



THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

SUMMER 2017

VOL. 46 #10

ASC GENERAL MEETING

Normally held on third Thursdays at Chintimini Senior Ctr (but not this Sept): 2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis
Next Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 14, 7-8:30 pm

ASC PROGRAMS 2017-18

The fall season of monthly programs and member meetings will start with two presentations in September, the first on Sept. 14 at our usual Chintimini Senior Center site and the second on Sept. 20 at LaSells Stewart Center on the OSU campus.

RED ROCK WILDERNESS OF UTAH

Our chapter meeting will be held on September 14 (due to a scheduling conflict at the Senior Center). Jenny Holmes, with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance will give a presentation on the Red Rock Wilderness of Utah. This is gorgeous country and politically contentious. It should be an inspiring talk.

NOAH'S AMAZING BIRDING BIG YEAR

Our bonus presentation will be September 20, also at 7 pm

Noah Strycker, our Oregon-grown, OSU-educated, world-traveled birder and author will speak about his global big year, "Birding without Borders," at LaSells Stewart Center, OSU. It promises to be a treat, with a reception following his program.

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

Bill Proebsting, Vice Pres. & Program Chair, proebstw@gmail.com



Noah Strycker

ASC GENERAL MEETINGS

THIRD THURSDAYS AT CHINTIMINI SENIOR CTR: 2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis
Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 14, 7-8:30 pm
Also: Sept. 20 with Noah Strycker

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FUTURE SPEAKERS:

October 19: Chris Matthews, Growing Up with a Famous Ornithologist

November 16: Joe Metzler, Purple Martins

December 21: Members' Slides

January 18: Peter Kappes, Ice Baby (Penguins!): Investigating how sea ice influences reproductive success and population dynamics of Adelie Penguins breeding on Ross Island, Antarctica

February 15: John Shewey, Birding the Border Country: Lake, Harney, Humboldt and Washoe Counties

March 15: Jenna Curtis, 50 Years of Change in Corvallis' Birds: Revisiting Historical Data

April 19: Joan Hagar, The role of disturbance in maintaining biodiversity in Pacific Northwest forests

May 17: Rich Hoyer, Polyglottal Passerines – Mimicry Is Not Just For Mockingbirds

*Bill Proebsting, Vice Pres. & Program Chair,
proebstw@gmail.com*

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Local Monthly Second Saturday Field Trips are on break for the summer but will be announced in the September CHAT

Bill Proebsting

REMAINING 2017 ASC WEEKEND FIELD TRIPS:

Steens Mountain, August 10-13: Our search for Black Rosy-Finch includes outstanding butterfly opportunities. And we swim in a hot-springs pool.

South Coast, August 25-27: This should correspond to the southward migration of large numbers of shorebirds.

Email Fred at framsey5@comcast.net for more information or to sign up.

Fred Ramsey

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

PEARCY/SCHOENER GIFT TO ASC

ASC recently received a letter from Bill Percy, whose late wife, Amy Schoener, was a longtime ASC member and supporter, as is Bill. He wrote about how much Amy loved ASC, and in accordance with instructions in her will, he made an exceedingly generous contribution to this organization.

During one of my earlier intervals as an ASC officer, Amy was the Membership Chair. She was a lovely person, and she did a great job carrying out her responsibilities. Particularly memorable were the occasional Board functions held at the farm in the Coast Range that she shared with Bill. She and Bill continued attending ASC meetings after her term of service ended. Her face was always graced with a smile.

After Amy died in May, the Gazette-Times ran a lengthy obituary, which many of you will have seen. I had no idea that Amy was as accomplished and multi-faceted as she was. Masters and Doctoral degrees in Biology from Harvard. Field research on tropical islands in the Bahamas. Faculty appoint-

ment in Oceanography at the University of Washington, where she met Bill. Research collaboration, and eventual marriage to Bill. Relinquishment of her academic career to achieve a lifelong dream of living and working on her own farm. Service on multiple boards and commissions oriented toward conservation and land use planning. Migration from classical piano to the musical saw and accordion, both of which she played in performance with local musical groups. Amy, you were truly a Renaissance person.

And Bill, Amy's memory will be kept alive both through the person she was and through her generous bequest. Thanks, Bill and Amy, from all of us at ASC.

Chris Mathews, ASC President

CONSERVATION UPDATE

"REVIEW" BY EXECUTIVE ORDER: UNWINDING DEMOCRACY IN A WAR ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Last week provided a glimpse into the future of "regulatory reform" being instituted across the breadth of environmental regulations and federal public lands and protections.

After months of widely publicized protests of the Dakota Access Pipeline, followed by an Obama administration determination to not issue final construction permits, one of the first acts of the incoming Trump administration was to direct the Army Corps of Engineers to issue all permits necessary to allow for its completion and use. Issuance of those permits was immediately challenged in court, though construction was allowed to continue. Last week's decision determined the environmental review by the Corps was inadequate and threatened the water supply of the plaintiffs. Unfortunately the court also determined that withdrawal of the permit might cause more economic harm to the region by stopping the pipeline operation. In summary, the court sided with a presumed economic benefit over a known environmental risk.

This form of pre-emptive strike risks more than public resources and the sidelining of democratic processes. Properly, any planned federal actions made under such an environmental review and determination cannot be reversed except through that same process. By sidestepping the normal process and appointing agency heads willing to sign away their authority, developments that can't withstand legal scrutiny will move forward causing irreversible harm. We are already seeing this with new federal oil and gas permits along the Arctic and Atlantic coasts. Pushing these limits further, the Trump administration now proposes to rescind establishment of National Monuments, even though the enabling Antiquities Act provides no mechanism for such removals. Such attacks will become ever more sweeping without strong vocal opposition.

"Review" and "reform" equate to gutting valuable environmental legislation—the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act. Nearly all of the Oregon delegation in Congress will do all they can to protect the integrity of these laws, and deserve your support and thanks. Please also contact agency heads and regional directors and express your opposition to these reversals of protections



we've all fought hard to achieve.

TREES YES, LAWSUIT NO

Please look for and sign a community petition supporting the reversal of the Benton County Commission decision to remain in a class action lawsuit Linn County filed against the Oregon Department of Forestry and Board of Forestry. The suit seeks \$1,400,000,000 in lost revenue, because timber industry funders of the suit claim harvest levels need not be tempered by environmental protections currently in place. Two of three Benton Commissioners believed the continued county involvement would allow them to ameliorate damages resulting from any settlement agreement, but any ongoing costs and eventual settlement will cost all Oregonians, in taxes or forests, sequestered carbon, clean water, and moderated climate, with little to show for Benton County. Please search the web for "Trees Yes Lawsuit No" to see how you can help.

LATE UPDATE:

On June 20th, presiding Judge Daniel Murphy has ruled that counties, as political subdivisions of the state, cannot sue the state for breach of contract seeking monetary remedy, concluding on the basis of sovereign immunity. The plaintiffs will have to re-plead their case, although at the time of this writing on week later, Benton County has not been consulted by plaintiffs' attorney. ASC has urged the Benton Co. Board of Commissioners to reverse their support of the suit.

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair

HESTHAVN NEWS

Weed work parties for the next few months will focus on Thistle and Teasel control as well as on cleaning out the caged plants. Sometime this summer we will be getting a new roof on the barn and possibly on the tool shed.

Note: Two work parties a month will continue through the summer. All work parties are from 10 am to 2 pm. Dates are:

- Saturday July 8: Barn and Yard
 - Sunday July 16: Restoration / Weeds
 - Saturday Aug 12: Barn and Yard
 - Saturday Aug 26: Restoration / Weeds
 - Saturday Sept. 16: Barn and Yard
 - Sunday Sept. 24: Restoration / Weeds
- Questions? Email: raydrapek@gmail.com

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

EDUCATION NEWS

ASC's Education volunteers have contributed hundreds of hours in dozens of events, classes, tours and programs throughout the year. In the past four months alone, they staffed aquatic ecology classes at Hesthavn, a program for Cheldelin sixth graders on our native prairie habitat at Finley NWR, and birding programs for Spring and Summer Girl Scout Day Camps. These dedicated friends of wildlife and science shared their knowledge, skills and inspiration with over 600 local students. We look forward to learning from and working with you in the coming year as well. Thanks

for all you do to educate and inspire our future leaders and broader community!

Teri Engbring

FIELD NOTES

04/26/17-06/20/17

This column spans the time from mid-spring to early summer, which is always difficult to summarize in a few pages because so much happens. At the beginning of the period, neotropical migrant birds were still arriving and botanically inclined observers were excited to see wildflowers like camas, fringecups, Oregon iris, tall larkspur and Pacific bleedingheart in bloom.

By the end of the period, many native wildflowers had set seed and those migrant birds were feeding broods – even starting on second broods in some cases. In between, the weather was somewhat wetter than usual for the season, with at least passing showers on most days until mid-June, when the weather began to turn decidedly more warm and dry.

Abbreviations and locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds. Jackson-Frazier Wetlands is in north Corvallis near Cheldelin Middle School. Luckiamute State Natural Area 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 near Linn-Benton Community College, Talking Water Gardens is in NE Albany. Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR.

OBSERVATIONS

A **Mallard** hen had seven ducklings in tow at the Philomath STP 8 May (Virginia Stanton). Three **Greater Scaup** were at the Philomath STP 30 Apr (Vickie Buck, Sally Hill). Five **Common Mergansers** rested on an island in the river at Willamette Park 4 Jun (Julie Gibson). A late **Tundra Swan** was on the river there 29 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn, Oscar Harper). A **Western Grebe** was at Cabell Marsh 29 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn, Oscar Harper).

A **Mountain Quail** was near the Old Growth Trail in McDonald Forest 8 May (Paul Adamus). A **Sooty Grouse** hooted near the Roaring River Fish Hatchery north of Lacombe on 3 May (Jeff Harding). Three **Ruffed Grouse** were along McDonald Forest Road 580 on 7 May (Julie Gibson).

A **Common Nighthawk** called over Witham Hill on the evening of 31 May (Hendrik Herlyn). Two called and "boomed" in mating display flight over the 110 Road in Dunn Forest 3 Jun (Pam & Randy Comeleo).

100 to 150 **Vaux's Swifts** heading to roost in Weigand Hall on the OSU campus 1 May were spooked by a drone flying near the chimney (Mary Garrard).

A male **Calliope Hummingbird** continued near Teloh-Calapooia Park through 26 Apr (Jim Smith). Another neared on Tall Larkspur blossoms in NE Corvallis 30 Apr (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank).

Two families of **American Coots** with tiny babies swam at

the mitigation pond ("scrape") along Bruce Rd. at Finley NWR 21 May (Mary Garrard).

A calling **Long-billed Curlew** landed in tall grass along Bruce Rd. at Finley NWR 29 May (Barbara Combs). A flock of 120+ shorebirds at Herbert Farm Open Space 26 Apr consisted mostly of **Western** and **Least Sandpipers** (in about equal numbers) plus a few **Dunlin** and two **Black-bellied Plovers** (Hendrik Herlyn). A **Spotted Sandpiper** turned up at the Philomath STP 26 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn).

195 **Long-billed Dowitchers** were in a wet field east of Lewisburg 14 May (Danny Bystrak). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was with **Greater Yellowlegs** along McFarland Rd. at Finley NWR 29 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn, Oscar Harper). Two **Wilson's Snipe** "winnowed" in their mating display over a private conservation easement near Finley NWR 15 May (Howard Bruner).

25 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at the Philomath STP 26 Apr (26 Apr). One was in a large puddle along Airport Rd. 2 May (fide Jim Fairchild).

Two **Black Terns** flew and called over McFadden Marsh 9 May (Andrea Johnson).

Two migrant **Common Loons** swam and dove on Foster Reservoir 20 May (Kaplan Yalcin). An adult in breeding plumage was on Trail Bridge Reservoir 27 May (Russ Namitz).

Eight **American White Pelicans** – including one with a "horn" on its upper bill which pelicans develop during breeding season – were at Baskett Slough NWR 29 Apr (Jon Hazen, Lowell Spring). 20 were at Cabell Marsh 9 May (Margaret Stephens). Fifteen soared high over north Corvallis 23 May (Mary Ann Roberts).

An **American Bittern** was at McFadden Marsh 14 May (Linda Hadfield). A **Great Blue Heron** hunting frogs in a water feature at Stoneybrook Village 5 May seemed to be unfazed by cars rolling by (Karen Harvey fide Elsie Eltzroth). One held a large frog, possibly a bullfrog, in its bill there 8 May (Julie Gibson). A **Green Heron** hunted in a pond at Teloh-Calapooia Park 22 May (Jim Smith). A juvenile was at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 18 Jun (Don Boucher). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flew over Starr Creek Rd. NW of Finley NWR 27 May (Bill Proebsting). One was in Jackson-Frazier Wetland 7 Jun (Julie Gibson).

A **White-tailed Kite** pair continued to be seen near Blodgett through 5 May (Adrian Hinkle). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** called at Chip Ross Park 14 May (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank).

A **Great Horned Owl** nest in Teloh-Calapooia Park had two fluffy nestlings on 21 Apr; by 8 May the nest was destroyed but two fledglings were still in the tree (Jim Smith). A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** called at Luckiamute State Natural Area 14 May (Mike and Karen Lippsmeyer), an unusual location for this species that normally sticks to the Cascades and Coast Range.

Woodpeckers encountered on a Neighborhood Naturalist visit to Mill Hill at Finley NWR 21 May included **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, and **Red-breasted Sapsucker** (Don Boucher). A female **Hairy Woodpecker** fed a fledgling at Sunset Park in s. Corvallis 4 Jun (Aaron & Sara Liston).

American Kestrels using a nest box north of Baskett

Slough NWR fledged young by 14 Jun (Frank Kolwicz).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** called near Lewisburg 26 Apr (Paul Adamus). Migration peaked around 14 May when a field trip to Chip Ross Park found at least three (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). **Western Wood-Pewees** continued to show up during late April.

A vocal **Dusky Flycatcher** visited Witham Hill 28 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). Migrant **Hammond's Flycatchers** were conspicuous in oak savanna habitat at Bald Hill Farm 17 May, along with one stray **Dusky Flycatcher** that sang briefly in a willow thicket. At least five **Hammond's Flycatchers** near the top of Marys Peak 19 May were acting like migrants (Howard Bruner), although this species nests in Coast Range forests so some may have stayed. Flycatcher species around a pond with burned snags at the southwest corner of Pigeon Butte 12 Jun included **Olive-sided**, **Pacific-slope** and **Willow Flycatchers** as well as **Western Wood-Pewee**.

A pair of **Black Phoebes** continued at the Muddy Creek bridge along Bruce Rd at Finley NWR through mid-May (Linda Hadfield; Kaplan Yalcin). A family group was there 21 May (Mary Garrard).

On 22 May Bob Altman and I heard and saw an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** singing in an oak woodland on a private conservation easement in the Cardwell Hill area on 22 May; apparently it didn't succeed in finding a mate as it was gone by 26 May.

A **Western Kingbird** was along Stapleton Rd. south of Independence 7 May (Mike Lippsmeyer). Four were along Bruce Rd at Finley NWR 14 May (Linda Hadfield). On 14 May five were at the North Prairie 14 May (Kaplan Yalcin) where kingbirds have nested in recent years. Mike and Karen Lippsmeyer had a pair visit their farm s. of Independence in late May, then saw one again 3 Jun, suggestive of local nesting.

Migrant **Warbling Vireos** were abundant in oak woodlands near Wren on 10 May. On 13 Jun a **Red-eyed Vireo** was in the north unit of Luckiamute State Natural Area (Bill Tice), where this species has been documented as nesting in recent years.

A "**Streaked**" **Horned Lark** sang along Bruce Rd. at Finley NWR 29 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). Two were at the intersection of Belts Rd. and Bond Butte Rd. near Brownsville 15 May (Mark Nikas). Two males chased each other a mile east of Suver in se. Polk Co. 16 Jun.

A pair of **Purple Martins** visited a snag near the Roaring River Fish Hatchery north of Lacombe on 3 May (Jeff Harding). **Violet-green Swallows**, **Tree Swallows**, **Barn Swallows**, **Cliff Swallows** and **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were also busy raising families through the period.

Black-capped Chickadees and several families of **Brown Creepers** on the OSU campus were feeding fledglings by 13 Jun (Don Boucher).

Three **Bewick's Wren** fledglings tended by an adult begged incessantly in the Timberhill neighborhood 7 May (Nancy Stotz). Char DeMers photographed a **Rock Wren** on Pigeon Butte at Finley NWR 20 May (fide Janette DeMers). A few **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** lingered in the Corvallis area through the first week of May.

On 18 Jun a **Wrentit** turned up in Gary Whitehouse's yard



along Riverside Drive in Linn Co. This brush-hugging species, notably reluctant to fly more than a few yards across open ground let alone water, has become regular in many spots on the west side of the Willamette River, sightings on the “right bank” are still uncommon.

Two young adult male **Western Bluebirds** that fledged from a nest box in NE Corvallis were back as of 29 Apr, bringing food to their mom as she incubated, then helping to care for their parents’ new batch of nestlings (Lisa Millbank). A migrant **Townsend’s Solitaire** snacked on ivy berries in NW Corvallis 30 Apr (Aaron Liston). Another **solitaire** sang near Conner’s Camp on Marys Peak 4 May (Howard Bruner).

Swainson’s Thrushes continued to show up in late April. Many were singing near Chip Ross Park by 18 May (Mary Garrard). A lingering **Hermit Thrush** was in Willamette Park 29 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). One sang on Marys Peak 29 May (Rana Foster).

Cedar Waxwings fed on berries at Stoneybrook Lodge 23 May and at Hesthavn 7 Jun (Julie Gibson).

Red Crossbills called in abundance on Marys Peak 29 May (Rana Foster). Thousands of **Evening Grosbeaks** feasted on elm seeds on the OSU campus 27 Apr (Don Boucher). Several visited Judith and Jerry Paul’s feeder in Highland Dell 16 May.

On 3 Jun and again on 18 Jun Jun Bill Proebsting heard an apparent **Ovenbird** singing in a dense willow thicket along Oak Creek, but did not manage to get a look.

A distinctly gray-headed **Orange-crowned Warbler** foraging at Ft. Hoskins Historical Park 15 May was likely a migrant from one of the subspecies that nest east of the Cascades. A **Nashville Warbler** sang regularly on the north side of Bald Hill Park 7-17 May (Bill Proebsting). A female **Nashville Warbler** was about a quarter mile north of there on Bald Hill farm 17 May, raising the possibility that the two might hook up. This species nested in good numbers near Bald Hill about fifty years ago but there are no recent breeding records.

A **MacGillivray’s Warbler** sang at the boardwalk loop junction at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 29 May (Don Boucher). This species is most often found in dense, early-seral forest habitat in the foothills and mountains, but occasionally nests in riparian forests on the valley floor.

A few migrant **“Audubon’s” (Yellow-rumped) Warblers** were still on Coffin Butte 30 Apr (Rana Foster).

Two lingering **Townsend’s Warblers** sang near Chip Ross Park 14 May (Don Boucher). Two birds sang a typical **Townsend’s Warbler** song on Marys Peak 23 May, with one seen and described well enough to rule out a hybrid Hermit x Townsend’s Warbler (Bill Proebsting). **Hermit Warblers** sang in abundance along the Old Growth Trail in McDonald Forest 8 May (Paul Adamus). A female **Hermit Warbler** at Fort Hoskins Historical Park gathered fluffy white material to line her nest on 15 May.

Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** called and flew at Cabell Marsh 9 May (Margaret Stephens). One sang in a regenerating clearcut SW of Finley NWR 10 May (Jacob Mathison). At least four sang on the Camp Adair Rifle Range 18 May (Hendrik Herlyn). Generally this species seemed to

be more widespread this year, although numbers at their traditional stronghold at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area seemed low.

A family of **Chipping Sparrow** fledglings near Airlie were capable of 20 m flights by 11 Jun. A female **“Oregon” Vesper Sparrow** carried nesting material and copulated at an oak savanna site near Wren 10 May. Two females were incubating on nests in that neighborhood by 22 May.

Four migrant **Savannah Sparrows** were on Marys Peak 4 May (Howard Bruner). A **Savannah Sparrow** nest at Bald Hill Farm 17 May held two brand-new hatchlings.

Transient **Grasshopper Sparrows** were heard near Airlie 9 May (Olin Allen) and along Granger Ave east of Lewisburg 14 May (Danny Bystrak). Nancy Stotz photographed a **Grasshopper Sparrow** being pestered by territorial Savannah Sparrows at the North Prairie on Finley NWR 5 Jun. At least one continued there through 17 Jun. Another **Grasshopper Sparrow** sang and a **Vesper Sparrow** was seen along Belts Rd. near Brownsville 6-7 Jun (Roy Gerig; Peter & Judy List).

A late migrant **Lincoln’s Sparrow** was at Bald Hill Farm 1 May.



“Oregon” Vesper Sparrow singing at Bald Hill Farm. Photo by Joel Geier

A **White-throated Sparrow** lingered on Witham Hill through 29 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). Another was still s. of Philomath 2 May (Virginia Stanton). One continued in NW Corvallis through 21 May (Jamie Simmons). A **White-crowned Sparrow** nest at Luckiamute State Natural Area held three eggs 17 May. A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** sang near Wren 2 May. One was still south of Philomath 16 May (Virginia Stanton).

Western Tanager migration peaked around 8 May when Don Boucher noted three calling and singing within earshot of his office on the OSU campus. Migrants were abundant in oak woodlands near Wren on 10 May and near Bald Hill 17 May.

Black-headed Grosbeaks continued to arrive with one

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Sheila Brickley

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew your membership online, go to the ASC website (www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml) and renew via Paypal, or you can mail a check to ASC at PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING WEATHER CONDITIONS

We encourage members to contact Karan Fairchild to get on the ASC listserv in order to receive emergency email notifications about meeting cancellations related to weather conditions (as was the case for our December meeting), updated information about ASC events, fieldtrip locations and volunteer work parties. Send an email to our listserv administrator, Karan Fairchild, and request to be added to the listserv: alderspr@peak.org

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

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

Suzanne Ortiz,
ASC Membership Chair

south of Philomath 29 Apr (Virginia Stanton) and two in the Highland Dell neighborhood 2 May (Jerry and Judith Paul). Six crowded around Olin Allen's seed feeder w. of Airlie 11 May.

A male **Lazuli Bunting** was in NE Corvallis 2 May (Don Boucher). Three males and a female were in the Soap Creek Valley 4 May.

Two **Western Meadowlarks** continued to sing at Mike and Karen Lippsmeyer's wetland/prairie restoration south of Independence through 30 Apr; Mike and Karen also saw two flying just west of Buena Vista 30 Apr. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** continued at McFadden Marsh through mid-May (Linda Hadfield; Kaplan Yalcin).

A **Cougar** was seen near the North trailhead parking area of Luckiamute State Natural Area 24 May (fide Erin and Rob Burns). Cougar tracks and scat have been observed there multiple times in recent years, indicating that one ranges through the natural area regularly. A **Coyote** was at Lupine Meadows between Corvallis and Philomath 5 Jun (Julie Gibson).

A very young **Black-tailed Deer** fawn chose a hiding place in high grass in Pam & Randy Comeleo's yard on 8 Jun, then stayed there for 5 hours, alternately napping and lying still while looking around.

Next month: Keep an eye open for more fledglings and often-confusing juveniles of our regular nesting species. Southbound shorebirds are already beginning to pass through from their Arctic nesting grounds. 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 21, Aug.

ATOP THE NESTBOX

Our bluebird nesting season seems to be off to a good start, with fairly average numbers of nesting pairs.

For those of you with bluebirds nesting on your property, please note when sustained hot weather is expected, more than 90° F for 2 or 3 days, and provide some shading or reflective material to prevent heat-related nestling deaths. Details can be found on our web page, or you can call me at 541-258-6625 or Rita at 541-752-6457 with questions or problems.

Happy summer!

Raylene Gordin

COMMUNITY NOTES

The Chintimini Wildlife Center is hosting a "Wildlife Wonders" series this summer, one of which is titled "Celebrate Songbirds." The event is Saturday, July 8th from 10 am-2 pm, and will focus on songbirds and birding for all ages and skill levels.

Sarah Spangler, Community Engagement
Chintimini Wildlife Center

READER'S CORNER

PETERSON'S QUEST IS FULFILLED

The publication of a new bird field guide is always a cause for celebration among birders. Even if the region it covers is rather distant, there are still many of us who would applaud its debut, want a peek at its glossy plates and gear up to gossip about its expertise and design. Well, there have been several interesting guides trotting onstage recently, but one is special in a way unprecedented and, dare I say it, even historic. For late last year out came *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago: Greater Sundas and Wallacea*, by Eaton, van Balen, et al. As these books go, it seems to cover its bases. It has all the pretty pictures, the compressed text, the little range maps one would expect. The field expertise and science of the authors seems to be sound. But that is not its significance.

With the publication of this one book there is now no place left on Earth that lacks a proper bird guide. An era has ended. The era of epic birders with notebooks and fedoras is over. There is a bird field guide to everywhere, now.

When I was eleven years old, I had my entire life changed by a chance discovery of *A Field*



Guide to the Western Birds by one Roger Tory Peterson. This was actually the second edition of said guide; I had missed the first; but this first 'serious' and 'adult' book on birds floored me. At that time (1965), I make the total tally of field guide coverage as two books (Peterson's famous genre-setting *Eastern Guide*) and the one I held. Over the years, there was a sally on the birds of Europe by Mr. Peterson, et al, and a limited foray into Mexico. Then the dam broke.

In terms of coverage of the world's avifauna, there was a parallel strategy that also is relevant: world checklists, exemplified by the incomparable checklist of James Clements. (Again, I only discovered its existence in its second edition.) Add to this, the much later world-scale coverage of the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* series; but there still remained a cachet to the few remote places on the planet without field guides.

Finally, it looked like Wallacea (the suite of Islands between Borneo and New Guinea) and Bolivia were going to vie for the honor of Last Place Guided. Bolivia did not last all that long. Bolivia fell to its own field guide, as well) and, so, only Wallacea remained. Until now.

I do not know how you feel about this. For one thing, this pivotal event was actually last year (Once again, I only get in on the action in its 'second go around'!) But, depending on your age at the time you started birding, you may have been witness to all, or a significant portion, of this Golden Age in bird field guides. All is not lost, though, to the adventurous, this shining time is still going on for practically every lifeform that is not slathered in feathers (think mammals, butterflies, etc.) and we all get to see how that turns out. Whatever you feel as a member of the overall Community of Watchers, the closing of the last gap in world bird watching should be commemorated. The dream that Roger Tory Peterson believed in has been fulfilled.

Dale W. Mitchell

valchuckwalla@yahoo.com

2017 BIRDATHON WRAPUP

The 17th annual Birdathon was successful as always, with thirteen teams participating. Together we covered Corvallis and surrounding areas, the coast, the Rogue Valley and Cape May, NJ! We raised over \$3600, bringing total earnings over the years to nearly \$76,000. These funds go directly to Hesthavn Nature Center, and will be used for routine maintenance, as well as larger projects, such as this year's 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!

Isaac Denzer takes the prize for most motorless birds recorded, at an incredible 119 species, covering Finley and other parts of the valley, all by bicycle! Isaac's team added some species by car, for a winning total of 156. Hendrik Herlyn and Oscar Harper are second, with 153 species.

The other teams this year were Dodie Wilson, Jamie Simmons, Jim Philipson, Pam and Randy Comeleo, Ann Brodie and friends, Delores Porch, Mary Derr, Tyler Hallman, Bill Proebsting, the ASC's Rogue Valley field trip 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, 2017 Birdathon coordinator

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

MAY 11, 2017 ASC BOARD MEETING

Publicity for the September 20th Noah Strycker talk was planned and Bird Nerds (cosponsor) will help. The next board meeting will be Thursday July 27th at Hesthavn following a potluck dinner at 5:30 pm. The September ASC board meeting will be at Natural Grocers September 7th, because the September General Meeting will be held March 14 at Chintimini.

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 location.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS CHAT

Bill Proebsting, Fred Ramsey, Chris Mathews, Karan Fairchild, Jim Fairchild, Suzanne Ortiz, Ray Drapek, Joel Geier, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Gail Nickerson, Raylene Gordin, Sarah Spangler, Dale Mitchell, Matt Lee and Don Boucher

CHAT ARTICLES

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

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS

CALENDAR

July 27	Board Meeting & Potluck at Hesthavn
Aug 21	Field Notes submissions due
Aug 24	September CHAT stories due
Sept. 7	Board Meeting at Natural Grocers
Sept. 14	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini
Sept. 20	ASC Hosts Noah Strycker at OSU

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.

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

Interested in volunteering? Please let us know:
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