



THE CHAT

MAY 2019

VOL. 48 #9

ASC General Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2019, 6:30-8:30 pm

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

Wildbird Tours in Costa Rica and Panama

Matt Lee and Sue Powell will present photographs and short videos from a pair of guided tours they took to Costa Rica and Panama in 2018 and 2019. Owing to their tropical location and varied habitats, these two countries at the southern tip of Central America feature a huge diversity of wildlife. More than 900 species of birds have been recorded in Costa Rica, and more than 1,000 in Panama.

Matt and Sue have been members of ASC since 2006, when they moved to Benton County from Coos Bay. Sue worked for the US Geological Survey in Corvallis as a biologist, and Matt worked from home as an editor of college biology textbooks. They both retired in 2013 and a year later relocated to Corvallis. Since then, they've been involved in a variety of ASC activities, including designing the Winter Wildlife Field Day patches, flyers, and passports for the past three years. Matt also monitors nest boxes for the Bluebird Trail at several locations in Corvallis and at Finley NWR. Sue is a key member of the ASC Education Team, which provides custom activities for schools and public events. In addition, she has been a Eugene track meet official for 25 years.

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.



White-Collared Manakin



Crested Guan

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

No general meetings this summer. Monthly meetings resume in September

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 Center by 12.

Next Field Trips:

May 11. Finley Road. Finley NWR. Prairie Overlook, Turtle Flats, Cabell Dike, Woodpecker Loop and HQ. Short walks on good trails.

June 8. Lewisburg Saddle. Sulphur Springs.

Bill Proebsting

Weekend Field Trips:

ASC weekend field trips are led by experienced birders in rented vans. We stay in comfortable motels and enjoy meals at local restaurants. Signup sheets will be offered for these and other trips at upcoming general membership meetings or by email to: flramsey5@comcast.net.

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, May 17-20: ASC's 50th annual trip to one of America's greatest birding destinations. Currently there are no open spaces, but you can get on the waiting list.

Summer Lake, June 14-16: Here is a possibility for a rare Oregon swift trifecta: Black (Salt Creek Falls), White-throated (Fort Rock), and Vaux's. Add Snowy Plover, Common

Poorwill, American Bittern, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, and Yellow Rail and you understand that this is a special tour. The mid-June weekend offers a good chance of having Crater Lake National Park open on our return. Maximum tour size: 16 persons, and a few openings are available.

Wallowas, July 18-22: Spectacular mountain experience. We will visit Wallowa Lake, take the gondola up Howard Mountain to the high mountains, and explore The Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie Natural Area, Oregon's hot spot for raptors. We have two nights in Enterprise, and the final two nights in LaGrande, with access to Ladd Marsh Wildlife Management Area (Bobolink colony) and Spring Creek (Flammulated and Great Gray Owls possible). Along the rivers there are chances for some eastern species: American Redstart, Red-eyed Vireo, and Gray Catbirds. Maximum tour size: 24 persons. Spaces are still available.

Steens Mountain, August 8-11: Using Malheur Field Station as our base, we spend a day birding the high country of Steens Mountain, where we search for Gray-crowned and Black Rosy-Finches and for Greater Sage Grouse. Wildflowers and butterflies are abundant. We return (road conditions being favorable) through Hart Mountain and the Warner Valley, with a stop at Cabin Lake's guzzler.

Shorebird Search, August 23-25: The aim here is to find where the shorebird migration is ongoing. The location and even the dates are flexible.

To secure spaces on any of these trips, sign up at the May general meeting or contact Fred Ramsey at flramsey5@comcast.net or 541-753-3677.

Fred Ramsey, Weekend Field Trip Coordinator

President's Corner

Interesting and Possibly Useful

At the April chapter meeting, I mentioned Birdcast and was mildly surprised that no one admitted having heard of it. This is something you might find worth looking into.

Birds have been detected by radar since its development in World War II. In recent decades, however, the development of better versions of Doppler weather radar have enabled biologists to accurately track and quantify birds during migration. Using radar signals, weather forecasts and eBird data, we can

now see bird migration in real time at birdcast.info. (Forecasts for the current night and the next two are provided during spring and fall periods when birds are moving.)

We are at the peak of migration now, so check out Birdcast. Even if it doesn't change your birding schedule, it should serve as a good reminder of the wonders of migration.

Bill Proebsting, Chapter President

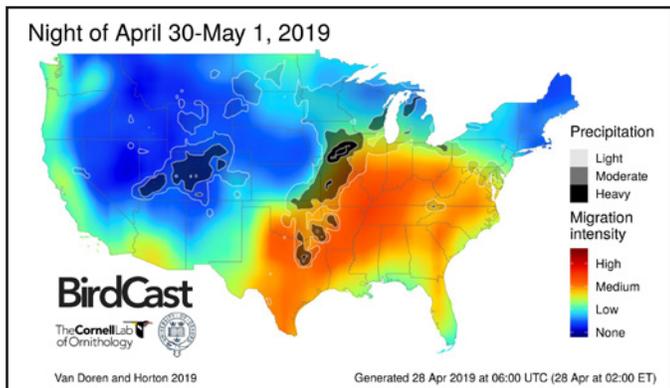
ASC Board Nominations

The Board of Directors of the Audubon Society of Corvallis offers the following slate of candidates to serve in the 2019/2020 term, which begins at the summer board meeting:

Officers:

President – Bill Proebsting is a retired professor of horticulture at OSU and longtime bird watcher. He previously served on the ASC board in 2003-05, Program Chair 2015-2018 and facilitated local field trips for the chapter, 2011-2019. He particularly enjoys birding Benton County, but he and Lena periodically travel around the U.S. and elsewhere for birding adventures.

Vice President – Mark Baldwin has lived in Corvallis since 1987. He has been an active member of ASC since retiring in 2013, a Member-at-Large of the board and Vice President



for the past year. An avid birder, he has participated in many ASC field trips and enjoys travel & birding with his wife, Carla. For 25 years, he taught Applied Tech (woodworking to pre-engineering) at Crescent Valley High School and was co-founder of the school's FIRST Robotics team. Photographing birds and other wildlife occupies much of his time.

Secretary – Linda Campbell moved from San Juan Island, WA, back to her native Willamette Valley in 2004. She has been active in ASC since then, primarily in the effort to get the Homer Campbell Memorial Trail boardwalk built at Finley Wildlife Refuge, and more recently in helping create the memorial tribute to Amy Schoener – Amy's Trail – off Cardwell Hill Dr. in northwest Corvallis. She has served as Board secretary and Member-at-Large. Linda works at OR Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Treasurer – Carolyn Peterson After raising two sons, Carolyn retired as a CPA after nearly two decades. Her work as an accountant included work with non-profits and bookkeeping. About five years ago, she moved to Corvallis from Sherwood, Oregon, with her husband Curt. Relocating to Corvallis was a return to her enjoyable stomping grounds of the early 80s as a Geology graduate student at OSU. Although not a lister, Carolyn has enjoyed observing birds since childhood. An avid hiker, Carolyn also enjoys wildlife photography and Scuba diving.

Board Members-at-large

Gail Nickerson has been a member of ASC for 14 years and is a very sedentary bird watcher. Prior to serving as Member-at-Large on the board, she was secretary and refreshment chair. Gail is famous for providing her delicious homemade cookies and treats for board and general member meetings each month, and for hosting the volunteer break room at the Winter Wildlife Field Day at Finley.

Robert Murray is a recently retired college professor who taught business management for 23 years at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. While there he chaired many important committees, coordinating the planning and implementation of initiatives that relied on collaborative efforts by many people in different roles: faculty, students, staff and members of the local community. He joined Audubon because of its reputation as an environmental organization. When the Malheur Refuge was "occupied" by political extremists, he was still living in Maine but kept a close watch on events there by reading news accounts. One report said that the environmental organization that was most effective in lobbying the state and federal governments for a quick resolution to the problem was Audubon. When he moved to Corvallis in 2018, he decided to join. It is his belief that the younger generations will have to deal with climate change and we need to do everything we can to help them meet that challenge. That is why he has been an active volunteer with the Education team.

Christina Linkem received her B.S. degree in Biology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and moved to the Corvallis area shortly after graduation. Here, she immediately got involved with ASC at the Hesthavn Nature Center, where she helped run a macro-invertebrate station and taught 4th and 5th graders about the fascinating and important lives of aquatic insects. Along with that experience in the ASC, Christina has also enjoyed volunteering for the Winter Wildlife Field Day for 3 years in a row. She has also worked with pre-school aged children at both the Corvallis Montessori School and the Avery House. Christina serves as a Biological Field Technical Crew Leader for the Forest Service in the

summers, visiting remote sites within the Pacific Northwest to conduct stream surveys as a part of a long-term monitoring program for the Northwest Forest Plan. She hopes to obtain a graduate degree at Oregon State University and help educate the public about the importance of our fragile PNW forest ecosystems.

Karan Fairchild has been involved with the Audubon Society of Corvallis for over 30 years. She's served in many capacities during that time, including Member-at-Large, Secretary, and fundraising chairperson. She instigated the successful Birdathon fundraisers, and is currently on the bylaws committee, nominations committee, Homer Campbell award committee, Hesthavn committee, and serves in several other functions. Past duties also included bird rehabilitation, bluebird trail, sales table, fair booths and publicity. She and husband Jim have done a local Christmas Bird Count for over 35 years and a Breeding Bird Survey in the Coast Range for over 25 years.

Kai Frueh is an enthusiastic sixteen-year-old birder who wants to help ASC reach out to younger generations (as well as older ones) in support of birding and conservation. He is well known locally as a founder of the Benton County Big Sit that has raised funds for ASC and other conservation groups since 2016. He has enjoyed helping at the Winter Wildlife Field Day at Finley refuge for the last 2 years. He was also a key organizer for A Day of Birds in South Town, last fall when over 120 people came to learn about birds with local groups like ASC, his family, friends, and neighbors! Kai has worked with Oregon Birding Association to start an Oregon Young Birders Club which has not yet been approved. He has written frequently for the OBA magazine. His writings have included field notes for Lincoln County and interviews with young Oregon birders. He also had an article published about the Big Sit on eBird's Young birders portal in 2016. He maintains about 20 swallow/bluebird nest boxes on private land and enjoys contributing data to both NestWatch and eBird.

Alternate – Dodie Wilson is a long-time member of ASC, having briefly served on its board in the late 1990s. More recently she has been volunteering in the Corvallis School District, where her 2 girls are enrolled. She served on the Mt View Elementary PTA board for 5 years and was PTA president for 2 of those years. She also volunteered often for their Naturalist-in-Residence program where she co-taught one of the Naturalist programs on birds 2 years in a row. She has been a board member of Philomath Montessori School for 7 years. In 2001, Dodie received a Masters in Wildlife Science from OSU and has worked in a number of temporary positions doing bird, amphibian, and small mammal surveys. With her girls finishing up school in Corvallis, Dodie would like to become more involved with the education and conservation efforts of ASC.

Bird Nerds Representative- (information not available at this time)

Karan Fairchild

Conservation Update

Wolves in Danger of Losing Protection

The Trump administration would like to end all federal protection for gray wolves, particularly under the Endangered Species Act. This is being planned despite a population of less than three percent of its historical size. The Oregon Dept. of

Fish and Wildlife estimates the wolf population in Oregon to be fewer than 150 animals, also a small fraction of its historical size.

Act now, as the deadline for the decision is May 14. Here's what you can do:

Submit a comment. The government is accepting comments at fws.gov/home/wolfrecovery. Let them know you don't agree.

Tell Congress. Call Rep. Peter DeFazio at 202-225-6416, Rep. Kurt Schrader at 202-225-5711, Sen. Ron Wyden at 202-224-5244, or Sen. Jeff Merkley at 202-224-3753.

Join an online campaign. Do a web search for "wolf delisting petition" and sign one or more of the petitions you find.

Dave Mellinger, Conservation Chair

Education News

A busy time of year for learning

The Corvallis area gets very lively in the spring with programs to celebrate and explore Nature. ASC will be at many of the events with fun, interactive learning activities and displays. It's a chance to share our love of Nature and Science.

Say hi to your ASC volunteers at the Timber Ridge Schools Science Night May 7, Chintimini Wildlife Center Open House on May 12, Get Outdoors Day at Peavy Arboretum June 8, Nature Connections program at Hesthavn June 16, and Dancing Oaks Pollinator Festival June 22.

With so many volunteer needs, we can always use some extra help. So, if you are interested in working with other team members on a special event, please contact me at chateditors@gmail.com. Thanks to all our dedicated and skilled Ed team members for sharing their knowledge and caring.

Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team

Hesthavn News

Work parties for May:

In May I'm going to have to break my pattern of 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month for work parties from 10 am to 2 pm. The first work party will be Saturday May 4. I have submitted a proposal for that date to the GEOG 300 class and proposed yet another painting work party. The second May work party (a weed pull work party) will be on Saturday May 18. Yes, I know that is the Malheur trip weekend. The following Saturday is Memorial Day weekend. There's always something. Hopefully there will be no big scheduling conflicts in May.

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

Hesthavn Family Fun Program

The Nature Center will be open for another fun chance to learn and enjoy our beautiful wooded Oak Creek site on Sunday, June 16, from 1-3 pm.

Come experience Nature's Connections, Food Webs in Corvallis, as we look at who eats whom (or what). This free event will feature hands-on activities, from games to art, that make learning an adventure. As always, our bird collections will be open to viewing and our trails to strolling. Kids of all ages are very welcome.

Dale Mitchell, Hesthavn Education Volunteer

With so many other local environmental programs going, there will not be a May program at Hesthavn.

Check out Hesthavn Nature Center

Guests who respect Nature are welcome to walk the trails and enjoy the birds on our grounds any day. Information on future programs will be on the ASC website and in future editions of the CHAT.

Teri Engbring, Education Team

Directions to Hesthavn, at 8590 NW Oak Creek Dr, Corvallis. Take Harrison west from downtown Corvallis and after you cross 53rd, it becomes Oak Creek Drive. Pass Bald Hill farm and follow the signs for Nature Center. Hesthavn will be on your left shortly before the end of Oak Creek Dr.

Community Notes

Field Guide to Birds of Oregon

The Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex invite you to their May 5 event from 1-3 pm.

A birder since age six, Trip leader Dave Irons shares identification and bird finding tips gathered over a birding lifetime in his recently published "American Birding Association Field Guide to the Birds of Oregon." Join Dave and his wife Shawneen Finnegan as we enjoy spring migration at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge. After a brief talk and some birding at the Eagle Marsh Kiosk we'll continue on to Pintail Marsh. Expect to see, and learn how to identify, many species of waterfowl, raptors, songbirds and perhaps some shorebirds.

Carpooling is strongly recommended! Parking is limited! Location: Eagle Marsh Kiosk at Ankeny NWR. Find it on the Ankeny trail map at Willamette Valley Wildlife Refuge Complex website.

Dave will be at the Eagle Marsh Kiosk from 12:00-1:00 to sign copies of his book, which will also be available for purchase.

Other Friends of WVNWR programs this summer:

June 2 – James Cassidy, OSU Senior Instructor Soil Science & Sustainable/Organic Agriculture. Sunday, 1:00-3:00 pm, William L. Finley NWR

July 7 – Discover the fascinating lives of insects with a specialist from the OSU Entomology Program. Sunday, 1:00-3:00 pm, Snag Boat Bend Unit (just south of the community of Peoria, on the Willamette River).

August 4 – The Role of Fish in the National Wildlife Refuges. Sunday, 1:00-3:00pm (location TBD)

Please RSVP and find map of Ankeny NWR at <http://friend-svvnwrc.org/events-volunteer/>

Friends of WVNWR

Bee Buddy

What's a "Bee Buddy" you ask? Bee Buddies is a program run by the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District. It is meant to care for and increase the native mason bee population in Benton County. In other words, it's the bluebird trail of the bug world! When you sign up for the Bee Buddy program the Benton SWCD loans nesting kits and makes sure that the bees are properly maintained during their life cycle. Mason bees are important pollinators both of native plants and of crops. According to NatureServe: "Although some species remain abundant and widespread, 27% of the 139 native species in North America are at risk, including 14 that have not been recorded for several decades. Threats to mason bees include habitat loss and degradation, diseases, pesticides, climate change, and their intrinsic vulnerability to declines caused by a low reproductive rate and, in many species, small range sizes." So bee conservation is import-



ant! Anyone interested in participating in the Bee Buddy Program in future years should contact the Benton SWCD.

Raymond Drapek

Natural Areas Celebration Week

Celebrate spring! The 10th Annual Natural Areas Celebration Week will take place from Saturday May 4 to Sunday, May 12, co-sponsored by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, the Audubon Society of Corvallis and 15 other groups/agencies. Twenty-seven events include hikes, garden tours, bird/birdsong walks, star-gazing, crafts, a spring garden festival and a variety of spring walks that focus on wildflowers, trees, shrubs, prairies, local history, a labyrinth & much more. Registration needed for some events. Details & the event schedule are at:

<https://bit.ly/2V01xeN>

Suzanne Ortiz, Sustainability Coalition Rep

Field Notes

03/29/19 – 04/25/19

The beginning of April brought seasonally warm weather and rain, which combined with a high-moisture snowpack in the Cascades to produce a rapid rise in river levels.

The Willamette River crested late on 10 Apr at the highest level seen since 1996. In Corvallis Mary Garrard ventured across the Van Buren Street bridge and reported that floodwaters were flowing over Hwy 34 east of the downtown. Many tributaries also overflowed their banks. Delores Porch noted that flooding on the Calapooia River had turned Hwy 99E north of Halsey into a causeway with “water as far as the eye can see on both sides.” The entrance road to the Snag Boat Bend unit of Finley NWR was submerged along with many floodplain areas along Peoria Rd.

On 11 Apr after the flood crested, the USGS stream gage at Albany still was at 26.75 ft, nearly two feet above flood stage. The calculated flow rate based on this measurement was 42 million gallons per minute – about 400 times as much water as if every household in the Corvallis-Albany area ran their kitchen taps full-blast!

The water carried many tons of sediment which were deposited across floodplain areas. Some **camas** plants which had been sending up leaves and flower stalks in lower parts of a prairie restoration at Luckiamute State Natural Area were left partly buried in drifts of fine sand and silt. Even in the highest parts of the prairie, leaves of **meadow checkermallow** still had a coating of fine silt, showing that they were entirely underwater. However **red-flowering currant** bushes continued to bloom even after being submerged in water as deep as 3 feet. By 17 Apr, **ant** colonies that survived in underground air spaces were digging out their entrances and getting back to life as usual.

Higher up plants and most creatures were unaffected, though migrant flocks of **swallows** took advantage of aerial foraging opportunities over the expanses of slack water out on the floodplain. **Salmonberries** began to bloom in Dunn Forest by 2 Apr (Pam and Randy Comeleo). On Bald Hill **fawn lilies** reached peak bloom 15 Apr, along with early blooms of **camas**, **bleeding heart**, **calypso orchid**, **iris**, and both **sessile** and **pedunculated trillium** (Mary Garrard). By the end of the period **big-leaf maples** were in full bloom, and leaves were beginning to unfurl on **Oregon white oaks** and **Oregon ash**.

Abbreviations and locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds. Jackson-Frazier Wetlands

is in north Corvallis near Cheldelin Middle School. 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: Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Oregon's only native cuckoo species, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, once nested in bottomland deciduous forests along the Willamette River and its tributaries. This species forages on caterpillars, especially tent caterpillars. Key habitat requirements are thought to be multi-level riparian forests with low-level foliage including multiple species of native willow below the canopy. Degradation of sub-canopy habitat by invasive European blackberries may be a factor that contributed to their decline.

While detections of in our region have become extremely rare, a few recent detections in the Sandy River Delta area near Portland give hope that cuckoos from the endangered population in California might move northward. They are late migrants, so June is the best time to listen and watch in appropriate habitat.

Anti-conservation interests have argued for delisting Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo as a federal endangered species. Such an action would threaten the California population, which is the best hope for cuckoos to return to Oregon. You can find further information at: <https://bit.ly/2Mqdi5A>

Public comments on this proposed action are due by June, 29, 2019. Please visit: <https://bit.ly/2J7VTJK> to comment in support of this endangered native species that we hope will return to our region someday!

Lingering birds

24 **Tundra Swans** and 14 **Double-crested Cormorants** were still on Cabell Marsh 29 Mar (Rana Foster). 18 **Tundra Swans** flew over the North Prairie 4 Apr (Howard Bruner).

American Wigeons and **Ring-necked Ducks** continued through the end of the period at Stewart Lake (Jamie Simmons).

Eleven **Great Egrets** were still present at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 30 Mar (Jamie Simmons). The egrets that winter in our area mostly leave for nesting sites along the southern Oregon Coast or in the northern Great Basin, during Mar or early Apr.

Fifty **Black-bellied Plovers** and a hundred **Dunlin** were still north of Halsey 19 Apr (Tom Gilg). On 22 Apr Mike Lippsmeyer flushed a **Wilson's Snipe** from a tall fescue field with waist-high grass, 300 m from the nearest wetland habitat – a late date and unusual habitat, perhaps suggestive of nesting.

A **Northern Shrike** hunted insects on a Christmas tree farm near Airlie 30 Mar. A few **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** continued through the end of the period. Two **Townsend's Warblers** sang at Peavy Arboretum 21 Apr (Don Boucher).

Two **Fox Sparrows** sang in Corvallis 5 Apr (Don Boucher). Up to four **White-throated Sparrows** continued in NW Corvallis through the end of the period (Jamie Simmons); one sang in NW Corvallis 11 Apr (Lisa Millbank).

Migrants

Starting on 14 Apr when Mike Lippsmeyer noticed a flock over his farm south of Independence, large flocks of **Greater White-fronted Geese** passed through our area on their way north. Most of these migrants come from California's central valley where vast flocks winter, then by way of the Klamath Basin staging areas. After passing over the Corvallis area most

head NNW toward the northern Oregon coast from where they make a long, nonstop flight over the northern Pacific to western Alaska. Flocks on this route were reported regularly through the end of the period.

Thirty **Snow Geese** flew over Peoria 17 Apr (Greg Metcalfe).

Cackling Geese also began to head north but large flocks remained in the area through the end of the period.

Shorebird migration was evident as **Long-billed Dowitchers**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Dunlin** were numerous in a private conservation wetland north of Finley NWR 1 Apr (Howard Bruner). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was with migrant **Least** and **Western Sandpipers** at the Philomath STP 19 Apr (Tyler Hallman; Suzanne Austin). Four **Red-necked Phalaropes** stopped by the Philomath STP 7-8 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn; Sylvia Maulding). A **Sabine's Gull** stopped by a filbert irrigation pond along Hwy 99W north of Suver on 7 Apr (Bill Tice; Brandon Wagner).

American White Pelicans continued to be seen over western Linn County, with fifteen flying north over the Bowers Rock area sw. of Albany 3 Apr (Matt Blakeley-Smith, Paul Adamus). This species now occurs year-round at Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene, so it's hard to know if flocks over our area are north-bound migrants or just "day trippers" from Fern Ridge.

A male **Calliope Hummingbird** nectared on **osoberry** blossoms in Timberhill Natural Area 14 Apr (Nancy Stotz). Another male visited a feeder in SW Corvallis 21-22 Apr (Bruce, Eric, and Andrew Pratt). Another stopped by s. Albany to nectar on **evergreen huckleberry** (Jim Smith).

A **Vaux's Swift** foraged over flooded bottomlands east of downtown Corvallis 11 Apr (Pam & Randy Comeleo). Mary Garrard heard more at Benton Center 17 Apr, and counted 190 going to roost in the chimney of Weigand Hall 21 Apr, then (with help from Bev Clark) 140 on 22 Apr.

A well-described **Black Swift** foraged over Willamette Park 17 Apr; Duncan Evered took care to distinguish this rarely seen migrant from **Purple Martins** which were beginning to arrive by then.

A **Loggerhead Shrike** visited Baskett Slough NWR 7 Apr (Mitch Ratzlaff); one was a few miles east of there near Rickreall 11 Apr (Brandon Wagner). A migrant **Townsend's Solitaire** sang at Peavy Arboretum 6 Apr (Roberta Swift).

An early female **Western Tanager** turned up in NW Corvallis 5 Apr (Jonah Benningfield); one visited Ron Enck's suet feeder in NE Corvallis 22 Apr.

Migrants in Willamette Park 20 Apr included three **Pacific-slope Flycatchers**, four **Hammond's Flycatchers**, two **Warbling Vireos**, and three **Nashville Warblers** along with dozens of **Orange-crowned Warblers** (Duncan Evered, Caryn Stoess). A **Dusky Flycatcher** gave distinctive "whit" calls there on 19 Apr (Isaac Denzer, Kai Frueh).

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** in a thicket in SW Corvallis 16 Apr (Don Boucher) may have been a lingering bird, or a migrant passing through on its way toward bogs where this species nests in mountains north and northeast of our region. Individuals and small flocks continued to show up in more obvious migrant situations such as oak savanna through the end of the period.

A **Chipping Sparrow** stopped by Peoria 17 Apr (Greg Metcalfe). 80 years ago these small sparrows with their jaunty reddish caps were a familiar yard bird in Willamette Valley towns, but now they're at best an annual visitor in most yards, except near remnants of our once extensive oak savanna habitat such as Bald Hill Farm where nesting pairs showed up by 18 Apr.

Arrivals

Two Black-necked Stilts turned up at Baskett Slough NWR 29 Mar, where this species has nested regularly in recent years.

Two pairs were there by 19 Apr (Tom Love and Linfield College students). **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** showed up both at Finley NWR and Baskett Slough NWR by 1 Apr.

On 11 Apr a **Green Heron** squawked as it flew over NE Corvallis, toward the vicinity of Jackson-Frazier Wetland where this species has bred in past years (Don Boucher). One turned up on Stewart Lake 22 Apr (Jamie Simmons).

A **Western Kingbird** hawked insects from a perch at Baskett Slough NWR 22 Apr (Brandon Wagner). A **Cassin's Vireo** sang in NE Corvallis 23 Apr (Don Boucher).

On 18 Apr a **House Wren** showed up and sang as a male **Purple Martin** perched on a nearby nesting snag in Karan & Jim Fairchild's yard sw. of Philomath; Karan also noted a **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** nearby. Another **House Wren** showed up the next morning at Virginia Stanton's place s. of Philomath. More **Purple Martins** sang near Cronemiller Lake in McDonald Forest 21 Apr (Don Boucher). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were noted at Stewart Lake and other local sites during the first two weeks of April (Jamie Simmons).

A few early migrant **Swainson's Thrushes** began to be reported starting on 20 Apr. Jesse Laney had a good view of a non-vocal bird at Willamette Park on 24 Apr.

A **Common Yellowthroat** sang in E.E. Wilson WA 4 Apr (Pam & Randy Comeleo) and near the Ashbrook School 5 Apr (Don Boucher). A **Wilson's Warbler** was in Timberhill Natural Area 14 Apr (Nancy Stotz). **Black-throated Gray Warblers** also began to show up with one in Village Green Park 14 Apr (Lisa Millbank, Don Boucher). **Hermit Warblers** sang in the forest sw. of Philomath 19 Apr (Karan Fairchild). A **Yellow Warbler** was along Belts Dr. s. of Brownsville 24 Apr (Tom Gilg). A **MacGillivray's Warbler** was sw. of Philomath 25 Apr (Karan Fairchild).

An early **Black-headed Grosbeak** called at Willamette Park 17 Apr (Andrew Pratt). A well-seen male visited Olin Allen's feeder sw. of Airlie 21 Apr. A **Lazuli Bunting** was along Belts Rd. s. of Brownsville 25 Apr (Tom Gilg, Paul Adamus).

A banded **Vesper Sparrow** returned to a Christmas tree farm s. of Philomath 31 Mar (Bob Altman). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** sang along Belts Rd. s. of Brownsville 23 Apr (Tom Gilg).

On 24 Apr a **Bullock's Oriole** unsuccessfully tried to sip nectar from a Brownsville hummingbird feeder that was visited by two **Calliope Hummingbirds** moments later (Tom Gilg). **Evening Grosbeak** flocks were noticeable in many places by 20 Apr.

Emergents

Two or three **Western Pond-Turtles** were out at Turtle Flats in Finley NWR 29 Mar (Rana Foster). Two **Little Brown Bats** were out feeding along Alexander Dr. in Corvallis on the evening of 31 Mar (Rana Foster).

Rough-skinned Newts tangled in a mating frenzy in a pond in Dunn Forest 2 Apr (Pam and Randy Comeleo).

A **Wrentit** sang along the Midge Kramer trail near Bald Hill Park 20 Apr (Andrea & Greg Foster).

Nesting activity

A pair of **Canada Geese** began nesting 21 Mar on the same Stewart Lake nest site that a pair used last year, and goslings appeared by 19 Apr (Jamie Simmons). A **Wood Duck** pair swam at the edge of an eddy at the Kiger Island slough outfall into the Willamette River 31 Apr (Rana Foster).

An amorous **Mountain Quail** called in the Village Green Park neighborhood 13 Apr (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank).

Two **Osprey** occupied a nest at McCartney Park in Linn Co. 31 Mar (Tom Gilg). A pair were in a nest atop a Douglas-fir at the North Kiger Island bridge 31 Mar (Rana Foster). A **Bald Eagle**



was on a nest on the east side of the Willamette River across from the Hewlett-Packard campus 10 Apr (Don Boucher). A male **Northern Harrier** brought a vole to a female at E.E. Wilson WA 31 Mar.

On 30 Mar in NW Corvallis, Nancy Stotz noted lots of nesting activity. A female **Red-tailed Hawk** was on a nest, and both a **Acorn Woodpecker** and a male **Northern Flicker** were excavating nest holes along the Betty Griffiths Trail; the flicker's was just three feet above the ground. Farther on along a fork of Dixon Creek, Nancy found a pair of **Black-capped Chickadees** excavating a nest hole 8 feet up in a snag, then spotted a **Bush-tit** going in and out of its long, pendulous nest.

A large but still fuzzy-looking **Great Horned owl** was sitting up in a nest at Luckiamute SNA 2 Apr. A **Western Screech-Owl** sang in NW Corvallis 16 Apr (Mary Garrard).

Two **Western Bluebirds** visited bluebird boxes at Mt. View Elementary 29 Mar (Rana Foster). A nest box near Cheldelin Middle School had two bluebird eggs already on 1 Apr (Lisa Millbank).

A pair of **White-breasted Nuthatches** started work on a nest in a bluebird nest box in s. Corvallis in mid-Apr; they abandoned their effort after three days but then a **Black-capped Chickadee** pair took an interest (Jason O'Brien).

House Sparrows in s. Albany were on their second broods by the end of the period (Jim Smith).

Death

A **Great Horned Owl** running through grass at E.E. Wilson WA 3 Apr turned out to have a head/eye injury; it was dead by the time Pam and Randy Comeleo came back the next day with the idea of taking it to the Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

Rare or off-course birds

An imm. male **Barrow's Goldeneye** continued at Willamette Park through 12 Apr when it swam on the flooded Crystal Lake sports fields (Duncan Evered); it was noted by others there through 14 Apr.

A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visiting Bruce Pratt's feeder in SW Corvallis continued through 29 Mar. A male **Lapland Longspur** and female **Chestnut-collared Longspur** along Blueberry Lane se. of Peoria continued through 1 Apr and 5 Apr, respectively. Another **Lapland Longspur** called as it flew over the North Prairie observation deck 4 Apr (Howard Bruner).

Next issue: The next Chat issue will come out at the end of July. A lot will happen between now and then! Our remaining tropical migrants will have arrived, nested, and in some cases started to head south again, along with arctic-nesting shorebirds. Fledglings and juvenile birds will provide challenges for field identification. Please post your observations to the Mid-Valley birding list at midvalleybirding.org, e-mail them to me at joel.geier@peak.org, send by post to 38566 Hwy 99W Corvallis 97330, or call (541) 745-5821 by 25 Jul.

Board Meeting Summary

April 2019 Board Meeting Summary

The meeting was the shortest on record at 35 minutes!

1. The Board discussed the internship ASC is funding through Finley Wildlife Refuge this spring/summer.
2. The Conservation Committee signed on to a Portland Audubon letter supporting the bill in State Legislature to ban a pesticide that harms birds.
3. The Board discussed the ASC website update that is underway.
4. The slate of candidates for the 2019-20 election of Board members was finalized for the May Chapter Meeting.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on Thursday, May 9th at 7pm at Hesthavn.

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

General Membership Renewal Information

For membership renewal online go the ASC website (<http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml>) and renew via Paypal. To renew by USPS, mail a check to ASC, PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

Email Notifications/Meeting Cancellations

We encourage members to contact Karan Fairchild to get on the ASC listserve to receive emergency email notifications about meeting cancellations related to weather conditions, updated information about ASC events, fieldtrip locations and volunteer work parties. Send an email to our listserve 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/mail addresses please update your contact information.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Paul Adamus, Membership Chair

Contributors to this Chat

Mark Baldwin, William Proebsting, Fred Ramsey, Dave Mellinger, Dale Mitchell, Suzanne Ortiz, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Joel Geier, Don Boucher, Ray Drapek, Linda Campbell, Suzanne Ortiz, Paul Adamus, and Karan 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

May 4	Hesthavn Work Party, 10-2
May 9	ASC Board meeting, 7 pm at Hesthavn
May 11	Field trip, Finley NWR
May 4 – 12	Natural Areas Celebration Week
May 16	ASC Monthly Members Meeting, 6:30
May 17-20	Malheur NWR field trip
May 18	Hesthavn Work Party, 10-2
June 8	Field trip, Lewisburg Saddle, Sulphur Springs
June 14-16	Summer Lake field trip
June 16	Nature's Connections at Hesthavn, 1-3
July 18-22	Wallowas field trip
July 25	Articles due for Summer 2019 CHAT
July 25	Field Notes submissions due
Aug. 8-11	Steens Mountain field trip
Aug. 23-25	Shorebird Search field trip

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.

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Please let us know:
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Renew your membership before the date on the mailing label to avoid missing issues of the Chat.

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