



THE CHAT

MARCH 2018

VOL. 47 #7

ASC General Meeting

**Third Thursdays at Chintimini Senior Ctr:
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis
Next Meeting: Thurs., Mar. 15, 2018, 7-8:30 pm**

March 2018 Program

Jenna Curtis, OSU Department of Fish and Wildlife presents: 50 Years of Change in Corvallis' Birds: Revisiting Historical Data

In 1952, Richard Eddy surveyed "summering birds" in different habitats around Corvallis. His efforts produced a rare, highly-detailed depiction of historical bird communities in the Willamette Valley. In this talk, Jenna Curtis will discuss revisiting those survey sites 50 years later, and the nature and extent of changes to Corvallis' bird community over time. Notable results include substantial turnover in species composition, invasions, extinctions, and abundance shifts—all beyond what might be expected given limited changes to the local habitat. Jenna's research draws attention to the importance of regional habitat change for local birds, as well as some limitations and challenges of working with historical datasets.

Jenna Curtis has always been an avid birder. Her professional career started with a research internship at Klamath Bird Observatory in 2011. She then joined Doug Robinson's lab at Oregon State University, received her Master's Degree in 2015, and is currently pursuing her PhD in Wildlife Science. Jenna continues to use historical datasets, along with a variety of field survey techniques and statistical analyses, to investigate nearly a century of community change on Barro Colorado Island, Panama. In her spare time, Jenna enjoys traveling, outdoor activities, and various arts and crafts.

Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and visiting. The chapter meeting commences at 7:00 pm, followed by Jenna's talk at 7:30.

Final 2017- 8 Program Year Speakers:

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



Jenna Curtis

ASC General Meetings

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

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Field Trip Schedule

Half Day Birding 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, Corvallis at 7:30 am. This field trip is free and geared towards beginning birders, birders new to Oregon's mid-valley area and persons looking for a pleasant outing. Contact Bill Proebsting at proebstw@gmail.com or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the 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 Trip: March 10. E.E. Wilson Wildlife Management

Area. This will be a fairly long, but flat and paved, walk from the parking lot on Camp Adair Rd. to the ponds in the northwest corner of the area.

Bill Proebsting

Weekend Field Trips

The weekend Field Trips begin this month with a trip to Bandon and Port Orford, March 23-25. There are still openings, but time is short to sign on. And April's trip is early in the month—the 13th to the 15th—so March's general ASC meeting will be the last time signup sheets will be available.

The April trip takes us over the Cascades to the Klamath Basin, where we visit three national wildlife refuges: Klamath Marsh, Lower Klamath Lake, and Tule Lake. There will be

waterfowl everywhere, including the majority of the Ross's Goose world population. The shorebird migration will be starting, with opportunities for Marbled Godwit, Black-bellied Plover, and many more. A highlight of the trip will be Western and Clark's Grebes racing across the water's surface. We also take a hike through Moore Park's ponderosa woodland, where we find Oak Titmouse, Pygmy Nuthatch, and some early migrant songbirds.

Signing on either of these trips can be done at the March ASC meeting on the 15th. Alternatively, you can email me at: flramsey5@comcast.net. Here is the full list of upcoming trips.

Bandon/Port Orford	March 23–25	Fri–Sun
Klamath Basin	April 13–15	Fri–Sun
Rogue Valley	April 27–29	Fri–Sun
Malheur NWR	May 22–25	Tue–Fri
Summer Lake	June 15–17	Fri–Sun
Steens Mountain	August 16–19	Thu–Sun
South Coast	September 1–3	Sat–Mon

Please note that the Willowa trip is now bi-annual, so you will have to wait until 2019 for that one.

Register for any or all of these trips by emailing flramsey5@comcast.net, or by signing up at ASC's general meetings on third Thursdays.

Fred Ramsey

President's Corner

ASC and Finley NWR—An enduring partnership

Later in this issue of the Chat you will read details of one of the events that have come to define the Audubon Society of Corvallis—namely, our partnership with staff of the Finley National Wildlife Refuge to produce the annual Winter Wildlife Field Day. Now set to launch its fourth production on March 10, ASC's event efforts are coordinated by Teri Engbring and a large, talented planning committee. WWFD has attracted more than four hundred guests, who participate in nature-related learning activities at the Refuge.

Although the Field Day has a short history, it is one of a series of associations between ASC and the Refuge that represent, I believe, a core value of ASC. Two fairly recent activities come to mind. Ten or twelve years ago John Gaylord organized a yearly ASC day of service at the Refuge. Some years it was tree planting. In others, it was reseeding areas to create conditions for attracting endangered butterflies. John arranged these events in great detail, including a chili lunch for all participants. The current ASC Home Page features a photograph taken during one of those tree plantings, in a very muddy field. I wonder how many of those trees took root.

At about the same time Linda Campbell exerted enormous energy obtaining funding, permits, and labor to

establish the Homer Campbell Trail in memory of her late father. Anyone who has walked that trail knows the value of this particular ASC-Finley partnership.

The success of the Winter Wildlife Field Day indicates that this important partnership will endure. The establishment of a jointly funded ASC-Refuge student internship, which I mentioned in last month's column, is another example. ASC is blessed, not only in its nearness to Finley, but in the number of our members who exert their energy to advance these goals. Kudos as well to Refuge staff, for their receptiveness to our initiatives and to their own exceptional contributions to the success of the projects.

Chris Mathews, ASC President

Education News

Winter Wildlife Field Day is almost here!

With only days to go, we look forward to a fun and interactive exploration of "our big back yard" at Finley NWR on Saturday, March 10, between 11 am and 3 pm. Our amazing volunteers and community partners have worked hard for 6 months to make this a special experience for all ages. And it's free! You can:

- make a natural back yard bird feeder to take home,
- explore the Woodpecker Loop trail with experts in birds, trees, lichens, and more,
- bugle like an elk, and learn about the Finley herd,

- see live birds from Chintimini Wildlife Center,
- dissect an owl pellet for skeletons of their prey,
- run a Frog's Life Obstacle Course,
- draw birds from real models and photos,
- touch animal furs and antlers,
- make bark rubbings from native trees, and MORE!

Parking is limited, so carpool if you can, please.

Please contact Teri Engbring at ASC meetings or via email (on back of CHAT) to volunteer for education and outreach events throughout the year.

Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team

Hesthavn News

It's All About Nests in March

Please join us on for a celebration of nests, nesting, nesters, and all other things *nidicolous* at Corvallis Audubon's own **Hesthavn Nature Center on Sunday, March 18, 1-3 pm!** Our birds, squirrels, mud-daubers and other nest builders have been hard at work this season; so, come out with your family to spend a pleasant hour or two admiring and learning about really-old-school 'Tiny Living.' We have several fun activities planned and friendly volunteers on hand to answer any questions or share in your previously unrequited nest-related enthusiasm. Rain or shine, we've got things covered at our beautiful site—graced with hiking trails, a sparkling stream and our rustic main building. Come by between 1 and 3 pm on March 18. 'Home Tweet Home—Nest Builders Wanted' is a free and child-friendly event, but fun for all ages. For further information, please feel free to contact us at valchuckwalla@yahoo.com.

Check out Eggs and Chicks at Hesthavn this spring!

Prepare yourself! Dig in your heels, brace your arms and get ready to be slammed by cuteness! Hesthavn Nature Center's April activity is "eggs and chicks!" Yes, bouncing baby bird-lings—both in their 'jewel boxes' and busting out! Can you stand it? We plan a take-home activity, an experiment in eggshell strength, a matching game and lots of other things to do for 'nestling' humans and their cool flock of adults. As always, the stunning collections of Corvallis Audubon's own facility will be opened to amaze and instruct, and the surrounding beautiful grounds will beckon the bold. Join us on Sunday, April 22, from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. for the splendor of "Bird-lings in Our Backyard: Eggs, Chicks and the Value of Being Cute." It's free and interesting for all ages. See for yourself: even vultures can be adorable!

*Dale and Valerie Mitchell,
ASC Education Team members*

Hesthavn March & April work parties:

Sunday March 4, 10 am to 2 pm—Barn and yard work.

Students from the Geog 300 class will be coming to help. Weather permitting, we may paint the ramps and stain the picnic tables. We'll do some fence repair and maybe some tree trimming.

Sunday March 18, 10 am to 2 pm—Invasive weed control.

Blackberries and Yellow Archangel. We may fire up the big DR brush mower, if possible.

Sunday April 1, 10 am to 2 pm—Barn and yard work party. Details TBD.

Sunday April 15, 10 am to 2 pm—Invasive weed control.

False Brome will probably be the focus.



OSU SUS 350 class work party at Hesthavn

Thanks to members of the OSU SUS 350 class for coming out to Hesthavn on Saturday Feb. 17 for a blackberry whacking work party. We covered the entire upper meadow and the area between the barn and the creek. There are still lots of blackberries to be gotten, but those are for another day.

If you would like to help us care for the Hesthavn Nature Center, please contact Hesthavn Chair, Ray Drapek, at raydrapek@gmail.com, to volunteer.

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

Field Notes

01/26/18-02/25/18

Remarkably mild winter weather continued into early February. No frost was seen through 12 Feb at E.E. Wilson WMA north of Corvallis, though light frost was noted on rooftops at slightly higher elevation in the Highland Dell neighborhood on 10 Feb (Mary Garrard). **Osoberry** (*Oemleria cerasiformis*, also called "Indian-plum") began to bloom at Bald Hill by 4 Feb (Catherine Otto), and **Western Meadowrue** (*Thalictrum occidentale*) began to put up shoots with delicate leaves in local meadows. A few willows were beginning to leaf out and beaked hazelnut had put out catkins by 18 Feb. Then a cold front brought markedly lower temperatures for the remainder of the period (down to 21 F on 23 Feb), and even brief accumulations of snow on the valley floor.

Abbreviations and locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds, WMA = Wildlife Management Area. Jackson-Frazier Wetland is in north Corvallis near Cheldelin Middle School. Luckiamute State Natural Area is along the Willamette River northwest of Albany. Orleans is a historic town site along Riverside Dr. between Corvallis and 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. McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR.

Observations:

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was on McFadden Marsh 11 Feb (Paul Sullivan). Nine **Snow Geese** were there 10 Feb (Stefan Schlick). An adult **Brant** was with a large flock of **Cackling Geese** s. of Finley NWR 20 Feb (Deanna Emig). Eight **Dusky Canada Geese** were in a flooded field north of Orleans 26 Jan (Don Boucher).

Wintering flocks of **Mallards**, **Northern Shovelers**, **North-**

ern Shovelers, American Wigeons, and Green-winged Teal continued at local wetlands. A wintering female **Blue-winged Teal** continued to be seen at Talking Water Gardens through the period, along with a few wintering **Cinnamon Teal**. By the end of the period, a few pairs of **Mallards** seemed to be thinking about nesting along local ditches.

80 **Lesser Scaup** and several pairs of **Common Mergansers** fished on the reservoir above Foster Dam 4 Feb (Rana Foster). A **Greater Scaup** joined the scaup flock on the Philomath STP 14 Feb (Deanna Emig). Two **Redheads** were on the quarry pond along Eicher Rd. e. of Albany 16 Feb (Jeff Harding).

Both an adult and juvenile "**Bewick's**" **Tundra Swan** (the Eurasian subspecies) were photographed with a large flock of our more typical "**Whistling**" **Tundra Swans** (the North American subspecies) nw. of Halsey 26 Jan (Sally Hill). An adult "**Bewick's**" **Swan** s. of Junction City 8 Feb was likely the same one seen near Halsey, as the flock that it associated with included a collared "whistler" that had also been in the previous location (Deanna Emig). Six swans w. of Suver 15 Feb included at least a few **Trumpeter Swans** (John Thomas). Up to four Trumpeters were occasionally seen with the Tundra Swans near Halsey.

A **Band-tailed Pigeon** turned up at Karan & Jim Fairchild's feeder sw. of Philomath 17 Feb. At least 50 **Mourning Doves** mobbed Jim Smith's feeders near Teloh-Calapooia Park 30 Jan.

A very early male **Rufous Hummingbird** visited a feeder sw. of Corvallis 13 Feb (Mary Ann Roberts). Another visited a feeder along the Alsea River near Salmonberry County Park 16-18 Feb (Michael Frenock).

A few **Virginia Rails** and at least one **Sora** continued to be heard at Talking Water Gardens through the period. A lone **Sandhill Crane** was just s. of Brownsville 21 Feb, calling plaintively as it circled low over a wetland area.

Several thousand **Dunlin** massed at a private wetland sw. of Brownsville 21 Feb. Up to 20 **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen at the same site earlier in the period (Mark Nikas).

The yard-waste composting facility on the east side of E.E. Wilson WMA has become a regular day-trip destination for gulls from the wintering flock in Albany, especially now that discarded produce and other food waste from local groceries are being added to the compost piles. On 9 Feb Hendrik Herlyn noted four **Glaucous-winged Gulls** and one "**Thayer's**" **Gull** (now considered to be conspecific with **Iceland Gull**). After feeding at this site and on the nearby Coffin Butte landfill, gulls can often be seen streaming back toward Albany where hundreds roost nightly on Waverly Pond. About 150 large gulls, apparently all **Herring Gulls**, flew n. over Peoria on the morning of 13 Feb (Greg Metcalfe).

A **Red-throated Loon** was on the quarry pond along Eicher Rd. e. of Albany 16 Feb (Jeff Harding).

A **Great Blue Heron** nesting colony at Cheadle Lake in Lebanon was active with three pairs on nests by 4 Feb (Rana Foster).

Great Egrets were seen regularly hunting in pastures around the OSU dairy barns on the west end of campus; early on 26 Jan Susan Brown saw five fly in together. Up to 17 were in trees and hunting around McFadden Marsh 2 Feb (Dileep Nageswaran).

Turkey Vulture sightings included one over the Highland Dell neighborhood in n. Corvallis 2 Feb (Jerry Paul), one over Bald Hill 4 Feb (Catherine Otto), over Timberhill 5 Feb (Lisa Millbank), and over Teloh-Calapooia Park 12 Feb (Jim Smith).

Four were trying to gain altitude over Owens Open Space n. of Corvallis in colder weather on 20 Feb.

At least one **White-tailed Kite** was seen regularly at the North Prairie overlook. On 9 Feb one was sw. of Kings Valley (Hendrik Herlyn) near where kites have nested in past years. Another just e. of Blodgett 19 Feb (Jacob Mathison) was also in a traditional location for this species. One was also reported se. of Peoria 12 Feb (Delores Porch).

An adult **Bald Eagle** winged over Wild Birds Unlimited in Corvallis on 31 Jan (Pam Comeleo). An eagle nest at E.E. Wilson WMA was active by 1 Feb (Pam Comeleo) and another near Halsey was active by 15 Feb (Delores Porch). 102 wintering eagles were still using the winter roost sw. of Tangent 7 Feb (fide Jeff Fleischer).

A **Northern Harrier** hunted over the mostly snow-free summit meadow on Marys Peak 5 Feb (Kaplan Yalcin).

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** called loudly as it flew over Bald Hill Natural Area on 4 Feb (Catherine Otto) and three soared over Starker Arts Park along Dunawi Creek 13 Feb (Don Boucher); this species was formerly rare in our area but has nested in both of these areas in recent years, as part of its ongoing northward range expansion. 1-2 **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen regularly at the North Prairie through the period. A dark "**Harlan's**" **Red-tailed Hawk** was along Hwy 99W s. of Finley NWR 10 Feb (Stefan Schlick).

A **Western Screech-Owl** called in moonlight s. of Philomath 30 Jan (Virginia Stanton).

On "Superb Owl Sunday" 4 Feb, a **Barn Owl** shrieked in flight near Jackson-Frazier Wetland, and a pair of **Great Horned Owls** duetted in conifers near Good Samaritan Hospital (Lisa Millbank, Don Boucher). **Western Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, and Northern Saw-whet Owl** all called at Jacob Mathison's place w. of Finley NWR that same evening. On the evening of 7 Feb, Jacob found a **saw-whet owl** perched on the doorknob of his chicken coop, perhaps drawn in by a robust population of **house mice**.

At least one **Short-eared Owl** perched and hunted actively over the private conservation easement along Diamond Hill Rd. e. of I-5 in sw. Linn Co. on 5 Feb (David Stone). Up to ten were seen there through the period (Priscilla Sokolowski; Lars Norgren). A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was photographed s. of Philomath 6 Feb (Virginia Stanton).

A **Belted Kingfisher** was at Sunset Park 22 Feb (Don Boucher).

Two **Acorn Woodpecker** colonies were active in oak groves along Riverside Dr. between Corvallis and Albany 26 Jan (Don Boucher). A **Lewis's Woodpecker** continued to be seen regularly at the Ray Bentley oak savanna overlook at Finley NWR through the period.

A **Red-naped Sapsucker** turned up in the College Hill neighborhood of Corvallis 28-29 Jan, in the same place where one (likely the same bird) was seen last winter (Aaron & Sara Liston; Paul Adamus). Two **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** were in Starker Arts Park 13 Feb (Don Boucher).

Two **Downy Woodpeckers** began drumming in the Timberhill neighborhood by 5 Feb (Lisa Millbank). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was at Cheadle Lake 4 Feb (Rana Foster).

A **Merlin** soared alongside a **Bald Eagle** over NE Corvallis 5 Feb (Lisa Millbank). Two **Peregrine Falcons** were in the Crabtree area 21 Feb (Jeff Harding).

Two **Black Phoebes** were at the Orleans pond and another was along Ebenger St. in SE Albany 26 Jan (Don Boucher). Another hawked insects from fence posts in the Teloh-Calapooia wetlands 27 Jan (Jim Smith). Two were next to Kester Pond in s. Polk Co. 1 Feb (Paul Adamus).

Single wintering **Say's Phoebes** were noted throughout the

period at Finley NWR headquarters and at Ward Butte nw of Brownsville. Additional reports came from McFarland Rd. s. of Finley NWR (Hendrik Herlyn), at Cartney Park along the Willamette w. of Harrisburg and along Harris Rd. e. of Harrisburg (Jeff Fleischer).

A **Northern Shrike** was at the North Prairie 11 Feb (Paul Sullivan).

Four **Gray Jays** were in a recently restored meadow area on Marys Peak 5 Feb (Kaplan Yalcin). A **Steller's Jay** in our yard north of Adair Village began to sing his quiet but surprisingly musical "subsong" by 25 Feb.

Three male "**Streaked**" **Horned Larks** (the resident, imperiled subspecies) chased each other along Glaser Rd. w. of Lebanon 7 Feb; another was singing in a grass field south of there along Bond Butte Rd.

Six **Barn Swallows** foraged over Talking Water Gardens 27 Jan (Kaplan Yalcin). Small numbers continued to be seen there through the period. An apparent **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was flying with **Tree Swallows** there 20 Feb (Jeff Harding). Sometimes first-winter Tree Swallows with retained juvenal plumage can cause confusion at this time of year; the distinctive "flatulent" calls of Northern Rough-winged Swallows, if heard, can be a good way to confirm their identity.

Black-capped Chickadees and **Bewick's Wrens** were singing all around Corvallis by 8 Feb (Don Boucher). Two **Marsh Wrens** were in wetlands at Sunset Park 22 Feb (Don Boucher). By 2 Feb one of a pair of **American Dippers** was singing along a creek near Alsea (Karin Lamberson).

Western Bluebirds sallied after flying insects from a fence near Finley NWR headquarters 2 Feb (Virginia Stanton).

American Robins and **Varied Thrushes** sang near Witham Hill 9 Feb (Hendrik Herlyn). Enormous flocks of tens of thousands of **European Starlings** were at widespread locations in sw. Linn Co. grass fields 21 Feb.

Two large flocks of **American Pipits** near Ward Butte 5 Feb were using high perches: one flock of 80 were in the upper branches of a lone tree, and the other flock of 120 were up on a utility wire. Though pipits may do this during migration, it's unusual behavior for wintering flocks.

On 5 Feb the wintering flock of ten or eleven **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** on Marys Peak fluttered around a large snag in Appendix Meadow, then settled on the roadside to forage in between passing cars (Kaplan Yalcin).

House Finches, **Purple Finches**, and **Lesser Goldfinches** were all singing around Corvallis by 3 Feb (Lisa Millbank, Don Boucher). The two **Common Redpolls** visiting Jed Irvine's yard in nw. Corvallis were last seen 3 Feb.

A **Nashville Warbler** wintering in Jed's yard was last noted 11 Feb. Another surprising warbler for the season was very bright **Wilson's Warbler** that turned up at a s. Corvallis feeder 30 Jan (Wendy Boyd).

Wintering flocks of sparrows and juncos continued. By the end of the period, flocks of **Golden-crowned Sparrows** were beginning to feed on emerging buds of willow and hazelnut trees.

Two **Spotted Towhees** sang in Corvallis in the first week of Feb (Don Boucher). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** perched atop a cat-tail at the Bruce Rd. mitigation pond 29 Jan (Susan Hatlevig).

A well-described **Chipping Sparrow** turned up on Witham Hill 27 Jan (Oscar Harper, Hendrik Herlyn). A flock of at least six were near the Kiger Island bridge s. of Corvallis 2 Feb (Kai Frueh). Small flocks of Chipping Sparrows sometimes winter in bottomlands along the Willamette River, most often around older filbert orchards.

A few **Tricolored Blackbirds** continued to be reported through the period from the Philomath STP and along Eicher

Rd. se. of Albany. Meanwhile **Red-winged Blackbirds** began to sing at local wetlands.

Several **Western Meadowlarks** perched in shrubs at the Diamond Hill Rd. wetlands 5 Feb. Meadowlarks were also seen regularly at North Prairie.

A **Western Pond Turtle** was clinging to a single stick on Cheadle Lake 4 Feb, suggesting that the site could use a few floating logs for turtles to bask on (Rana Foster).

A pair of **Eastern Gray Squirrels** turned up near Teloh-Calapooia Park 11 Feb (Jim Smith), as this eastern counterpart of our native **Western Gray Squirrels** continued to expand their presence.

Three **cougars** (an adult male and two juvenile males) were killed by a USDA Wildlife Services hunter in the rural neighborhood north of Coffin Butte 17 Feb, after a resident reported that a goat had been killed, and there were second-hand reports of sheep being killed. Possibly cougars were drawn there by the Soap Creek **elk** herd which has been ranging north into that area regularly.

A **bat** was flying at our place after dark on 24 Feb despite temperatures close to freezing.

Next month: Look for more returning Rufous Hummingbirds in early March, then swallows, Ospreys, and migrant Orange-crowned Warblers toward the end of the month. Swan flocks will begin to leave and other wintering waterfowl will be staging for migration.

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 22 Mar.

Conservation Update

Conservation Priority Goals of the Oregon Audubon Council for 2018:

- Oppose rollback of environmental laws and federal land protections.
- Ensure that substantial progress is made on Malheur CCP and Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative.
- Ensure adequate water for Klamath Complex refuges in short and long term.
- Ensure that Lake Abert has adequate water to support bird populations on an annual basis.
- Work on federal, state, and private forest lands to ensure science-base management policies that protect older forests, fish and wildlife, and water quality.
- Ensure that a system of marine reserves, protected areas and strong ocean policies are implemented, monitored, and expanded over the next decade.
- Protect and ensure implementation of the FEMA Floodplain Biological Opinion for the protection of salmon.
- Substantially reduce the use of lead ammunition in Oregon.
- Reduce window strikes across the state of Oregon.
- Initiate campaign to reduce light pollution statewide.
- Establish bird friendly practices and non-lethal control of birds at vineyards in Oregon.
- Increase protections for the Marbled Murrelet.
- Engage in California Condor reintroduction efforts to ensure the species is adequately protected and to engage memberships in an exciting bird conservation effort.
- Ensure full implementation of the Sage Grouse Plan in Ore-

- gon on federal, state and private lands. Oppose any efforts to weaken or de-fund Plan at any level.
- Oppose scapegoating Double-crested Cormorants to protect salmon.
 - Ensure that grassland Streaked Horned Lark and Oregon Vesper Sparrows and their habitats are adequately protected to recover imperiled species and to prevent other species from becoming imperiled.
 - ODFW Funding: Support passage of ODFW non-game funding legislation.
 - Support passage of responsible legislation to create tax credits for Brownfield cleanup.
 - Oregon Outdoor School: Chapters will work together to promote and develop curriculum that promotes a pro-conservation message and utilizes strong science.
 - Climate Change: Promote bird-friendly renewable energy development and oppose new fossil fuel facilities.

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair

Community Notes

Popular Birding by Ear Class returns

Sponsored by the Audubon Society of Corvallis and the Avery House Nature Center. Lisa Millbank and Don Boucher will instruct this class.

Birding by ear will take your birding ability to the next level, especially in forested areas where birds are difficult to see. During the classroom sessions, we don't try to memorize lists of bird sounds; instead, we learn methods to help remember bird sounds, and get a basic understanding of the ways in which birds use sound to communicate. It's intended to be fun and interesting. Classroom sessions will feature lots of videos and sound clips. During the field trips, all of which are in the Corvallis-Albany area, there will be listening exercises and many opportunities to practice the techniques learned in class. You'll be amazed by how many birds you'll find by just listening.

You should already be familiar with common local birds to take this class over a 3-week schedule:

Wednesday, May 16, classroom session at the Avery House, 7pm - 9pm

Saturday, May 19, field trip: wetland birds, 9am - noon

Wednesday, May 23, classroom session at the Avery House, 7pm - 9pm

Saturday, May 26, field trip: open country birds, 9am - noon

Wednesday, May 30, classroom session at the Avery House, 7pm - 9pm

Saturday, June 2, field trip: forest birds, 9am - noon

The cost is \$65. Please follow this link to register: <http://bit.ly/2ooVxci> There's another session of the same course in June, conducted by Neighborhood Naturalist. <http://bit.ly/2BHSsMY>

If you have questions about course content, please contact donaboucher@gmail.com.

Don Boucher

Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Fair & Town Hall

We gave you a detailed report in the February CHAT about The 2018 Sustainability Fair & Town Hall, which will be held on Monday, March 12th at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center, 725 SW 26th St on the OSU Campus. The Fair will take place from 5-7 pm and will include exhibits, refreshments and music. The Town Hall will be held from 7-9 pm. Both events are free & open to the public, but registration is required for the Town Hall due to limited seating.

You can register for the Town Hall at this website: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Sustainability_Town_Hall_2018

ASC will be hosting a table at the Fair, and interested volunteers can contact Suzanne Ortiz (see back page of CHAT).

Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Rep to Sustainability Coalition

Olympic Birdfest-April 13-15, 2018

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: nature guide/photographer Claudio Vidal.

BirdFest registration is at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Marion Rutledge, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

Prevent Human Food for Waterfowl

I am a volunteer with the city of Albany Parks and Recreation department, researching a program to help educate and dissuade our community from feeding human food to the waterfowl. I would love to chat with you if you have been involved with a similar program, been involved with a program to stop the dumping of domestic waterfowl, or have suggestions you want to share regarding this project. You can contact me, Diane Mitchell, at: mitchedi@oregon-state.edu and by texting or message at 541-936-1140. Thank you!

Diane Mitchell, OSU

Farewell to Ülo



Ülo Kiigemägi, avid birder, musician, weekend field trip traveler and ASC member, passed away January 24, 2018 at age 94. Ülo volunteered widely and was an active member of Corvallis Audubon. On weekend field trips around Oregon, he was beloved for his expertise and dry sense of humor.

In the winter of 1944, he survived many horrific months traveling across WWII Germany to a refugee camp in



Hamburg. There he met and married Virve Öunapuu. In 1949, they immigrated to the United States and settled in Portland. After graduating from Lewis and Clark College, he joined the chemistry department at Oregon State College in Corvallis, where they raised their family. He worked at OSC/OSU for the next 30 years, completing his career as a Senior Instructor Emeritus in 1985. Virve died in a tragic accident in 1989. Ülo continued to travel extensively, visiting 48 countries, including newly independent Estonia. He was well known for his photography and talks for residents at care

facilities. Asked for words of wisdom for the next generation, he said, "Be kind and help one another."

Ülo is survived by his children, Laura Bakken, Mai Kiigemagi, Karan (Jim) Fairchild and Peter (Cyndi) Kiigemagi, grandchildren, and great grandson. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to the OSU Music Department or Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Teri Engbring

Board Meeting Summary

Summary of February 2018 ASC Board of Directors Meeting

1. The Board is deliberating about special projects we can fund, consistent with our mission. One of those ASC-funded projects, a potential annual Internship Program at Finley Wildlife Refuge, is now in the candidate selection phase of the process. The successful candidate is expected to begin this inaugural internship in April.
2. Nominations for President and Vice President are being sought for the 2018-19 year. Contact outgoing President, Chris Mathews, if you'd like to volunteer to be on the Board.
3. The Education Committee, now rich with eager & able volunteers, continues to be very active with plans for the Winter Wildlife Day at Finley March 10, and developing Ed programs at Hesthavn Nature Center.
4. The Homer Campbell Biennial Environmental Award Committee is still seeking nominations for this year's award.

The next Board Meeting will be at 7 pm, March 8, at Fred Ramsey's house

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 Board meeting minutes for location.

Membership Corner

Welcome New Members!

Leah Gorman
David Hargreaves
Diane Krueger and David Bledsoe

Membership Renewal

To renew your membership online, go to the ASC website (<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 listserve to receive emergency email notifications about meeting cancellations related to weather, updated information about ASC events, fieldtrip locations and volunteer work parties. Send an email to our listserve administrator, Karan Fairchild, and request to be added to the [listserve: 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.

Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Membership Chair

Contributors to this Chat

Bill Proebsting, Chris Mathews, Jim Fairchild, Suzanne Ortiz, Joel Geier, Teri Engbring, Linda Campbell, Ray Drapek, Valerie and Dale Mitchell, Marion Rutledge, Diane Mitchell, 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

Mar 4	Hesthavn Fence Work Party, 10 am-2 pm
Mar 8	ASC Board meeting, 7 pm at Fred Ramsey's
Mar 10	Winter Wildlife Field Day at Finley, 11-3
Mar 10,	Second Sat Field Trip to EE Wilson, 7:30 am
Mar 12	Corvallis Sustainability Fair & Town Hall
Mar 15	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini Sr Ctr
Mar 18	Hesthavn Work Party, Invasive Weeds, 10-2
Mar 22	April CHAT stories due
Mar 22	Field Notes submissions due
Apr 1	Hesthavn Barn & Yard Work Party, 10-2

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

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

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