser Scaups and **Ring-necked Ducks** were occasional **Greater Scaups**, regularly reported from Philomath STP, Ankeny and Monmouth STP. 2 **Surf Scoters** were seen at Finley 4/21 (NG), but were not reported again. Numbers of **Hooded Merganser** have decreased as wintering birds move to breeding areas, although some will stay to nest in the valley. 180 **Ruddy Ducks** were at Ankeny 4/10 (OH, HH, CH, AH), but numbers were falling by the end of the period.

A **Ruffed Grouse** was found in the McCulloch Peak area of McDonald Forest 4/15 (BP). **Sooty Grouse** could be heard “hooting” or “booming” in many forested areas. **Wild Turkeys** were mating in the Mulkey Hill area 4/17 (RCo, PCo).

A **Horned Grebe** was at Ankeny 4/12 (JH, MC), another was at Monmouth STP 4/22 & 4/23 (BW). 1 or 2 **Eared Grebes** were frequently reported from Philomath STP and Ankeny throughout the period. 1-2 **Western Grebes** stopped by Philomath STP 4/23 and were seen by many birders.

100 **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported from Waverly Park in Albany 3/31 (NR), overall numbers were lower by the end of the period as cormorants started heading to the coast. 6 **American White Pelicans** flew high over Jackson-Frazier Wetland 4/11 (BPr, APr, EPr).

An **American Bittern** was singing his “oonk-a-lunk” song near Monmouth by 4/6 (ML). **Great Egrets** were regularly observed at Finley and Ankeny, but will leave soon for breeding areas, mostly

east of the Cascades. A **Green Heron** showed up at the confluence of the Marys and Willamette R in downtown Corvallis 4/11 (LM).

A **Turkey Vulture** with a wing tag was spotted near Lebanon 4/3 (SS). The downtown Corvallis/Harrison St bridge **Ospreys** returned to their nest 3/31, where they were seen mating (HH). Surprising numbers of **Golden Eagles** were reported this period. An adult was soaring along Tampico Ridge 4/8 (JG), an adult was at Finley 4/9 (HB) and 4/10 (SS) and an immature was reported from Peterson Butte 4/18 (SS). Male **Northern Harriers** were still doing their aerobic courtship flights as females decided on nesting sites. A pair of **Cooper's Hawks** appeared to be on a nesting territory they have used in past years in NW Corvallis 4/10 (LM). A **Bald Eagle** with an orange wing tag bearing the number 32 was at Ankeny 4/13 (TJ), and a **Red-tailed Hawk** with "20" on a wing tag was found near Tangent 4/20 (SB, LMG). **Rough-legged Hawks** were more scarce by the end of the period as they returned to their northern breeding areas.

Virginia Rails and **Soras** were calling frequently this period. 340 **American Coots** were at Ankeny 4/1 (RG).

2 **Black-necked Stilts** were at the Evergreen Wetland on Bellfountain Dr 4/17 (HH, OH, CH, AH), and 1 was at Ankeny 4/19 (RG). **Black-bellied Plovers** were reported with some regularity at Finley and at Ankeny, with a high count of 45 at Finley 4/19 (HH, OH). A **Semipalmated Plover** was seen on Finley Rd 4/20 (WW). A **Killdeer** nest at Finley contained 4 eggs on 4/16 (BPr, EPr, Apr). 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** were at Ankeny 4/26, and 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** were in the wetlands along Finley Rd 4/19 (HH). About 120 **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen on McFadden Marsh 4/17 (HH, OH, CH, AH). Despite the numbers of **Greater**s, only a few **Lesser Yellowlegs** have been reported, with a high count of 2 at Ankeny 4/13 (KK). **Dunlin** numbers were down from last period, but still seen regularly. **Least Sandpipers** were found in modest numbers, but only 1 **Western Sandpiper** was reported from Philomath STP 4/20 (HH). One **Baird's Sandpiper** was at Philomath STP 4/23 (DR), a rare spring record. There were 99 **Long-billed Dowitchers** at Ankeny 4/7 (MB), and 8 apparent **Short-billed Dowitchers** were carefully picked out of a mixed dowitcher flock 4/1 (RG, MU, BD).

A **Wilson's Phalarope** in full breeding plumage was at Monmouth STP 4/22 (BW), and 2 were there the next day. 2 **Red-necked Phalaropes** seemed to have been blown in to the Philomath STP by the weather 4/23 (DR).

Gulls were scarce this period, but 5 **Mew Gulls** were seen NE of Finley 3/29 (DR). 16 **Bonaparte's Gulls** stopped by the Philomath STP 4/17 (OH, HH, CH, AH), and 1 was seen there again 4/23. 2 **California Gulls** were at Philomath STP 3/27 (HH). 2 **Glaucous-winged Gulls** were NE of Tangent 3/30 (DR) and 1 was seen over NW Corvallis 4/24 (HH).

Band-tailed Pigeons were frequent visitors to bird feeders in forested areas. **Mourning Doves** and **Eurasian Collared-Doves** have begun nesting; a pair of collared-doves were observed nesting in a blue spruce in S Albany this period (JSm).

A **Great Horned Owl** was still incubating her eggs in Teloh-Calapooia Park in S Albany 3/30, but had at least one fuzzy chick by 4/13 (JSm). A likely **Barred Owl** was calling there 4/13 (JSm). A calling **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was mobbed by Golden-crowned Kinglets and Chestnut-backed Chickadees in McDonald Forest 4/13 (LM). A **Burrowing Owl** was found along Llewellyn Rd 4/22 (OH, HH, JS, AH, CH); it was surprisingly late in the season, since Burrowing Owls often return to their nesting territories by March. A **Short-eared Owl** was SE of Albany 3/30 (DR), but numbers were down considerably from last period.

1 **Vaux's Swift** was observed in downtown Corvallis 4/7 (WW), which is quite early. By the third week of April, good numbers of swifts had arrived and groups were roosting in local chimneys. A **Rufous Hummingbird** got himself trapped inside a building on the OSU campus, but was released (DB). A male **Calliope**

Hummingbird joined the typical **Anna's Hummingbirds** at a feeder in Independence 4/17 (BW).

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** was observed near Crabtree in Linn Co 4/13, and it was interacting with an **Acorn Woodpecker**. A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** at Witham Hill was drumming on metal signs (JGb), and another was finishing up a nest cavity in S Albany 4/13 (JSm). All of the typical woodpecker species were drumming and calling frequently this period. Numbers of **Northern Flickers** decreased as some wintering birds move to higher elevations.

Along the Willamette R near Corvallis, a pair of **American Kestrels** were nesting in a woodpecker hole in a snag, while a pair of **Ospreys** occupied a nest at the top of the snag 4/12 (HB). **Merlins** and **Peregrine Falcons** were reported relatively often around Finley, but almost all will leave the area soon.

2 of our 3 confusing *Empidonax* flycatchers arrived this period, with the first reported **Hammond's Flycatcher** near Fitton Green 4/16 (BP) and a **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** at Luckiamute SNA 4/18 (JG). A **Western Kingbird** showed up at Ankeny 4/12 (JH, MC), and by 4/17, one had arrived at Finley (OH, HH, CH, AH).

While the resident **Hutton's Vireos** were often heard singing last period, they were joined by a couple of neotropical vireos this period. A **Cassin's Vireo** was along Oak Creek Rd 4/10 (BP), with more showing up over the next couple of weeks. A **Warbling Vireo** showed up in NW Corvallis 4/20 (ES), with more to come through mid-May.

Gray Jays were foraging through the trees at about 1300' in McDonald Forest 4/13 (LM). A **Steller's Jay** was singing his musical sub-song routinely in late March (JG). **Western Scrub-Jays** were actively gathering nest material at the end of March (LM, DB), and **American Crows** were carrying sticks by early April. **Common Ravens** flying over NE Corvallis were attacked vigorously by territorial crows this period (LM).

Small numbers of **Horned Larks** were noted at Finley, Philomath STP and traditional sites in Benton and Linn Co this period.

A pair of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** perched together near Millersburg 4/5 (BPr). A likely **Purple Martin** was among a large flock of **Violet-green Swallows** over NW Corvallis 4/10 (LM), and 2 were at McFadden Marsh at Finley 4/17 (OH, HH, AH, CH). **Tree Swallows** and **Violet-greens** squabbled over nest boxes. A couple of well-described **Bank Swallows** were seen at Ankeny 4/6 (AB, GB). **Barn Swallows** began to arrive in numbers in early April, despite a few sporadic reports of possible overwintering birds last period. The downtown Corvallis **Cliff Swallow** nesting colonies that line the bridges were in use by mid-April.

Black-capped Chickadees were busily excavating an old woodpecker hole in Albany 4/9 (DE), and by the end of the period females were begging for food by giving fledgling-like calls as part of their courtship. A pair of **Bushtits** were working on their elaborate hanging nest on the OSU campus 4/2, but had only completed a hanging loop at the time (DB). A pair of **White-breasted Nuthatches** had nestlings in a nest box near Crabtree 4/13 (JH).

A singing male **House Wren** in the Coast Range foothills SW of Philomath 4/12 (KF) and another at Peavy Arboretum (BA) were the first ones reported. A **Pacific Wren** carried a piece of moss in his bill for nest-building at McDonald Forest 4/13 (LM).

Ruby-crowned Kinglets were moving out of the area this period, with the vast majority being gone by May 1. Many **Western Bluebirds** were incubating eggs by the end of the period. A migrant **Hermit Thrush** gave a little scrap of his ethereal song near EEW 4/19 (JG). A **Varied Thrush** was pinned to the ground by a Sharp-shinned Hawk near EEW 4/8 (JG); the thrush seemed to be in shock but otherwise not badly injured.

American Pipits were scarce this period as they moved out of our area, but 23 were found on Marys Peak 4/9 (TH, ME). A male **Lapland Longspur** was found at Philomath STP 4/18 (BPr,

EPr, APr); he was seen by quite a few other birders that day, but presumably continued his northbound trip and was not seen again.

Orange-crowned and **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were ubiquitous this period, but a few other warblers sometimes join these flocks, such as 2 **Nashville Warblers** at Willamette Park 4/20 (HH). The first reported **MacGillivray's Warbler** turned up SW of Philomath in the Coast Range foothills 4/21 (KF). 3 were found on 4/24 by one observer; 1 at OSU, another at Bald Hill, and one at Fitton Green (AH). A **Common Yellowthroat** was calling at EEW 4/1 (JG); within a couple of weeks yellowthroats were being reported from all of the expected locations. A somewhat early **Yellow Warbler** was seen at Jackson-Frazier Wetlands 4/21 (SJ). A probable **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was singing just W of EEW 4/8 (JG), 3 were at LSNA 4/12 (BW) and they were commonly found a few days after that. The last report of the famed **Yellow-throated Warbler** near Ankeny was on 4/5 (CH); hopefully, it set off on the right course for its spring migration and will find its own kind in its breeding range. There were many singing **Townsend's Warblers** in McDonald Forest 4/13 (LM). Singing **Hermit Warblers** were reported from Finley 4/19 (WW). A male **Wilson's Warbler** was singing in McDonald Forest 4/13 (LM); by the next week there were many reports around the area.

Spotted Towhees were carrying nest material early in the period. An early-arriving **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at Bald Hill Farm 3/31 (RC); more were observed there throughout the period. Another Vesper was on Kiger Island 4/18 (AH), and nearby were more than 30 **Chipping Sparrows**. **Savannah Sparrow** populations seemed to have increased with the arrival of migrant birds this period. A single **Grasshopper Sparrow** was singing at the Finley prairie 4/19 (HH, OH), a bit earlier than normal for this scarce species. **Fox** and **Lincoln's Sparrows** were still being reported by the end of the period, but were becoming scarce as they began heading northward or to higher elevations. A few **White-throated Sparrows** were still around near the end of the period, with one W of EEW 4/23 (JG) and one at Monroe until the last week of the period (WW). Large flocks of migrating **White-crowned** and **Golden-crowned Sparrows** were moving through the area. Fewer **Dark-eyed Juncos** were around this period, and many of those that remained were paired up and on nesting territories by the end of the period.

An early-arriving **Black-headed Grosbeak** showed up near Crabtree 4/20 (JH).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds had arrived at the cattail pond on Bruce Rd at Finley 4/10 (WW), with more arriving soon thereafter. Their **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Western Meadowlark** cousins could be heard singing with slightly sweeter voices elsewhere on the refuge. A **Bullock's Oriole** was across the river from Willamette Park 4/17 (LM), an early arrival since they typically show up about 2 weeks later.

Purple Finches could be heard giving Cassin's Vireo-like songs throughout the period, but usually without the "burry" quality of the vireo. While there were many singing **Lesser** and **American Goldfinches** visiting feeders and parks, only a few individual **Pine Siskins** were detected. By mid-April, the usual hordes of **Evening Grosbeaks** had descended on the OSU campus and much of Corvallis, while they feasted on elm seeds.

Please post your reports to midvalleybirding.org, send them to lisaaves@peak.org, or leave a message at 541-753-7689 by June 6.

- Lisa Millbank

ASC Hit at Sustainability Fair

The ASC table display at the March 10 Sustainability Fair at OSU was a complete success. It had a very high attendance. ASC members Michelle Shula, Teri Engbring, Rana Foster, Sally Shaw, Suzanne Ortiz and John Gaylord arranged an excellent display and answered many questions by attendees. The ASC

table was closest to the food court and had many walk by viewers. Sustainability Chair Annette Mills featured ASC in several favorable topics at the evening discussion.

John Gaylord

Board Meeting Summary April, 2014 ASC Board of Directors Meeting

The Board agreed, by general consensus, on the slate of candidates for the 2014-15 Officers and Directors put forward by the Nominating Committee.

The next Board Meeting will be held on May 8th at Hesthavn at 7pm. All are welcome.

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!

Nancy Bremner
Melanie Gisler
Anne Trehu & John Nabelek

Membership Renewal:

To renew your membership online, please go to the ASC website at (<http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml>) and 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.

Suzanne Ortiz

Email Notifications:

To receive up-to-date email notifications about ASC events, fieldtrip locations & volunteer work parties, email our listserve administrator, Karan Fairchild, and request to be added to the listserve: alderspr@peak.org Please note that you need to opt into the ASC listserve.

Contributors to the Chat

Chris Matthews, Fred Ramsey, Bill Proebsting, Jim Fairchild, Ray Drapek, Michelle Shula, Teri Engbring, Molly Monroe, John Gaylord, Linda Campbell, Suzanne Ortiz, Lisa Millbank, Don Boucher

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.

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Interested in volunteering?

Please let us know: volunteerasc@gmail.com

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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

- May 3 Bird Banding at Hesthavn, 7:30-noon
- May 8 ASC Board Mtg., 7:00pm, Hesthavn
- May 9-11 Rogue Valley Field Trip
- May 10 Hesthavn Work Party, 9am – 1pm
- May 15 ASC General Meeting, at First Presbyterian Church
- June 5-8 Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
- June 6 Chat & Field Notes submissions due for summer issue
- June 15 Hesthavn Open House, 12-5



Photo of Bonaparte's Gulls by Will Wright

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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