



THE CHAT

SUMMER 2019

VOL. 48 #10

Beginning September 19th, 2019, all ASC general meetings will be the First United Methodist Church

1165 NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis, Wesley Hall, upstairs

September 19th Program

Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership

Tara Davis, Twinning Partnership Coordinator, will tell us about an exciting international, bilingual environmental program. The partners are here in the Willamette Valley and in the Rio Laja Basin, located in the state of Guanajuato in Central Mexico.

Tara has worked in conservation for sixteen years focusing on river restoration and non-profit management. She received a bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University, California in Environmental Science, and a master's from the University of New Mexico in Water Resources Management, emphasizing watershed health in developing nations. Tara has worked on affordable housing, federal wilderness area designation, private land protection, and river restoration. Tara's master's research enabled her to work closely with conservation groups in Rio Laja basin in Guanajuato, Mexico, in watershed planning and stakeholder engagement. Over a decade later, this work has transformed into the bi-national Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership. Tara works with multiple funders and conservation groups to coordinate the Willamette-Laja Twinning Project, and with the International River Foundation based in Brisbane, Australia to develop river restoration initiatives across the globe.

The Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership unites youth, teachers, river restoration practitioners, and the birding community for deep cultural connections and sustained conservation of our shared migratory bird species and habitats.

Please see the full story about this Project in the Community Notes section of this newsletter.

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.

Schedule for all programs this year:

- Sept. 19:** Tara Davis—Willamette- Laja Twinning Partnership
- Oct. 17:** David Bucy—Wildlife in Crisis on the Texas Border
- Nov. 21:** Vern Beeson—Current Status of the Malheur Field Station
- Dec. 19:** Member Photo Slide Show
- Jan. 16:** Tom & Ginny Stevens—Travels in South Africa
- Feb. 20:** Dan Luoma—Wildflower Adventures and the Native Plant Society
- March 19:** Worth Mathewson—Natural History of the Band-tailed Pigeon
- April 16:** Randy Comeleo—Update on the Benton County Predator Control Program
- May 21:** James Sumich—Marine Mammals



Student Alondra Guadalupe Luna Caballera, shares her book of illustrations of birds, habitats, and threats during a school visit in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato.

Note Venue Change This Year

New Venue for ASC General Meetings on third Thursday of every month, 9/19 to 5/20

First United Methodist Church,

1165 NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis, in Wesley Hall, upstairs

The schedule will remain the same as in the past: Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and visiting. Chapter meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Guest presentation is at 7:30.

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Field Trip Schedule

Local Second Saturday Field Trips

Our Saturday morning local field trips **meet at 7:00 am by the Shelter in Willamette Park** (end of SE Goodnight Ave.) for a pre-birding introductions and social over a cup of tea. We will car pool and leave by 7:30 am, returning noonish. Bring suitable hat and shoes, raingear, bug spray, or sun-screen as appropriate. Remember water and snacks! These five-hour excursions are geared to people with an interest in learning more about birds (and their biology) that can be found in the immediate Corvallis area. All levels of expertise welcome. Led by Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess.

Registration required

Contact CorvallisAudubonSecondSaturday@gmail.com for more information and sign-up.

Check the Midvalley ListServ, <http://www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/>, a couple of days before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans.

Next Field Trip: Aug. 10. We will look for migrating shorebirds on a National Wildlife Refuge that has available mud (TBA).

Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess

Weekend Field Trips:

ASC weekend field trips are led by experienced birders in rented vans. We generally stay in comfortable motels with meals at local restaurants. Only two weekend field trips are left this year:

Steens Mountain, Aug. 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, Aug. 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 either trip contact Fred Ramsey at flramsey5@comcast.net or 541-753-3677.

Fred Ramsey, Weekend Field Trip Coordinator

President's Corner

ASC Supports Finley Intern

At a board meeting four years ago, Fred Ramsey suggested that ASC support an undergraduate intern at Finley NWR. The idea was to support the refuge, undergraduate education and avian biology.

It has been an interesting process as we dealt with Federal rules and the recent government shutdown, but this past May the first ASC-supported intern began work. ASC contributed \$5,000, which leveraged about \$7,000 in Federal support to fund Karen Ibarra's work with refuge biologist Brian Root conducting research on the endangered Streaked Horned Lark. Karen will also spend time supporting ASC programs, mainly Hesthavn, under Ray Drapek's guidance.

Karen is from Phoenix, Arizona, and will finish her B.S. in Sustainability at ASU this fall semester. She is an Udall Scholar, which supports Native Americans committed to the environment, tribal health care or tribal public policy. The Finley internship is not Karen's first off-campus opportunity, having served positions in Arizona and Alaska. Karen's post-graduate goal is to extend the restorative properties of natural spaces to diverse

communities. Besides her university studies, Karen works with Living United for a Change in Arizona (LUCHA), a Phoenix-area program that works for social, economic and racial justice.

The Audubon Society of Corvallis provides a variety of benefits for its membership: programs at chapter meetings, local and state-wide field trips, and this newsletter. However, I believe that of even more importance is our outreach to people besides ourselves through our various education programs for community members, mostly school kids and families, but also adults. The internship at Finley is just the latest program we offer to serve our larger community and conservation. Thank you for your support that enables us to do this.

Bill Proebsting, Chapter President

Education News

Thanks for a Great Year

In June, the amazing ASC (all-volunteer) Education Team completed their program year that began last September 1. In 20 separate events over ten months, they shared their knowledge and enthusiasm about Nature with over 3,800 children and adults. In the process, these inspired friends of Nature donated over 2,775 hours of their precious time to this community. Most of those hours came from about 20 dedicated volunteers, with over 100 others helping as needed on the big events and special requests. What a great way to make a difference.

We couldn't do this BIG job without the financial and administrative support of the ASC members, officers, and Board of Directors. So, thanks to all for being a part of a very successful effort to educate our neighbors and protect the wonders of Nature in our beautiful environment.

We will begin planning next month for the 2019-20 school year. New members and returning teammates are all welcome to join a supportive team that makes learning about science, wildlife, and our environment fun. For more information, contact Teri Engbring at ASC General meetings beginning Sept 19th, or at chateditors@gmail.com.

Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team



Karen Ibarra, ASC-supported summer intern at Finley, Ray Drapek, Hesthavn chair, and Brian Root, Finley NWR biologist.



Hesthavn News

Coming Work Parties

Here's the schedule for our Hesthavn work parties for the rest of this year to give you all plenty of advance notice. All sessions go from 10 am to 2 pm, unless otherwise noted:

- Saturday Aug. 3, Weed work party. Caged plants
- Saturday Aug. 10, **8 am to noon**, Barn and yard work party
- Sunday Sept. 8, Weed work party. Caged plants
- Sunday Sept. 22, Barn and yard work party
- Sunday Oct. 6, Weeds. Probably English Ivy
- Sunday Oct. 27, Barn and yard
- Sunday Nov. 10, Weeds. Probably Yellow Archangel
- Sunday Nov. 24, Barn and Yard
- Sunday Dec. 8, Weeds. Almost certainly Blackberries
- Sunday Dec. 22, Barn and Yard

Come out with us to enjoy our beautiful Nature Center and help protect this precious habitat.

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

Hesthavn Family Fun Program

Most birdwatchers wonder "what are those birds thinking?" For critters so small, those brains come up with some amazing skills and behaviors. On September 15 from 1-3 pm at Hesthavn, we will explore Bird Brains: Smarts Guys with Wings. Have you seen gulls dropping clams onto a road? Steller's Jays and Acorn Woodpeckers hiding hundreds of seeds and nuts? How do they remember where they are?!

Enjoy the Nature Center museum collection, arts and interactive games for free family fun!

Dale Mitchell, Hesthavn Education Volunteer

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

8590 NW Oak Creek Drive, 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.

Book/Raffle Table Notes

Environmental books Coming Soon

Another new idea will be presented by the Book and Raffle Table at the September General Meeting. Last year we switched our policy from offering new books about birds and birding to used books. This move has resulted in such positive response from our ASC membership that we're expanding our monthly Book Table offering to include books related to the environment, both fiction and non-fiction.

In September, you'll find books by such noted authors as Rick Bass, Wendall Barry, our "own" Kathleen Dean Moore, and a spectacular title, *Mariposa Road* by SW Washington-based Robert Michael Pyle. I just finished reading this remarkable book by Pyle in which he records his year-long search for butterflies throughout the US. Pyle's writing style is superb, and he manages to describe each sighting of almost 500 species with an astounding freshness and individuality. Now, as a result of

his inspiration, I don't venture forth on my dog-walks without my net in hand. Perhaps you too will find an inspiration at our table!

As always, we deeply appreciate your donations; your art work, your books, your bird-themed labeled bottles of wine. Everything you donate is used to generate money for Hesthavn's educational fund and to pay for the room rental fee for our monthly meetings. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Sally Shaw, Book and Raffle Table Chair

Community Notes

Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership

In September 2012, the Willamette River Initiative (WRI) was honored to receive the Thiess International Riverprize for their outstanding work in river restoration and conservation. With the prize came seed money to select an international river basin for a long-term twinning partnership. In 2015, the WRI partners formally chose the Rio Laja, located in the state of Guanajuato in Central Mexico. The Laja faces issues similar to the Willamette watershed such as oak woodland and wetland destruction, and water quality degradation. However, a significant factor in choosing the Laja was the potential for cross-cultural connections between Laja communities and the Willamette's own Mexican immigrant population.

The Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership unites youth, teachers, river restoration practitioners, and the birding community for deep cultural connections and sustained conservation of our shared migratory bird species and habitats.

Using a platform of shared neotropical migratory bird species creates direct cultural and partnership links based on ecological connectivity in the flyway. We have confirmed over forty bird species known to seasonally inhabit both basins. Long-term, our youth education, local community engagement and habitat restoration projects will benefit all shared migratory species by decreasing pressure on local forest resources, creating local ecotourism and recreation economies, and fostering community understanding and value of birds and the local watersheds.

Our shared youth bird education pilot program was implemented in the 2018-2019 school year, with over 500 youth grades 3rd-6th and over a dozen teachers participating. We currently base our work on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's BirdSleuth International curriculum and integrate local migratory bird curriculums including the Audubon Society of Mexico's lessons. Four Corvallis-Albany area primary teachers from dual language immersion schools engaged in a week-long exchange this summer to meet Laja teachers and conservation partners. Our youth program is experiencing great demand, but growth will require support from our communities.

Our first ever "birder exchange" occurred in Jan. 2019 with dedicated, self-funded Willamette participants Bob Hansen and Randye Jensen who visited our Laja partners for field tours, bird observation and networking with groups like the Audubon Society of Mexico. We are seeking local Audubon Society "Champions" to help us grow this international exchange effort.

Please visit our webpage at www.willamette-laja.org and for questions contact Tara Davis, Twinning Partnership Coordinator at willamette.laja@gmail.com or 541.601.4142.

Also, be sure to attend the Sept. 19th Audubon meeting and Laja-Willamette Twinning presentation!

Tara Davis, Twinning Partnership Coordinator

Field Notes

04/26/19-07/27/19

In comparison with recent hot summers, this early summer period has been mild, with temperatures closer to historical averages, and just a few days above 90 F. Rainfall patterns have been unusual, with occasional passing showers continuing into July, maintaining relatively high humidity and patches of green in local pastures.

This issue's column covers one of the most eventful parts of the year, including arrival of later spring migrants, nesting season, and southbound shorebirds toward the end of the period. So this column will focus just on field observations; I'll resume the sections on conservation issues and natural areas next month.

Abbreviations and locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds. E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) is 10 miles north of Corvallis. Herbert Open Space is at the west of Herbert Ave at the south edge of Corvallis. Jackson-Frazier Wetlands is in north Corvallis near Cheldelin Middle School. Luckiamute State Natural Area (SNA) is along the Willamette River northwest of Albany. The Philomath STP are south of Philomath and require access permission. Teloh-Calapooia Park is in south Albany near Linn-Benton Community College, Talking Water Gardens is in NE Albany. Cabell Marsh, Cheadle Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR.

Lingering birds

A **Northern Shoveler** pair and a few **Ring-necked Ducks** were still at EE Wilson 28 Apr (Pam & Randy Comeleo). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was on the Philomath STP 10 May (Russ Namitz). A **Northern Pintail** was there 26 Jun (Virginia Stanton). A female **Bufflehead** spent the summer at Baskett Slough NWR but there was no indication of nesting (Frank Kolwicz).

A **Double-crested Cormorant** was still at Foster Reservoir 18 May (Rich Hoyer), after most wintering birds had left for breeding areas along the coast or east of the Cascades. A dozen **Great Egrets** were in trees along Bruce Rd. 9 Jun (Rana Foster).

An adult **Golden Eagle** flew over Finley NWR 11 May (Duncan Evered, Bill Proebsting). A late **Merlin** took flight from a ranch road in the Soap Creek Valley 8 May.

A lone **American Pipit** foraging along a gravel road at Bald Hill Farm 2 May had to keep moving to keep ahead of a squad of the resident not-very-Wild Turkeys (Lisa Millbank).

A late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, five **Hermit Thrushes**, and a "**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrow** were in Willamette Park 2 May (Duncan Evered).

Up to four **White-throated Sparrows** visited Jamie Simmons' nw. Corvallis yard during mid-Apr; the last one noted there was on 29 Apr. About 25 **Golden-crowned Sparrows** still at Bald Hill Farm 2 May (Lisa Millbank); one very late individual was s. of Brownsville 19 May (Maureen Leong-Kee, Nicholas Martens). A **Harris's Sparrow** visited a farmstead e. of Crabtree 29 Apr – 3 May (Brant Kilber). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was still at low elevation along Belts Rd. s. of Brownsville 29 Apr (Paul Sullivan).

Migrant visitors

A pair of **Barrows' Goldeneyes** and an **Eared Grebe** visited the Philomath STP 8-10 May (Hendrik Herlyn; Kaplan Yalcin; Russ Namitz). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** also stopped by on 10

May (Russ Namitz). A **Clark's Grebe** was on Foster Reservoir 18 May (Rich Hoyer).

890 **Vaux's Swifts** swirled down to roost in the chimney of Wiegand Hall on the OSU campus on the evening of 1 May (Mary Garrard, Bev Clark). A migrant **Black Swift** foraged low in the sky over the Blakesley Creek valley near Wren 26 May, gradually working its way northward.

A migrant female **Calliope Hummingbird** stopped by an Albany feeder 30 Apr (Susan Massey). One visiting our feeder near E.E. Wilson WA the next day had a hard time finding moments to sip, as several **Anna's Hummingbirds** and half a dozen **Rufous Hummingbirds** jockeyed for space. A male visited a feeder near Philomath 2-3 May (Eric Preston).

A northbound adult **Swainson's Hawk** soared over Willamette Park 27 Apr (Duncan Evered). Another soaring over the OSU campus 2 May (Nolan Clements, Caleb Centanni) may have been the same bird that Woody Fitzgerald saw over his s. Corvallis yard that week. A first-year bird soared over Willamette Park 1 Jun (Duncan Evered, Caryn Stoess). A molting adult flew south over Mike Lippsmeyer's farm s. of Independence 23 Jun.

A **Sandhill Crane** stopped by a field in Kings Valley 26 May, spotted by Denise Giles' 9-year-old son who gave a clear description, noting also that this was an unexpected species for his area.

A **Red Phalarope** and 21 **Spotted Sandpipers** were at the Philomath STP 9 May (Hendrik Herlyn). About 50 "peeps" (small sandpipers) by an irrigation pond near Airlie 3 Jul appeared to be mainly **Least Sandpipers**, already on their way south after nesting in the Arctic.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** perched on a snag at Willamette Park 27 Apr (Duncan Evered, Caryn Stoess). A late migrant was near Starker Arts Park in sw. Corvallis 17 May (Don Boucher). Other migrants in Willamette Park 2 May included two **Hammond's Flycatchers** and two well-described **Dusky Flycatchers** (Duncan Evered). Two **Gray Flycatchers** visited Lost Lake near Santiam Pass 1 May (Thomas Gilg).

A migrant **Lark Sparrow** foraged along the roadside at Bald Hill Farm 10 May (Bill Proebsting). This strikingly marked species formerly nested in our area, at least through 1902, when Arthur R. Woodcock mentioned having found three nests around Corvallis, in an Oregon Agricultural Experimental Station bulletin. On 11 May another **Lark Sparrow** was near Lava Lake in the Santiam Pass region (Maureen Leong-Kee, Nicholas Martens).

A migrant **Nashville Warbler** stopped by Woody Fitzgerald's s. Corvallis yard in the week of 4 May. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were conspicuous through a wide part of our area during 25-28 Apr, as part of a strong flux of migrant warblers and vireos. Duncan Evered estimated 20 birds per minute moving north through his immediate vicinity, while counting birds over a five-hour period in Willamette Park 35 Apr. Passage of **Wilson's Warblers** continued through 2 May when Duncan Evered counted 57 Willamette Park.

Many **Painted Lady** butterflies passed through the area on their northward migration during the last week of April through 10 May (Don Boucher).

Migrant arrivals and nesting

During the period covered by these field notes, spring migrants continued to arrive and commence breeding, alongside of migrants that arrived earlier in spring.

A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** and a male **Wilson's Phalarope** were noted 11 May on a private wetland site (Hendrik Herlyn) adjacent to the wet prairie at Finley NWR where phalaropes have nested in recent years.

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** turned up in Grand Island



Greenway north of Willamette Mission 25 Jun (Bob Lockett, Ed McVicker), but there was no sign that it found a mate or remained in the area. The western population of this species is Endangered and there are no records of nesting in Oregon, in recent decades.

A very early **nighthawk** was spotted as it flew low over the highway interchange near the Marys River confluence, in downtown Corvallis 13 May (Andrew & Eric Pratt). At such an early date, the possibility of a **Lesser Nighthawk** straying north from California should be considered. **Common Nighthawks** heard and seen in line with the more typical timetable included one calling over Willamette Gardens in sw. Corvallis 28 May, and one that called and "boomed" over Dunn Forest 30 May (Pam & Randy Comeleo).

A **Rufous Hummingbird** fledgling begged from an adult at Luckiamute SNA 19 May (Neighborhood Naturalist field trip). A **Vaux's Swift** flew through the crown of a tree in front of the Corvallis post office 11 May, veering after making impact with a twig. Don Boucher suggested that the swift might have been trying to gather nesting material on the wing.

Three adult-sized juvenile **Virginia Rails** were along the boardwalk at Sunset Park 24 Jun (Don Boucher). An adult tended a much younger brood of four black, fuzzy youngsters at Cheadle Marsh in Finley NWR 1 Jul (Nancy Stotz).

A total of nine **Black-necked Stilts** were at Baskett Slough NWR by 5 May (Erik Knight). One pair had two eggs in their nest by 22 May (Frank Kolwicz), and were still incubating four eggs as of 10 Jun (Mitch Rohse), despite dropping water levels. However by 12 Jun the nest appeared to be abandoned (Frank Kolwicz).

Two **American Bitterns** called in a marsh and wet prairie along Bruce Rd. at Finley NWR 9 Jun (Rana Foster). **Green Herons** successfully nested at Stewart Lake in ne. Corvallis; four young were seen out of the nest but still up in a tree on June 24 (Jamie Simmons).

Two **Ospreys** were on the nest by the Harrison Street bridge in downtown Corvallis by 25 Apr (Marge Popp).

Early **Western Wood-Pewees** were seen as single birds in Willamette Park 26 & 29 Apr (Kai Frueh), at Harkens Lake near Monroe 30 Apr (Matt Blakeley-Smith, Paul Adamus) and at Stewart Lake 30 Apr (Jammie Simmons). One sang along Marys River w. of Philomath 7 May (Carol Savonen). Fledgling wood-pewees were out of the nest in nw. Corvallis by 23 Jun (Nancy Stotz).

A male **Willow Flycatcher** at Bald Hill 16 May gave his sneezy "fitz-bew" song and snapped up small green caterpillars that were dangling on strands of silk from oak trees; Lisa Millbank noted that **Tree Swallows** were also taking advantage of this "suspended" food source.

A **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** brooded on a nest in Teloh-Calapooia Park during the week of 29 Jun (Jim Smith).

An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was along Courtney Creek just s. of Brownsville 29 Apr (Paul Sullivan), where near-annual detections suggest possible nesting. A **Western Kingbird** was along Belts Dr. s. of Brownsville 29 Apr (Paul Sullivan). A pair collected nesting material on the North Prairie at Finley NWR 13 May. Five were in the Brownsville area 21-23 May (Tom Gilg).

A likely **Red-eyed Vireo** called and was briefly seen 19 Ma during a Neighborhood Naturalist field trip (Don Boucher; Pam & Randy Comeleo) to Luckiamute SNA 19 May, where this species can be found during nesting season in most years. A male sang there again 10 Jun (Will Wright) and on 26 Jun when I visited to survey for cuckoos. A singing male turned up in Willamette Park 13 Jul (Duncan Evered, Caryn Stoess) and continued through the end of the period.

A pair of **Purple Martins** were using a cavity in a telephone pole in a grass seed field near Crabtree 15 Jun (Jeff Harding).

A female **Violet-green Swallow** at Bald Hill Farm 27 May tried repeatedly but unsuccessfully to carry a turkey feather twice her length into a nest box (Don Boucher). By 7 May the **Cliff Swallow** flock nesting on Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's barn s. of Independence seemed on track to top their previous record of 42 nest cups.

House Wrens were noted in higher than usual numbers. A pair nesting at our house was feeding young by 30 May. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** called and foraged in hawthorns and oaks along the Betty Griffiths trail in NW Corvallis 11 May (Nancy Stotz).

After scattered reports of single birds in late Apr, **Swainson's Thrushes** were noted by widespread observers from 3 May onward. At least a dozen had settled into nesting habitat at Luckiamute SNA by 10 May. **Cedar Waxwings** can be found in our area year-round, but numbers swelled noticeably around Corvallis during the week of 16 May, including a flock of 70 in sw. Corvallis (Don Boucher).

Two male **Grasshopper Sparrows** sang simultaneously on at Finley NWR 13 May (Nancy Stotz), on the North Prairie where this species has been found regularly in nesting season over the past decade. At least one was heard and seen there regularly through mid-Jun.

Five **Chipping Sparrows** foraged in the roadway at Bald Hill Farm 3 May (Pam & Randy Comeleo). Mike and Karen Lippsmeyer noted good numbers on their farm s. of Independence by early May. Several were in a mature filbert orchard off Burriss St. in NE Corvallis 16 May (Paul Adamus). A few juveniles had fledged and were flying capably in Soap Creek Valley by 8 Jun.

Three **Vesper Sparrows** were along Belts Rd. s. of Brownsville 29 Apr (Paul Sullivan). Those that nest in the Willamette Valley are "Oregon" Vesper Sparrows, a subspecies that has been proposed for federal listing as Endangered. A pair copulated in Soap Creek Valley 27 Apr. A female was incubating a nest with four eggs there by 11 May, and four nestlings left the nest on 28 May. Another female fed a **Brown-headed Cowbird** chick near Wren 8 Jul.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** turned up at Ankeny NWR 30 Apr (Margaret Stephens). One called on a tree farm near Ft. Hoskins 12 May. One sang near the Ashbrook School in sw. Corvallis 23 May through 10 Jun and several sang 6 Jul in E.E. Wilson WA 6 Jul (Don Boucher).

An influx of **Yellow Warblers** was noted as many sang in willows and cottonwoods at Snag Boat Bend 27 Apr (Ellen Cantor), and more sang at EE Wilson 28 Apr (Pam & Randy Comeleo). A female **Black-throated Gray Warbler** gathered strands of dead grasses and carried them to a nest under construction in a Douglas-fir on Sarah and Dave Ehler's tree farm near Ft. Hoskins 12 May. A family group with at least two juveniles visited our yard near E.E. Wilson WA 13 Jul.

A **Western Tanager** and a **Bullock's Oriole** foraged alongside of each other, catching small bees in apple trees near Village Green Park in Corvallis 26 Apr (Lisa Millbank).

Carol Savonen heard a **Black-headed Grosbeak** singing w. of Philomath 28 Apr, and noted fledglings there by 18 Jun.

Two **Lazuli Bunting** males competed for the attention of a female at Bald Hill Farm 3 May (Pam & Randy Comeleo); by the end of the period juveniles were beginning to disperse from nesting areas.

Mountain-nesting birds

A **Sooty Grouse** hooted near McCulloch Peak in McDonald Forest 1 May (Paul Adamus). Another hooted on the west ridge of Marys Peak 12 May (Lars Norgren). A female grouse

brooding a dozen nestlings sw. of Philomath 3 Jul (Jim Fairchild) appeared to have a dark tail band as on **Ruffed Grouse**.

A **Northern Goshawk** called, then flew through Karan & Jim Fairchild's place sw. of Philomath 22 Jun. One unsuccessfully pursued a **Varied Thrush** on Marys Peak 4 Jul (Duncan Evered, Caryn Stoess).

Peregrine Falcons are known to nest in the western Cascades above Sweet Home. Increasingly frequent spring and summer sightings over Corvallis and Philomath suggest that some might also nest in the Coast Range. One nabbed and flew off with what appeared to be a **European Starling** from the Dunawi Creek Community Garden in Corvallis 22 May (Don Boucher).

Paul Adamus noted **Canada Jays** near McCulloch Peak in McDonald Forest 1 May. **Hammond's Flycatchers** seemed to be responding well to a BLM forest thinning project above Lcomb, with good numbers along a breeding-bird survey route on 23 Jun.

Up to three **Townsend's Solitaire** (a pair and a single bird) hawked insects and flew over the Middle Meadow restoration area on Marys Peak 12 May (Lars Norgren).

Higher than usual numbers of **Hermit Thrushes** were singing and foraging around Crabtree Lake 23 Jun; lingering snow from this winter's heavy snow may have caused some to nest at slightly lower elevations than usual.

Three **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** were near the summit of Three Fingers Jack 26 Jun (Drew Meyer). A pair of **Lincoln's Sparrows** tended fledglings at Lost Lake near Santiam Pass on 4 Jul (Jack Williamson).

Several **MacGillivray's Warblers** and many **Hermit Warblers** were along the trail from Sulphur Springs to McCulloch Peak trail in McDonald Forest 1 May (Paul Adamus). Begging **Wilson's Warblers** fledglings were in an ancient grove along the 36 Loop trail in McDonald Forest 4 Jun (Howard Bruner). Two **Townsend's Warblers** sang along the 810 Road in McDonald Forest 12 Jun (Howard Bruner).

Valley-nesting residents

A **Wood Duck** was using a nest box in the cottonwood gallery forest at Willamette Park 30 Apr (Rana Foster). Two broods of tiny **Mallard** ducklings were out of their nests at Finley NWR 12 May and several female **Hooded Mergansers** were tending broods on the Philomath STP 26 Jun (Virginia Stanton).

A brood of **California Quail** chicks just one-quarter the size of their parents took flight at Finley NWR 7 Jul (Andi Stephens); Judith Paul notes that quail chicks can fly within ten days of hatching.

Near Wren on 20 May, Emily Lind and I saw three **Mourning Doves** with their bills together, seemingly dancing in a circle. After one flew away we noticed that the two remaining doves had short tails, apparently fledglings still being fed by a parent.

A **Killdeer** pair at Finley NWR 12 May was guarding three small chicks (Virginia Stanton).

Two **Red-tailed Hawks** flew up to challenge a **Peregrine Falcon** that loitered in the sky too close to their nest near Jefferson 4 May (OSU Master Naturalist class). A **Red-tailed Hawk** on Vineyard Mountain 28 May failed in several attempts to catch a reddish squirrel around the base of some firs and oaks, giving up its pursuit as the squirrel chattered at it from above (John Snelling).

A **Barred Owl** flew through the gallery forest at Luckiamute SNA 9 May, prompting alarm calls from the local **robins** (Don

& Sandy Kuhns).

A **Great Horned Owl** making short flights along a road in Dunn Forest 6 May seemed to be a young bird learning to hunt on its own (Pam & Randy Comeleo). One sw. of Philomath 19 May may have waited for an accipiter to do the hunting; Jim & Karan Fairchild heard calls that sounded like a perturbed Cooper's Hawk or perhaps a Northern Goshawk, but when they got to the scene they saw a **Great Horned Owl** fly off with the partially plucked carcass of a **Band-tailed Pigeon**.

An **Acorn Woodpecker** nestling poked its head out of a nest hole along the Betty Griffiths Trail 23 Jun (Nancy Stotz).

A pair of **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** had an active nest at Herbert Farm 29 May (Rana Foster). A pair at our house were nesting in a utility pole by late May; fledglings emerged by 8 Jul. An adult male **Downy Woodpecker** was feeding a female in Albany 18 Jun (Andi Stephens); it was unclear whether this was a juvenile or a case of "mate feeding." By then Jim Smith was seeing fledglings being tended by adults at his feeders near Teloh-Calapooia Park.

A **Black Phoebe** was in surprising oak-scrub habitat on Logsdon Ridge n. of Corvallis 31 May (Paul Adamus); more often this species is seen close to water during breeding season. Two juvenile **"Streaked" Horned Larks** were foraging independently near Airlie 3 Jul.

In Willamette Park 27 Apr a pair of **Hutton's Vireos** fed two nestlings that were really ready to fledge (Duncan Evered). **Black-capped Chickadees** and **White-breasted Nuthatches** were using nest boxes in s. Corvallis by 4 May (Woody Fitzgerald).

Squawking and begging fledgling **Steller's Jay** and **Pacific Wrens** were conspicuous in an ancient grove along the 36 Loop trail McDonald Forest 4 Jun (Howard Bruner). Three juvenile **California Scrub-Jays** visited Andi Stephens' feeder 18 Jun. **Bushtit** broods began to appear by mid-Jul, when a flock of 16 turned up in Andrea & Greg Foster's nw. Corvallis yard.

One pair of **Western Bluebirds** on a ranch w. of Philomath had nestlings nearly ready to fledge by 1 Jun, while another pair had day-old babies, and another just had eggs (Rana Foster).

Juvenile **Dark-eyed Juncos** began to appear by 4 Jun, and **White-crowned Sparrow** juveniles were abundant by the end of the period. On 1 May a **Spotted Towhee** flushed from a nest with three eggs under a cow parsnip plant in Bill Gerth's Corvallis yard; the eggs hatched by 11 May.

A **Brewer's Blackbird** in s. Albany 10 May made several rounds between a feeder and a bird bath, dunking pieces of peanuts and sunflower chips in the water before eating them (Jim Smith).

An **Opossum** mom with a pouch apparently very full of babies waddled across Fillmore Ave. early on the morning of 21 May (Lisa Millbank). A female **Striped Skunk** brought four babies into Carma Henry's yard on Logsdon Ridge 3 Jul.

A **Bobcat** was along Bruce Rd. near the Muddy Creek dike 9 Jun (Rana Foster). Carol and Jim Hiler saw **Gray Foxes** frequently at their place in North Albany during early July, perhaps indicating a den nearby.

Rare or off-course birds and other surprises

Two **Trumpeter Swans** with neck collars (green with white lettering) were on Cabell Marsh 3 May. Howard Bruner reported them to the Trumpeter Swan Society. These birds turn out to be sisters, hatched in 2017 at NW Trek near Seattle and released them at Summer Lake Wildlife Area on 15 Sep 2017 to help build a sustainable Trumpeter Swan breeding flock in Oregon (Gary Ivey).

The collared swans were still at Finley NWR 11 May (Hendrik



Herlyn), but by 24 May they had made a jaunt north to Nanaimo, British Columbia, then were Cabell Marsh 1 Jun where they continued to be seen through 8 Jun.

Another adult **Trumpeter Swan** (without a collar) was at Baskett Slough NWR 5 May (Erik Knight), where a lone, lingering adult was seen earlier this spring.

An adult **Common Loon** that landed on the angling pond in E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area 26 Apr (Zac Kendall) stayed there for several days, feasting on stocked trout and perhaps pondering how it would manage to take off from such a small pond. Normally and without a strong headwind, loons require about 200 m to take off by running atop the water. The angling pond is only about 165 m across at its widest point, and surrounded by a high berm. On the morning of 3 May the loon finally managed to take off, barely clearing the berm after two unsuccessful tries witnessed by Mark Hoffman (per Shawn Woods).

Two **Wandering Tattlers** at the Philomath STP 26 May (Annika Andersson) stayed through 30 May (Roy Gerig). This species is normally found along the coast but there are Oregon records from Crater Lake and a residential neighborhood in Dallas.

A **Loggerhead Shrike** hunted along the edge of a Christmas tree plantation near Sublimity 16 Jun.

A male "black-backed" **Lesser Goldfinch** was s. of Philomath 2 Jul (Virginia Stanton); this color variant is more commonly found in the eastern part of this species range in Texas, but occasionally individuals are seen in our region.

While visiting our area from Colorado, Todd Deininger was surprised to find a stray migrant **Black-and-white Warbler** singing at Finley NWR 28 Apr; his careful description ruled out Black-throated Gray Warbler. A **Hooded Warbler** found singing in Willamette Park 13 May (Duncan Evered) stayed long enough for many local birders to see it.

A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** turned up singing on Bald Hill 5 Jun (Bill Proebsting, Kelly Amsberger) and continued there through 16 Jun.

Four **Elk** wandered out into Bald Hill Natural Area 2 May (Greenbelt Land Trust). Two **Gray Foxes** strolled past Paul Adamus' house near Lewisburg 18 May.

Next month: A few migrant nesting species including **Lazuli Buntings** and **Black-headed Grosbeaks** will be heading south, along with continuing southbound migration of shorebirds. Please post your observations to the Mid-Valley birding list at midvalleybirding.org, e-mail them to me at joel.geier@peak.org, send by post to 38566 Hwy 99W Corvallis 97330, or call (541) 745-5821 by 22 Aug.

Board Meeting Summary

May 2019 Board Meeting Summary

1. The intern that ASC is sponsoring is now working out at Finley Wildlife Refuge.
2. The Board voted unanimously to send a letter to ODFW, urging the ODFW Commission to reject weakened protections for wolves in the revised Wolf Management Plan.
3. Exciting news: condors have been seen and reported by the Yurok Tribe in northern California!
4. The Bird Nerds, OSU's student birding group, is trying to form a student chapter of the American Ornithological Society.
5. The newly designed ASC website will be up and running by September.

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:

Dorothy Sowell
Peter Greenberg
James Boyle
Kellan Parker

General Membership Renewal Information

For membership renewal online go to 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, field trip 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/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, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Joel Geier, Don Boucher, Ray Drapek, Sally Shaw, Linda Campbell, Paul Adamus, Dale Mitchell, and Tara Davis

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

Aug. 3	Hesthavn Work Party, 10-2
Aug. 8	ASC Board meeting, 7 pm at Hesthavn
Aug. 8-11	Steens Mountain field trip
Aug. 10	Hesthavn Work Party, 8-12
Aug. 10	Second Saturday field trip
Aug. 22	Articles due for Sept. 2019 CHAT
Aug. 22	Field Notes submissions due
Aug. 23-25	Shorebird Search field trip
Sept. 8	Hesthavn weed work party, 10-2
Sept. 14	Second Saturday field trip
Sept. 15	Hesthavn Family Program: Bird Brains
Sept. 19	ASC Monthly Members Meeting, 6:30 at First United Methodist Church (note NEW venue)

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