



# THE CHAT

NOVEMBER 2017

VOL. 47 #3

## ASC General Meeting

**Third Thursdays at Chintimini Senior Ctr:  
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis  
Next Meeting: Thurs., Nov. 16, 7-8:30 pm**

## November 2017 Program

### Matt Blakeley-Smith presents Restoration of the Willamette River

The Willamette River is the bloodline for fish and wildlife in the Willamette Valley, yet over the last 150 years it has been intensively ditched, dammed, and diked. The impacts to spring Chinook salmon are particularly profound, resulting in the listing of the Willamette's run as endangered. Over the last seven years Greenbelt Land Trust has been working collaboratively with local farm families to revive the Willamette River and bring back these endangered species from the brink of extinction. We'll discuss the complex social aspects of land conservation as well as the exciting process of creating new wildlife habitat on the floodplain.

Matt Blakeley-Smith is the habitat restoration coordinator for Greenbelt Land Trust. He moved to Oregon for a 3-month seasonal job at OSU in 1999, but somehow never left. Matt earned a master's degree in botany along the way and specializes in managing habitat for endangered species. While mostly focused on restoring Greenbelt's Willamette River properties, Matt also experiments in habitat management for grassland birds, such as western meadowlarks.

**Next Month's Program: December 21, Annual Members Photo Show. Up to 25 photos, presented in about 5 minutes, per member. Less is fine!**

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](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com)*



*Harkens Lake, located north of Monroe along the Willamette River*

## ASC General Meetings

**Third Thursdays at Chintimini Senior Ctr:  
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis**

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## Field Trip Schedule

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, 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.

*Bill Proebsting*

**Next trip:** November 11, Luckiamute Landing State Natural Area.

## President's Corner

As calendar days turn over en-route to December 19 and the ASC Christmas Bird Count, my mind turns back toward past CBCs.

During my high school and college years my father organized several Christmas Counts on Orcas Island in the San Juans. The island weekly would report on the anticipated arrival of Dr. Frank Mathews and his crew, whereupon the locals would bird their areas and call in their results. We didn't get great species numbers, but it was a good family bonding experience.

Later, during our years in Arizona, I recall sitting near a stock tank at sundown and seeing more robins than I had seen, seemingly, in my entire life, fly in and settle down.

During our early Corvallis years, I launched our canoe at Irish Bend and floated downstream, hoping to see several species unique to the count. We saw just one—a Western Grebe. For several years I birded with (the late) Bill Thackaberry on the east side of the river. One year we saw a Burrowing Owl sitting in a hollow log not twenty feet from the road—and me without my camera.

Some years ago, a Portland friend who is a competitive birder called and wanted to know why the Corvallis count routinely scored four or five species more than the Portland count, even though we had no more habitat diversity than did they. I don't know what he expected me to say, but the obvious answer was, "We must have better birders."

*Chris Mathews, ASC President*

## It's Time For Us To Support the Audubon Society of Corvallis

November has arrived and the ASC is kicking off its 2017 Annual Appeal. This is the time of year when we contact our members and friends to ask for their financial support. Your donations can be made to our General Fund or to a specific ASC committee: Education, Conservation, Bluebird Trail or the Hesthavn Nature Center.

Our Education Committee has completed another outstanding year in 2017! Volunteers are in the planning stages for the 2018 Fourth Annual Winter Wildlife Field Day at W.L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge. We had an amazing turnout last March that attracted 450 children and adult team anticipates another full calendar of workshops, classes and special events throughout the spring and summer of 2018.

The ASC Conservation Committee continues its import-

ant work to advocate for environmental protections and to educate our membership and the public regarding a variety of concerns related to resource management, environmental hazards, invasive species, and the dangers of wildlife habitat fragmentation.

Hesthavn Nature Center, nestled in 5.75 acres on Oak Creek Drive, has drawn a number of volunteers over the years that have contributed hard work and energy to build and maintain the Barn/Nature Center and Museum and a system of trails; as well as cultivating native plants in the meadow and riparian habitats.

Volunteers in the Bluebird Trail Committee continue their work to conserve the Western Bluebird by setting up nest boxes and monitoring the boxes throughout the breeding season. Established in 1976, this group has played an important role in the conservations of the Western Bluebird in the Willamette Valley.

Be on the lookout for your hard copy of the CHAT newsletter and the envelope insert. Then please use the envelope to renew your membership, to purchase a gift membership for family and friends, or to make a donation. You can also go directly to the ASC website and use Paypal to donate or renew at: [www.audubon.corvallis.or.us](http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us)

*Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Membership Chair*

## Corvallis CBC Scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 2017

This year the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count will be held on Tuesday, December 19th, 2017. Everybody is invited to join us—and participation is free.

The Christmas Bird Count is an organized, continent-wide survey which documents every bird seen on a given day from sunrise to sunset. It has been held yearly since 1900, making the Christmas Bird Count a major contributor to the knowledge base of wintering birds in North America.

The count is an all-day event and an excellent opportunity for novice bird watchers to join with seasoned veterans and learn more about identifying and finding local birds. Half-day participants and home feeder-watchers are also welcome. I would like to particularly encourage anyone with feeders in the count circle, who can spare at least one hour to watch their yard, to participate. Some counts, particularly in Canada are mostly made up of feeder watchers. Even Eugene has about 30 feeder watchers compared to the 4-6 Corvallis usually gets, so there is room to grow in this area.



Winter feeder watching can be quite rewarding as birds try to expend the least amount of energy to get the biggest amount of food.

The Corvallis count circle is a 7.5 mile radius centered near the Corvallis airport and is usually divided into 13 sections, with a team of 3-6 individuals assigned to each section. A link to a map of the count circle is posted on ASC's website under bird counts. Team leaders for each section will make arrangements with the rest of their group for a meeting place and time (usually between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m.) the morning of the count. Participants should bring cold-and wet-weather gear, binoculars, a scope, if you have one, and snacks for the day. A notepad and pencil or electronic recording devices, field guides, camera and a thermos with something hot are always good ideas as well.

There will be a countdown potluck held after the count. Information on the countdown potluck will be given to all participants and an announcement will be in the December Chat.

If you are interested in participating, or would like further information, I will be happy to hear from you. I can be reached at [marciafcutler@comcast.net](mailto:marciafcutler@comcast.net). and my contact information is at the back of the Chat and on the ASC website.

*Marcia F. Cutler, Christmas Bird Count Coordinator*

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## Hesthavn News

ASC owns, and our volunteers manage, the Hesthavn Nature Center at 8590 Oak Creek Drive. Our 5.75 acres of meadows, plantings, forest and creek are full of wildlife from deer and bats to chickadees and jays. It is also laced with easy trails and picnic tables the community is welcome to enjoy. Please take care, especially in removing your trash, and treat our natural and enhanced facilities with care so we can all enjoy them for generations to come.

From downtown Corvallis, it's only about five minutes past Bald Hill Farm if you keep heading west on Harrison, which becomes Oak Creek Drive after the light at 53rd.

And if you have a little time and interest in working in Nature to help us maintain a beautiful wild place, please contact our Hesthavn Chair, Ray Drapek, at [raydrapek@gmail.com](mailto:raydrapek@gmail.com), to volunteer.

We have two scheduled November work parties at Hesthavn coming up. Both will be from 8 am to noon. Nov 5 will be in the barn and Nov 19 will be outside attacking weeds and fall vegetative cleanup.

*Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair*

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## Education News

### Special Migration Program on Nov 19

On November 19, between 1 and 3 pm, talented volunteers Valerie and Dale Mitchell will present "Tales of Migration: Will you Survive?" This free, fun, family program is open to one and all, along with a chance to explore ASC's extensive collection of taxidermied birds, insects, nests, and other artifacts.

The program will feature a fun, interactive game, art project to take home, and exploration time. No RSVP is necessary. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch if weather cooperates, as there are outside picnic tables and walking trails on the park like grounds.

The program is free and open to kids of all ages, but activities will generally be at an elementary level. Valerie is a retired teacher who has been active in ASC's education program the past six months. Dale is a writer, and lifelong birder. Thanks to Valerie and Dale for giving our neighbors a chance to discover the fascinating facts about one of Nature's mysteries at ASC's Hesthavn Nature Center.

## Winter Wildlife Field Day 2018

It's not too early to volunteer to help at the fourth annual Winter Wildlife Field Day at Finley on **Saturday, March 10, 2018!** Many folks will be needed for the big event, which drew 450 participants last year. Please contact Teri Engbring at ASC meetings or via email (on back of CHAT) to volunteer.

*Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team*

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## Field Notes

### 09/27/17-10/24/17

Mild fall weather continued until 14 Oct when a cold front brought frost at Ft. Hoskins at the edge of the Coast range, but lower elevations in Willamette Valley remained frost-free. Temperatures warmed noticeably by 18 Oct, as moist air moved in, bringing rains that caused local flooding on a few small creeks by 22 Oct. By the end of the period, native big-leaf maples and black cottonwoods were showing fall colors, as clear but still very mild weather continued.

**Abbreviations and locations:** LWC = Luckiamute Watershed Council, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, SAS = Salem Audubon Society, STP = sewage treatment ponds. Ft. Hoskins (Historical Park) is in NW Benton County near Kings Valley. Jackson-Frazier Wetlands is in north Corvallis near Cheldelin Middle School. "Lake Filbert" is an informal name for a large new hazelnut irrigation pond along Hwy 99W just south of the Luckiamute River, between Corvallis and Monmouth. Luckiamute State Natural Area (SNA) is along the Willamette River northwest of Albany. The Philomath STP are south of Philomath and require access permission. Stewart Lake is on the Hewlett-Packard (HP) campus (restricted access). 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

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at Philomath STP 14 Oct (Nancy Stotz).

50 **Wood Ducks** on Stewart Lake 10 Oct were a record for that location; **Mallards, American Wigeon,** and **Ring-necked Ducks** were also present (Jamie Simmons). A **Blue-winged Teal** consorted with lingering **Cinnamon Teal** at the Philomath STP 14 Oct through the end of the period

(Hendrik Herlyn and others).

Fourteen **Surf Scoters** were photographed on Lake Filbert 11 Oct (Bill Tice fide Isaac Denzer). One was on Suttle Lake in the Santiam Pass area 12 Oct (Steve McMasters). A male **Canvasback** was at Philomath STP 14 Oct (Nancy Stotz).

A female **Sooty Grouse** foraged along the interpretive trail at Ft. Hoskins 14 Oct (Jenny Swanson, LWC field trip).

A **Red-necked Grebe** and a **Western Grebe** turned up on the Philomath sewage ponds on 29 Sep (Howard Bruner). Another **Western Grebe** swam on the Willamette River near the Buena Vista ferry crossing (Paul Adamus).

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** turned up at a Highland Dell feeder 4 Oct (Judith & Jerry Paul). Four lingering **Band-tailed Pigeons** were west of Ft. Hoskins 14 Oct (LWC field trip). One was still in McDonald Forest 21 Oct (Howard Bruner).

A late **Common Nighthawk** flew and called over Sunset Park in SW Corvallis 3 Oct (Lucas Evans). One called over Dallas 14 Oct (Mitch Ratzlaff). A series of pre-dawn calls over our house near E.E. Wilson WA 18 Oct were probably also from a late, southbound nighthawk.

Two late migrant **Vaux's Swifts** flew with **Violet-green Swallows** over Chip Ross Park 15 Oct (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank).

A late immature male **Rufous Hummingbird** continued in the Oak Creek neighborhood through 1 Oct (Bill Proebsting).

Highlights of an SAS field trip to Talking Water Gardens 11 Oct included a **Sora**, two **Virginia Rails** and 20 **American Coots** (Mike Unger). A lone **Sandhill Crane** flew south over Cabell Marsh 17 Oct (Kai Frueh).

**Western Sandpipers** at the Philomath sewage ponds on 29 Sep showed some surprising variation in size; a **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Long-billed Dowitchers** were also present (Howard Bruner). According to shorebird expert Dave Lauten, one extraordinarily large Western Sandpiper photographed by Howard was probably a female at the large end of the size spectrum.

A late migrant **Red-necked Phalarope** was at the Philomath STP 21 Oct through the end of the period (Kai Frueh; m. obs.). A medium-sized gull flying over NE Corvallis 6 Oct was most likely a **California Gull** (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank).

A **Common Loon** dove on Foster Reservoir 18 Oct (Jeff Harding).

An **American Bittern** flew out of Cabell Marsh and landed on a dry area near the Homer Campbell Memorial Boardwalk 9 Oct (Paul Rentz). Three **Double-crested Cormorants** flew over and two **Green Herons**, a **Great Egret**, and two **Great Blue Herons** hunted in Talking Water Gardens 11 Oct (Mike Unger). Two **Green Herons** were still there 22 Oct, and another continued in a slough near Teloh-Calapooia Park through the end of the period (Kaplan Yalcin).

Seven **Turkey Vultures** and two **Common Ravens** gathered around a sheep carcass near Crabtree 13 Oct. Another late **Turkey Vulture** soared over NE Corvallis 15 Oct (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). One flew over Oak Creek w. of Corvallis 24 Oct (Bill Proebsting).

One or two **White-tailed Kites** continued at the North Prairie through the period (Bill Proebsting). An apparent female **Northern Harrier** along Dunawi Creek on 13 Oct

showed some unusual hunting behavior, sitting on a low branch near the water's edge, and occasionally hopping down into the vegetation (Julie Gibson) – perhaps pouncing on young frogs emerging from the creek?

A **Cooper's Hawk** gripped a freshly killed Eurasian Collared-Dove near Teloh-Calapooia Park on 1 Oct (Jim Smith). Two well-described juvenile **Northern Goshawks** soared over Sunset Park 13 Oct (Zachary Person); this species is rare west of the Cascades but there have been several sightings indicative of nesting near Corvallis in recent years, as well as occasional sightings of winter migrants.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** sw. of Philomath 15 Oct tried to catch a **Northern Pygmy-Owl**, but the sparrow-sized owl evaded it by dropping into a rose hedge, keeping still for a long while, then hopping around, and finally flying off (Karan Fairchild). Another **Sharp-shinned Hawk** hunted in Sunset Park on 15 Oct, causing the local **Black-capped Chickadees** to give high, thin notes to alert their comrades to the presence of an aerial predator (Don Boucher, Naturalist Adventure).

In late September three **Red-tailed Hawks** circled above the parking lot of a shopping complex off Hwy 99W at Circle Blvd. (Julie Gibson), perhaps exploiting thermals caused by the sun shining on the asphalt expanses of the parking lots.

A dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** at Finley NWR 9 Oct might be the same distinctive individual (with a light patch on its head) that wintered there last year (Paul Rentz).

A "**Harlan's**" **Red-tailed Hawk** returned to Mike & Karen Lippmeyer's farm s. of Independence, where it (or a very similar bird) has wintered for 9 out of the past 10 years.

**Barn Owls** nesting in a barn at Mike & Karen Lippmeyer's



*Rough-legged Hawk photo by Matt Lee*



farm had a surprisingly late, clamoring brood of youngsters as of 27 Sep. Another **Barn Owl** called in Village Green Park 5 Oct (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank).

**Great Horned Owl** pairs continued to call through the period, in anticipation of their nesting period which starts in later winter. Two **Barred Owls** and a **Northern Pygmy-Owl** called at Ft. Hoskins 14 Oct (LWC field trip). A **Barred Owl** in McDonald Forest glided down to capture a vole, which it swallowed whole; later the same evening a pair of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** responded to imitations (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). A **Burrowing Owl** was along a gravel road in western Linn County 16 Oct (Roy Gerig).

A dead **Barred Owl** found on 15 Oct (Mike Lippsmeyer) was the fourth one found in the past three years, along the three-mile stretch of Hwy 99W that borders E.E. Wilson WA. Biologists at Finley NWR have also noted a high incidence of road-killed Barred Owls along Bellfountain Rd., leading to speculation that the owls might get struck while scavenging other road kills.

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** continued to be seen at Finley NWR headquarters through the period. **Hairy Woodpeckers** and **Downy Woodpeckers** were active at Ft. Hoskins Historical Park 10-14 Oct.

Two **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** in Timberhill Open Space 14 Oct squabbled over ripe madrone berries (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). One turned up in a large pine tree in Kris Ebbe's south Corvallis yard 19 Oct. At Jackson-Frazier Wetlands on 11 Oct, Nancy Stotz photographed an unusual sapsucker with some retained juvenal plumage, which some thought might be a hybrid **Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker**, though the bird did not show any red on the upper breast, as hybrids of this parentage typically show. Perhaps resightings later in the winter, after this bird completes its transition to adult plumage, will lead to a more conclusive identification – maybe even a “pure” **Red-naped Sapsucker**.

Two **Pileated Woodpeckers** near Ft. Hoskins 10 Oct were hanging around blue elderberry trees.

A **Merlin** perched atop a pole on the east side of the Harrison bridge in downtown Corvallis 13 Oct. After diving unsuccessfully at a duck in a flock that flushed from the sewage treatment ponds s. of Philomath 14 Oct, a **Peregrine Falcon** managed to catch a male Green-winged Teal on its second try (Nancy Stotz). Another peregrine southeast of Airlie seemed to make a more healthy food choice, as it fed on a teal-sized duck that it captured in a field signed as “certified organic.” A peregrine also turned up in town at Walnut x Kings Blvd. in Corvallis on 24 Oct (Dave Mellinger).

A late migrant **Western Wood-Pewee** hawked insects at Finley NWR headquarters 30 Sep (Kaplan Yalcin). An even later **Western Wood-Pewee** was at Stewart Lake 10 Oct, along with a **Black Phoebe** (Jamie Simmons). A late migrant **Hammond's Flycatcher** was at Fish Lake in the Cascades 3 Oct (Kaplan Yalcin).

Two **Hutton's Vireos** at Ft. Hoskins 10 Oct foraged in brushy regrowth alongside **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, **Black-capped Chickadees**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets**.

A wayward hatch-year **Clark's Nutcracker** turned up on Marys Peak 14-15 Oct (Stephen Rossiter; Karan Fairchild)

Six **Horned Larks** were along Davis Rd. sw. of Tangent 23 Oct (Roy Gerig).

Local nesting **Barn Swallows** left Mike & Karen Lippmeyer's place s. of Independence after 7 Oct, but a late migrant was with a large flock of **Violet-green Swallows** there 13 Oct. Another late **Barn Swallow** was at Philomath STP 14 Oct (Nancy Stotz).

Calls suggestive of a **Mountain Chickadee** were heard in Willamette Park 6 Oct (Kai Frueh).

Five **Marsh Wrens** at Talking Water Gardens 11 Oct were very talkative (Mike Unger). Two **American Dippers** called along the Luckiamute River west of Ft. Hoskins 14 Oct (LWC field trip).

Wintering **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** arrived this month, with early arrivals including one that scolded Jim Smith in Teloh-Calapooia Park 3 Oct. Numbers of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** also increased noticeably as wintering migrant flocks joined the birds that nested in local conifer forests.

**Western Bluebird** numbers seem to be good this fall. Julie Gibson noted small flocks regularly at Stoneybrook Village and once even at Kings and Circle Blvd. I've also been noticing flocks in the Soap Creek Valley, at Luckiamute SNA an elsewhere. Whenever we enjoy seeing bluebirds, we owe thanks to the many volunteers who've worked on the Bluebird Trails project, especially ASC's Elsie Eltzroth who got the project going in our area, and Raylene Gordin who has kept it going!

At Clear Lake in the Cascades, both migrant **Swainson's Thrushes** and **Hermit Thrushes** (which nest at that elevation) were present on 3 Oct, along with **American Robins** and **Variied Thrushes** (Kaplan Yalcin). A few migrant **Swainson's Thrushes** called over Village Green Park after dark on 5 Oct (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). Several very late individuals gave “whit!” calls from inside a stand of noble firs on Marys Peak 16 Oct (Howard Bruner). A significant influx of **Variied Thrushes** at lower elevations occurred by 10 Oct, when Kaplan Yalcin noted at least six in the north unit of Luckiamute SNA.

20 to 30 **Cedar Waxwings** perched in trees at the north entrance of Bald Hill Park 22 Oct (Julie Gibson). 80 **American Pipits** foraged in organic debris left by water that spilled over the banks of Berry Creek near Airlie 22 Oct.

**Pine Siskin** flocks were welcome after last year's dearth. About 30 were at Village Green Park 27 Sep (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). Up to 10 visited feeders in the Highland Dell area 4 Oct (Judith & Jerry Paul). At least 60 flew and called over Ft. Hoskins 14 Oct (LWC field trip). 80 more were in the south end of E.E. Wilson WA by 23 Oct. The dramatic increase in numbers is most likely a sign of a good Douglas-fir cone crop in local forests, compared with last year when most members of this nomadic species went elsewhere to find food.

An **American Goldfinch** with white underparts visited a feeder near Teloh-Calapooia Park 18-22 Oct, along with more typical members of the species (Jim Smith).

A female or immature **Lapland Longspur** foraged and skirmished with **American Pipits** alongside Davis Rd. sw. of Tangent 23 Oct (Roy Gerig).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** visited a snowberry bush in a NE Corvallis yard 6 Oct (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). Wintering **Yellow-rumped Warblers** continued to show up,

and were widespread by mid-Oct. A well-described **Yellow-throated Warbler**, extremely rare in Oregon, turned up in a small grove of tall Douglas-firs on the HP campus 3 Oct; it was seen creeping through the branches and at one point hung from a cone (Jamie Simmons, Tom Gilg). A **Wilson's Warbler** called in our back yard near E.E. Wilson WA 2 Oct. Another was near Baskett Slough NWR the same day (Frank Kolwicz).

A migrant **Savannah Sparrow** visited a NE Corvallis yard 27 Sep (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). Normally this species sticks to open landscapes, but can show up in surprising locations in migration. Several flocks of **Savannah Sparrows** that I encountered in Linn Co. grass fields 13 Oct also appeared to be migrants, larger than the local nesting subspecies.

Wintering **"Sooty" Fox Sparrows** continued to turn up, with one at Village Green Park 27 Sep (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank), and many more in the following weeks. A tan-striped **White-throated Sparrow** turned up near Teloh-Calapooia Park 28 Sep (Jim Smith). Fox Sparrows and **Golden-crowned Sparrows** turned up at and under Judith & Jerry Paul's feeders in the Highland Dell neighborhood 2 Oct. A **"Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Junco** was at the Philomath STP 2 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn).

A late **Western Tanager** called s. of Philomath 9 Oct (Virginia Stanton); another called at Ft. Hoskins 10 Oct. Two **Black-headed Grosbeaks** were still in the Teloh-Calapooia neighborhood through 30 Sep (Kaplan Yalcin).

A **Douglas Squirrel** turned up in a yard near Teloh-Calapooia Park 6 Oct (Jim Smith). A small herd of a dozen **Elk** browsed snowberry bushes along the trail to Luckiamute Landing, at Luckiamute SNA 30 Sep. The bull with the herd was heard bugling there through early Oct (Kirk Lewis). Another herd of 28 **Elk** was in the south part of E.E. Wilson WA 1 Oct (Martha Geier), then crossed Hwy 99W just south of the Coffin Butte regional landfill, taking advantage of an area where blackberry hedgerows had been cleared during the remediation efforts for last summer's fuel spill. Based on the contents of a large mound of **Black Bear** scat at Ft. Hoskins 10 Oct, apples from the heirloom orchard there seemed to be a big part of the diet. Apples and pears seemed to be on the diet of another **Black Bear** at Timberhill Open Space 14 Oct (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank).

A juvenile **Bobcat** walked past the viewing blind at Cabell marsh 9 Oct (Paul Rentz). A **Coyote** hunted in daytime along 53rd St. near West Hills Rd; more sadly a young **Gray Fox** was killed by a car along Philomath Blvd near 35th St. on 20 Oct (Julie Gibson).

**Next month:** As we move into November, most birds that we see will be regular wintering species, but keep your eyes open for occasional lingering birds, and perhaps even some rare vagrants that wander off course on their way south. 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 23 Nov.

## Community Notes

### Catch Winter Wings Festival in February

Klamath Basin Audubon Society hosts one of the nation's largest and most popular wildlife festivals each Presidents Day weekend (February 15 through 18, 2018). Winter Wings shows off an impressive gathering of Oregon's winter birds, from bald eagles and other raptors to migrating songbirds, and thousands of swans, geese and other waterfowl. The White-headed Woodpecker is our 2018 featured bird.

Registration opens at 9 am PST on December 16th and many of the field trips fill very quickly. But there are also keynote speakers, banquets, workshops, exhibits, and hands on activities for all ages. Be ready to go to the website at: [www.WinterWingsFest.org](http://www.WinterWingsFest.org).

The festival is headquartered on the Oregon Institute of Technology campus in Klamath Falls. It brings together birders and photographers of all levels to learn and explore with top notch professionals and enthusiastic local guides. The Klamath Basin is renowned for its massive wintering population of Bald Eagles, but is prime habitat for many other raptors including owls, as well as a stunning abundance and diversity of waterfowl. The 2018 Festival will feature three dynamic keynoters: Author and woodpecker specialist Stephen Shunk, Nikon Ambassador and wildlife photographer Moose Peterson; and author and instructor with the Cornell Lab, Kevin McGowan.

*Diana Samuels, Winter Wings, KBAS*

### Help Greater Sage-Grouse Survive

The Bureau of Land Management has opened a formal comment period to review the collaborative Greater Sage-Grouse management plans that were adopted in 2015 after years of work from nonprofit organization, state governments, federal agencies, and stakeholders such as ranchers. The comment period is part of a process that could weaken or eliminate the plans. Please go to [act.audubon.org](http://act.audubon.org) and check out their action alert urging Interior Secretary Zinke not to dismantle Sage-Grouse Conservation Plans. The deadline to comment is Nov. 27.

*David J. Ringer,  
National Audubon Society  
[chapter\\_services@audubon.org](mailto:chapter_services@audubon.org)*

## Board Meeting Summary

### Summary of Minutes from 12 October 2017 Meeting of the Board of Directors

The Board unanimously approved a letter protesting the Klamath water diversion bill, now before Congress, that would leave too little water in the system to sustain wildlife.

The 2017-18 Annual Budget passed, as corrected, unanimously.

A new committee was formed to explore and develop an Internship Program at Finley Wildlife Refuge, in partnership with USFWS.

The Bird Nerds reported good momentum building for their programs.

The next Board Meeting will be at 7 pm, November 9th, at Natural Grocers, 1235 NW 10th St.

*Linda Campbell, 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.

## Membership Corner

### Welcome New Members!

Rajeev Pandey  
Caryn Stoess

### Membership Renewal

To renew your membership online, go to the ASC website ([www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml](http://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, 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)

## 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*

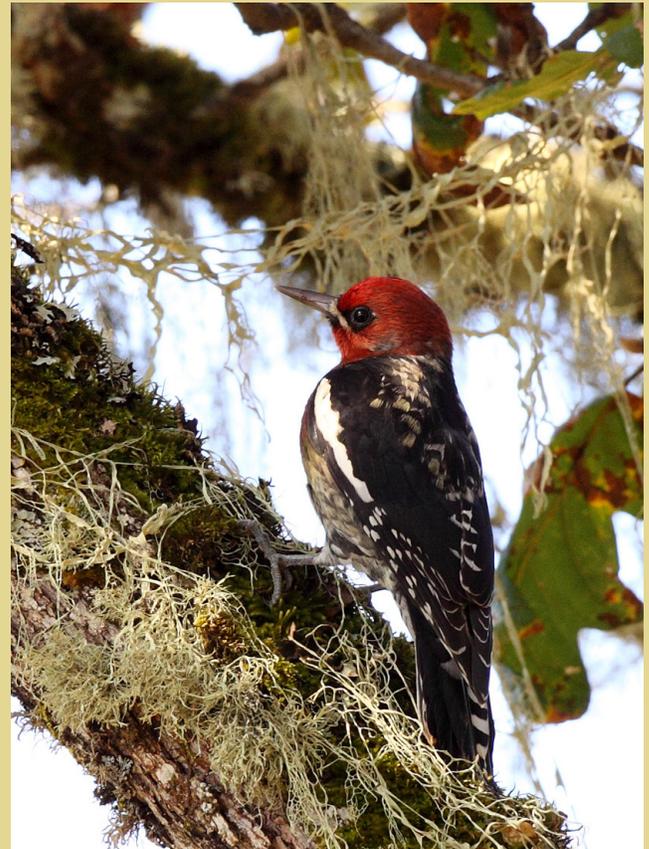
## Contributors to this Chat

Bill Proebsting, Chris Mathews, Suzanne Ortiz, Joel Geier, Marcia Cutler, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Marcia Cutler, Linda Campbell, Ray Drapek, Diana Samuels 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



*Red-breasted Sapsucker photo by Matt Lee*

## Calendar

Nov 5	Hesthavn Barn Work Party, 8am-12
Nov 9	ASC Board meeting, 7 pm at Natural Grocers
Nov 11	Field Trip to Luckiamute Landing State Natural Area
Nov 16	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini Sr Ctr
Nov 19	Hesthavn Weeds Work Party, 8am-12
Nov 23	Field Notes submissions due
Nov 25	November CHAT stories due
Dec 9	Field Trip, location TBD

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

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## Board Members

.....	Jesse Laney .....	<a href="mailto:laneyj@oregonstate.edu">laneyj@oregonstate.edu</a> .....	
.....	Mamo Waianuhe .....	<a href="mailto:waianuhl@oregonstate.edu">waianuhl@oregonstate.edu</a> .....	
.....	Gail Nickerson .....	<a href="mailto:gbnickerson@comcast.net">gbnickerson@comcast.net</a> .....	541-754-0406
.....	Dave Mellinger .....	<a href="mailto:dmell3.14159@gmail.com">dmell3.14159@gmail.com</a> .....	
.....	Mark Baldwin .....	<a href="mailto:mark.baldwin2@comcast.net">mark.baldwin2@comcast.net</a> .....	541-757-0834
.....	Jim Philipson .....	<a href="mailto:parrphil@comcast.net">parrphil@comcast.net</a> .....	503 547 3758

## Committee and Coordinators

Membership Chair & Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Representative .....	Suzanne Ortiz .....	<a href="mailto:ortizsv@gmail.com">ortizsv@gmail.com</a> .....	917-273-4917
Conservation Chair .....	Jim Fairchild .....	<a href="mailto:alderspring@peak.org">alderspring@peak.org</a> .....	541-929-4049
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Christmas Bird Count .....	Marcia Cutler .....	<a href="mailto:marciafcutler@comcast.net">marciafcutler@comcast.net</a> .....	541-752-4313
Birdathon Coordinator .....	Karan Fairchild .....	<a href="mailto:alderspr@peak.org">alderspr@peak.org</a> .....	541-929-4049
Historian .....	Marcia Cutler .....	<a href="mailto:marciafcutler@comcast.net">marciafcutler@comcast.net</a> .....	541-752-4313
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Webmaster .....	Tom Haig .....	<a href="mailto:tomhaig@hotmail.com">tomhaig@hotmail.com</a> .....	541-231-6583
Chat Newsletter Editor .....	Teri Engbring .....	<a href="mailto:chateditors@gmail.com">chateditors@gmail.com</a> .....	
Field Notes Compiler .....	Joel Geier .....	<a href="mailto:joel.geier@peak.org">joel.geier@peak.org</a> .....	541-745-5821

## Education Team

Volunteer Support .....	Teri Engbring .....	<a href="mailto:engbring@hotmail.com">engbring@hotmail.com</a>
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