



THE CHAT

NOVEMBER 2018

VOL. 48 #3

ASC General Meeting

2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis

November 15 Program

Thurs, Nov. 15th, 2018, 6:30-8:30 pm

Soil – What it is & How it works.

It's ALL about soil! Most people only have a vague idea of what soil is and how it works. You will learn more than you ever thought possible from this lecture. The reason you are alive, what nutrients are, how soil stores water and nutrients. The fundamentals that ALL humans on planet Earth should know!

James Cassidy has been an Instructor of Soil Science at Oregon State University for over 13 years. The introductory class now has over 200 students each term and is very popular. James is also the faculty advisor for the wildly popular OSU Organic Growers Club – OSU's student farm. Coming from a non-traditional background (music industry for over 30 years), he is passionate about soil and is popular with students because of his dynamic speaking style. The student farm project has over 300 student volunteers on its list-serve and continues to grow. The farm cultivates over 50 different fruit and vegetable crops and is just beginning its 19th season.

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



Upcoming meetings:

December is our traditional Members Slide Show. Please, if possible, email your photos to me prior to the December 20th meeting. You may also bring them on a USB memory device. Powerpoint seems to be the best format.

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

ASC General Meetings

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

In This Issue

- Field Trips..... 18
- President's Corner 18
- 2018 Annual Campaign 18
- Education News 18-19
- Hesthavn News 19
- Community Notes 19-20
- Christmas Bird Count 2018 ...20
- Field Notes 20-23
- Board Meeting Summary 23
- Membership Corner23
- Contributors to this CHAT23
- Calendar24

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 Center by 12.

Coming Field Trips

November 10th Ankeny NWR. Bev Clark and Jim Philipson will lead this trip. They plan to start at the Rail Trail, then proceed to the wetlands.

December 8th Finley NWR and Philomath STP.

Bill Proebsting

President's Corner

Expanding ASC Education Programs with Member Support

For many years, ASC has made a general appeal for donations to support our programs. The membership has responded generously, and we are in good shape financially. However, as you may have read in the appeals letter sent recently, our Education programs are our budget focus for the coming year.

Teri Engbring coordinates an exceptional team of ASC colleagues and community members who have built an active, extensive Education Program. The major event is the Winter Wildlife Field Day held at Finley NWR in March. The 2018 WWFD drew 800 children and parents. Numerous stations are staffed by dozens of volunteers from ASC, OSU Bird Nerds, Boy Scouts and throughout the Corvallis community. Chances are that you have participated.

Val and Dale Mitchell plan, prep and manage fun and educational monthly Family Nature programs at Hesthavn on a variety of nature topics. Spring and summer day camps for local Girl Scouts served about 300 young women. The team participates in a number of other events over the course of the year. All in all, Teri estimates that about 3,200 persons attended ASC educational events in 2018.

Corvallis has recently been blessed with a cadre of enthusiastic, talented teenage birders. These kids are not only excellent, knowledgeable birders, but participate in a variety of activities, including ASC's Corvallis Christmas Bird Count. Isaac Denzer and Kai Frueh established The Benton County Big Sit, which raises funds for four conservation organizations, including ASC. 2018 was the third annual BCBS. On November 11, Kai and his brother Ben will inaugurate A Day of Birds, an educational event at which ASC will have a significant presence.

Oregon State University has the second largest ornithology faculty in the United States. In recent years, their faculty and students have become increasingly engaged in the Corvallis birding and conservation community.

Taken together, Corvallis is a remarkable community for birding and bird-related activities.

To help strengthen this community, and recognize the service by our local teens, the ASC board has proposed supporting their attendance at the OSU youth birding camp to open in 2020. This camp will provide a great opportunity to bird our diverse state and introduce students to field and professional ornithological skills. Our goal is to make this

an ongoing effort to support additional area youth as they reach an appropriate age.

ASC and Corvallis are fortunate to have such an active birding community. As you consider supporting ASC this year, we hope that the ASC membership will continue to respond to the annual funding appeal with the new focus on Education. We can help pass the torch to the next generation.

William Proebsting, Chapter President

The 2018 Annual Campaign

We're launching ASC's 2018 Annual Campaign this month!

The goal of the 2018 Campaign is to raise funds to support our Education Team and to expand ASC's support for training young birders in our community.

Our enthusiastic team of education volunteers has completed another outstanding year of classes, demonstrations, displays and workshops, interacting with eager students, scouts, and adults. The community response has been great and participants have been turning out in ever increasing numbers. The Education Team is building on this success by planning an ambitious schedule for 2019. We hope that you will join them and support their important goal to create new champions for nature!

Be on the lookout for the 2018 Annual Campaign mailing. The letter contains an envelope that can be used to renew your membership, to donate, or to purchase a gift membership for family & friends. You can also go directly to the ASC website and use PayPal to donate or [renew www.audubon.corvallis.or.us](http://renew.www.audubon.corvallis.or.us).

Thank you for supporting the Audubon Society of Corvallis!

Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Membership Chair

Education News

Winter Wildlife Field Day date set in 2019

Mark your calendars for March 9, 2019 for the fifth annual Winter Wildlife Field Day at Finley National Wildlife Refuge! The theme will be Nature's Predators and this year's patch and artwork will feature a red-tailed hawk. Volunteers are



needed on event day to bring this exciting event to life, as well as in planning and preparations with a dynamic team.

Join us Nov. 11th for A Day of Birds

We can still use help and encourage all to attend a new birding event in Corvallis on Sunday, November 11th, from 10 am to 4 pm. We are delighted to participate and support the devoted young birders in the Frueh family. They have pulled their neighbors and friends together to create a free, family friendly, fun day of learning about and enjoying our avian friends. It will be very hands-on and interactive.

Please contact Teri at chateditors@gmail.com if you can help with either event or need more information. Thanks!

Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team

Hesthavn News

Thanks for new kiosk, Philip

Many thanks to Philip SanRomani for building this kiosk for the Hesthavn parking lot. Philip completed this kiosk for his Eagle Scout project and he did a beautiful job.



Eagle Scout Philip SanRomani poses next to the kiosk he built

Thanks to OSU GEOG 300 team

On Oct. 21st six GEOG 300 students from Oregon State University scrambled through the underbrush at Hesthavn pulling English Ivy and Yellow Archangel. These are two aggressive non-native weeds with the capacity to overrun the property. Fortunately the weather cooperated and a splendid time was had by all. Many thanks to the students and many thanks to the GEOG 300 class from which we have had many student groups come and do valuable work.

Please Join Coming Work Parties

All Hesthavn work parties are from 10 am to 2 pm. The schedule for November and December is:

Sunday, Nov 4: Barn and yard work party. We will be going through the usual task list. There's generally less to do this time of year, so we may be done early.

Sunday Nov 18: Blackberry pull.

Sunday Dec 2: Barn and yard work party.

Sunday Dec 16: Blackberry pull.

Grab a friend and join us in the great outdoors!

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

Hesthavn Open House

This year's Hesthavn Open House was a big success. Thanks to the following volunteers for helping us with guided walks, crafts, opening ASC's bird specimen collection, a popular bug table, and other educational activities, and snacks for guests: Ray, Valerie, Dale, Kris, Tricia, Beth, Bev, Kendra, Mateo, Gabe, Kate, Ann, Suzanne, Chris, Karan, Lena, and Dave.

We estimate the number of guests at about 60, a good turnout. As for activities, Education Team event leader Valerie Mitchell notes that the nature walks were very popular – our experts did far more than the four we had scheduled. The bug display by Kendra, Mateo and Lena was also a big hit (with live bugs, pinned bugs and trifold). Draw-a-bird got quite a few artists of all ages. There was a lot of interest for the true/false questions on the trifolds.

Election results have been counted! Open House visitors voted the Stellar Jay as their favorite Hesthavn bird! Congrats to our noisy but beautiful blue friend.

Nov 18th - Fall Changes at Hesthavn

Are you falling, falling, falling . . . Join us on Sunday, Nov. 18th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, as we explore glorious Autumn at your Audubon of Corvallis' own beautiful Hesthavn Nature Center! Wreathed in leaves and enlivened with migratory birds, Fall is a glorious time to get out there and explore! Bring your family. We will create a colorful fall thumb print tree, play a matching game, ID local leaves and stroll the beautiful paths. Free to all. Come rain or shine, it is dry and warm inside the Nature Center barn!

January at Hesthavn will investigate "Where are they? Animals in winter." Details to follow later.

Valerie & Dale Mitchell, ASC Ed Team

Community Notes

A Day of Birds Nov 11th,



We are excited about our upcoming bird education day – A Day of Birds – It will take place on Sunday Nov. 11th from 10 am-4 pm at 1470 SE Alexander Ave. All ages and experiences are welcome to join in the free activities!

This event started when my brother and I were looking for a homeschool project for this year and decided we wanted

to create an event about our passion – birds! We are partnering with Corvallis Audubon's amazing education team, Friends of the Willamette Valley NWR complex, Chintimini Wildlife center and a bunch of other cool people.

We have put a really awesome program together. At our event, you will be able to go on bird walks with expert local birders and learn how to see and hear more in your surroundings. Bird walks will be lead from the event site right into one of the Valley's best birding places – Willamette Park.

You can also make bird feeders, origami and draw birds; and meet a falconer, her apprentice, and their Red-tail and Harris's Hawks! Chintimini Wildlife Center will have a touch table to explore: skulls, talons, feathers and more!

Corvallis Audubon will have fun, family-friendly activities. Compare your wingspan to local birds and see which bird has a wingspan matching your armspan. Which talons and beaks belong to which bird? How are they used — spin the wheel. Earn a bird sticker by participating in a bird scavenger hunt. And see some real (stuffed) birds up close.

You can learn about the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuges, birding trails, and online resources. You can learn about bird banding, why it is important and what it is used for. To relax, watch one of the most iconic birding films ever made – BBC's *Life of Birds*, narrated by Sir David Attenborough.

This is an event to connect with Nature, be inspired and have fun together!

For more information on this new event please visit www.facebook.com/events/239556003388919/

Kai Frueh

SAVE THE DATE:

Olympic Birdfest, April 12-14, 2019

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker is John Marzluff, professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington and author. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 9-11, 2019 or extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 14-16, 2019: three days exploring northwest coastal Washington. To learn more and register, visit www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Marion Rutledge, Olympic Peninsula Audubon

Corvallis CBC to be Dec 18th

This Corvallis Christmas Bird Count will be held on Tuesday, December 18th, 2018. 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 6-8 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 most 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 more information, I will be happy to hear from you. My contact information is at the back of the Chat or on-line at the ASC website.

Marcia F. Cutler

Field Notes

09/28/18-10/25/18

Despite a bit of rain in September, weather was mostly sunny and dry. In mid-October early morning temperatures dipped down to 34 F in Corvallis and pockets of the Coast Range saw light frost, but most areas on the valley floor remained frost-free through the end of the period. The mostly clear weather following a dry summer produced a fine display of fall colors, as native maples, oaks and ash turned shades of orange, brown, and yellow while vine maples and poison-oak added splashes of scarlet and purple.

A few dragonflies and butterflies were seen through the end of the period. On the evening of 28 Sep, Jim Fairchild watched twenty-some **Golden Hairstreak** butterflies chase each other around a chinquapin grove sw. of Philomath.

While September marks the start of autumn, October is when we see a clear transition from summer to winter birds. Most "neotropical" migrants – birds that winter in the tropical region of the Americas but migrate north to nest – have now departed for warmer places. Meanwhile more hardy migrants from the boreal and arctic regions are arriving, taking their places alongside of year-round residents.

Thank you for the comments and suggestions on the new field notes structure! For next month please post observations to the Mid-Valley birding list at midvalleybirding.org, e-mail them to me at joel.geier@peak.org, call (541) 745-5821 or send by post to 38566 Hwy 99W Corvallis 97330 by 22 Nov.

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. Teloh-Calapooia Park is in south Albany near

Linn-Benton Community College. Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR.

Conservation focus: Wintering raptors

Each winter the mid-Willamette Valley hosts many birds of prey, including eagles, hawks, and related birds as well as owls and falcons, collectively referred to as raptors. Many of these raptors are drawn to food resources in open farmland where grass seed is a major crop.

The largest, **Bald Eagles**, have become a common sight as this species continues to recover from the circumstances that led to its listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1978. Following the ban on the insecticide DDT, which impacted egg viability, and protections from nest-site disturbance and other harassment, numbers have rebounded. Sheep flocks – many of them trucked in from Idaho and Montana for winter grazing – provide a ready food supply as sheep occasionally die of illness over the winter. During lambing season, eagles also scavenge placentas and lambs, usually (but not always) waiting for sick or weak lambs to die.

Northern Harriers, White-tailed Kites, Red-tailed Hawks, Barn Owls, Short-eared Owls and American Kestrels depend on smaller fare, especially rodents, for their winter food supply.

Rough-legged Hawks in particular specialize in hunting voles (“field mice”) while wintering in our area, as the closest approximation to the lemmings that sustain them on their Arctic nesting grounds. This petite-billed, lanky buteo can be recognized at a distance by its tendency to hover over open grassland while watching for voles. One early fall arrival in our area was along Airport Rd. south of Corvallis 5 Oct (Jenny Swanson).

The most abundant vole in our region, the **Gray-tailed Vole** (*Microtus canicaudus*) is endemic to Willamette Valley prairies. Young voles can breed by the age of one month and females produce an average of five young after a gestation period of just three weeks. In the absence of predation, densities can reach 250 voles per acre, at which point they become susceptible to disease epidemics that would result in population “busts.”

During “boom” stages of their population cycle, voles may impact crop yields by eating plants and seeds, and by damaging roots with their extensive tunnels. Farmers sometimes try to control vole populations by use of poisons, including zinc phosphide pellets which are also toxic to birds if consumed directly.

A study by Jerry Wolff and colleagues (published in *Northwest Science* Vol. 70, No. 4, 1996) indicated that vole populations in our area are limited by three main factors: fragmentation of native or otherwise perennial grassland, predation, and seasonal flooding.

Habitat fragmentation is increasing with current agricultural trends. In five years from 2007 to 2012, roughly one out of every four acres of land with perennial grass seed crops in the mid-Willamette Valley was converted to other crops (mainly wheat or other annual grasses). That trend is continuing, along with an increase in conversions of grass fields to nut orchards which may still host voles, but are less suitable for open-country raptors.

As perennial grass acreage dwindles, raptors may concentrate in the remaining fields where voles are still abundant. On 23 Oct Richard F. Hoyer counted 54 large buteos (mainly immature **Red-tailed Hawks** but at least one **Rough-**

legged Hawk) in a fields within a few miles southwest of Tangent. He speculated that they would disperse as vole numbers diminished. Tom Gilg and Delores Porch also noted good numbers of buteos, harriers, and kestrels in the area. Raptor concentrations such as this can be good places to check for raptors that are more rare in our area.

Unplowed native prairies can also host voles in abundance. This month one to two **White-tailed Kites** were regularly seen hunting over the North Prairie, one of the best remaining examples of native prairie in our region.

Voies also use perennial grasses along airport runways, leading to a collision hazard between aircraft and raptors attracted by this source of prey. On 14 Oct Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer saw a **Red-tailed Hawk** just north of Monmouth that had red tags on the leading edge of its wings. In the Willamette Valley, hawks thus marked are usually birds that were trapped and relocated from Portland International Airport.

More raptor rapture

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** hunted around Marys River Estates regularly through 8 Oct (Carol Savonen). This relatively small, woodland buteo regularly hunts small birds in addition to other prey.

Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** soared on thermals and called at Chip Ross Natural Area 9 Oct (Chris Dunfield). During a Neighborhood Naturalist field trip there 21 Oct, raptors riding the thermals included what may have been the same two **Red-shouldered Hawks**, plus a **Northern Harrier**, two **Red-tailed Hawks** and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**.

A **Peregrine Falcon** flew over sw. Corvallis 17 Oct (Don Boucher), perhaps headed for waterfowl flocks in the Philomath area.

Fall feasts and frolics

Usually we don't think of ducks as “flycatchers” but on 28 Sep several **Wood Ducks** on a wetland north of Baskett Slough NWR spent 15-20 minutes swimming around in a swarm of small flies, picking them out of the air (Frank Kolwicz).

California Scrub-Jays were busy storing acorns from a very heavy crop at Luckiamute State Natural Area 6 Oct.

Large migrant flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** were conspicuous in early October. More than 100 waxwings visited Douglas-firs in the Teloh-Calapooia neighborhood 5 Oct (Jim Smith). Several dozen fed on chokecherries at Luckiamute State Natural Area 6 Oct (LWC field trip).

At Chip Ross Natural Area 21 Oct, a Neighborhood Naturalist field trip watched **American Robins** and **Cedar Waxwings** feast on berries of the the introduced English hawthorn berries. **Black-capped Chickadees** and **Western Bluebirds** dined on fruits of poison-oak, while twenty **Band-tailed Pigeons** gorged on Pacific madrone. **Acorn Woodpeckers** were also active there, storing acorns for winter use.

On 24 Oct **Horned Larks** and **Western Bluebirds** bathed in a pond at Raindance Ranch near Alpine, where Laurie and Warren Halsey have worked for years to restore prairie and oak savanna habitat.

Breeding behavior

Pairs of **Great Horned Owls** continued to call through the

period. On 23 Oct Warren Halsey encountered a **Barred Owl** in a forested area of Raindance Ranch. The owl “greeted” him and stayed close, perhaps indicating that it was on territory. During breeding season which starts in late winter, these eastern relatives of Spotted Owls can defend their territories aggressively, as joggers in Bush’s Pasture Park in Salem learned in recent years.

Autumn dawdlers and departures

A female **Blue-winged Teal** was at the Philomath STP 7-18 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn; Kaplan Yalcin).

The last report of a large **Vaux’s Swift** flock in the Willamette Valley was a flock of 821 roosting in Agate Hall in Eugene 5 Oct (Larry Schwitters). We can look forward to their return next April!

A few **Turkey Vultures** were still soaring over Corvallis 10 Oct (Don Boucher). As mild winters have become more common, vultures can now be seen occasionally in any month of the year, but most still head south to warmer climates.

A few migrant **Barn Swallows** and **Violet-green Swallows** continued in the area through mid-Oct. Late **Warbling Vireos** were at Willamette Park 28 and 30 Sep (Duncan Evered).

Nocturnal calls of **Swainson’s Thrushes** were audible early on 2 Oct (Caleb Centanni). A late migrant was captured at a banding station there 14 Oct (Josee Rousseau), and an even later migrant called in Corvallis 23 Oct (Caleb Centanni).

A mixed flock of songbirds in the valley ponderosa pine plantings in the north unit of Luckiamute State Natural Area 11 Oct included one or two late **Black-throated Gray Warblers**. On 21 Oct Lisa Millbank and Don Boucher found an **Orange-crowned Warbler** along a foot path near Good Samaritan Hospital in NW Corvallis. A few of these small, drab warblers winter in our region but most head south by the end of October.

Passersby

A female **Surf Scoter** that dropped by the Philomath STP 7 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn) and a **Pacific Loon** on Clear Lake in the Cascades 4 Oct (Claire Weiser) likely were en route from their breeding range in the high Arctic toward the Pacific Coast, where many winter just offshore. An apparent **Ross’s Goose** swimming on Foster Reservoir 21 Oct (Tom Gilg) may have strayed west on its route toward California’s Central Valley where many thousands winter.

A flock of **Sandhill Cranes** called as they flew south, high above the western foothills of the Cascades 13 Oct; 16 more flew south over Silverton 20 Oct (Roger Freeman). On 23 Oct a lone **Sandhill Crane** was along Hwy 99E just s. of Tangent where one lingered late into fall two years ago (Delores Porch).

A hundred **American White Pelicans** flew south over Albany 12 Oct (Tristen Hynes). Pelican flocks have become a nearly year-round presence at Fern Ridge Reservoir. Occasionally they fly north to take a tour over our area, showing up at one of the mid-valley NWRs where they may stay for a few days at a time, depending on the food supply.

As a sign of more local movements, a **Pileated Woodpecker** dropped by Paul Jacobsen’s yard along Oak Creek w. of Corvallis 29 Sep, for the first time this year; **Black-capped Chickadees** and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** also made seasonal appearances.

Arrivals of wintering birds

Diving ducks on the Philomath STP 5 Oct included a **Canvasback**, a female **Greater Scaup**, and five **Buffleheads**; a male **Redhead** and a **Double-crested Cormorant** were also there 7 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn).

A “**Harlan’s**” **Red-tailed Hawk** turned up on 28 Nov at Mike and Karen Lippsmeyer’s farm s. of Independence, likely the same bird that has wintered there in several recent years.

A **Say’s Phoebe** visited our yard near E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area 13 Oct, hawking flies around our garden. This eastern-Oregon species mainly migrates south, but a few winter in the Willamette Valley.

A **Northern Shrike** was near Baskett Slough NWR 17 Oct (Brandon Wagner).

A **Varied Thrush** sang in early-morning fog at Baskett Slough NWR 21 Oct (LWC field trip). This species nests in the nearby Coast Range but often moves down-slope in fall.

Townsend’s Warblers continued to show up, with one in the Witham Hill area 2 Oct (Linda Hadfield).

The typical assortment of wintering sparrows including “**Sooty**” **Fox Sparrows**, **Lincoln’s Sparrows**, **Song Sparrows**, **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, and **Dark-eyed Juncos** were all present at Luckiamute State Natural Area 6 Oct. A **White-throated Sparrow** turned up near Teloh-Calapooia Park 6 Oct (Jim Smith).

Western Meadowlark sightings became more common by mid-Oct, as migrants from east of the Cascades began to show up alongside of the small population that still nests in the Willamette Valley.

Rare or off-course birds and other surprises

An **American Avocet** at Cabell Marsh since 19 Sep continued there through 2 Oct. A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was seen and photographed there 30 Sep (Howard Bruner), continuing through 2 Oct.

A **Palm Warbler** turned up in the motor pool area on the west side of the OSU campus 30 Sep (Nolan Clements, Caleb Centanni) and continued through 4 Oct. On 3 Oct it wandered over to visit the parking lot of the Environmental Protection Agency research building (Randy Comeleo).

Palm Warblers are sparse but regular migrants to the southern Oregon coast where a small population winters, but they’ve only rarely been seen as stopovers in the mid-valley area. So it was surprising when a different **Palm Warbler** was seen at the Philomath STP 13-20 Oct, then another turned on a gravel bar near the boat ramp in Willamette Park 16 Oct and again 23 Oct (Duncan Evered), and yet another turned up in the Dunawi Creek Community Garden 24 Oct (Don Boucher). During this same period more than a dozen Palm Warblers were reported from coastal Oregon locations. It seems likely that the multiple sightings in Corvallis were fallout from a stronger-than-usual flux of migrants to the coast.

A well-described **Blackpoll Warbler** turned up in the Witham Hill neighborhood in NW Corvallis 24 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn), apparently a different bird from the more drab first-fall bird seen in Willamette Park last month.

A female **Dickcissel** turned up in brambles along the edge of the Philomath STP 17 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn), and continued to be seen there through the end of the period, frequently coming to birdseed scattered there.

A male **Cassin’s Finch** visited Willamette Park 24 Oct (Duncan Evered). This species, a close relative of Purple Finch,

occasionally shows up in small numbers on Marys Peak and other Coast Range peaks during migration, but sightings on the valley floor are rare.

A **Red Fox** hunted in wetlands at Baskett Slough NWR 20 Oct (Rana Foster).

Natural areas

The montane meadows atop **Marys Peak** are a virtual "island" of habitat for migrant birds seeking open habitat amid coast-range forests. In October and November, a visit to the peak can yield encounters with alpine- or arctic-nesting birds such as American Pipits. The subalpine structure of the meadow and forests with isolated stands of Noble fir can also draw forest species more typically associated with the east slope of the Cascades, such as Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, or Cassin's Finch. Encounters with Sooty Grouse, Mountain Quail, Northern Pygmy-Owls, or Spotted Owls are possible year-round.

Canada Jays (called Gray Jays in some bird guides) are resident on the peak. Seven were near the upper parking area 6 Oct (Evan Centanni). On 4 Oct eight **Common Ravens** cavorted over the peak and **Evening Grosbeaks** called from the forest, and grasshoppers were abundant in the meadows (Rana Foster).

On 22 Oct Lars Norgren flushed five puzzling, light-colored birds near the summit. From his description these may have been **Horned Larks** from one of the lighter, migratory subspecies that nest in the arctic and can show up in our area in winter.

A female **Snow Bunting** was near the top of Marys Peak 22-24 Oct, along the road to the communications towers (Chuck Philo; Bruce Pratt, Andrew Pratt; Kaplan Yalcin). Later in the coming month may be a good time to look for Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in the same area.

Board Meeting Summary

Summary of October, 2018 Board Meeting

1. The Final 2018-19 Budget was approved unanimously.
2. The Frueh siblings are organizing A Day of Birds on November 11th.
3. The Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for December 18th.
4. Education Committee is already busy organizing the Winter Wildlife Day at Finley Refuge. Date is set for March 9th; theme is "Nature's Predators," featuring a red-tailed hawk logo.
5. Several Board members attended the semi-annual Oregon Audubon Chapter meeting. Conservation issues were discussed and prioritized.
6. The Board discussed plans to assist young birders.
7. The new trail dedicated to the late Amy Schoener, which connects Fitton Green Trails to the Cardwell Hill & Crestmont Land Trust trail systems, will be walkable by mid-November.

The next Board meeting will be held on Nov. 8th at Mark Baldwin's house, 1700 NW Hawthorne Place at 7 pm. 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!

Tom & Cathy Heath

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.

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, Ray Drapek, Valerie & Dale Mitchell, Kai Frueh, Marcia Cutler, and Marion Rutledge

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

Nov 4	Hesthavn Barn and yard work party, 10-2
Nov 8	Board meeting, 7 pm at Mark Baldwin's
Nov 10	Half Day Field Trip to Ankeny NWR
Nov 11	Day of Birds, 10-4 at 1470 SE Alexander
Nov 15	ASC General Members Meeting, 7 pm
Nov 18	Hesthavn Work Party, 10-2
Nov 18	Hesthavn Fall Ed Program, 1-3 pm
Nov 22	Field Notes submissions due
Nov 23	Stories due for December CHAT issue
Dec 2	Hesthavn Barn and yard work party, 10-2
Dec 8	Field Trip to Finley NWR and Philomath STP
Dec 18	Corvallis Christmas Bird Count

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

Officers

President	Bill Proebsting	proebstw@gmail.com	541-752-0108
Vice President	Mark Baldwin	mark.baldwin2@comcast.net	541-757-0834
Secretary	Linda Campbell	lcampbell@peak.org	541-929-9420
Treasurer	Fred Ramsey	framsey5@comcast.net	541-753-3677

Board Members

Dave Mellinger	dmell3.14159@gmail.com	
Gail Nickerson	gbnickerson@comcast.net	541-754-0406
Gabriel Sandoval	sandovga@oregonstate.edu	
Valerie Mitchell	valchuckwalla@yahoo.com	
Laura Morrison		
Karan Fairchild	alderspr@peak.org	541-929-4049

Committee Chairs

Membership Chair/Corvallis Sustainability		
Coalition Representative	Suzanne Ortiz	ortizsv@gmail.com
Conservation Chair	Open	
Field Trip Chair	Bill Proebsting	proebstw@gmail.com
Christmas Bird Count	Marcia Cutler	marciafcutler@comcast.net
Birdathon Coordinator	Karan Fairchild	alderspr@peak.org
Historian	Marcia Cutler	marciafcutler@comcast.net
Hesthavn Chair	Ray Drapek	raydrapek@gmail.com
Publicity Chair	Jim Philipson	parrphil@comcast.net
Sales Table Chair	Sally Shaw	shaws@peak.org
Refreshment Chair	Becky Garrett	becky.bittern@yahoo.com
Bluebird Trail Chair	Raylene Gordin	gordin@centurytel.net
Webmaster	Tom Haig	tomhaig@hotmail.com
Chat Newsletter Editor	Teri Engbring	chateditors@gmail.com
Field Notes Compiler	Joel Geier	joel.geier@peak.org

Education Team

Volunteer Support	Teri Engbring	engbring@hotmail.com
-------------------------	---------------------	--



Audubon.Corvallis.or.us

Find us on 
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.

Printed on Recycled Paper