



# THE CHAT

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS

SEPTEMBER 2017

VOL. 47 #1

## SEPTEMBER 2017 PROGRAMS:

**THURS., SEPT. 14, 7-8:30 PM**  
**2601 NW TYLER AVE (& 27TH) IN CORVALLIS**  
**JENNY HOLMS:**

**WILD UTAH: AMERICA'S RED ROCK WILDERNESS**  
Jenny Holmes, WA-OR Field Organizer for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, is an environmental activist and organizer who fell in love with the redrock country of Utah on a geology field trip and returned many times for family vacations and rafting on the San Juan River. She has organized campaigns on energy and climate policy, and developed and managed sustainable food system projects. Her academic background is in environmental science, environmental ethics and theology.

Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness is a multi-media slideshow documenting citizen efforts to designate public lands in southern Utah's spectacular canyon country as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This 20-minute journey, narrated by Robert Redford, through redrock splendor invigorates and motivates viewers to participate in the movement to protect these unique lands.

In conjunction with this slideshow, Jenny will discuss the status of the Utah wilderness movement – including the current effort to protect the Greater Canyonlands region and protect national monuments. This inspirational and informational event is a must see for people wishing to become personally involved in making a difference in this tremendous American public lands conservation effort.

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



**WED., SEPT. 20, 7:00 P.M. LASELLS STEWART CENTER**  
**875 SW 26TH STREET IN CORVALLIS**  
**NOAH STRYCKER, BIRDING WITHOUT BORDERS:**

**AN EPIC WORLD BIG YEAR**  
In 2015, Noah Strycker became the first human to see more than half of the planet's bird species in a single, year-long, round-the-world birding trip. Anything could have happened, and a lot did. Insects, leeches, illness, floods, war, airlines, car problems and sleep deprivation were on-going scourges over the course of the year, but of course he had the time of his life. Carrying only a pack on his back, Noah enlisted the enthusiastic support of local birders



## ASC GENERAL MEETINGS

**THIRD THURSDAYS AT CHINTIMINI SENIOR CTR:**  
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis

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to tick more than 6,000 species, on all seven continents, including Adélie Penguins in Antarctica, a Harpy Eagle in Brazil, a Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Thailand, and a Green-breasted Pitta in Uganda. He shared the adventure in real time on his daily blog ([audubon.org/noah](http://audubon.org/noah)), and now he comes to Corvallis to tell us the inside story. This humorous and inspiring presentation about Noah's epic World Big Year will leave you with a new appreciation for the birds and birders of the world.

Noah Strycker grew up near Eugene and is an OSU graduate in Fish and Wildlife. He has had a stellar and varied career since then. Author of two well-regarded books, Associate Editor of Birding magazine and a regular contributor of photography and articles to all major bird magazines, his book about his global big year, *Birding Without Borders*, will be released in October 2017. Noah has studied birds on six continents with field seasons in Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Australia, Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands, and the Farallon Islands. He also works as a naturalist guide on expedition cruises to Antarctica and Norway's Svalbard archipelago, literally spreading the inspiration of birds from pole to pole.

His first book, *Among Penguins*, chronicles a field season working with Adélie Penguins in Antarctica (Oregon State University Press, 2011) and his second, *The Thing with Feathers*, celebrates the fascinating behaviors of birds and human parallels (Riverhead Books, 2014). Visit his website at: [www.noahstrycker.com](http://www.noahstrycker.com)

And please join us for a free reception with Noah, in the lobby area just outside the auditorium, immediately following his presentation. It's a chance to meet this fascinating local author and adventurer in person, courtesy of your local Audubon chapter!



Noah Strycker in Columbia

#### FUTURE SPEAKERS:

**October 19, Chris Mathews**, ASC President and grandson of a well-known, mid-20th Century ornithologist will talk about "Growing Up with a Famous Ornithologist." This returns to our regular third Thursday schedule.

Bill Proebsting, Vice Pres. & Program Chair, [proebstw@gmail.com](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com)

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

### LOCAL MONTHLY SECOND SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS

Our Saturday morning local field trips meet the second Saturday from September through June at the Benton Center (756 NW Polk) parking area, behind the Samaritan Square Buildings at 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](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com) or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the ASC Facebook page, the Willamette Valley ListServ, <http://birding.aba.org/maillist/ORS>, 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.

### NEXT LOCAL FIELD TRIPS:

**September 9, Cheadle Marsh, Finley NWR.** Less frequently birded area off of Bruce Road. Level walking on dikes creating wetlands adjacent to Muddy Creek. Late-August, 2016, over 40 Great Egrets were at Cheadle.

**October 14. Tentatively to Ankeny NWR.**

Bill Proebsting

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### SPECIAL EVENTS THIS SEPTEMBER

Two special ASC-sponsored events will enrich our lives as Auduboners this September. First is Noah Strycker's presentation, "Birding Without Borders," at 7:00 PM Wednesday, September 20. Noah will describe his 2015 record-setting worldwide Big Year, during which he saw and identified 6042 species. Information about Noah's adventure can be found at [www.audubon.org/noah](http://www.audubon.org/noah). Once in the site, click on Birding Without Borders for more information, including a photo of the contents of Noah's backpack. He traveled light and fast.

Based on Noah's past ASC presentations, the Board realized that we would need more seating capacity than for our ordinary chapter meetings. So we reserved the large auditorium at LaSells Stewart Center on the OSU campus. Parking on campus is free after 5:00 PM. Noah's talk will be followed by an informal reception. Noah is planning to have copies available for sale of his book, *The Thing About Birds*. A book describing the Big Year adventure will be published this October.

As to the second event, Isaac Denzer has established himself as one of the best birders in ASC—as he prepares to begin high school. Isaac has assembled a team of birders to conduct a Big Sit at Finley Wildlife Reserve on Sunday, September 24. What, you may ask, is a Big Sit? The term may have originated with Duncan and Lyla, Co-Directors of the



Malheur Field Station. For several years they have solicited pledges for donations based on the number of species seen or heard from one point during a 24-hour observation period. Sort of like a stationary Birdathon. Isaac and his team will be big-sitting at Finley on Sept. 24, from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm and they welcome pledges. You can get further information at the regular Chapter meeting September 14, on the ASC website, and in the CHAT Community Notes section.

*Chris Mathews, ASC President*

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## CONSERVATION UPDATE

Just after our summer board meeting at Hesthavn, our Oak Creek neighbors contacted us regarding the increased recreational traffic and congestion occurring at the OSU MacDonald Forest trailhead at the end of Oak Creek Drive. Our Hesthavn property sees little of this traffic load, except as a vehicle turnaround, and the occasional parked car of a Forest visitor unable to find a more suitable place. Since the College of Forestry is now seeking to expand recreational opportunities, particularly in "Mac" Forest, they need county approval before expanding current park use in their "Forest Conservation" zoned property, through a conditional use permit.

As part of that permit application process, ASC submitted testimony to the County Planning Commission in support of our neighbors' concerns about traffic, congestion, and safety concerns along this terminal portion of Oak Creek Drive. After hearing these concerns, College of Forestry and county staff met with our neighbors on site, and together developed some remedies for this popular trailhead, particularly regarding traffic flow and current unsafe parking practices. The College then revised their permit application and committed to a number of these remedies around the Oak Creek trailhead, some in collaboration with Benton County. The county will also be developing a few parking places on county right-of-way, which will also directly benefit Hesthavn visitors.

Although some proponents of expanded recreation misunderstood the purpose of the permit or took issue with any opposition to recreation expansion, I would personally like to thank our neighbors for their dedicated work to meet with and work to resolve some very real and growing traffic and safety concerns. Hesthavn visitors too will benefit from their efforts.

*Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair*

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## HESTHAVN NEWS

There are two work parties scheduled in September at Hesthavn. All work parties are from 10 am to 2 pm, and we can really use the help in caring for this special haven for Nature's plants and wildlife.

**Saturday Sept 16:** Barn and Yard

**Sunday Sept 24:** Restoration / Weeds

Questions? Email: [raydrapek@gmail.com](mailto:raydrapek@gmail.com)

*Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair*

## EDUCATION NEWS

As we head into the new school year, we are gearing up for another great year of education and outreach with our amazing ASC Volunteer team. Planning will begin later this month for our annual Winter Wildlife Field Day at Finley NWR. We will need a couple of dozen dedicated volunteers to help with designing and developing the program as well as another 50 for the big day. First on the agenda is selecting the right date in late winter of 2018, then the theme.

We will also be looking for key volunteers to see if we can continue the popular Aquatic Ecology classes at Hesthavn next spring. And there are always requests coming in throughout the year for special programs such as Scout camp and the annual sustainability fair that lets us bring science and our love of Nature to the community. If you volunteered before and have not heard back from us, please email us again, as some contact information proved difficult for us to reach.

Please contact Ed team member Teri Engbring at [chateditors@gmail.com](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in any of several education programs this year. Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers.

*Teri Engbring, ASC Education*

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## FIELD NOTES

**06/21/17-08/21/17**

The weather for this two-month period was dry with less than a tenth of an inch of rain total, and warmer than typical for summer. Daily high temperatures in Corvallis topped 90 F eleven times and 100 F four times, including 2 & 3 Aug when the thermometer reached 105 F.

A total solar eclipse on 21 Aug provided a rare chance to observe birds' responses to a brief period of late-morning twilight. The outcome was mostly undramatic. Don Boucher reported that many Corvallis observers noticed an increase of bird sounds just before and shortly after totality, including one **Eurasian Collared Dove** that sang. However birds that spend most of the day high in the sky such as **Vaux's Swifts** and **Turkey Vultures** were not seen returning to nocturnal roosts. **Goldfinches**, **Bushtits**, and a **Downy Woodpecker** visiting feeders near Teloh-Calapooia Park simply flew to nearby trees and bushes and went quiet during the two minutes of totality. As suggested by Don, "the decreased light before and after [totality] wasn't as long as morning or evening twilight, and perhaps, mimicked the variable sunlight during a partly cloudy day. Totality almost certainly caught the birds off guard, but by the time they had a chance to realize anything was wrong, it was over."

**Abbreviations and locations:** NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, SNA - State Natural Area, STP = sewage treatment ponds. Herbert Open Space is near the airport south of Corvallis. Jackson-Frazier Wetlands 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 near Linn-Benton Community College.

A young **Mallard** at Baskett Slough NWR on 4 Aug gulped down a dead fish that nearby **Pied-billed Grebes** had spurned (Frank Kolwicz). **Gadwall** were in various stages of nesting at Fern Ridge Reservoir 26 Jun, with some on nests, some with fledged young, and some with late paired mates (Howard Bruner).

A bright male **Green-winged Teal** was at Ankeny NWR 11 Jul (Howard Bruner). By 4 Aug numbers of waterfowl at Philomath STP were building noticeably with arrivals of **Northern Shovelers, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads** and **Ruddy Ducks**; meanwhile **Cinnamon Teal, Mallards**, and **Wood Ducks** were swimming with recently hatched young (Hendrik Herlyn).

Five **Sooty Grouse** were along the main road on Marys Peak 28 Jul (Joshua Little). Julie Gibson heard what was likely another **Sooty Grouse** hooting in McDonald Forest near Vineyard Mountain 6 Aug. **Wild Turkeys** nested in abundance in the Soap Creek Valley and at Bald Hill Farm, as the local population of this introduced gamebird continue to expand.

A single **Common Nighthawk** foraged over the river just north of Buena Vista in late July (Kris Ebbe).

Numerous **Vaux's Swifts** spiraled into a SW Corvallis chimney to roost on 7 Aug; upward of 130 used the same chimney 10 Aug (Steve Seibel). A swift family that nested in Susan Brown's chimney in the College Hill neighborhood fledged young by early August but were still returning nightly to roost. At another **Vaux's Swift** roosting location w. of Reser Stadium on 6 Aug, a slightly larger swift with comparatively longer tail, narrower wings, and darker rump and throat gave calls consistent with **Chimney Swift** (Isaac Denzer).

After rescuing an **Anna's Hummingbird** nestling that fell out of its tiny nest, Randy Comeleo had the foresight to string up a small towel to make "hammock" just below the nest. The nestling soon made another premature effort to fly, and plopped safely into the hammock where its mom continued to feed it.

Adult male **Rufous Hummingbirds** mostly left the valley for higher elevations by mid-July, but a few females and juveniles continued in Corvallis through the end of the season. A migrant male stopped by a feeder in NW Corvallis 18 Aug (Louise Barden).

Baby **American Coots** dove at Finley NWR 26 Jun (Howard Bruner). Juvenile **Wilson's Phalaropes** foraged alongside of adults at Duckflat Rd. near Jefferson 27 Jun (Roy Gerig).

**Black-necked Stilts** nested again this year at Baskett Slough NWR. Two juveniles there 7-15 Jul seemed to be on their own, with out any attending adults (Frank Kolwicz). On 25 Jul several stilts plus a few **Long-billed Dowitchers** were there (Anne & Jim Harlan).

**Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpipers** called near the Santiam confluence in Luckiamute SNA 16 Jul, where both of these species often nest on gravel bars (Don Boucher). Early southbound migrant shorebirds at the Philomath STP 26 Jun included a **Western Sandpiper** and six **Greater Yellowlegs**. Shorebird numbers and diversity there increased through 4 Aug when Hendrik Herlyn noted two **Baird's Sandpipers**,

fifteen **Least Sandpipers**, six **Western Sandpipers**, four **Spotted Sandpipers**, nine **Long-billed Dowitchers**, and a **Red-necked Phalarope**. A **Long-billed Curlew** turned up there 8 Aug (Isaac Denzer; Caleb Centanni); three juvenile curlews turned up 19 Aug (Peter Ziminski) and continued through the end of the period.

An adult **Heermann's Gull** turned up along with 11 **California Gulls** on the Philomath STP 12 Jul (Hendrik Herlyn; Will Wright; Isaac Denzer). Two **Ring-necked Gulls** joined the gull flock there 4 Aug (Hendrik Herlyn). A first-year **Western Gull** visited Baskett Slough NWR 15 Jul (Harry Fuller).

An **American Bittern** and a summering **Great Egret** were along Bruce Rd. at Finley NWR 26 Jun (Howard Bruner). Four juvenile **Green Herons** were tended by adults at Stewart Lake 4 Jul (Joy Linn). A juvenile **Black-crowned Night Heron** flew over the northeast edge of Corvallis early on the morning of 10 Aug, apparently heading to a daytime roost in the north part of Jackson-Frazier Wetland. Juvenile **Great Blue Herons** hunted alongside adults at Baskett Slough NWR 9 Jul though prey seemed to be in short supply (Linda Hadfield; Frank Kolwicz).

**Turkey Vultures** flew in and landed in Doug and Mardi Bilsland's yard in Soap Creek Valley 22 Jun, apparently drawn by the fetid smell of blooming voodoo lilies. Some **Turkey Vultures** that were soaring near E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area on the morning of 21 Aug apparently stayed aloft through the solar eclipse, rather than heading to roost. In Kings Valley, Karin Lamberson noticed that **Turkey Vultures** were flying lower and flapping more frequently in the few minutes before and after the eclipse, presumably due to thermals weakening as temperatures dropped.

Two young **Ospreys** were still in a nest at Luckiamute SNA 20 Aug. **Bald Eagles**, including many juveniles, were seen frequently by rafters along the Willamette River this summer (Kris Ebbe).

Two juvenile **Cooper's Hawks** were out on their own near Finley NWR by early August (Jacob Mathison). Calls of scolding jays and robins led Nancy Stotz to an adult **Red-tailed Hawk** feeding on a Douglas Squirrel in NW Corvallis 6 Aug. An immature **Red-shouldered Hawk** visited Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's wetland restoration s. of Independence 29 Jul, and an adult cruised over 5 Aug; multiple sightings there this year suggest that a pair nested locally.

A family group of four **Great Horned Owls** were at Herbert Open Space 18 Jul (Rana Foster). A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** tooted at Hesthavn 17 Aug (Julie Gibson).

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** visited SW Corvallis 21 Aug (Cody Smith). **Acorn Woodpeckers** at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area became vocal during the eclipse totality (Tim Rodenkirk).

A juvenile **Downy Woodpecker** foraged independently near Wren 27 Jun. A juvenile **Hairy Woodpecker** also foraged on its own in the Soap Creek Valley 12 Jul. Two **Pileated Woodpeckers** were along the Old Growth Trail in McDonald Forest 31 Jul (Gary Whitehouse).

An **intergrade (Red-shafted x Yellow-shafted) Northern Flicker** visiting Jamie Simmons' NW Corvallis yard 11 Jul looked like the same bird that has spent two winters there. A young intergrade male flicker received food from an apparently pure Red-shafted male in NW Corvallis 20 Jul; a young





*Western Sandpiper photo by Sue Powell*

female intergrade turned up in the same yard 16 Aug (Nancy Stotz).

An **American Kestrel** nested under the eaves of a sports facility across from Magruder Hall on the OSU campus, as of 28 Jun (Susan Hatlevig). Two **Peregrine Falcons** hunted waterfowl at the Philomath STP at the beginning of Aug (Hendrik Herlyn).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** perched on a snag in oak savanna near Dunn Forest 5 Aug. The calls of **Western Wood-Pewees** were being heard less frequently by the end of the period.

A well-described **Dusky Flycatcher** sang at the Camp Adair Rifle Range 22 Jun (Hendrik Herlyn). A **Black Phoebe** watched over a pond in the south unit of Luckiamute SNA, where both **Western Pond Turtles** and **Painted Turtles** were swimming just below the surface. Young **Black Phoebes** perched alongside their parents at Philomath STP by 4 Aug (Hendrik Herlyn). An **Eastern Kingbird** was at Big Lake in Santiam Pass 9 Aug (Evan Thomas).

A **Red-eyed Vireo** sang in the gallery forest at Luckiamute SNA 16 Jul (Neighborhood Naturalist adventure). A **Cassin's Vireo** and a **Hutton's Vireo** sang at Bald Hill Farm 23 Jul (Don Boucher). Another **Cassin's Vireo** sang s. of Philomath 19 Aug (Virginia Stanton).

A flock of 12 **Gray Jays** feeding among lichens high in old growth forest east of Lacombe 23 Jun included at least 5 juveniles. An adult and two juveniles visited a suet feeder near Fitton Green west of Corvallis on 5 Jul (Pam & Randy Comeleo). **Gray Jays** sw. of Philomath meanwhile were gorging on fruits of a flowering plum (Jim Fairchild).

Several "**Streaked**" **Horned Larks** sang in a field next to the south unit of Luckiamute SNA 16 Jul (Don Boucher).

A pair of **Purple Martins** used a large Douglas-fir snag along the Hoskins-Summit Road 10 Jul (Roy Gerig).

**Violet-green Swallows** in the Teloh-Calapooia neighborhood of Albany had dismal nesting results, with just three survivors from three broods in two boxes, and death of one

nesting female that was killed by **House Sparrows** (Jim Smith). Post-breeding flocks of **Barn Swallows** and **Violet-green Swallows** began to gather on wires by 1 Aug.

Juvenile **Red-breasted Nuthatches** began to turn up at a Teloh-Calapooia neighborhood feeder by 26 Jun (Jim Smith).

A male **Western Bluebird** battled his own reflection in a car window at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park on 7 Aug (Nancy Stotz). A tired-looking **Townsend's Solitaire** that visited an elderberry tree, then drank and bathed in a water pan in Don & Alice Hall's Corvallis yard 29 Jul, might have wandered out from the Coast Range where very small numbers nest, or perhaps from the Cascades where fires may have displaced nesting birds. **Swainson's Thrushes** mostly stopped singing by early July, but one called at E.E. Wilson WA just after totality during the eclipse 21 Aug (Tim Rodenkirk).

Hundreds of **Cedar Waxwings** sallied after insects over the confluences of the Luckiamute and Santiam Rivers with the Willamette at Luckiamute SNA 4 Jul (Rana Foster).

A finch with all-white plumage near Airlie 20 Jul appeared to be an albino **American Goldfinch**. An **Evening Grosbeak** was one highlight of a 7-mile hike through McDonald Forest 31 Jul (Paul Adamus, Catherine Otto).

A female or hatch-year **Nashville Warbler** on Marys Peak 28 Jul (Joshua Little) was a rare sighting for the Benton Co. Coast Range. **MacGillivray's Warblers** usually lurk in dense young stands of conifers or forest understory, so it was a surprise for me when one wandered out into an isolated shrub in oak savanna in the Soap Creek Valley 9 Aug.

A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was harassed by **House Wrens** and juvenile **Chipping, Song, and White-crowned Sparrows** when it tried to forage on a fallen tree in an oak savanna near Dunn Forest 6 Aug. One sipped from a water feature on Witham Hill on 17 Aug (Linda Hadfield). A male **Townsend's Warbler** photographed near Oak Creek w. of Corvallis 16 Aug (Bill Proebsting) was rare for the Corvallis area or Coast Range in summer.

Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** called at Luckiamute SNA

## 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.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Gerry & Lissa Perrone

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew your membership online, go to the ASC website ([Audubon.Corvallis.or.us/join.shtml](http://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](mailto:alderspr@peak.org)

30 Jun (Pam & Randy Comeleo). One was still calling there 4 Jul (Rana Foster) and on 16 Jul (Don Boucher). A juvenile chat turned up in Jacob Mathison's yard near Finley NWR 8 Aug.

At least one **Vesper Sparrow** fledgling and several **Savannah Sparrow** and **Chipping Sparrow** fledglings at Bald Hill Farm were out of their respective nests and capable of short flights by 26 Jun. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** continued at the North Prairie, Finley NWR through 15 Jul (Isaac Denzer; Pam Otley). One sang briefly at Bald Hill Farm 11 Jul. A **Fox Sparrow** in a NW Corvallis yard (Peter & Judy List) and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** in the Highland Dell neighborhood 5 Aug (Mary Garrard) were both surprising for the time of year, perhaps further indications of birds being displaced from the Cascades by fires. **Oregon (Dark-eyed) Junco** fledglings near Wren were tended by their parents 27 Jun.

A **Western Tanager** visited Hesthavn at the end of July (Julie Gibson). **Black-headed Grosbeaks** squabbled with junco families over a feeding spot near Wren 27 Sep, apparently interested in buttercup. 20 or more **Black-headed Grosbeaks** were flocking to feeders in SW Corvallis by 9 Aug (Chas Stock), as migration got underway. One turned up at Susan Brown's feeder in the College Hill neighborhood 8 Aug, after a two-month absence. Two juveniles visited a NW Corvallis feeder 19 Aug (Susan Hatlevig). Juveniles from a late brood were begging in another NW Corvallis yard 20 Aug (Nancy Stotz). A male **Lazuli Bunting** fed a fledgling in a serviceberry bush in the Soap Creek Valley 5 Jul. Family groups continued through the end of the period.

A pair of **Western Meadowlarks** gave alarm calls at Bald Hill farm 26 Jun, indicative of a nesting attempt. A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** carried food to a nest at Finley NWR 26 Jun (Howard Bruner). A **Brown-headed Cowbird** chick was begging from an adult **Chipping Sparrow** in the Soap Creek Valley 23 Jul. Although cowbirds are known to parasitize Chipping Sparrow nests regularly in the eastern part of the continent, observations indicate that this is a rare phenomenon in western Oregon.

A **Northern Alligator Lizard** wandered into a Corvallis garage on 26 Jul (Paul Jacobsen). At least one **Red Fox** continued to be seen in grass fields s. of Independence through early July (Mike Lippsmeyer). Four **Coyote** pups played outside their den in a brushy thicket 11 Jul near Dunn Forest, where young **Elk** were trying to bugle on 1 Aug. A **bat** in Kings Valley emerged and flew around briefly during totality on 21 Aug (Karin Lamberson).

A large dragonfly that was successfully freed from a mist-net in the Soap Creek Valley 12 Jul turned out to be a **Lance-tipped Darner** (Howard Bruner, Jim Johnson). A male **Monarch** butterfly visited **Narrow-leaf Milkweed** at Bald Hill Farm 23 Jul (Don Boucher).

**Next month:** Fall migration will be ramping up with neotropical songbirds and swifts heading south, while a few wintering geese, raptors, and sparrows could begin to arrive. Please post your observations to the Mid-Valley birding list at [midvalleybirding.org](http://midvalleybirding.org), e-mail them to me at [joel.geier@peak.org](mailto:joel.geier@peak.org), send by post to 38566 Hwy 99W Corvallis 97330, or call (541) 745-5821 by 26 Sep.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### OPEN HOUSE AT ANKENY REFUGE

**On Saturday, September 23rd from 11 am - 3 pm** the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex will celebrate its annual Open House event at Ankeny Refuge. We usually host the event at William L. Finley Refuge but we are an amazing trio of Refuges and we want to share the spotlight with all of the Complex Refuges. It is Ankeny's turn!

We'd love to have you join us for a big day of family-friendly fun, nature activities, tours, walks and adventures. Similar to other Open House formats, there will be stations hosted by partners and Refuge staff throughout the Refuge, working to connect people to the Refuge, its rare habitats and wildlife, and to nature and the outdoors in general.

There is no theme this year, we just want to get as many folks out to Ankeny as possible; get them excited about what's right in their backyard. This means the station possibilities are many! Do you have a favorite outreach activity you like to host, a nature craft you love, or bird hike you enjoy leading? These are all great examples of what we hope you'll help us offer at the Open House this year.

*Samantha Bartling*



## BIG SIT II AT CABELL MARSH SEPTEMBER 24

We are happy to announce the 2017 Benton County Big Sit on Sunday, September 24th. This is our 2nd annual birding and fundraising event! This year's Big Sit will be held at the same location as last year, the Cabell Marsh Blind on the Homer Campbell Trail in William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge. The public are welcome to come, too, from 6:35 AM until 7:35 PM. We will be looking for as many bird species as possible over 15 hours, so please join us for as long as you can!



*The Big Sit in September 2016: Kai Frueh, Ben Frueh, and Isaac Denzer. Photo by Kai Frueh*

All of the money we raise will be evenly divided between each of the following organizations:

Friends of the Willamette Valley NWR complex  
Friends of Malheur NWR  
Audubon Society of Corvallis  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Last year's sit was a huge success, and we ended the day with 72 species and \$2,722 raised for bird conservation! This year our goal is to raise over \$3000, so please help us out by donating and telling friends!

To donate you can either come to the Cabell marsh blind on September 24th, where we will have a donation box and pledge sheets, or you can email us at [Bentoncountybigsit@gmail.com](mailto:Bentoncountybigsit@gmail.com) for a downloadable pledge sheet. Also, we are very excited to welcome Ben Frueh to the Big Sit Team! And thanks to all the birders who joined us last year in support of the Big Sit and birding in Benton County.

For more information please visit our website at <https://bcbigsit.blogspot.com>

*Isaac Denzer, Kai and Ben Frueh  
The Benton County Big Sit Team*

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

### JULY 27, 2017 ASC SUMMER BOARD MEETING

Nineteen board members and friends had a convivial meal to accompany the Board meeting on July 27th at Hesthavn. New 2017 officers officially took possession of their duties.

Of note is the large globular bald-faced hornet's paper nest currently residing at the far end of the wooden bridge at Hesthavn. A prominent warning sign has been placed near the site.

The Board passed unanimously a motion to support many other Oregon conservation organizations in a request to the US Department of Fish & Wildlife to heighten protection for marbled murrelet forest habitat in the Coast Range.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Thursday, September 7th at Hesthavn at 7pm.

*Linda Campbell, Secretary*

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

*Suzanne Ortiz,  
ASC Membership Chair*

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS CHAT

Bill Proebsting, Chris Mathews, Jim Fairchild, Suzanne Ortiz, Ray Drapek, Joel Geier, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Linda Campbell, Isaac Denzer, Kai and Ben Frueh, 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](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com)

## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS

## CALENDAR

Sept 7	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm, Hesthavn
Sept 9	Field Trip to Cheadle Marsh, Finley NWR
Sept 14	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini Sr Ctr
Sept 16	Work Party at Hesthavn, 10 am-2 pm
Sept 20	ASC Hosts Noah Strycker at OSU LaSells Stewart Center, 7 pm
Sept 24	Work Party at Hesthavn, 10 am-2 pm
Sept 26	Field Notes submissions due
Sept 28	October CHAT stories due

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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# Audubon Society of Corvallis

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