



THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

SUMMER 2016

VOL. 45 #10

BIRDING IN PANAMA

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 15
CHINTIMINI SENIOR CENTER
2601 NW TYLER AVE (& 27TH) IN CORVALLIS**



Bay-headed-Tanager

Tom and Ginny Stevens grew up camping and in the outdoors. But they didn't begin bird watching until 2003, when they took an "adventure" tour in the Amazon basin in Peru. In their week in a motorized dugout boat on the Madre de Dios and Manu Rivers, they saw tropical birds and other wildlife and were "hooked".

Since then Tom and Ginny have become regulars on ASC weekend field trips, and have traveled both inside the U.S. and in Central America and the Caribbean for birding.

In both 2014 and 2015 they traveled to Panama and were impressed with that beautiful country and its emerging accessibility and support

for birders, including competent guides and tour services. The diversity of habitat within a relatively small country gives birders the opportunity to see many endemics, resident neotropical birds and migrants.

On Sept 15th Tom and Ginny will present a slide show highlighting their trips to Panama with an extraordinary guide. Panama has a longer checklist than Costa Rica, 985 vs. 920, but is still seeking Costa Rica's cachet. The Stevens will help change our perspective as they focus on the beauty of Panama, its accessibility and incredible birds and wildlife.

Social hour begins at 6:30, with the chapter meeting starting at 7:00 and the program starting at about 7:30.

COMING ASC PROGRAMS IN FALL 2016:

October 20. Tom Spies, Chief Scientist at the USFS Forest Sciences Lab in Corvallis on "Historical dynamics and patterns of Coast Range vegetation and implications of managing for bird habitat"

November 17. Matt Betts, Department of Forest Science, OSU. "Do birds help trees grow in managed forests? Lessons from a long-term experiment in the Oregon Coast Range." This pair of talks will provide insights into the biological life of the Coast Range, our backyard.

December 15. Member Slide Night. Bring up to 25 photos for a short presentation. Bill Proebsting, Vice Pres. & Program Chair, proebstw@gmail.com

ASC GENERAL MEETINGS

THIRD THURSDAYS AT CHINTIMINI SENIOR CTR:
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis
Next Meeting:
7pm, Thursday, Sept. 15

In This Issue

Field Trips.....	73-74
President's Corner	74
Conservation Corner	74-75
ASC Education News	75
Birdathon Wrap-up	75
Field Notes	75-77
Board Meeting Summary	78
Membership Corner	78-79
Community Notes.....	78-79
Contributors to this CHAT	79
Calendar	80

LOCAL MONTHLY SECOND SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS

Local field trips resume in September. Meet at the Benton Center parking area, behind the Cannery Mall, 777 NW 9th St., Corvallis at 7:30 am. This field trip is free and 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

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.

Bill Proebsting

NEXT LOCAL FIELD TRIP:

September 10, Bald Hill Park/Farm, Corvallis

ONE REMAINING 2016 WEEKEND FIELD TRIP

Our final weekend field trip will be September 9-11 on the South Coast of Oregon. Our group groups travel in rental vans from Enterprise, lodge at interesting facilities, and share expenses. As this trip is before our next general meeting, you can sign up by email to flramsey5@comcast.net.

If there are parts of Oregon you want to add to next year's schedule, please consider organizing and leading a tour. Assistance in planning and execution is available.

Fred Ramsey

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

HELP NEEDED NOW AT HESTHAVN

During the heady years when Hesthavn was being transformed from a slightly shabby barn to the wonderful facility that we all enjoy today, the Work Party announcements from Hesthavn Chairs Ray Drapek and Paula Vandenheul routinely drew a dozen or more willing workers. A festive atmosphere prevailed.

Now that we are in a primarily maintenance mode, the level of enthusiasm, sadly, has declined. On the few work parties I attended last winter and spring, the average participation was three—and that three included Ray and myself. Surely an organization with 340 members can do better and give Ray some badly needed help. Watch for work party announcements in the Chat, or send Ray an email (raydrapek@gmail.com) to let him know of your interest and availability. Two work parties are already scheduled in September, both from 10 am to 2 pm. Sept 17 will focus on invasive species removal and Sept 24 will be barn and grounds work. Always a good idea to bring your own gloves, water and snack, and feel free to stay and enjoy the trails and ambiance.

There is another, less well known, opportunity to be of service. For some time ASC member Julie Gibson has been a one-person committee specializing in meadow restoration at Hesthavn. The job has become too much, even for a dedicated volunteer like Julie. If you would like to consider helping in this way, contact Julie at juliegibs22@gmail.com.

Chris Mathews, ASC President

CONSERVATION CORNER

SUMMER CONSERVATION UPDATES

Klamath Basin: Chapter comment on Refuge Comprehensive Plan. As this issue goes to press, our Chapter is signing on to comments by a coalition of Audubon Chapters and Oregon Wild, stressing that water be provided to the Basin refuges, and consistent with statutory priorities for migratory wildlife and our international treaty obligations. Even within Kuchel Act requirements, we believe the USFWS and Bureau of Reclamation

can and should require that farming activities contribute to the local economy without diminishing wildlife values on refuge lands.

Western Oregon BLM Forests: Resource Management Plan Revision. Administrative protest and potential legal challenge by ASC has been denied, as comments received during BLM "listening sessions" are not honored under Environmental Impact Statement procedures.

However, through other conservation groups, we have been able to advance specific concerns about increased habitat fragmentation and risk to the integrity of the federal Northwest Forest Plan, specifically in the Oregon Coast Range for at-risk species like Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, Red Tree Vole, and Coastal Pacific (American) Marten.

Elliott State Forest: Valuation and Potential Sale. Portions of this Coos and Douglas County native forest land remain intact largely due to federal Endangered Species protections, but its transfer to private ownership will substantially lessen those protections. Conservationists have appealed privatization, and support continued public ownership with appropriate management of the balance of second-growth forest plantations in order to meet Common School Fund requirements. The appraised value of the current Elliot Forest is \$220.8 million.

Protections from Lead: Our Water, Their Food

Across the United States, the sudden realization that water-borne lead continues to contaminate human drinking water sources has reached a fever pitch. Paint-borne lead has had this attention for decades. Strangely, the hazard from lead exposure from ammunition in human food is recognized in only a few states. It is past time that Oregon regulates the use of lead ammunition in hunting, both to protect hunting families, birds of prey, and scavengers from unnecessary exposure, and to protect the landscape from the concentration of lead as a contaminant at shooting ranges.

Restoring Malheur NWR: Scientists Needed.

The January occupation not only forced refuge closure to birding visitors, but also precipitated the postponement of important work on carp control, and on the recovery of both collected and intact artifacts. One certainly can't blame scientists to seek work elsewhere, when their work might be again be disrupted by the militancy that continues in the area, albeit



at a lower level.

Albany Swift Roost: Neighborhood Review.

As this issue goes to press, Albany city staff will meet with neighbors regarding a planned swift roost. If acceptable, erection of this roost tower will go forward immediately, perhaps in time for fall migration, usually in early September. Come to Swanson Park to see if swifts find these suitable lodgings!

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Committee Chair

ASC EDUCATION NEWS

AQUATIC ECOLOGY PROGRAM REPORT

We had the pleasure of working with Corvallis School District 4th & 5th grade students from five different schools for our 2nd successful year of an Aquatic Ecology Program on Oak Creek at ASC's Hesthavn Nature Center. This program is made possible by the National Science Foundation through a research grant awarded to Roy Haggerty, PhD, RG, and Hollis M. Dole, Professor of Environmental Geology College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences Oregon State University.

Classes from the following schools attended the 2016 series for a total of nearly 1,000 student hours at Hesthavn: Mountain View, Muddy Creek, Franklin, Jefferson, and Adams. Each class also had the opportunity to visit our bird specimen collection and explore other wildlife collection pieces and props at Hesthavn. The field trips consisted of three hands-on stations: water quality testing; macro-invertebrate collection; and a native plant hike through the riparian habitat along Oak Creek. The focus question explored how to determine if an ecosystem is healthy.

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers for offering their time, talent, and dedication: Jessica Brothers, Teri Engbring, Hannah Clark, Sue Powell, Kate Mathews, Gail Nickerson, Christina Likem, Nina Aragon, Melanie Brown, Ann Brodie, Suzanne Ortiz and Barrett Reeve.

We will continue this series next spring for our third and final year. If you are interested in participating in this wonderful program, please contact our program coordinator, Jessica Brothers at educationaudubon@gmail.com for more information on how you can get involved.

Jessica Brothers, Aquatic Ecology Coordinator

WATER BIRD ADAPTATION AT GIRL SCOUT CAMP

A special team of volunteers put together a dynamite program on "water bird adaptations" for the local Girl Scout Summer Day Camp at the scouts Rock Creek Campground. Thanks to volunteers Chris Shank, Phyllis Bailey, Sue Powell, Marcia Cutler, Kate Mathews and Teri Engbring for developing a new curriculum tailored to the camp's water theme and delivered in 50 minute sessions 8 times over 2 days, with about 120 girls and another 20 adults. A fun time was had by all in the trees above Rock Creek.

Teri Engbring, ASC Ed Team

FIELD NOTES

04/27/16-07/26/16

The weather this period seemed nearly reversed, with warm, dry weather in May and the first week of June, but after that cooler weather and even some rainy days in July.

The weather wasn't the only thing that seemed topsy-turvy. The American Ornithological Union (AOOU) released a new checklist which re-ordered the sequence of many bird families. You may notice some of these changes in the ordering of these field notes. Our familiar local scrub-jays are now called **California Scrub-Jays** rather than **Western Scrub-Jays**.

Abbreviations and locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, SNA = State Natural Area, STP = sewage treatment ponds, WA = Wildlife Area. Jackson-Frazier Wetland is in north Corvallis near Cheldelin Middle School. Luckiamute SNA is along the Willamette River northwest of Albany. Philomath STP is south of Philomath and requires access permission. Teloh-Calapooia (Park) is in south Albany, Talking Water Gardens is in NE Albany. Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR.

REPORTS

Greater White-fronted Goose migration was prolonged with flocks still migrating over E.E. Wilson WA 2 May. A **Canada Goose** appropriated an **Osprey** nest at LSNA and was brooding 1 May (Mary Garrard). A single late **Cackling Goose** was of Monmouth 3 May (Mike Lippsmeyer); one thought to be injured was still at Philomath STP 4 Jun (Hendrik Herlyn).

Seven **Wood Duck** ducklings appeared on Stewart Lake 6 Jul, with three surviving as of 26 Jul; the last **American Wigeon** there was on 5 May (Jamie Simmons). Two broods of **Mallard** ducklings were on Philomath STP 5 May (H Herlyn). A Gadwall was there 9 May (Isaac Denzer) and two **Blue-winged Teal** were there 14 May along with **Northern Shovelers** (H Herlyn; Bill Proebsting). A female **Green-winged Teal** and a male **Ruddy Duck** were there 22 Jun (I Denzer).

A pair of **Greater Scaup** and four **Lesser Scaup** were at Philomath STP 5 May (H Herlyn) and two **Buffleheads** were still there 6 May (Lars Norgren). Two **Canvasbacks** were on gravel quarry ponds on Stahlbusch Island 4 May (Cody Smith). A late **Tundra Swan** was at the Philomath STP 9 May (I Denzer).

A **Red-necked Grebe** in breeding plumage was at the Philomath STP 14 May (H Herlyn; B Proebsting). An **Eared Grebe** was there 4 Jun - 13 Jul (H Herlyn; I Denzer).

Band-tailed Pigeons fed on black hawthorn in E.E. Wilson WA 27 Jun (ASC bicycle birding trip fide Don Boucher).

A **Common Nighthawk** called over Pigeon Butte at Finley NWR 29 May (Molly Monroe). A male displayed over Dunn Forest 30 May (Pam & Randy Comeleo). One called over Willamette Park 29 Jul (Nancy Baumeister).

Vaux's Swifts arrived in Lebanon by with 1200 there 27 Apr and 600 on 28 Apr (Kaynor Heineck). A **Cooper's Hawk** nabbed one of a flock of 170 as it tried to enter the Whiteside Theater chimney in Corvallis 2 May (M. Garrard). Three fledgling **Anna's Hummingbirds** perched near an adult male along Riverside Dr. 17 Jun (Gary Whitehouse).

A **Virginia Rail** hen with two chicks were at Baskett Slough NWR 15 May (Frank Kolwicz). Three **Virginia Rails** and a **Sora**

called in the north end of E.E. Wilson WA 27 Jun (ASC bicycle birding trip). Baby **American Coots** were at Finley NWR 6 May (Craig Strobeck).

A **Black-necked Stilt** visited the Philomath STP 5 May (H Herlyn). At least two stilt chicks were at Baskett Slough NWR 12 Jun (Erik Knight). Single **Black-bellied Plovers** were at the Philomath STP 9 May and again 18 Jul (I Denzer). A **Semipalmated Plover** flew over 17 Jun (H Herlyn). A **Whimbrel** stopped by 11 May (W Wright). Two **Long-billed Curlews** were at Ankeny NW R 10 May (Roy Gerig).

26 **Spotted Sandpipers** were hanging around the Philomath STP 5 May (H Herlyn). Two downy chicks followed an adult at Luckiamute SNA 19 Jun (Caleb Centanni). An adult gave a distraction display on a cobble beach at Peoria 30 Jun (Greg Metcalfe). Two **Western Sandpipers** at Philomath STP 20 Jun (Howard Bruner) may have been south-bound migrants. **Least Sandpipers** also returned in early July. Three **Pectoral Sandpipers** flew in to the Philomath STP 11 May (I Denzer). An adult **Sanderling** was there 18-19 Jul (I Denzer; H Herlyn), and 14 **Long-billed Dowitchers** were there 5 May (L Norgren). A calling **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at the Evergreen Mitigation Bank 9 May (I Denzer). Southbound migrant **Greater Yellowlegs** were at the Philomath STP by 11 Jul (Virginia Stanton).

A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at the Philomath STP 6 May (L Norgren). 19 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were there 14 May (H Herlyn); south-bound migrants were noted 8 Jul. Four **California Gulls** were also there 11 Jul (V. Stanton; H. Herlyn). A pair of **Black Terns** were at Baskett Slough NWR 12 Jun (E Knight).

A **Brown Pelican** in breeding condition flew over Stahlbusch Island 13 May (Rana Foster). Six **American White Pelicans** Six stopped by Cabell Marsh at Finley 12 Jun (I Denzer) and three preened there 17 Jun (Peter Greenberg). A flock flew over Willamette Park 24 Jul (ASC bicycle birding trip).

An **American Bittern** called at Evergreen Mitigation Bank 9 May (I Denzer). Four **Green Herons** were at Talking Water Gardens 9 May (Salem Audubon field trip). A well-described adult **Little Blue Heron** was along Bruce Rd. 16 May (Jon Hazen). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** called as it flew past Willamette Park 19 Jun (Kai & Ben Frueh).

A pair of **Turkey Vultures** copulated in an oak northwest of Bald Hill 12 May (P Comeleo). Two **Bald Eagle** fledglings were near a nest across from Willamette Park 24 Jul (ASC bicycle birding trip). A **Cooper's Hawk** nabbed a vole out of the grasp of an **American Crow** in Corvallis 27 Apr (Olin Allen).

A **Red-tailed Hawk** nest north of Baskett Slough NWR held two fuzzy-headed chicks 24 May (F Kolwicz). Two probable **Swainson's Hawks** flew north over the OSU campus 5 May (Adrian Hinkle). One circled over NE Corvallis 6 May (O Allen). An adult **Golden Eagle** soared over Bellfountain Rd. 16 May (H Herlyn).

Barred Owls called in McDonald Forest 21 Jun and 13 Jul (Julie Gibson). A **Spotted x Barred Owl** hybrid perched in McDonald Forest 22 Jun (Lisa Millbank). A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** carried off a finch-sized bird w. of Airlie 8 Jun as **Brewer's Blackbirds** protested (O Allen).

A pair of **Acorn Woodpeckers** moved into the Teloh-Calapooia area by 29 May (Jim Smith). A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** nest in McDonald Forest held squeaking babies 19



Spotted x Barred Owl hybrid photo by Lisa Millbank

Jun (D Boucher, L Millbank). Two **Hairy Woodpeckers** in the Witham Hill neighborhood carried food from a suet feeder into the nearby woodland as of 24 May, presumably to a nest (Suzanne Ortiz). A **Downy Woodpecker** did the same near Teloh-Calapooia 10 May; fledglings visited the feeder there by 15 Jun (J Smith). Two **Pileated Woodpeckers** were in the noble firs at the summit of Marys Peak 6 Jul (J Gibson).

A migrant **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Fitton Green Natural Area 30 Apr (Peter Kappes). A **Western Wood-Pewee** arrived in Peoria 9 May (G Metcalfe); the first arrival at Alder Springs sw. of Philomath was on 20 May (Jim Fairchild). D Boucher and L Millbank found a Wood-Pewee nest in E.E. Wilson WA 27 Jun. A pair of **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** nested in an old horse skull hanging in a barn north of Lebanon as of 22 Jun (Jeff Harding). Two **Hammond's Flycatchers** sang along the Mill Hill Trail at Finley NWR 29 Apr (H Bruner). A **Dusky Flycatcher** was seen and heard at Bald Hill Farm 2 May (Bob Altman). A **Willow Flycatcher** called south of Salem 13 May. The first arrival at Alder Springs sw. of Philomath was on 20 May (Jim Fairchild). A **Least Flycatcher** visited McFadden Marsh 27 Jun through 3 Jul (W Wright; H Herlyn; K Frueh).

A **Black Phoebe** snuck out from an apparent nest site on a man-made structure at Philomath STP 18 Jun (H Bruner). Several were in E.E. Wilson WA 27 Jun (ASC bicycle birding). Two **Western Kingbirds** were along the Campus Way bike path 5 May (A Hinkle). One was s. of Brownsville 6 May (M Nikas). On 7 May one was at the Finley north prairie (L Norgren) where a pair nested last year. One was s. of Monmouth 8 May (M Lippsmeyer).

A **Warbling Vireo** sang in ne. Corvallis 27 Apr. These plus **Cassin's Vireos** were highlights of a birdsong walk at Peavy Arboretum 8 May (D Boucher). Two were at Mahogany Aulenbach's farm near Alpine 11 May. A singing male **Red-eyed Vireo** showed up at Luckiamute SNA 29 Jun but was only found intermittently.

A baby **California Scrub-Jay** was carried off by an accipiter in Corvallis 19 Jun (M. Garrard). A fledgling **Common Raven** screeched in McDonald Forest 19 Jun (D Boucher, L Millbank).



On 6 May two "**Streaked**" **Horned Larks** sang in a narrow grass strip between newly planted filbert orchards near Airlie, where much of their former habitat has been converted to vineyards and orchards.

Thirty **Purple Martins** fed over the Philomath STP 30 Apr (H Bruner); 42 perched there 14 May as a **Bank Swallow** flew with a large flock of swallows (H Herlyn). **Violet-green Swallows** fledged in s. Albany 26 Jun (J Smith) and in nw Corvallis 11 Jul (J Simmons). Flocks of **Tree** and **Violet-green Swallows** were staging for migration by late July.

Flocks of post-breeding **Bushtits** began to appear at Stewart Lake 21 Jul (J Simmons). A juvenile **White-breasted Nuthatch** and a juvenile **Brown Creeper** turned up in V Stanton's yard s. of Philomath on 5 Jul.

House Wrens seemed to be more widespread than usual this year, with many reports of nesting in new locations. Two **Pacific Wren** fledglings begged on Marys Peak 6 Jun (P&R Comeleo). A **Bewick's Wren** took a long dust bath in Dunawi Community Garden 4 Jul (J Gibson). Four **Marsh Wrens** sang at Talking Water Gardens 9 May (Salem Audubon field trip). A late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Finley NWR 30 Apr (H Bruner).

A **Townsend's Solitaire** sang on Marys Peak 5 May (L Norgren); one foraged there 6 Jun (P&R Comeleo).

Swainson's Thrushes began to arrive in early May, and were among the birds heard by a birdsong walk at Peavy Arboretum 8 May (D Boucher). A **Hermit Thrush** sang on Dimple Hill 19 Jun (D Boucher, L Millbank); several also sang on Marys Peak 12 May (H Bruner).

Cedar Waxwings began to return to the area by 15 May and were ubiquitous in the summer months. Late **American Pipits** were reported from Marys Peak 5 May (L Norgren) and Bald Hill Farm 21 May (I Denzer).

Large flocks of **American Goldfinches** were conspicuous around Corvallis by early May. **Evening Grosbeaks** were quite numerous on the OSU campus 27 Apr but nearly all gone by 30 Apr (D Boucher; Peter & Judy List). A juvenile turned up near Teloh-Calapooia 16 Jun (J Smith).

Orange-crowned Warblers were last noted in migration at Stewart Lake 20 May (J Simmons). On 31 May one carried food to nestlings in bushes right along Hwy 99W north of Lewisburg. A migrant **Nashville Warbler** stopped by Stewart Lake 28 Apr (J Simmons). Migrants sang at Bald Hill and near Coffin Butte 6 May.

On 28 Apr Paul Adamus and Bruce Moffatt found 8 **MacGillivray's Warblers** and more than 24 **Wilson's Warblers** in McDonald Forest. A **MacGillivray's Warbler** sang in E.E. Wilson WA 27 Jun (D Boucher, L Millbank). **Common Yellowthroats** were feeding fledglings at Finley 21 May (M Aulenbach).

A **Yellow Warbler** fed a **Brown-headed Cowbird** fledgling at Willamette Park 24 Jul (ASC bicycle birding trip). A late **Yellow-rumped Warbler** sang in NE Corvallis 7 May (D Boucher). **Hermit, Townsend's, and Black-throated Gray Warblers** all sang on Marys Peak 12 May (H Bruner). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** collected nesting materials on Witham Hill 24 Apr (S Ortiz). One visited Judith and Jerry Paul's feeder in the Highland Dell neighborhood 25 Jun.

Downslope movement of both **Hermit** and **Wilson's Warblers** was noted in the mid-valley by 6 Jul. Two male **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at Luckiamute SNA's north unit from 28 Apr onward. One sang just north of the parking area at

Jackson-Frazier Wetland 12 May (D Boucher, L Millbank), and a pair were at Finley 21 May (M Aulenbach). A dozen were in E.E. Wilson WA 27 Jun (ASC bicycle birding trip).

Juvenile **Spotted Towhees** began to be seen by 30 Jun when one was in Peoria (G Metcalfe). **Song Sparrow** fledglings begged at Luckiamute SNA on 24 May. **Vesper Sparrows** were once again sparse away from Bald Hill Farm. One sang in a Xmas tree farm near Airlie 7 May, along with six **Chipping Sparrows**. Two were along Belts Rd. south of Brownsville 7 May (Stefan Schlick). Two **Chipping Sparrows** sang at Luckiamute SNA 22 May and one sang at Fitton Green 14 Jun (H Bruner).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** sang at the Finley prairie 30 Apr and 6 May (H Bruner; L Norgren). At least three were along Belts Rd. south of Brownsville 6 May (Mark Nikas). One at Fern Ridge WA was the last bird of R&P Comeleo's birdathon effort 6 May.

A worn adult **White-throated Sparrow** was s. of Philomath thru 5 Jul (V Stanton), a first July record for Oregon. Most **Golden-crowned Sparrows** left by late April but one was at Bald Hill Farm 3 May. A **White-crowned Sparrow** nest in a prairie restoration at LSNA held four eggs on 6 May, a record early date for Oregon. Two broods fledged there by 24 May.

Western Tanagers were widespread by 30 Apr. Sporadic sightings at Stewart Lake thru the period (J Simmons) were suggestive of nesting.

A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was at Luckiamute SNA 1 May (M. Garrard, Bev Clark). J Smith spotted a male on a nest in Teloh-Calapooia 21 May; this species shares the brooding duties and, even more remarkably, both males and females will sometimes sing while on the nest! A fledgling begged near Lacombe 19 Jun.

A **Lazuli Bunting** sang from atop a hawthorn near EE Wilson 3-4 May. Two fledglings turned up there 20 Jul, and two males were still around 25 Jul. A male **Indigo Bunting** sang on Fishback Hill w. of Monmouth 28-29 May (C Centanni).

Many **Western Meadowlarks** sang along Belts Rd. south of Brownsville 6 May (M Nikas). One sang at the Corvallis Airport 13 May (R Foster). Three male **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were at Finley NWR 12 May. One "sang" there 16 May (N Baumeister). A **Bullock's Oriole** arrived in Peoria 1 May (G Metcalfe). One was s. of Monmouth 9 May (M Lippsmeyer). A pair worked on a nest at Baskett Slough NWR 12 May (M & Solè Aulenbach).

Monarch caterpillars hatched on milkweed in s. Corvallis by 16 Jun, two weeks after N Baumeister saw adult butterflies.

Both **Western Pond Turtles** and **Painted Turtles** are now reproducing at the Philomath STP as of 20 Jun (H Bruner). A lizard (probably a **Western Fence-Lizard**) scampered along a fence at Hesthavn 29-30 May (J Gibson). **Big Brown Bats** and two **Gray Foxes** were a highlight of a Bat Night at Starker Arts Park 14 May (D Boucher, L Millbank). An **American Mink** crossed a trail in Teloh-Calapooia 14 Jul (J Smith). A mink family scurried around the Crystal Lake boat ramp at Willamette Park 24 Jul (ASC bicycle birding trip).

Next month: Watch for departing neotropical migrants and early fall arrivals. Please post your observations to the Mid-Valley birding list at midvalleybirding.org, e-mail them to me at joel.geier@peak.org, send by post to 38566 Hwy 99W Corvallis 97330, or call (541) 745-5821 by 23 Aug.

Joel Geier

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

MAY 12, 2016 ASC BOARD MEETING

President Chris Mathews presided over the meeting at Hesthavn Nature Center May 12, 2016. The board approved the actions of the chapter conservation chair and president in supporting legislation proposed by the National Audubon Society. A committee will be formed to prepare a new brochure to help with soliciting new members. The next meeting will be a potluck at Hesthavn Aug 1st at 5:30 with a business meeting after the potluck.

Gail Nickerson, Secretary

OPEN 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!

Dan & Jennifer Carper
Kale'a Kjolhaug
Mary Lynn Roush

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

2016 BIRDATHON WRAP-UP

The 16th annual Birdathon was successful as always, with ten teams participating. Together we covered Corvallis and surrounding areas, the coast, Summer Lake and the Klamath Basin and raised \$4137, bringing total earnings over the years to over \$72,000. These funds go directly to Hesthavn Nature Center, and will be used for routine maintenance, as well as future larger projects, such as roof replacement.

We had group sponsors for all the teams, with Elsie Eltzroth continuing the family tradition, and Wild Birds Unlimited again contributing to everyone. Thanks very much, WBU and Elsie!

Bill Proebsting takes the prize for most motorless birds recorded, at 109 species, covering EE Wilson, Finley and other parts of the valley, all by bicycle! The Klamath Fools team (ASC field trip to Klamath Falls, led by Fred Ramsey) tallied the most species overall, with 146. Isaac Denzer and Spencer Mair saw nearly as many, 142, by covering the coast, Marys Peak, Finley and points between.

The other teams this year were Dodie Wilson, Jamie Simmons, Hendrik Herlyn and Oscar Harper, Jim Philipson, Pam and Randy Comeleo, Marcia Cutler with Ann Brodie and friends, and Karan and Jim Fairchild.

And finally, of course, we heartily thank everyone who sponsored a team. Hesthavn is a thriving nature center and native plant and wildlife sanctuary largely because of your generosity!

Karan Fairchild, 2016 Birdathon coordinator

COMMUNITY NOTES

BENTON COUNTY BIG SIT FUNDRAISER

Here's info from two amazing local teens, Kai Frueh and Isaac Denzer, both 13 years old, and putting together an event to help local bird conservation groups. They have been exploring the natural world together for over 7 years, but recently started birding as a team. They want to do a fundraiser for bird conservation and they got the idea for a Big Sit from the Malheur Field Station. Here's their request to us:



Red-winged Blackbird photo by Kai Frueh

Come join us at the blind overlooking Cabell Marsh at the end of the Homer Campbell boardwalk at William L. Finley NWR on September 17th, 2016 from 6:35 AM to 7:35 PM (dawn to dusk). We will be there for 13 hours!! Please join us as long as you can.

To donate you can either come to the Cabell marsh blind, where we will have a donation box and pledge sheets. Or you can email us at Bentoncountybigisit@gmail.com for a downloadable pledge sheet, or for more information.

All of the money we raise will be evenly divided between these organizations: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon Society of Corvallis, Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Complex, and Friends of Malheur NWR. Thank you for your support!

Isaac Denzer and Kai Frueh

The Benton County Big Sit team



PEDAL CORVALLIS PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The City of Corvallis has launched a two-year pilot bike share program. The Pedal Corvallis program will distribute 33 cruiser bikes and 2 “trike” bicycles to six locations around Corvallis.

Pedal Corvallis is a joint effort of the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, the Inter Community Health Network Coordinated Care Organization Zagster, and several local partners.

The bicycles in the program will be leased from Zagster, a Massachusetts company that operates bike-share programs in other communities and universities. In Oregon, the Medford-Ashland region has a similar bike-share program that launched in 2015.

The bicycle share program will be available to those 18 and over. The Zagster 8 bicycles will feature safety features including automatic lights, a bell and full reflectors, as well as a basket for carrying groceries. Medicaid members will be eligible for free bicycle helmets.

Participants can register for Pedal Corvallis at www.ocwcog.org/pedal or by using a smart phone at one of the stations. Riders can join the program by signing up for annual (\$25), monthly (\$10) or three-day (\$5) membership passes. Rides for members are free for the first two hours; rides over 2 hours are \$3 per additional hour.

Zagster manages all aspects of its programs, including the bikes, technology & bike maintenance. Zagster Mobile Apps are available for iPhone and Android (online at zagster.com/pedalcorvallis)

Each bike will have a unique number. Riders enter the number into the app to obtain a single-use code to open the lockbox located on the back of the bike (or riders can obtain unlock codes via text message). A tethered key is stored inside the lockbox and allows the bike to be locked and unlocked throughout the ride. At the end of the ride, the bike is returned to a designated Zagster bike station.

PEDAL CORVALLIS LOCATIONS:

- Downtown Transit Center: 5th St and Monroe Ave
- Oregon State Credit Union, 1980 NW 9th St
- Lincoln Health Center, 530 NW 27th St
- Osborn Aquatic Center, 1940 NW Highland Dr
- SamFit, Samaritan Square, 777 NW 9th St

Additional information can be obtained at:

www.ocwcog.org/pedal

<http://zagster.com/press/zagster-brings-bike-sharing-to-covallis/>

Suzanne Ortiz

MIGRATORY BIRDS NEED CONSERVATION

Scientists have concluded that one-third of all North American bird species are in need of urgent conservation efforts. The birds most in need of conservation action are migratory, facing a gauntlet of threats as they trek back and forth from breeding grounds in the U.S. and Canada to wintering grounds in Central and South America and the Caribbean

Yet the primary legislation protecting migratory birds from harm, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), is increasingly under attack by Members of Congress. Last year, the House of Representatives passed a provision in an appropriations bill to bar the Department of Justice from enforcing the MBTA; although this amendment did not become law. We could see a similar attack on the law again this year.

Please tell your Senators and Representative to protect the Migratory Bird Treaty Act! And See www.stateofthebirds.org for the latest status assessment of bird populations and habitat.

American Bird Conservancy info@abcbirds.org

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS:

Please note that you need to opt into the ASC listserve. After you sign up, you'll receive up-to-date email notifications about ASC events, fieldtrip locations, volunteer work parties and weather-related cancellations. Send an email to 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, send your new contact information to Suzanne Ortiz at ortizsv@gmail.com.

*Suzanne Ortiz,
ASC Membership Chair*

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS CHAT

Bill Proebsting, Chris Mathews, Fred Ramsey, Joel Geier, Jim Fairchild, Jessica Brothers, Karan Fairchild, Teri Engbring, Gail Nickerson, Suzanne Ortiz, the Big Sit Team, and Don Boucher

CHAT ARTICLES

The Chat editors welcome articles from all members of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. Please submit articles to the Chat editor by the final Thursday of the month. Submit text using Microsoft Word and photos to: chateditors@gmail.com

The CHAT and ASC board take a summer break until September, so articles for the Summer 2016 issue are due July 28, and field notes due July 26.

**AUDUBON SOCIETY OF
CORVALLIS**

CALENDAR

Aug 23	Field Notes due
Aug 25	Sept issue CHAT stories due
Sept 8	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm, Hesthavn
Sept 10	Half Day Field Trip to Bald Hill Park
Sept 15	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini
Sept 17	Big Sit Fundraiser at Finley

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; \$150 for Patron Level; and \$250 for Benefactor Level.

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

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Audubon Society of Corvallis

www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

President.....	Chris Matthews.....	mathewsc2@comcast.net	541-754-1172
Vice President	Bill Proebsting.....	proebstw@gmail.com	541-752-0108
Secretary.....	Gail Nickerson.....	gbnickerson@comcast.net	541-754-0406
Treasurer.....	Fred Ramsey.....	flramsey5@comcast.net	541-753-3677

BOARD MEMBERS

.....	Teri Enbring.....	engbring@hotmail.com	541-829-2601
.....	Linda Campbell.....	lcampbell@peak.org	541-929-9420
.....	Marie Martin.....	martinm2468@icloud.com	
.....	Spencer Mair.....	smwolfus@yahoo.com	
.....	Mark Baldwin.....	mark.baldwin2@comcast.net	
.....	Jim Philipson.....	parrphil@comcast.net	
Alternate.....	Will Wright.....	willwright26@q.com	541-753-4395

COMMITTEE AND COORDINATORS

Membership Chair	Suzanne Ortiz.....	ortizsv@gmail.com	917-273-4917
Conservation Chair	Jim Fairchild.....	alderspring@peak.org	541-929-4049
Christmas Bird Count	Marcia Cutler.....	marciafcutler@comcast.net	541-752-4313
Birdathon Coordinator	Karan Fairchild.....	alderspr@peak.org	541-929-4049
Historian	Marcia Cutler.....	marciafcutler@comcast.net	541-752-4313
Hesthavn Chair	Ray Drapek.....	raydrapek@gmail.com	541-754-7364
Publicity Chair.....	Juliana Masseloux.....	masseloj@onid.orst.edu	415-847-0738
Sales Table Chair.....	Sally Shaw.....	shaws@peak.org	541-757-2749
Refreshment Chair	Becky Garrett.....	becky.bittern@yahoo.com	541-757-7474
Bluebird Trail Chair.....	Raylene Gordin.....	gordin@centurytel.net	541-258-6625
Webmaster.....	Tom Haig.....	tomhaig@hotmail.com	541-231-6583
Chat Newsletter Editor	Teri Engbring.....	chateditors@gmail.com	541-829-2601
Field Notes Compiler.....	Joel Geier.....	joel.geier@peak.org	541-745-5821

EDUCATION TEAM:

Volunteer Support	Teri Engbring.....	engbring@hotmail.com	541-829-2601
Communication, Outreach, Grants.....	Jessica Brothers.....	educationaudubon@gmail.com	

Interested in volunteering? Please let us know: volunteerasc@gmail.com

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

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