



# THE CHAT

SEPTEMBER 2019

VOL. 49 #1

## ASC General Meeting

First United Methodist Church,  
1165 NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis, in  
Wesley Hall, upstairs (elevator access is through doors on Monroe)

**Beginning September 19, 2019,  
all ASC general meetings will be at this new location.**

## September 19th Program

### Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership

As we mentioned in the Summer issue, 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, focused on river restoration and non-profit management, as well as on affordable housing, federal wilderness area designation, and private land protection. 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. Her work led to the bi-national Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership, where she is the Coordinator.

She sees a natural connection with Corvallis Audubon members in a project that 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.

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.

### Next month's program:

**Oct. 17:** David Bucy - Wildlife in Crisis on the Texas Border

Mark Baldwin, Vice Pres. & Program Chair,  
[mark.baldwin2@comcast.net](mailto:mark.baldwin2@comcast.net)

## 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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## President's Corner



*Black-throated Gray Warbler*

### Fall Migration Musings

Spring migration to me is wave after wave of species arriving, active and singing. The local nesters set up territory and keep up the activity to mate and raise a family. Fall migration, in contrast, is comprised of relatively quiet birds trickling south in loose groups.

I enjoy going out to try to find these fall birds. Very little singing now. At best, some distinctive chipping. I can recognize some of the chips, but mostly I am alerted by, "warbler chip!" Another good signal is the presence of chickadees. The concept of the mixed flock comprised of species that look at the world in different ways to make the group safer makes sense. Also appealing to me, is the idea that the chickadees have local knowledge of food and safety, passing this along to the migrants on their journey.

Some mornings can be really slow, but other times I stumble across a flurry of excitement. Trying to find out who's there and not miss anyone is a great challenge. Perhaps even get a photo. It is always a joy to find these little nuggets of energy gleaning for food for the trip.

By mid-morning, activity has slowed. I head home, sit on the deck with Lena, having another cup of coffee and watch for birds coming through the garden. Again, some days are quiet, though there is always activity at

the feeders. It is also interesting to see which plants migrants are feeding on. As I write this, Cascara fruit are drawing a variety of species; tanagers, grosbeaks, waxwings, thrushes, purple finches. Warblers might be anywhere, searching for larvae. Amazing how good they are.

Great life on a beautiful August morning in Corvallis. Looking forward to September.

*Bill Proebsting, Chapter President*

### Proposed Amendment to ASC Constitution

As many of you are aware, many hours involving many individuals are spent working at the Hesthavn Nature Center. One person, in particular, has some large ongoing projects for which she purchases supplies and small equipment. She was provided a debit card to simplify these transactions, rather than go through frequent reimbursements.

The system has worked well, but as part of the transition to new ASC Treasurer, Carolyn Peterson noticed that such cards are not authorized by the ASC Constitution. Neither Carolyn nor I were comfortable with this inconsistency, however practical. As a result, the Board discussed and approved the following amendment, in *Italic type* below, which is published in The Chat as required by the constitution. We will then discuss and vote on the amendment at the September Chapter meeting. Here is the change in context:

#### Article IV: Officers ...

Section 6. All checks and drafts of Society shall be signed by the Treasurer or the President; provided that neither Treasurer nor President shall sign a check to himself or herself. Expenses incurred by a member of the Society prior to approval of an authorized budget shall not be binding on the Society. Disbursement of funds shall at all times be kept within limits of the previously approved budget unless specifically authorized by a vote of the Board. *The use of Debit cards, renewed annually, may be set up to assist projects, based on the recommendation of the Treasurer and approval by the Board.*

*Bill Proebsting, Chapter President*

## 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 sunscreen as appro-

prate. 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 [CorvallisAudubon-](http://CorvallisAudubon-)



[SecondSaturday@gmail.com](mailto:SecondSaturday@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: Sept 14.** We will look for and discuss migrant birds using Willamette Park, a diverse

300-acre park and great local asset (for birds and birders), with over 200 species recorded in recent years.

*Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess*

### **Weekend Field Trips:**

ASC weekend field trips are done for this calendar year.

## **Hesthavn News**

### **Coming Work Parties**

Here's the schedule for our Hesthavn work parties for the next two months to give you plenty of advance notice. These work parties are from 10 am to 2 pm EXCEPT the 10/6 work party, which will be 8 am to noon. Sorry!!

**9/8** - Restoration. Caged plants. English Ivy.

**9/22** - Barn and yard. Working from the check list.

**10/6** - Restoration. English Ivy, Yellow Archangel.

**10/27** - Barn and yard. Working from the check list.

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

*Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair*

### **Hesthavn Family Fun Program**

Looking for a fun, free local event to focus on Nature and learn some WOW information about birds? All ages are welcome to come enjoy and learn with us at our Hesthavn Nature Center from 1-3 pm on Sunday, September 15. The ASC Nature Center is on Oak Creek Drive, west of downtown Corvallis,

Our volunteers will have interactive projects demonstrating the amazing skills and behaviors of birds. Join us to explore Bird Brains: Smart 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! And we have a big outside table ready for your picnic.

*Hesthavn Education Volunteer Team*

### **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.

**Directions to Hesthavn**, at 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 the Nature Center. Hesthavn will be on your left shortly before the end of Oak Creek Dr.

## **Education News**

### **Planning for the new program year**

The ASC Education Team had a dynamic meeting in August, exploring team goals for the new year after a brief discussion of highlights from last year. WWFD continues to be a priority but we are hoping for a less time intensive contribution this year. Funding for the event patch and passport copies has been approved by the ASC board, but without design services thus far.

In selecting other events, we are looking for opportunities to reach out to our community and inspire understanding, appreciation and love of Nature as widely as possible.

Last year our message and activities varied widely. This year we want to focus a bit more on a theme or message and develop interactive materials. To this end, a Volunteer Team has met twice and continues.

We now have an ASC Ed Volunteers Sign-up Sheet for 2019-20 Programs and Tasks which will be available at general meetings or can be emailed to anyone interested in helping in even a limited capacity. This is a work in progress, and we will announce future events as information comes in.

New volunteers and returning team members are all welcome to join us in making learning about science, wildlife, and our environment fun and inspiring. For more information, contact Teri Engbring or other ASC Ed Team members at ASC General meetings or text Teri at [chateditors@gmail.com](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com)

*Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team*

## **Conservation Update**

### **August 2019 Forest Conservation Report**

First among the good, the bad, and the ugly...U.S. Forest Service has proposed weakening public review of larger scale projects. The comment period closed August 26th. There is no doubt the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) adds significant work to the plate of Forest Service land managers in gathering and presenting information on planned actions, and in soliciting and responding to public input when a significant environmental impact could occur. NEPA is why we have environmental impact analyses or assess-

ments done before federal actions or project funding takes place. It is the public's best way to hold any federal agency accountable for complying with agency direction, as well as the most successful way for the public to uphold other federal laws, such as the Clean Water and the Endangered Species Acts.

OSU Research Forest logging has gotten a black eye under the watchful gaze of local recreationists. OSU's response has been both unusual but unsurprising. The new College of Forestry Dean responded by enacting a temporary halt to logging trees greater than 160 years old in the McDonald Forest, but that leaves much of the current and next cutting units available. Apparently, there are a number of clearcuts larger than the 1-4 acre patch limits envisioned in the 2005 plan for this southern portion. I would hold the Research Forest Director accountable for this and other similar errors, but OSU will likely choose a different fall guy, quite possibly the "new blood."

Discussions continue regarding ownership and management of the Elliott State Forest. As OSU is developing its research forest proposal for Division of State Lands (DSL) to approve, timing couldn't have been worse for College of Forestry to be found operating outside its own plan. Oregon Audubon Chapters have members working on committees towards Elliott ownership and acceptable activities that preserve natural resources there. There is still general support for OSU ownership, if only it can be adequately restrained and there is no better prospective purchaser. I like to remind people that OSU research forest lands pay no property taxes to the state or counties, nor harvest or severance taxes to the state as if they were public lands, but they are regulated as private lands.

There is some movement afoot regarding Benton County's continued participation in the class action Linn County lawsuit against Oregon and its Dept. of Forestry for not making timber revenue generation the primary driver for state forest management. More news due in the coming days and weeks.

In my neighborhood, more logging continues in the Corvallis Watershed, at the same time as the city hopes to increase water withdrawals beyond what it has developed water rights. It still has not addressed its contribution of wastewater heat discharged into the Willamette River (some will remember the Orleans Natural Area wastewater treatment proposal), while its watershed activities continue to increase water temperatures and decrease water quality and streamflows upstream in the Marys River. In direct contrast to this, Corvallis already has both enough water rights and capacity to supply all its needs from the Willamette River, and by doing so would contribute lower stream temperatures to the Willamette.

Lastly, a Eugene District Court judge found the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission illegally reversed its state endangered species finding for the marbled

murrelet because it did so without any supporting evidence. Watch out for fireworks when the Commission takes this up again. The marbled murrelet is already considered endangered in both Washington and California. Nesting farther inland from the coastal zone, including in the Corvallis Watershed, occurs less frequently when good ocean foraging conditions exist. As good foraging years become less frequent, currently required murrelet surveys for only two nesting seasons will more frequently clear logging project in or near suitable nesting habitat. With an Oregon endangered listing, we can look for more adequate protections for murrelets both offshore and in our forests

*Jim Fairchild*

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## Community Notes

### Award winning bird photos coming to Corvallis in April

ASC Vice President Mark Baldwin has secured an amazing opportunity for ASC members and our Corvallis neighbors – a traveling exhibit of 10 spectacular bird photographs, the winners of the nationwide 2019 National Audubon Society Photography Awards! They will be in Corvallis April 1-22, 2020, and available for viewing thanks to the OSU Center for the Humanities, 811 SW Jefferson Ave., Corvallis. Watch future issues for more information on viewing hours and this rare exhibit combining technical skill, art and the magic of nature.

Photography is a powerful way to draw in audiences, inspire a love of birds, and promote conservation action. These photographic prints cover a range of species and geographic locations to ensure that the exhibit is of interest to audiences nationwide. The Audubon Photography Awards traveling exhibit is sponsored by Canon, with local costs of shipping and setup absorbed by ASC.

If anyone is interested in developing a local bird (wildlife) photography workshop in connection with these visiting photos, please contact Teri Engbring at [chateditors@gmail.com](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com).

*Teri Engbring*

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## Field Notes

### 07/26/19-08/22/19

This summer continues to be mild in comparison with recent years. Most daily high temperatures were in the upper 70s or low 80s F, and the thermometer climbed into the low 90s F just three times. Light but measurable rain fell on four days during the period.

The relatively mild, humid weather kept vegetation a little greener than in recent summers, and helped to lower the risk of wildfires in the mountains. Just a few trees were starting to show patches of autumn color by 22 Aug.

**Abbreviations and locations:** NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds. Cheadle Lake is



in Lebanon. 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: swifts, larks, and sparrows

**Vaux's Swifts** began to gather in local chimneys that they use for communal roosts during migration. Mary Garrard counted 64 going into the chimney of a vacant building along the downtown Corvallis riverfront on the evening of 20 Aug. Mary knows of at least ten chimneys around Corvallis that migrant swifts have used in the past. Please contact Mary by e-mail ([springazure1@gmail.com](mailto:springazure1@gmail.com)) if you'd like to help monitor these birds, as part of the [www.vauxshappening.org](http://www.vauxshappening.org) project! Mary notes that this can be a very pleasant way to contribute to conservation: while waiting for dusk you'll watch beautiful sunsets, and then experience the thrill of watching the swifts gather, swirl, and drop into a chimney.

**"Streaked" Horned Larks** nested successfully this year at Herbert Farm & Natural Area on the south edge of Corvallis. On 10 Aug two juveniles followed an adult as it flew to a neighboring field, then back into the city property where the habitat was actively managed this year to provide patches of open ground suitable.

The federal listing status of this imperiled subspecies is once again under review, after a federal judge ruled in June that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service did not give adequate scientific arguments for listing these larks as Threatened rather than Endangered.

**"Oregon" Vesper Sparrows** finished nesting and began to disperse from breeding sites around Corvallis by the first week of August. This is another subspecies that has been proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. This past nesting season yielded very few reports by local birders, away from a few sites where the population is being closely monitored by the American Bird Conservancy.

Now is the time to watch for banded birds dispersing to other sites. If you see one of these sparrows with colored bands on its legs, please make a note of the band colors and their position (right or left leg, upper or lower), or photograph the bird if possible. Observations of banded birds will help to build the scientific understanding of their post-breeding movements, use of habitat, and survival rates.

## Late nesters, dispersing birds and other wanderers

Six fledgling **Hooded Mergansers** swam on the Marys River w. of Philomath 22 Aug (Carol Savonen).

**Common Nighthawks** continued in the edge of the Coast Range sw. of Philomath through 18 Aug (Karan Fairchild).

Numbers of **Rufous Hummingbirds** in the valley gradually dwindled as females finished nesting, fledglings matured and began to move to higher elevations. **Anna's Hummingbirds** seemed to appreciate the departure of these smaller but feisty competitors around local feeders.

**American White Pelicans** were seen occasionally throughout the period at Cabell Marsh. Pelicans are now year-round residents at Fern Ridge Reservoir and sporadically wander north to mid-valley NWRs in search of fish, tadpoles, and other aquatic food.

**Green Herons** were spotted occasionally through the period at Cheadle Lake in Lebanon and along the Willamette River and Sunset Park in Corvallis. One turned at the slough in Teloh-Calapooia Park in late August (Jim Smith). **American Bitterns** were spotted through 3 Aug at Talking Water Gardens (Maureen Leong-Kee, Nicholas Martens) and 13 Aug at Cabell Marsh (Nancy Stotz).

**Great Blue Herons** stalked rodents, snakes and other small prey in stubble fields left after the harvest, often alongside of **Turkey Vultures** searching for carrion snacks. **Great Egrets** aren't known to nest in our area, but now regularly show up in late summer at Finley, Baskett Slough, and Ankeny NWRs where dwindling ponds helped to concentrate bullfrog tadpoles and other aquatic prey.

**Ospreys** nested along Rickreall Creek in downtown Dallas this year (Randy Gray). As this species continues to recover, pairs (usually younger birds) have started to nest along smaller tributaries of the Willamette.

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** in Starker Arts Park provoked a commotion of alarm calls by **American Robins, chickadees, American Crows, Brown Creeper** and **House Wren** 19 Aug (Don Boucher).

**Barn Owls** called around Jenny Swanson's place s. of Corvallis in late Jul. A **Great Horned Owl** fledgling begged noisily in the Highland Dell neighborhood in nw Corvallis through 22 Jul (Mary Garrard).

A **Downy Woodpecker** in nw Corvallis 8 Aug fed on a mullein stalk (Jamie Simmons). A **Pileated Woodpecker** turned up at Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's farm s. of Independence in early Aug, calling as it flew over on 11 Aug. This was the first one at their place, which is several miles from the nearest extensive tracts of large-diameter trees where this species would be more expected. Earlier this summer on 6 Jun, Andrea and Greg Foster ran across a **Pileated Woodpecker** in the Timberhill neighborhood that was so intent on excavating a rotten snag that he continued to hammer at it and fling off chunks of soft wood as they watched from just a few feet away.

**Western Wood-Pewees** were conspicuous throughout the period, calling and flycatching. Other flycatchers were less conspicuous as most stopped calling, but three **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were still at Chip Ross Park 11 Aug (Jamie Simmons), and a **Willow Flycatcher** was still at Luckiamute State Natural Area 22 Aug (Caleb Centanni). **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** also continued through the period. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** was near the Patjens Lakes in the Santiam Pass area 15 Aug (Evan Thomas).

On 26 Jul two juvenile **Black Phoebes** and two adults squabbled and hawked insects around a pasture along the Marys River near Wren. At least eight were around the Philomath STP 7 Aug (Roy Gerig). One showed up on Logsdon Ridge 14 Aug (Carma Sue Henry). This species expanded northward into our area over recent decades, mainly along the Willamette River mainstem, but now seems to be spreading along the tributaries and occasionally even into upland areas.

A **Red-eyed Vireo** that turned up in Willamette Park in mid-July was last heard singing there 26 Jul (Duncan Evered). At least one continued at Luckiamute State Natural Area through the period. A **Cassin's Vireo** sang along the Marys River near Wren 21 Aug.

**Violet-green Swallows** near Teloh-Calapooia Park

fledged their last brood in early August (Jim Smith). Large post-breeding flocks of Violet-green Swallows and **Barn Swallows** were a common sight along utility wires in rural areas by the end of the period. A few **Tree Swallows**, **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** and **Cliff Swallows** were also seen through the period.

Large post-breeding flocks of **Bushtits** foraged in herbaceous plants in a new wetland along the Campus Way bike path 6 Aug (Karan Fairchild).

On 8 Aug Andi Stephens heard something tapping in her tube feeder in North Albany. It turned out to be a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** that had worked its way inside. Andi reports that the nuthatch seemed to suffer no harm and flew off fine once released.

Two scruffy **Western Bluebirds** (perhaps molting) were in Starker Arts Park 17 Aug (Marge Popp). **Swainson's Thrushes** ceased their summer song, but their "whit!" calls could still be heard in riparian forests through the end of the period. A few nocturnal migrants were noted over the Coast Range by mid-August (Darrel Faxon), as southward migration began to get underway. Early to mid-September is a good time to listen for their nocturnal flight calls, especially in the hours just before dawn.

**House Sparrows** continued to nest into late August when Jim Smith saw an adult male bring two fledglings to a bird bath near Teloh-Calapooia Park.

**House Finch** fledglings begged food from adults on Logsdon Ridge 31 Jul (Carma Sue Henry). Many juvenile **Lesser Goldfinches** begged for food along the fences at Bald Hill Farm 5 Aug. Adult **American Goldfinches** also were tending fledglings by then; most had completed their transition to drab winter plumage by the end of the period.

Family groups of **White-crowned Sparrows** and **Song Sparrows** were along the Campus Way bike path 6 Aug (Karan Fairchild). Small numbers of **Chipping Sparrows** continued at Bald Hill Farm and Chip Ross Park through the end of the period. A still streaky-breasted juvenile near Wren 21 Aug must have come from a late brood.

A begging **Brown-headed Cowbird** fledgling on Logsdon Ridge 31 Jul was being fed by a male **Oregon (Dark-eyed) Junco** (Carma Sue Henry).

On 13 Aug Nancy Baumeister spotted an adult female **Common Yellowthroat** in a south Corvallis orchard where a pair attempted a nest earlier in the season.

Movement of warblers away from nesting habitat was apparent. Two **Wilson's Warblers** were along the bike path east of Starker Arts Park 17 Aug (Marge Popp). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Chip Ross 19 Aug (Jamie Simmons) might have been a fall migrant or a bird dispersing from nearby forests.

**Lazuli Buntings** seemed to have a successful nesting season, with many fledglings evident on oak savanna sites in the first week of August. Most departed by the end of period. **Black-headed Grosbeaks** also began to leave, but on 18 Aug Jamie Simmons saw six feeding together within a square meter in his nw Corvallis yard on 18 Aug, and was still there 22 Aug.

### Southbound migrants

Southbound shorebirds at the Philomath STP 7 Aug included many **Least Sandpipers** and **Western Sandpipers**, as well as six **Red-necked Phalaropes** (Roy

Gerig). Shorebirds at Baskett Slough NWR 12 Aug included a **Semipalmated Plover**, a **Lesser Yellowlegs**, five **Greater Yellowlegs** and four **Long-billed Dowitchers** (Don Berg).

A **Merlin** turned up at Willamette Park 19 Sep (Duncan Eved). A very dark **Merlin** hunted in an oak savanna area near Wren 21 Aug, putting a scare into the **Western Wood-Pewees**.

### Rare or off-course birds

While kayaking on Clear Lake in the Cascades 30 Jul, Diane Burgess and Kara Jakse saw a Bufflehead and seven **Common Goldeneyes** along with six **Barrow's Goldeneyes** (which are more expected in the Cascades during summer).

A **Black Turnstone** visited the Philomath STP 5 Aug, and was seen by many local birders. While this "rockpiper" species is common along rocky sections of the Oregon coast from August through April, inland sightings are rare. The last mid-Willamette Valley sighting was at Ankeny NWR in 1986.

Another shorebird much more expected along rocky coasts was a **Wandering Tattler** that Evan Thomas photographed at Big Lake near Santiam Pass 18 Aug .

A **Stilt Sandpiper** turned up at Ankeny NWR 12 Aug and continued through the end of the period.

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** and six **Mountain Bluebirds** were near Patjens Lakes in the Santiam Pass area 15 Aug (Evan Thomas).

### Not quite rare

A very pale hatch-year **Chipping Sparrow** with a weak facial pattern was along Blakesley Creek Rd. near Wren 14 Aug. In my first quick view it looked very much like a **Brewer's Sparrow**, a closely-related species that nests east of the Cascades, and could conceivably stray to our region. However when I went back for a second, better look I could see a few subtle details that ruled out that possibility.

### Other surprises

At the ODFW research facility along Hwy 34 e. of Corvallis 1 Aug, Linda Campbell heard a bird hit her office window hard, went out to investigate, and found what appeared to be a female or immature **Brewer's Blackbird**, beyond help as it had broken its neck. Linda left it on the porch, hoping to get a second opinion on its identity. But within five minutes a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** swooped up to the porch railing, hopped down and grabbed the blackbird. Linda figured that the "sharpie" had chased the bird into the window, and then was waiting nearby to claim its lunch.

### Natural areas: McDonald-Dunn Forest old-growth

Old-growth forest is one of rarest types of natural habitat in our area, limited to just a few patchy remnants of the ancient forests that once covered the Coast Range and western Cascades. In addition to the threatened **Northern Spotted Owl** and the **Red Tree Voles** that serve as their main prey, old-growth forest is host to **Hermit Warblers** that nest in the canopy, **Olive-sided Flycatchers** that hawk insects from the tallest snags, plus **Varied Thrushes** and **Pacific Wrens** and a host of smaller fauna and flora that are unique to this ecosystem.

We're fortunate in the Corvallis area to have a few examples close to town on McDonald-Dunn Forest, which is owned and managed by Oregon State University. One stand that is relatively easy to access is along the Old Growth Trail, which can be reached by hiking nw along Davies Rd. about



0.4 mile from the parking area in Lewisburg Saddle.

Sadly, a less well-known stand of old-growth in the Sulphur Springs area was clearcut this summer. The stand included many trees older than 200 years. When Doug Pollock counted the rings on one giant stump, he determined that the tree had been over 420 years old when it was felled. According to reporting by *The Oregonian*, this logging was driven by a multi-million dollar shortfall in the OSU College of Forestry's budget for a new building on campus. The College has acknowledged that it was a mistake to cut such old trees, but may still be considering logging of nearby stands. A group called Friends of OSU Old

Growth has formed to advocate for the remaining ancient stands. See [www.friendsofosuoldgrowth.org](http://www.friendsofosuoldgrowth.org) for more information on how to get involved.

**Next month:** Fall migration will be in full swing with continuing passage of southbound shorebirds, arrivals of some wintering sparrows, and departure of many swallows, warblers, and other neotropical migrants. 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 Sep.

*Joel Geier, Field Note Compiler*

## Board Meeting Summary

### August 8, 2019 Board Meeting

The traditional potluck preceded our summer meeting, during which incoming Directors were introduced. Karen Ibarra, the ASC-sponsored intern for Willamette Valley Refuges, and Brian Root, refuge biologist, gave a report of their activities studying the Streaked Horn Lark, and Karen's work at Hesthavn.

#### In official business:

The Board passed unanimously a motion to authorize Bill Proebsting, President, and Carolyn Peterson, Treasurer, to handle ASC fiduciary business.

An honorarium was approved for our outgoing volunteer website developer of 17 years, Tom Haig. Sue Powell, who volunteered to design the new website, says it will go live in early September.

The general consensus was positive for Don Boucher to teach beginning birding classes at Hesthavn and ok to ask for donations to cover expenses, discounted for ASC members.

Discussion of asking for donations on ASC sponsored field trips, led by volunteers, is ongoing.

The September Board of Directors meeting will be held at Hesthavn on September 12th at 7 pm.

*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 listserve: [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, Duncan Evered, Caryn Stoess, Ray Drapek, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Jim Fairchild, Joel Geier, Don Boucher, Linda Campbell, 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

Sept. 8	Hesthavn Work Party, Caged Plants, 10-2
Sept. 12	ASC Board meeting, 7 pm at Hesthavn
Sept. 14	Saturday Field Trip, Willamette Park 7 am
Sept. 15	Hesthavn Family Program: Bird Brains, 1-3
Sept. 19	ASC Monthly Members Meeting, 6:30 at First United Methodist Church (note NEW venue)
Sept. 22	Barn and yard work party, 10-2
Sept. 24	Field Notes submissions due
Sept. 26	Articles due for Oct. 2019 CHAT
Oct. 12	Saturday Field Trip, location TBD, 7am

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

Audubon Society of Corvallis  
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