



THE CHAT

OCTOBER 2018

VOL. 48 #2

ASC General Meeting

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

Next Meeting:

Thurs, Oct. 18th, 2018, 6:30-8:30 pm

October 18, 2018 Program

Dr. Steven E. Carpenter will talk about mushroom identification, particularly about those found locally. He will also have copies of his newly revised and expanded book, "Mushrooms of Marys Peak and Vicinity" for purchase.

Steve Carpenter has been collecting and consuming mushrooms since 1956 and is President Emeritus of Pacific Analytical Laboratory in Corvallis and Abbey Lane Laboratory in Philomath. He graduated from OSU with a BS in Botany, Cornell with an MS in Mycology, and later was a Fellow at the New York Botanical Garden, where he received his Ph.D. from CUNY. Steve was a member of numerous mycology expeditions to the Andean chain in South America while at NYBG. He was a Research Associate in mycology at the LA Museum of Natural History in the 1980s and an NSF Principal Investigator at OSU until 1988. He researched microbial recovery at the Mt. St. Helens devastation zone, microbial interactions in old growth forest ecosystems and characterization of fungi that kill amphibians in North America.

Due to scheduling conflicts, Dr. William Ripple, who had been scheduled for this month's meeting, will be the presenter for our January 20, 2019 meeting.

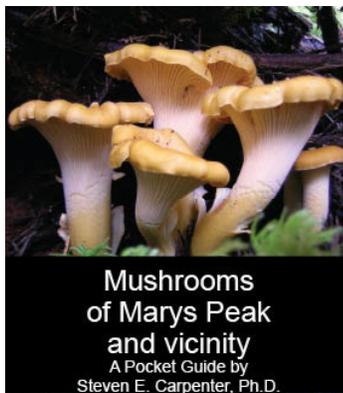
Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and visiting. The chapter meeting begins at 7:00 pm, followed by our guest presentations at 7:30.

Upcoming meetings:

For our **November 15th** meeting our speaker will be James Cassidy, Senior Instructor Soil Science & Sustainable/Organic Agriculture, and Faculty Adviser OSU Organic Growers Club. He will share his expertise in soils and how to maintain healthy organic garden soils.

December will be our annual member photo night.

Mark Baldwin, Vice Pres. & Program Chair, mark.baldwin2@comcast.net



Mushrooms of Marys Peak and vicinity
A Pocket Guide by
Steven E. Carpenter, Ph.D.



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

Local Monthly Second Saturday Field Trips

Our Saturday morning local field trips meet at the Benton Center parking area, behind the Cannery Mall, 757 NW Polk St., Corvallis at 7:30 am. This field trip is free and geared towards beginning birders, birders new to Oregon's mid-valley area and persons looking for a pleasant outing. Contact Bill Proebsting at proebstw@gmail.com or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley ListServ, <http://www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/>, a couple of days before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Return

to Benton Ctr by 12.

Coming Field Trips

October 13th. Baskett Slough NWR. We will check the Rich Guadagno trail going up the butte. Then check any water at the narrows and circle around the north side of the refuge. If traveling independently, meet at trail head on Coville Rd. about 8:15 am.

November 10th. Ankeny NWR. Looking for someone to coordinate this trip.

Bill Proebsting

President's Corner

Messy Gardens

Autumn. Fall. Leaves. Time for many of us to get out and prepare the yard for winter. Perhaps the predominant activity is moving and disposing of leaves. I still use a rake when I have to, but in the modern era, leaf blowers have taken over. They seem to be wonderful, labor-saving devices, but their noise has become an unfortunate feature of the season. Gas-powered models emit significant air pollution as well.

This year, if you are thinking about cleaning up your leaves, stifle the urge. Leave them in place to the extent you can. Leave them on the lawn or perhaps use the mower to chop them up and distribute the pieces. Or, move them into your perennial beds or vegetable garden. Or, make a compost pile.

The point is that leaves and the organisms that consume them form the base of the food chain. Fungi begin the decay process, but a variety of invertebrates use them for food and cover. We may be planting native shrubs and trees to attract birds, but without decay, our bird garden is missing an important component. Instead of grooming the landscape, let Nature take its course. Then, if you need something to do with the time saved, go birding.

Thanks to Chris Mathews

At the September chapter meeting, the ASC board recognized the major contributions of time, leadership and support to our chapter by outgoing President Chris Mathews. In appreciation The Board commissioned a painting by artist J. Brodrick, depicting the dramatic Steens Mountain/Malheur landscape.

The painting was a well-deserved gift to Chris in thanks for many years of generous service. This includes the last three years as President of ASC, preceded by three years as VP. He served a similar six years in the 1990s. He is also a regular volunteer at ASC events from the Winter Wildlife Field Day to weekend work parties at Hesthavn.

Chris has also been active with the Great Basin Society which runs the Malheur Field Station. He has

shepherded it through its various crises with generous gifts and service.

On behalf of the entire ASC team, thank you, Chris.

William Proebsting, Chapter President

Conservation Update

Conservation Votes for 2018

Voting is one of the most important things you can do to promote conservation in the medium term. You can register to vote until Oct. 16 – you can do it online —and then vote by mail until Election Day, Nov. 6.

The Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV) tracks how our elected officials vote and act on conservation issues, then recommends candidates for office and ballot measures when an election comes up. Here are their recommendations for November 2018:

- Governor: **Kate Brown**. She has long been an environmental champion and has worked to halt and deflect anti-conservation moves by the Trump administration.
- State Senate: **Sara Gelser** (Corvallis and Albany), **Lee Beyer** (southeast of Corvallis)
- State House: **Dan Rayfield** (Corvallis), Jerred Taylor (Albany), **Danny Jaffer** (around Corvallis; north and west of Albany), **Marty Wilde** (south of Albany)
- Benton County Commissioner: **Pat Malone**
- Ballot measure 104: OLCV recommends a NO vote, as this would make it harder to pass bills that make polluters pay.
- Ballot Measure 105: OLCV recommends a **NO** vote. It is promoted by a group that uses environmental "green-washing" (a tree logo, a tagline about environmental sustainability) to promote an anti-immigrant agenda.

In addition, for US House I recommend **Peter DeFazio** (4th District) and **Kurt Schrader** (5th District). No US Senators from Oregon are running in 2018.

For more information, see <http://www.olcv.org/2018-endorsements/>.

Dave Mellinger, Conservation Chair

ASC Book and Raffle Table

Ulo's Gift Books to be Featured in October

A selection of birding and nature books from the library of legendary ASC member Ulo Kiigemagi will be offered at the



Book & Raffle Table in October.

Ulo was a long-time member of ASC who traveled both internationally and throughout Oregon. His daughter, Karan Fairchild, has selected almost 50 books from his vast library to donate to our ASC Book & Raffle table, where they will be featured at the general meeting on Thursday, October 18th.

An autographed copy of Noah Strycker's *Among Penguins*, Valerie Russell's *A Tour of British Bird Reserves*, a pristine copy of *Icelandic Bird Guide*, and Dennis Paulson's *Shorebirds of North America: The Photographic Guide*, are among the donated titles. Purchase will be by donation with all proceeds benefiting ASC's local educational programs.

Sally Shaw, Book & Raffle Table

Hesthavn News

Hesthaven Open House

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to prepare and assist guests at our Hesthavn Open House on September 29th.



Hesthavn Open House, September 29, 2018

Hesthavn October Work Parties

Sunday, Oct. 7th, 10 am to 2 pm. This will be a barn and yard work party. We will go through a checklist. If we finish the checklist we could end up wrapping this work party up early.

Sunday, Oct. 21st, 10 am to 2 pm. Weed pull. English Ivy and Yellow Archangel.

If you would like to help us care for the trails, meadows, trees, bird feeders and homes, and buildings of Audubon's Nature Center on Oak Creek, please contact Hesthavn Chair, Ray Drapek, at raydrapek@gmail.com, to volunteer.

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

A Hesthavn Celebration of Feathers

October 21st, 1 to 3 pm at Hesthavn we will offer family-friendly fun, educational activities, a craft and a scavenger hunt. The lovely grounds will be open for strolling and we will have many, many feathers on hand. Bring in your own feathers and perhaps we can identify them. **Free for all ages!** No reservation needed, just come by the Nature Center west of Corvallis at 8590 Oak Creek Drive and enjoy the

special exhibits of bones, nests, birds, and more.

And save **November 18th**, same time and place for our next monthly family friendly program at our Nature Center. Come see the changes that fall has brought to Hesthavn. We will create a fall tree, look at birds that can be seen in the fall, go on a scavenger hunt, and play a matching game. Fun and free! (short and sweet with more details next month.)

Valerie & Dale Mitchell, ASC Ed Team

Atop the Nestbox

This is the time of year nest boxes should be cleaned of all nesting and waste debris. If the roof is beginning to crack, a piece of asphalt shingle can be attached to the top to prevent leaks. Since bluebirds occasionally use nest boxes to roost during winter, preventing a cold, breezy interior can be accomplished by covering or plugging vent holes. The floor vents can be covered with a cut-to-fit piece of cardboard. Any vents at the top of the box can be covered by weather stripping or piece of wood like a tongue blade attached with screws so it can remain on the box. In late spring it needs to be detached at one end and rotated down until fall.

If you have a box that is not attracting bluebirds, try locating it to a new spot. Avoid facing it toward the prevailing wind. The young do better where the box receives the morning sun to warm the box and shade in the afternoon from the hot summer days.

The 2018 Bluebird Nesting Report will be in the next issue of the Chat. Many thanks to our trail volunteers and private home owners who volunteer their time and traveling expenses to gather this data.

Rita Snyder, Bluebird Trail Committee

Field Notes

08/24/18-09/27/18

This month brought a change in the weather, as mid-September rain brought cooler weather and the first significant rain since April. By the end of the period, big-leaf maples were beginning to turn shades of orange and yellow.

As the seasons change, this column is also changing. For 46 years, Chat field notes have documented notable bird observations in the Corvallis/Albany area. Locals who noticed a distinctive new bird in their yards, as well as visitors and newcomers, would often contact Audubon if they saw something interesting.

Field notes have lost much of their traditional relevance in the digital era. News of migrants and rare birds is shared rapidly via e-mail and text messages. Visitors and beginning birdwatchers are now more likely to follow web links that point them toward Cornell's eBird database, rather than contact a local Audubon chapter.

What role can field notes still play? Considering ASC's role as a bird conservation organization, three themes seem especially important: (1) linking bird sightings to conservation issues; (2) putting seasonal observations into context of changing climate and land-use patterns; and (3) introducing members to local natural areas that provide opportunities for engagement.

This month's column tries a new structure that gives space to each of these themes. Stories of rarities, unusual bird behavior, and other surprises will have their own sections, toward the end. I'll appreciate your reactions on how this first effort works out!

For next month please post your observations to the Mid-Valley birding list at midvalleybirding.org, e-mail them to me at joel.geier@peak.org, or send by post to 38566 Hwy 99W, Corvallis 97330, or call (541) 745-5821 by 25 Oct.

Abbreviations and locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds. Luckiamute State Natural Area is along the Willamette River northwest of Albany. Philomath STP is south of Philomath and requires access permission. Stewart Lake is on the Hewlett-Packard campus and also has restricted access. Cabell Marsh is at Finley NWR.

Conservation focus: Swifts

Swifts are the most aerial of birds, spending most of their lives on the wing—foraging for flying insects, skimming water from the surface of ponds, mating in midair, and sometimes even sleeping on the wing. Two species occur regularly in western Oregon, both with specialized requirements for the non-airborne parts of their lives.

The larger of the two species, **Black Swift**, nests on rock cliffs behind waterfalls. Only a few regular nesting locations have been found in Oregon—the best known of which is Salt Creek Falls along Hwy 58 near Willamette Pass—but likely nesting occurs at other, less accessible sites in the Cascades and along the Coast. Occasionally migrants are seen over lower elevations in our area, usually during spring or fall migration when low cloud cover forces migrants to forage at lower altitudes where they can be seen more easily.

In Canada where 80% of the North American population nests, Black Swift is classed as endangered. Key threats are believed to include (1) airborne pollutants that reduce aerial insect availability and (2) climate change that could reduce and/or disrupt the seasonal timing of stream flows at waterfalls.

The smaller species, **Vaux's Swift** (the first part of the name rhymes with "boxes") is comparatively well-known due to its tendency to use chimneys as roosting and nesting sites. As with its eastern cousin the Chimney Swift, this is an adaptation to large-scale loss of the old-growth forests where large, dead hollow trees once served this function.

In a few places where old-growth remnants have been preserved from logging, Vaux's Swifts still use natural nesting and roosting sites. However much of the population now depends on man-made structures, especially along their southbound migration route through logged and urbanized areas.

In Washington, an effort by the Pilchuck Audubon Society to save a critical migration roost has evolved into an international monitoring project, Vaux's Happening (<http://www.vauxhappening.org>) that now tracks Vaux's Swift migration roosts all the way from British Columbia to western Mexico.

Project volunteers in our area estimated about 1000 at a residential chimney in NW Corvallis 10 Sep (fide Susan Brown, Mary Garrard), 822 at Takeena Elementary in sw Albany 12 Sep (John Tietjen, Pat Cummings, Peter Greenberg), and 1654 in the Palace Theater in Silverton 14 Sep (John Thomas). By 18 Sep numbers at the Corvallis chimney had dropped to zero but 1230 were still using the chimney in

Silverton. Overall numbers along the migration route this fall have been encouraging, according to project coordinator Larry Schwitters.

Seasonal bird activity

Breeding behavior

Most songbirds had finished nesting by 26 Aug when a **Western Wood-Pewee** fed a fairly recently fledged youngster along a fence near Airlie 26 Aug (Olin Allen). A family group at Stewart Lake continued through 31 Aug (Jamie Simmons). The nesting season for owls starts in late winter, but **Great Horned Owls** were already calling to establish territories and develop pair bonds this month. A **Barred Owl** on Witham Hill also was calling on 14-17 Sep (Julie Gibson).

Prepping for winter

Jays were busy caching acorns and other nuts for the winter ahead. On 16 Sep Jim Fairchild noted that **California Scrub-Jays** were traveling upslope to gather hazelnuts in the forest sw. of Philomath, while **Steller's Jays** were favoring chinquapin nuts, sometimes joined by "**Gray Jays**" (now called **Canada Jays** according to the official list-keepers) in the same tree, foraging side-by-side without interspecies aggression. **Band-tailed Pigeons** also gorged on chinquapins.

American Crows began to form large flocks that could be seen at dusk nightly flying to communal fall/winter nocturnal roosts. On 27-28 Sep Jamie Simmons noted groups of 50 or more flying west over nw Corvallis.

Fall/winter feeding flocks of **American Goldfinches**, **Lesser Goldfinches**, and **Evening Grosbeaks** began to form and show up around town; Ramesh Sagili noted a good turnout at his home in southwest Corvallis by 20 Sep.

Autumn dawdlers and departures

A single **Osprey** from the nest in downtown Corvallis was still there 18 Sep, long after its parents and sibling(s) had left (Marie P.). Other observers who followed up reported that the Osprey did sometimes leave the nest, and seemed to be healthy. Most likely this was a juvenile using the nest as a familiar resting place while it builds up fat reserves for the long flight south.

Several dozen **American White Pelicans** continued at Cabell Marsh through mid-September. A **Green Heron** continued through the period at Stewart Lake (Jamie Simmons). A female **Rufous Hummingbird** lingered along Oak Creek w. of Corvallis through 23 Sep (Bill Proebsting). A late **Common Nighthawk** foraged for flying insects over Cabell Marsh 19 Sep (Bruce Pratt).

On 20 Sep a **Red-eyed Vireo** was at Luckiamute State Natural Area (Bill Proebsting) where this species was found throughout nesting season, along with at least two lingering **Cassin's Vireos** and one of the year-round resident **Hutton's Vireos** which sang briefly.

Large migrant flocks of **Barn Swallows** and **Violet-green Swallows** passed through the area in early September. Thirty Violet-green Swallows were still at Willamette Park 12 Sep and eight Barn Swallows were at Cabell Marsh 15 Sep (Jamie Simmons). A late **Tree Swallow** was still at the Philomath STP 8 Sep (Hendrik Herlyn).

Hundreds of **Cedar Waxwings** were conspicuous around Corvallis in mid-September, often feeding on berries in black hawthorn and mountain ash trees. A few **House Wrens** were still along trails in oak woodlands at Dunn Forest 26 Aug. **Common Yellowthroats** were last noted 18 Sep at Stewart Lake (Jamie Simmons). A **Yellow Warbler** and three **Black-throated Gray Warblers** were still in Willamette Park

12 Sep (Jamie Simmons).

A few **Western Tanagers** stayed around through the end of the period, including one on the west side of Corvallis 27 Sep (Don Boucher). **Lazuli Buntings** were scarce by 26 Aug. One **Black-headed Grosbeak** was still in nw Corvallis 2 Sep after most others had left in late Aug (Jamie Simmons).

Up to 20 **Vesper Sparrows** were still in a regular nesting location in the Soap Creek Valley through 17 Sep (Bob Altman). A few **Chipping Sparrows** also remained in nesting habitat, though others had started to wander, like one that surprised Don Boucher in a residential neighborhood in north Corvallis 15 Sep.

Passersby

A flock of 20 **Greater White-fronted Geese** flew south over Peoria 29 Aug (Greg Metcalfe), likely en route to the Klamath Basin or farther south. A **Common Loon** stopped in Marion Lake at the base of Mt. Jefferson 1 Sep (Kaplan Yalcin). Thousands of loons migrate over our area on the way from their arctic/boreal nesting grounds to wintering locations along the coast; occasionally some run out of steam before they reach the coast, and stop to refuel on inland lakes.

Shorebirds heading south from the Arctic continued their southbound passage through September. Scarcity of wet patches in this season tends to concentrate shorebirds around wetlands with exposed mud, particularly in the local NWRS, plus artificial "wetlands" provided by sewage treatment impoundments such as Philomath STP.

A few **Semipalmated Plovers** were noted in the last week of Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen through the period; some will likely stay to winter. **Lesser Yellowlegs** were noted occasionally 2 Aug – 20 Sep. **Solitary Sandpipers** tend to favor mountain bogs in southbound migration, so two at Cabell Marsh 31 Aug (Nancy Stotz) were notable for low elevations in our area.

Among smaller shorebirds, **Western Sandpipers** and **Least Sandpipers** were the most common migrants through the period. Rare to uncommon species included **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (individuals noted 22-29 Sep), **Baird's Sandpiper** (a few in late Aug), and **Pectoral Sandpiper** (reported 28 Aug – 20 Sep). **Long-billed Dowitchers** were noted regularly from late August onward.

Migrant **Red-necked Phalaropes** were noted occasionally 28 Aug – 21 Sep. A **Wilson's Phalarope** at the Philomath STP 29 Aug might have been from one of the Willamette Valley wet prairie/wetland locations where this species still nests, or perhaps a stray from the larger population that nests east of the Cascades.

This month brought surprising numbers of migrant prairie raptors west of the Cascades crest, perhaps affected by the late-summer drought and/or fires in the eastern Oregon grasslands that they usually favor. A **Swainson's Hawk** hunted over the meadow at Lost Lake 27 Aug (Thomas Gilg). Another was mousing in a field nw of Baskett Slough NWR 7 Sep. One soared with Turkey Vultures over Rickreall 19 Sep (Mike Patterson). One soared south over Willamette Park 24 Sep (Duncan Evered). A juv. **Ferruginous Hawk** was nw of Baskett Slough NWR near Ballston 7 Sep. Visitors from Georgia saw one in the same general neighborhood again on 14 Sep, just east of the refuge where a large restored prairie provides suitable habitat (Paige Harvey).

Songbirds were also heading south through our area, including many thousands of **Swainson's Thrushes** that migrate mainly during the night, detectable by the "weep!"

calls that they make to stay in contact with the rest of the flock. Early on the morning of 26 Aug Don Boucher heard several calls before dawn; he notes that morning is the best time to listen as the birds are coming down to the ground, much more vocal and easier to hear. Lisa Millbank notes that when the moon is full, another way to experience Swainson's Thrush migration is to point a spotting scope at the moon, then watch for birds to be silhouetted against it as they fly past. Don and Lisa have posted an online video of this phenomenon (<https://youtu.be/lc2xQYs-kJl>).

One of these birds sadly died when it struck a window out of Corvallis before dawn on 17 Sep (Jenny Swanson), likely as it was coming down to rest and forage before the next leg of its trip.

Townsend's Solitaires move through our area in much smaller numbers. One called at LSNA 27 Aug. Another was in Dunn forest 2 Sep (Nancy Stotz). On 9 Sep one was reported via eBird on Marys Peak in the Coast Range, where solitaires nest sparsely.

Mixed flocks of warblers were noted in early through mid September as flocks moved south. Much of the fall warbler migration in western Oregon happens at higher elevations in the Cascades, where mountain meadows provide a good supply of insects. At Lost Lake on 27 Tom Gilg noted four warbler species: **Orange-crowned**, **Hermit**, **Yellow-rumped** and **MacGillivray's Warbler**.

Arrivals of wintering birds

About 60 **Cackling Geese** flew south over Corvallis 19 Sep (Lisa Millbank), auguring the arrival of larger wintering flocks. Two **Great Egrets** were at Cabell Marsh 10 Sep (Rana Foster). **Wilson's Snipe** began to show up at local wetlands by 28 Aug.

A **Short-eared Owl** on a conservation easement near Buena Vista 27 Sep (Matt Blakely-Smith) was most likely an early fall arrival, though at least one pair bred successfully in our region last spring/summer.

Wintering falcons also drifted into the area, with an increase in sightings of **Peregrine Falcons**. A large light-colored falcon near Shedd 7 Sep launched off a utility pole in pursuit of unseen prey (Jim Smith); this hunting style is typical of **Gyrfalcons** and one did winter in that area last year, but **Prairie Falcons** have a similar hunting style and are more regularly expected in that area in winter. A well-described **Prairie Falcon** flew over Finley NWR 22 Sep (Kai Frueh, Ben Frueh).

American Pipits arrived s. of Independence by 22 Sep (Mike Lippsmeyer). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Bald Hill Natural Area 5 Sep (Bill Proebsting). A **Hermit Thrush** turned up at Stewart Lake 27 Sep (Jamie Simmons). Flocks of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were showing up at low elevations by the end of the period.

A few **Lincoln's Sparrows** also began to arrive at low elevations around the end of August, but began to be noticed in more locations by 17 Sep when **Golden-crowned Sparrows** and **Fox Sparrows** were also in the mix along the Betty Griffiths Trail in NW Corvallis Sep (Nancy Stotz). A **White-crowned Sparrow** at Judith & Jerry Paul's feeder 9 Sep may have signaled movement of birds that nested in our area, or arrival of migrants from elsewhere.

Day length around the autumnal equinox is similar to that in spring. Sometimes this triggers songs otherwise associated with nesting season. On 23 Sep Don Boucher and

Lisa Millbank heard a couple of **Fox Sparrows** singing in Corvallis. In some species, autumnal singing can play a role in helping to establish winter feeding territories. In other species like **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, songs are heard year-round and may play a role in more complex social behaviors.

Rare or off-course birds and other surprises

A **Red-necked Grebe**, still mostly in breeding plumage, was at the Philomath STP 29 Aug (Hendrik Herlyn).

On 14 Sep a **Stilt Sandpiper** turned up on Cabell Marsh (Pam Otley), associating with a **Greater Yellowlegs**. It continued to be seen 15-19 Sep. This species has previously turned up at Baskett Slough NWR but this was the first record for Finley NWR. As often happens when birders flock to see rare birds, others may be found in the vicinity. On 16 Sep Rich Hoyer noted a **Whimbrel** there. On 19 Sep a wayward **American Avocet** turned up (Hendrik Herlyn) and remained through the end of the period.

A flock of migrant warblers in Willamette Park 12-13 Sep included a first-winter **Blackpoll Warbler** (Duncan Evered; Kai Frueh, Ben Frueh; Noah Strycker). At times the bird made use of valley ponderosa pine plantings, which might provide some semblance of the habitat that this species favors in southbound migration through the Great Lakes region

On 19 Sep a **Tennessee Warbler** turned up in Willamette Park, along with a **Nashville Warbler** and at least two **Orange-crowned Warblers** (Duncan Evered). While Nashville Warblers nest in the Cascades and a few pass through lower elevations of our area each fall, Tennessee Warblers nest in boreal forests and mainly stay east of the Rocky Mtns during migration. When a stray does show up, it takes skill and attention to plumage details to distinguish them from the hordes of similar Orange-crowned Warblers.

A first-winter **Lark Sparrow** visited a yard s. of Albany 28 Aug (Jim Smith). This species formerly nested in our area but now occurs only rarely as a stray.



Adult Red-shouldered Hawk (photo by Marge Popp).

One species formerly considered “rare” in our area, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, is now a year-round resident after expanded its range northward from California. Several pairs now nest right around Corvallis each year. On 12 Aug Marge Popp saw one perched near Starker Arts Park; it stayed there long enough for Marge to walk home and return with a camera. Rana Foster also noted this species both in Luckiamute State Natural Area and at a Greenbelt Land Trust conservation site (Willamette Bluffs) near Buena Vista, during a tour of local restoration projects on 23 Sep.

Natural areas

Federal lands in the western Cascades could someday be designated as a **Douglas-Fir National Monument**, if an effort gains traction. In late Aug David Stone photographed one of the distinctive species of this landscape, a female **Sooty Grouse**, along the Quartzville Creek Wild & Scenic River Corridor that could someday be part of the monument (<http://www.douglasfirnationalmonument.org>)

Oak-dependent birds seem to have responded positively to last year’s savanna restoration at **Chip Ross Natural Area** in nw Corvallis. On 23 Sep Jamie Simmons found eight **Acorn Woodpeckers** there, along with three **White-breasted (“Slender-billed”) Nuthatches** and six **Western Bluebirds**. **Northern Flickers**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, and two **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** were also using the area.

Community Notes

Day of Birds Coming November 11

Two of Corvallis’ enthusiastic and inspiring young birders, teenagers Kai and Ben Frueh, are organizing “A Day of Birds” free event on Saturday, November 11th. It will run from 10 am to 4 pm at Flicker and Fir Farm, 1470 SE Alexander Ave in Corvallis.

They will have bird walks, live birds, BBC’s Life of Birds, bird themed crafts, hummingbird and chickadee feeder making, and more.

Our Audubon education team will be there with local birding information, bird specimens, a scavenger hunt and craft activity. Volunteers are needed. So please come check it out and invite everyone you know to join us for this exciting new event!

Teri Engbring, ASC Ed team

Forests, Ecology, and Carbon: How Our Forests Can Fight Climate Change

Thursday, October 11, 7:00-8:30 pm (Refreshments to follow)

At: Unitarian Universalist Church, 2945 NW Circle Blvd in Corvallis This free Program is sponsored by: Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Willamette Valley Broadband, Oregon Wild and Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, Environmental Concerns Committee

Half of Oregon is covered in forests, which absorb and store a tremendous amount of carbon from the atmosphere. This makes our state uniquely positioned to confront the problem of global climate change. Recent research shows that clear cutting our forests dumps massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, making Oregon’s timber industry a



major contributor to climate change. Other scientific studies have illuminated the role that old-growth forests can play in mitigating climate change by absorbing and safely storing carbon for centuries.

Join one of the key authors of some of these studies, Oregon State University's Mark Harmon, for an educational evening about the role our forests play in storing carbon. In addition, hear from forest advocates on how the public can

play a role in advancing needed management changes that would benefit our forests and our climate.

For more information contact: Carol Savonen at carol.savonen@oregonstate.edu, 541-609-0428; or Chandra LeGue cl.oregonwild@gmail.com, 541-344-0675.

Jim Fairchild

ASC Board Meeting Summary September 2018

1. The Board voted to approve the Hesthavn Committee's native species garden plan near the entrance to the Nature Center building with the caveat that the maple tree be trimmed, not cut down. The estimated price tag of \$8,100 may change.
2. The Board voted unanimously to approve a motion to make The Chat available on the ASC website shortly after publishing each month. At present, there is a three-month delay between publishing and posting.
3. The Board unanimously approved the Conservation Committee's signature on a letter (from multiple conservation organizations) to the federal Council of Environmental Quality encouraging them to reject any weakening of NEPA laws or requirements.
4. Plans are moving ahead for a connecting trail between Fitton Green & Crestmont Land Trust trails, in honor of the late Amy Schoener, The anticipated start date for construction is October 1st, with completion expected in November this year.
5. The Education Committee is already in planning meetings for several 2019 programs!
6. Bill Ripple had to postpone his presentation for ASC's October Program, but he is speaking about climate change on November 12th at Science Pub, at the Whiteside Theatre in Corvallis.

The next Board meeting will take place in the community room at Natural Grocers on 9th St, Corvallis, at 7 pm on Thursday, October 11th. All members are welcome!

Linda Campbell, Board 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!

Barbara Gladstone
Ramesh Sagili

General Membership Information

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

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 listserv to receive emergency email notifications about meeting cancellations related to weather, updated information about ASC events, field trip 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.

Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Membership Chair

Contributors to this Chat

Mark Baldwin, Bill Proebsting, Suzanne Ortiz, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Joel Geier, Don Boucher, Linda Campbell, Rita Snyder, Ray Drapek, Valerie & Dale Mitchell, Dave Mellinger and Jim Fairchild

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

Oct. 7	Hesthavn Work Party, 10 am to 2 pm
Oct. 13	Field Trip, Baskett Slough NWR, 7:30 am
Oct. 11	ASC Board meeting, 7:00 pm at Hesthavn
Oct. 18	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini Sr Ctr
Oct. 21	Hesthavn Work Party, 10 am to 2 pm
Oct. 21	Hesthavn Celebration of Feathers, 1 to 3 pm
Oct. 25	Stories due for October CHAT issue
Oct. 25	Field Notes submissions due
Nov. 10	Field Trip, Ankeny NWR, 7:30 am

The Chat is published 10 times a year by the Audubon Society of Corvallis, PO Box 148, Corvallis OR 97339. Annual ASC memberships are \$25 for an individual; \$35 for a family; \$15 for student; \$15 for Chat-only subscriptions (email delivery only); \$50 for Supporting Level; \$150 for Patron Level; and \$250 for Benefactor Level.

Audubon Society of Corvallis
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Audubon.Corvallis.or.us

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CorvallisAudubon

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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