



# THE CHAT

JANUARY 2019

VOL. 48 #5

## ASC General Meeting

**Thurs, Jan. 17th, 2018, 6:30-8:30 pm**  
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis

### January 17 Program **Wolves, the World's Wildlife, and a Warning to Humanity**

Dr. William J. Ripple will present his work on how the far-reaching impacts of wolves are affecting the ecosystem in Yellowstone National Park. Ripple will illustrate how he transitioned from Yellowstone to other national parks in western North America and beyond to demonstrate both the benefits of wild large predators and the costs of their demise. He will also discuss the conservation status and trends of the world's large vertebrate wildlife.

He will disclose how his conservation research and general concern about the global environment and climate change led him to publish the letter "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice." As a check-up for the planet, this letter has reached millions of people and is one of the most widely discussed and endorsed scientific articles of recent times. His talk will be full of illustrated stories about his 20-year journey from doing ecological research to being an advocate for science and the environment. He will provide suggestions for sustainability on planet Earth.

Bill is a distinguished professor of ecology in the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society at Oregon State University where he serves as the Director of the Global Trophic Cascades Program where he studies the ecological effects of large predators. His latest research involves studying the conservation of all vertebrate wildlife, especially megafauna (large carnivores and herbivores) around the world. To continue with the global environmental concerns of the Scientists' Warning, he has recently formed and now manages the "Alliance of World Scientists" which includes more than 14,000 scientists from many different countries.

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.

### Future 2019 monthly programs:

**February 21 - Tyler Hallman** - Study of historic & present bird populations and habitat changes

**March 21 - Bill Proebsting** - Birding in Colombia or Australia



*Bill Ripple*

## ASC General Meetings

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

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**April 18 - William Sullivan** - New Hikes in the Oregon Cascades by this popular local author

**May 16 - Matt Lee & Sue Powell** - Birding in Costa Rica

NOTE: Because we were unable to identify a venue for displaying the 2018 Audubon Photography Award Winners, we decided to cancel this year's show and try to find an appropriate venue for next year to display these world class photos more than one day.

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

## President's Corner

### Willamette Valley Bird Symposium Recommended

The 5th Annual Willamette Valley Birding Symposium will be held at Oregon State University's CH2M Hill Alumni Center on January 19. If you have not attended in previous years, I urge readers to try it out.

WVBS is put on by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and showcases the concentration of ornithological research at OSU. The work is presented for a general, keen audience. Easy and enjoyable to comprehend.



*Kenn Kaufman*

A keynote address starts the day's program. This year's speaker is Kenn Kaufman, renowned American birder and author. Best known of his books are the Kaufman Field Guide series and his memoir 'Kingbird Highway.' The memoir is about his early years birding and doing one of the first big years. It is a wonderful story that in itself merits a strong recommendation. I'm sure his talk will be excellent.

ASC sponsors WVBS at the 'Dusky Grouse' level, and this year is paying for all registrants in grades 7-12. That we can do this is thanks to our own generous donors. All the more reason to come down and experience this uniquely Corvallis event.

The WVBS will almost certainly sell out. Pre-registration closes January 4, so don't put it off. On-line registration is easy and convenient. See you there.

*Bill Proebsting, Chapter President*

## Education News

Our talented and dedicated ASC education team has lost a shining star and treasured friend, Valerie Mitchell, who died in California on Christmas Day of a sudden and unexpected stroke. We are all in shock.

Valerie, a retired science teacher, has been a key volunteer, capably designing and warmly delivering dozens of education programs and activities over the last two years. Her patience, knowledge, experience,

## 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](mailto: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.

### Next Field Trips:

**January 12. Newport.** Full-day trip from Boiler Bay to the south jetty and Newport Bay. Those wishing to travel independently should meet us at Boiler Bay around 8:45 to 9 am. We will be returning to Corvallis mid- to late-afternoon. Bring lunch.

**February 9. Cheadle Lake,** Lebanon

### Weekend Field Trips:

In past years, ASC has offered weekend field trips to the far reaches of Oregon. On these trips, we have had the good fortune of having experienced volunteer

drivers of rented vans. We have arranged lodging, and arranged most meals, in addition to guiding in the field. 2019 will be a little different. We can still arrange for vans, for lodging, and for meals, but we need some new volunteers for driving the vans.

### A tentative schedule of field trips is:

South Coast	March 15-17
Klamath Basin	April 12-14
Rogue Valley	<b>April 26-28</b>
Malheur NWR	<b>May 17-20</b> (ASC's 50th Malheur trip)
Summer Lake	June 14-16
Wallowas	July 18-22
Steens Mountain	August 15-18
Shorebird Search	August 23-25

*Bold face dates are already fixed, but the others are tentative and negotiable.*

If you can volunteer as a driver on any of these trips - or wish to add your own - send an email to [flramsey5@comcast.net](mailto:flramsey5@comcast.net) with your choice of trips, or sign up at the field trip table during a 2019 ASC membership meeting (third Thursday of each month).

*Bill Proebsting, Chapter President*



enthusiasm, generosity and reliability were just what we needed, and she leaves a huge hole in our hearts.

She had also joined the Audubon Board in August and will be sorely missed there as well. We are all deeply saddened by this tragic loss and our hearts go out to her beloved life partner, Dale, whose creativity and artistic talents blended so well with her curriculum expertise in enriching our program efforts.

On a brighter note, please don't forget to hold March 9 for the 2019 Winter Wildlife Field Day at Finley NWR from 11-3. More info coming next month.

*Teri Engbring, Education Team*

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## Hesthavn News

### New Plantings by the Nature Center



*Native plant garden at Hesthavn, photo by Ray Drapek*

We are pleased to announce the installation of a new native plant garden next to the center at Hesthavn. This is, as of yet, a work in progress. More plants will be installed and we will be learning as we go along to see what plants make it in that environment. For years the native plant garden next to the Hesthavn center was maintained by Susan Brown and Becky Garrett. Both have had to move on to other things and for the last couple of years the garden has fallen on hard times. Julie Gibson has been working to keep the weeds in check, but that was in addition to her considerable restoration efforts on the rest of the property. Members of the Hesthavn committee started talking about installing a new garden, the goal being to make this new garden aesthetically pleasing but requiring minimal maintenance.

The maple tree growing over the garden has always been a challenge. It shades the garden and sucks much of the moisture out of the ground. Recent drought years have been hard on the maple and it is not clear whether it will survive much longer. This made garden planning even more complicated. If the maple dies the garden plants will have to survive in a very differ-

ent environment. We could have removed the maple which would have simplified garden planning, but instead we chose to keep it on the premise that we are ... after all ... an Audubon nature center and snags make great habitat. If/when the maple dies we will try to make the necessary adjustments to our garden flora.

We worked with Shonnard's Nursery to draw up a plan for the new garden. They installed some decorative rock-work in October and since then Julie has been working with them on planting. The garden is starting to look very nice already and it will only get better with time. We do hope to somehow provide nature center visitors information on what plants they are seeing in the garden and are exploring ways to do this without detracting from the aesthetics of the garden. Many thanks to Julie Gibson and Ann Brodie who led the charge for this effort. Many thanks as well to Susan Brown and Becky Garret for their years of work on the old garden.

### Please Join Our HH Work Parties

I'm going to try to have work parties on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and the time will usually be from 10 am to 2 pm. But stay tuned, situations change from month to month and I cannot guarantee that this will always be the case. Dates and times of the work parties can also be found at the Audubon Society of Corvallis website on the calendar.

### This month's work party dates are:

**Sunday, Jan. 13**, 10 am to 2 pm. Barn and Yard work party

**Sunday, Jan 27**, 10 am to 2 pm. Weed work party. Blackberries

*Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair*

### HH Family programs on hold

The Jan. 20th Animals in Winter program at Hesthavn has been canceled due to the tragic and sudden death on Christmas Day of our dear friend and the Nature Center's ed. program director Valerie Mitchell. She and husband Dale had developed a popular series of monthly classes at Hesthavn over the last year. We hope to continue this monthly interactive family friendly program for her soon, but not this month.

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### Rainbows Herald Successful Corvallis CBC

The Corvallis Christmas Bird Count was held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018. After heavy overnight rains, it started clearing up around 9:30 and the remainder of the day was mostly pleasant and mild with numerous rainbows. The main impact of the rains was probably on owling, with misses of Western Screech-Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl.

There were 17 field teams with 49 participants and 10 feeder and local neighborhood walkers. The species

total of 127 birds is a bit above average. Several rarities continued through to the count including: TUNDRA BEAN-GOOSE and BRANT at Finley NWR and TRICOLOR BLACKBIRDS at the Philomath Sewage Ponds.

### Other good birds include:

PACIFIC LOON (an off-course bird landed in a flooded field (private property) at deepest dusk, hopefully it left before the flood field got too shallow)  
REDHEAD (Philomath SP)  
GOLDEN EAGLE  
GREATER YELLOWLEGS  
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER  
WESTERN GULL  
TURKEY VULTURE  
TREE SWALLOWS (Snagboat Bend)  
SAY'S PHOEBE (Boardwalk at Mary's River Natural Area, Corvallis)  
LAPLAND LONGSPUR (private property, no access)  
SWAMP SPARROW  
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD  
Mountain Quail was a count week bird. Other misses included Snow Goose and Pine Siskin.

Individual counts of species have not been finalized yet, but Wild Turkey sightings were numerous. The old high count of 146 will be easily shattered as the preliminary total is 275 and I am still waiting for numbers from one more team.

*Marcia F. Cutler, CBC Coordinator*

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## Community Notes

### Airlie-Albany CBC

Want to help out with the Airlie-Albany CBC this year? It's on Saturday, January 5. The count circle extends from about Crescent Valley High School north almost to Monmouth, westward to Airlie and eastward to Albany. Anyone who lives in that area and has a bird feeder, or wants to spend that day looking for birds with another participant, should contact me for details at [adamus7@comcast.net](mailto:adamus7@comcast.net) or phone 541-231-3095. Thanks,

*Paul Adamus*

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## Field Notes

### 11/23/18-12/27/18

After a mild and rainy close to November, colder weather moved in for the first week of December, with morning temperatures dipping into the low 20s F 5-7 Dec before rainy but warmer weather returned. A "pineapple express" warm front brought wind and nearly two inches of rain, but also temperatures up to 57 F for the Corvallis Christmas Bird

Count (CBC) on 18 Dec. Mild temperatures prevailed for the rest of the period, with daily highs in the 40s and 50s F, and only a few nights below freezing.

The warmer temperatures by 21 Dec prompted a few **Pacific Chorus Frogs** to start "singing" in north Corvallis, and **Snow Queen** began to bloom by the end of the period (Don Boucher).

**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, Talking Water Gardens is in NE Albany. Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR.

### Conservation focus: Barred Owl expansion

Barred Owls are native to forests and woodlands of eastern North America. As predators they are "generalists," feeding on mammals, birds, snakes, amphibians, crayfish, and smaller arthropods. Over the last two centuries they expanded their range westward across the continent, and came into competition with a closely related species, the Spotted Owl.

In contrast to the Barred Owl, the northern subspecies of Spotted Owl native to the Pacific Northwest is a "specialist," feeding mainly on forest mammals such as flying squirrels and tree voles. This specialization brought the Northern Spotted Owl to national attention in the 1980s as an "indicator species" for old-growth forest ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. As these ecosystems became fragmented by logging, Northern Spotted Owl numbers dropped and they were federally listed as "Threatened" in 1991.

Being larger and more aggressive, Barred Owls have displaced Spotted Owls in some areas. Even where Spotted Owls remain, they may fail to nest when Barred Owls are present. Hybridization between the species poses a further threat to the genetic persistence of Spotted Owls.

Popular media accounts often suggest that the westward expansion of Barred Owls was a "natural" event since these owls crossed the continent of their own volition. However research suggests that European-American settlers facilitated this expansion. An analysis of historical records by Kent B. Livezey (published in *The American Midland Naturalist* in 2009) concluded that suppression of prairie fires, planting of trees, and overhunting of bison, elk, and deer led to an increase in forests along the Missouri River and its tributaries, which then provided corridors for Barred Owls to move west. The Timber Culture Act of 1873, which granted 160 acres to prairie settlers on condition that they plant 40 acres with trees, formed a wider patchwork of woodlots that Barred Owls could exploit. By 1909 they had reached the older forests of western Montana, and fanned out westward from there.

The first recorded sightings of Barred Owls in western Oregon were near Mt. Hood in 1979. In our area, one was recorded by Bureau of Land Management staff along Ritner

Creek near Pedee in 1985. A pair turned up along the Mill Hill Loop at Finley in May of 1993. Barred Owls were recorded on the Corvallis CBC in December 1996 and have since become a regularly expected species.

While their invasion of Spotted Owl habitat in Northwest forests has generated most attention from the media, Barred Owls have also quickly become one of the most common owl species in more settled parts of our area. Judging from field notes reports, they're second only to Great Horned Owls in terms of being noticed. During this period, on 23 Nov Virginia Pear found one roosting in a maple in an apartment complex near the Timberhill shopping center in NW Corvallis, after she heard crows and jays making a commotion. Barred Owls also turn up often as road-kills: Martha Geier spotted one along Hwy 99W near Sarah Helmick State Park on 10 Dec, and on 21 Dec Richard Hoyer found another dead along Van Buren St. in downtown Corvallis, just north of the library. On 26 Dec Mike Lippsmeyer found a dead Barred Owl in the I-5 median near State Street in the middle of Salem.

For conservationists, this situation should raise doubts about the efficacy of proposals to protect Spotted Owls by shooting Barred Owls. The large population of Barred Owls throughout the region provides a ready supply to fill any momentary gap created by such tactics. Worse, these stopgap schemes may divert attention and resources from the need to protect and expand blocks of older forests with relatively intact ecosystems, where Spotted Owls still have a chance to compete. In the public discussion, this also deflects from seeing Spotted Owls as an indicator for the unique, complex ecosystem of old-growth forests.

Barred Owls also impact smaller owls in other types of habitat in our region, both as a competitor and by direct predation. Reports of Western Screech-Owls from residential neighborhoods in Corvallis have declined over the past two decades, apart from the Willamette Park and Bald Hill/Oak Creek neighborhoods. Emergence of this new threat to screech-owls, along with other threats such as use of rodenticides, increases the importance of protecting key habitat features such as older trees with cavities.

### Seasonal observations: Settling in for winter

"Enormous numbers" of **Mallards** and **Northern Pintails** and over 120 **Tundra Swans** were on McFadden Marsh 1 Dec (Alan Contreras; Vjera Thompson). Large flocks of Tundra Swans were also being seen regularly in their usual winter location just west of Halsey by 6 Dec (Delores Porch). Up to four **Trumpeter Swans** were reported from Finley occasionally during the period, but there were no reports this month of more significant numbers. The Airlie-Maple Grove area of s. Polk Co., where dozens of Trumpeters have wintered in recent decades, yielded no reports after mid-November.

More than 20 **Snow Geese** and two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at Finley NWR 1 Dec (Alan Contreras); a flock of Snow Geese near Halsey 6 Dec (Craig Tumer) may have been the same flock on a day trip across the river.

Eight **American Wigeon** showed up at Starker Arts Park in SW Corvallis by 26 Nov; 14 were joined by an apparent hy-

brid **Eurasian x American Wigeon** there 13 Dec, and a male and female **Hooded Merganser** swam there 21 Dec (Don Boucher). During the second half of Dec up to five **Eurasian Wigeon** and about ten **Cinnamon Teal** were at Talking Water Gardens; Kaplan Yalcin notes that no Eurasian Wigeon have shown up at Grand Prairie Park which was formerly the most reliable wintering site for this species in our area.

At least 24 **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were below the Foster Dam in Sweet Home while a **Clark's Grebe**, 11 **Western Grebes**, and seven more grebes too distant to identify to species were on Foster Reservoir 24 Nov (Tom Gilg). The area below the dam is one of the most reliable local places to see Barrow's Goldeneyes in winter, and the reservoir often draws view deep-water birds such as grebes and loons during migration and through the winter.

Two dozen **Great Egrets** were at Baskett Slough 25 Nov. Up to eleven hunted fields near the OSU dairy 16-18 Dec (Dave Mellinger; Randy Comeleo). On 13 Dec a **Sora** and two **Virginia Rails** were at Talking Water Gardens (Nancy Stotz); this has become a regular site for rails in winter, likely due to the influx of warm, treated water.

A raptor survey in southern Polk Co. 25 Nov found six **Northern Harriers**, 66 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **Rough-legged Hawk**, and 53 **American Kestrels** along a 77-mile zigzag route (Ray Temple, Stephanie Hazen). No **White-tailed Kites** were found along the route; the surveyors noted that areas along Tartar Rd. which have hosted kites in past years had been cleared of brush. However at least one **kite** continued to be seen at the North Prairie (Jenny Swanson; Marge Popp).

**Bald Eagle** numbers were increasing along McLagan Dr. sw. of Tangent by 6 Dec (Delores Porch). On the evening of 13 Dec, Mary Garrard saw 31 using the seasonal eagle roost in that area. One nabbed a **Cackling Goose** that was slow to take flight from McFadden Marsh 15 Dec (Kaplan Yalcin).

A muddy field se. of Halsey held more than 400 **Black-bellied Plovers** and 1200 **Dunlin** 16 Dec (Paul Adamus). About 500 **gulls** were along Hwy 99 just s. of Junction City 27 Dec (Rana Foster).

**Prairie Falcons** were seen occasionally in the mid-valley area, including one near Turner 4 Dec and one near Baskett Slough NWR 13 Dec (Roy Gerig). A **Peregrine Falcon** perched on a power pole east of Airlie 5 Dec (Olin Allen). A **Merlin** flew low over Kings Blvd and Van Buren in Corvallis 10 Dec (Richard Hoyer).

A **Short-eared Owl** was se. of Peoria 7 Dec (Hendrik Herlyn). Another hunted over a field sw. of Tangent 13 Dec (Mary Garrard). A **Long-eared Owl** flushed from the west end of Cardwell Hill Rd. near Wren 16 Dec (Hankyu Kim).

A **Burrowing Owl** north of Baskett Slough NWR 4 Dec (Jim Leonard) drew many observers in subsequent days. It was gone on 11 Dec, possibly due to disturbance by a road grader working near its day roost, but was refound later in the month (Roy Gerig).

A **Say's Phoebe** was nw. of Junction City 8 Dec (John Sullivan). Another was behind the Wilco store in n. Corvallis 24 Dec, and a **Black Phoebe** was also nearby along the railroad

tracks (Lisa Millbank).

Three **Northern Shrikes** were in the Baskett Slough area 13 Dec – two along Livermore Rd. n. of the refuge and one along Farmer Rd. to the east (Roy Gerig). A **Northern Mockingbird** was also reported on the north side of the refuge 27 Dec (Isaac Denzer, Kai Frueh).

A **Pacific Wren** turned up in Teloh-Calapooia Park 25 Nov, perhaps indicative of downslope movement from the Cascades and Coast range where most of the population nests. A few **Varied Thrushes** were also seen at low elevations this month, though only in modest numbers. Eighty **American Pipits** were along Old River Rd. sw. of Finley 1 Dec (Alan Contreras; Vjera Thompson).

A **Townsend's Warbler** worked its way through cedars and pines at Starker Arts Park 26 Nov (Don Boucher). Two more were at Tadena Landing Park in Albany 2 Dec (Paul Adamus). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** began to visit local suet feeders during the cold snap 3-4 Dec (Gary White; Judith & Jerry Paul). A flock of thirty fed on wax-myrtle berries in nw. Corvallis 23 Dec (Don Boucher).

This seems to be a good winter to find **Swamp Sparrows** in western Oregon. Local reports included one in the south unit of Luckiamute State Natural Area 10 Dec (Paul Adamus), one at Snag Boat Bend 15 Dec (Nancy Stotz), and one along the edge of a flooded cottonwood grove along the Calapooia River in se. Albany 24 Dec (Kaplan Yalcin).

The flock of **Western Meadowlarks** wintering on Mike & Karen Lippmeyer's farm s. of Independence swelled to 38 by 24 Nov. 20 to 25 **Horned Larks** were also using the area. A **Western Meadowlark** sang along Dreas Way s. of Junction City 27 Dec (Rana Foster). The blackbird flock at the Philomath STP still included at least one **Tricolored Blackbird** through 11 Dec (Nancy Stotz).

Wintering finch flocks seemed to be scarce. A lone **Evening Grosbeak** flew over ne. Corvallis 11 Dec, calling constantly (Lisa Millbank). There were no local reports of **Pine Siskin** flocks apart from a few groups of 2 or 3 birds.

### Close call

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** tried to catch an **Anna's Hummingbird** at Kaplan Yalcin's Albany feeder 7 Dec, missing the hummingbird on its initial attack, then pursuing it as both flew out of sight.

### Winter romance for night owls

Several pairs of **Great Horned Owls** and a pair of **Northern Pygmy-Owls** called in the Jackson Creek area of McDonald Forest and nearby areas of NW Corvallis 25 Dec. A female **Great Horned Owl** near the Owens Farm & Natural Area made begging calls, perhaps hoping for her mate to bring her a meal in the run-up to nesting season (Lisa Millbank, Don Boucher).

### Rare or off-course birds

A **Brant** continued to be seen near McFadden Marsh through the period. In mid-November visiting ornithologists from Finland noticed a **Tundra Bean-Goose** in the

same area, and had mentioned it to Portland-area birders. On 25 Nov Sylvia Maulding spotted and photographed this Eurasian goose, only the second to be recorded in Oregon. Jamie Simmons noted that the bird appeared to be missing one foot, and hobbled on what was left of its leg. Despite this handicap it continued to be seen at least through the Corvallis CBC.

A female **American Redstart** showed up in Dave Budeau's yard near Turner 29-30 Nov and again on 5 Dec. A **Palm Warbler** was seen again on the west side of the OSU campus 26 Nov (Evan Smouse), in the same area where one was seen this fall

Two well-described **Common Redpolls** visited Willamette Park 1 Dec (Duncan Evered). A **Snow Bunting** was se. of Peoria 7 Dec (Hendrik Herlyn). A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visited a feeder in NW Corvallis 27-28 Nov (Tom Turpin).

### Other surprises

A storm-blown **Pacific Loon** landed on a ponded field near the Corvallis Airport 18 Dec (Randy Moore).

**Turkey Vultures** made occasional appearances throughout the period, with multiple local sightings 25 Nov through 2 Dec, and again 14-23 Dec.

An unusual **Dark-sided Junco** with a mostly white head showed up in Robert Heald's NW Albany yard on 24 Dec. A **"Slate-colored" Junco** (the boreal/eastern-nesting subspecies of junco) visited a feeder near Teloh-Calapooia Park 6 Dec (Jim Smith).

A **Banded Argiope** (orb spider) was still on her web with an egg sac on 9 Dec, despite several nights of temperatures below 28 F (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank).

### Natural areas: Federal shutdown

Among our most important natural areas are our national public lands, including the mid-valley National Wildlife Refuges (Ankeny, Baskett Slough, and Finley NWR), Siuslaw National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management lands in the Coast Range: As this column went to press, all of the federal employees responsible for managing habitat on those lands were either furloughed or working without pay, due to a government shutdown. The main sticking point holding up agreement is a plan for a wall that, ironically, would damage other natural areas and disrupt ecosystems along our country's border with Mexico.

Some parts of the refuge system including visitor centers and the Snag Boat Bend annex of Finley NWR will remain closed during the shutdown. Restrooms and other facilities requiring maintenance may be locked. National Forest recreational areas such as on Marys Peak may also be affected.

While you're enjoying nature on federal lands that remain open to the public during the shutdown, please do your part to protect the resources, and report any incidents of vandalism or criminal activity to state or local law enforcement. Please also show support for furloughed federal workers and their families as this crisis wears on.

## Next month

Watch for more northern sparrows, finches, and raptors continuing to move south, and early stages of nesting behavior by hawks and owls. Please post your observations

to the Mid-Valley birding list at [midvalleybirding.org](http://midvalleybirding.org), e-mail them to me at [joel.geier@peak.org](mailto:joel.geier@peak.org), send by post to 38566 Hwy 99W Corvallis 97330, or call (541) 745-5821 by 24 Jan.

## Board Meeting Summary

### Summary of December, 2018 Board Meeting

1. The Board approved a contribution to the Willamette Valley Birding Symposium in addition to underwriting student (grades 7 – 12) admissions.
2. A local display of National Audubon's twelve winning photos of 2018 was canceled, but plans are underway to provide a free public viewing of 2019 winners.
3. Fred Ramsey (Treasurer & Field Trip leader) and Suzanne Ortiz (Memberships & Sustainability Liaison) announced they will retire from their respective positions on the Board as of May 2019. The Board is extremely grateful for their service!

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on January 10th in the Natural Grocers meeting room, 1235 NW 10th St. in Corvallis.

*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

### Annual Appeal wrap-up

Thank you to all our members & friends for your generous donations and for renewing your memberships during the 2018 ASC Annual Appeal!

### Membership Volunteer(s) Needed

In addition to volunteer help needed for weekend field trips, ASC is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to assume responsibility for the membership committee. This involves processing renewals and new memberships, maintaining the ASC membership master list and handling correspondence. If your skill set includes working with databases or if you're interested in taking on a new project to help research online options for handling renewals, etc.,

please contact Suzanne Ortiz at [ortizsv@gmail.com](mailto: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 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 [listserv:alderspr@peak.org](mailto:listserv:alderspr@peak.org).

## Have You Changed Your Contact Information?

If you have moved or changed your email or mail address, please send your new contact information to Suzanne Ortiz at [ortizsv@gmail.com](mailto:ortizsv@gmail.com).

*Thank you for your generosity and support!  
Suzanne Ortiz, Membership Chair*

## Contributors to this Chat

Mark Baldwin, William Proebsting, Suzanne Ortiz, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Joel Geier, Don Boucher, Linda Campbell, Ray Drapek, Marcia Cutler, and Paul Adamus

## Chat Articles

The Chat editors, Teri Engbring and Naomi Weidner, welcome articles from all members of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. Please submit articles to the Chat editor by the fourth Thursday of the month. Submit text using Microsoft Word and photos to: [chateditors@gmail.com](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com).

## Audubon Society of Corvallis

## Calendar

Jan 5	Airlie-Albany Christmas Bird Count
Jan 10	Board meeting, 7 pm at Natural Grocers
Jan 12	Full-Day Field Trip to Boiler Bay & South Jetty, Newport
Jan 13	10-2 Hesthavn Work Party
Jan 17	ASC Monthly Members Meeting, 6:30
Jan 19	Willamette Valley Bird Symposium
Jan 24	Articles due for February 2019 CHAT
Jan 24	Field Notes submissions due
Jan 27	10-2, Hesthavn Work Party
Feb 9	Half-day Field trip to Cheadle Lake, Lebanon

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