



THE CHAT

OCTOBER 2019

VOL. 49 #2

ASC General Meeting

Note Venue Change This Year

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

October 17th Program

Wildlife in Crisis on the Texas Border



Dr. Dave Bucy

97% of native habitat in Texas is gone. Of what remains, the ribbon of riparian vegetation along the Rio Grande River is some of the most critical habitat in the United States because of its importance to migratory birds and other fauna. Most people are aware of the wall, but how many know of the impact of putting it in? How many know that the native vegetation 100 feet either side of the wall is mulched to the ground and destroyed? How many know that the next flooding of the Rio Grande is likely to kill a lot of terrestrial wildlife that is trapped by the wall? People are taking action, but not enough people and not fast enough. The river of life – the riparian vegetation along the Rio Grande – may disappear in our lifetime, and with it, many migratory birds that enrich our lives one way or another.

Dr. Dave Bucy is an interpretive planning specialist who has worked with refuges in Texas affected by the wall, and has seen the destruction first hand, as many of you have. He has spent time talking with people engaged in conservation to fully understand the scope of the current and impending destruction, and engaged in conversations with border patrol who provided an inside perspective on the relative uselessness of the wall.

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:

Nov. 21: Vern Beeson, Current Status of the Malheur Field Station

Mark Baldwin, Vice Pres. & Program Chair,
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

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

Early Seral Habitat: Support Your Local Thicket

Those of you with good memories, may recall the April 2018 chapter meeting at which Joan Hagar, a wildlife biologist with the U.S.G.S. in Corvallis, talked to ASC about the role of disturbance in maintaining biodiversity in forests. Fire, wind, flood, insects, disease and logging remove the canopy and release a rich variety of broad-leaved shrubs and small trees, so-called early seral habitat, that support a diverse array of insects and wildlife, especially birds. You have undoubtedly encountered such habitat in spring or early summer when it was full of birds.

Coincidentally, the Spring, 2018 issue of 'Living Bird' the magazine of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology contained an article by noted author and ornithologist Scott Weidensaul entitled 'The Counterintuitive and Controversial, Need for New-Growth Forests.' Weidensaul laid the same groundwork for the diversity of early seral forests: plant, fruit, insect and bird. Even birds associated with old growth, such as Wood Thrush, use early seral habitat. Conversely, species associated with early seral use mature forests during the summer.

The point that Hagar and Weidensaul were conveying is that a diverse, mosaic of habitats on a large scale is vital for healthy bird populations. Unfortunately, there are a number of social, economic and political issues complicating development of such a mosaic.

I frequently hike and bird in McDonald/Dunn Forests, OSU's research forests. In recent years, I have developed

the impression that early seral habitat has declined in these tracts. It seemed to me that OSU had gotten too good at controlling "brush" in clearcuts, the major disturbance there. Earlier this summer, I floated this impression to Steve Fitzgerald, Director of the Research Forests, who also spoke to ASC a couple years ago. I proposed that the Forest could give up a little bit of wood production and gain a lot of habitat by tweaking their weed control program. Steve provided a thoughtful response and invited me to join him for a couple hours in the Oak Creek drainage to chew on the problem.

Steve is aware of the issue of McDonald/Dunn as forest vs. tree farm, including the early seral issue, largely via the Forest Biodiversity Research Network based at OSU. The Network faculty interact to some extent with the Forest staff on habitat research and implementation. Matt Betts and Joan Hagar are point persons from the Network. Still, there seems to be a certain inertia in weed control such that most of their recent clearcuts contain almost no broadleaf shrubs and trees. When one encounters a tiny patch of broadleaved shrubs stuffed with birds, the lost opportunity for good habitat in the rest of the clearcut is starkly evident.

My hope is that my collegial discussion with Steve will make a small contribution to help crystallize ideas he has developed with Matt, Joan and their colleagues. If you get the opportunity at public meetings or via email, let OSU know that you would like to see the OSU Research Forests as forests, rather than tree farms.

Bill Proebsting, Chapter President

Field Trip Schedule

Local Second Saturday Field Trips

Our Saturday morning local field trips meet at 7:30 am by the Shelter in Willamette Park (end of SE Goodnight Ave.) for pre-birding introductions and social over a cup of tea. We will car pool and leave by 8:00 am, returning noonish. Bring suitable hat and shoes, raingear, bug spray, or sunscreen 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: October 12. We will take another look at Willamette Park (though in some different sections), noting all the changes since last month.

Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess

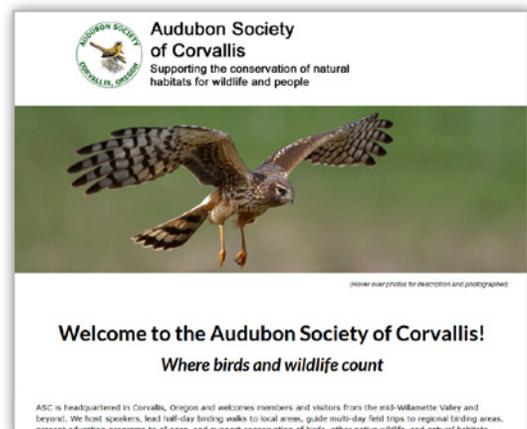
Weekend Field Trips:

There are no more ASC weekend field trips this calendar year. We hope to resume next year.

New ASC Website is Something to Crow About!

The ASC website got a makeover! The old site was functional, but we heard there weren't enough pictures of birds. And some people thought the text was too small for mature users (me included!). The Steering Committee reorganized the information into a homepage featuring short introductions to ASC activities, with links to pages with more information ... and a lot more photos! We added *Look Who's Here*, which keeps track of what species are migrating through the area. *What's Up* is a quick reference to chapter meetings, field trips, and volunteer events.

The major webpages are simplified to *Birding*, *Educate/*



Outreach, Conserve/Protect, and About Us/Contact. Birding includes field trips, bird surveys, birding sites, resource links, and injured birds. *Education* highlights Hesthavn, Winter Wildlife Field Day, other nature programs, classes, and partners. *Conservation* is expanded to describe ASC contributions to protecting habitats (including Hesthavn and Homer Campbell Trail and Award) and bird species, including Western Bluebirds and Streaked Horned Larks. Four members are recognized as Conservation Heroes for their work on local issues. *About Us* includes ASC's mission and history, contacts, leadership information, membership, donations, and volunteer contacts.

The site is located at auduboncorvallis.org, but the original site location will redirect users to the new site. It is also easy to use Google or another search engine to find us. Just type Corvallis Audubon in the search bar. Take a look at the pretty birds, and tell us what you think! Check it out at:

<https://auduboncorvallis.org/>

*Sue Powell, ASC Website Designer and Manager
(with support from Caryn Stoess, Paul Adamus,
Karan Fairchild, and Teri Engbring)*

Please note that Sue Powell volunteered more than 1100 hours over the last year to design and manage this beautiful website for Corvallis Audubon. Don't hesitate to say thanks on the site or in person.

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.

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

10/27 - Barn and yard.

11/10 - Weeds. Probably Yellow Archangel.

11/24 - Barn and yard

More details:

Sunday Oct. 6, 8 am to 12 pm. This will be a weed work party. We discovered a small pocket of English Ivy that we managed to miss during the last weed work party, so we will be revisiting that. Also, we will be continuing to work on pulling Stinky Bob. Stinky Bob, also known as Herb Robert, is actually an attractive plant that was once sold in nurseries and is used for medicinal purposes by some. But it is also classed as a noxious weed in Oregon and has the ability to spread and take over native habitat quickly.

Sunday Oct. 27, 10 am to 2 pm. Barn and yard work party. We will be working from the usual list. For now, there will be no more lawn mowing or garden weeding. We probably will be doing things like raking and clearing the gutters, plus the usual activities to keep the barn and the bathroom clean and clutter-free.

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

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

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:

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.

Education News

Planning for the new program year

We are still open to opportunities to reach out to our community and inspire understanding, appreciation and love of nature.

The ASC Ed Volunteers Sign-Up Sheet for 2019-20 Programs and Tasks 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 send email to Teri at chateditors@gmail.com

Winter Wildlife Field Day Help Needed

Our partners in the BIG annual Winter Wildlife Field Day at Finley event, US Fish and Wildlife Service, have asked for one or two special ASC volunteers to help guide the 6th annual event in March 2020 (date yet to be set). Visitor Services Manager Sam Bartling would like someone from Corvallis Audubon to be on the steering committee for WWFD this year. Previous WWFD Steering Committee members Sue Powell and Teri Engbring both had to step down from that role due to other commitments.

Sam is Visitor Services Manager for the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex that includes Finley and three other sites.

She is hoping to get the steering committee together very soon and then the full team in October. Feel free to contact Sam directly at 541-760-3036 or at samantha_bartling@fws.gov.

Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team

Look Who's Here

(from new website at auduboncorvallis.org)

Swifts are the most aerial of birds, spending most of their lives on the wing—foraging for flying insects, skimming water from the surface of ponds, mating in midair, and sometimes even sleeping on the wing. Two species occur regularly in western Oregon, both with specialized requirements for the non-airborne parts of their lives. The larger of the two species, Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*), nests on rock cliffs behind waterfalls, and only a few regular nesting locations have been found in Oregon. Black Swift is classed as Endangered in Canada and as Sensitive in Oregon with

key threats believed to include airborne pollutants that reduce aerial insect availability and climate change that could reduce and/or disrupt the seasonal timing of stream flows at waterfalls.

The smaller species, Vaux's Swift (the first part of the name rhymes with "boxes") (*Chaetura vauxi*) is comparatively well-known due to its tendency to use chimneys as roosting and nesting sites. As with its eastern cousin the Chimney Swift, this is an adaptation to large-scale loss of the old-growth forests where large, dead hollow trees once served this function. Much of the population now depends on man-made structures, especially along their southbound migration route through logged and urbanized areas. (Joel Geier)

Compare swifts and swallows at *All About Birds* (<https://bit.ly/2mJoanL>, and <https://bit.ly/2my0Ut6>) from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This handy site compares appearance, life history, maps, and calls. Or contact ASC Swift Coordinator Mary Garrard.

Community Notes

Learn about Local Reptiles & More

The Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex invite you to the following event on Sunday, October 6, 2019 from 1-3 pm at the Finley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center:

LEAPIN' LIZARDS! (Along with other amphibians and reptiles)

This program will look at many of the reptiles and amphibians present at the Willamette Valley Wildlife Refuges. We will examine the biology and natural history of these fascinating and often misunderstood critters. Depending on weather, we may try to observe some of these animals in their natural habitat.

Presenter **Mark Leppin** is an active member of the Oregon State Herpetology Club and a graduate student at Oregon State University. He has over a decade of experience working with reptiles and amphibians in the Pacific Northwest.

Find maps of Finley and **RSVP** at friendswvnwrc.org/eventsvolunteer

*Kris Ebbe and Carolyn Suckow
Outreach and Education Committee
Friends of the Willamette Valley NWRC*

Field Notes

08/23/19– 09/27/19

After a brief hot spell with temperatures above 95 F on 27-28 Aug, and one more day above 90 F on 5 Sep, milder but humid weather prevailed. A total of over 3 inches fell on the valley floor – more than twice the average for the month of September – greening up pastures and bringing a noticeable rise in mountain lakes, streams and rivers by 20 Sep. Most trees stayed green but a few **Oregon ash** and **big-leaf maple** trees were showing yellow and orange by the end of the period.

Abbreviations and locations: NWR = National Wildlife

Refuge, SNA = state natural area, STP = sewage treatment ponds. Jackson-Frazier Wetlands is in north Corvallis near Cheldelin Middle School. Luckiamute SNA is along the Willamette River northwest of Albany. Morgan Lake is on the north side of Baskett Slough NWR. Philomath STP is south of Philomath and requires access permission. Teloh-Calapooia Park is in south Albany near Linn-Benton Community College. Cabell Marsh is in Finley NWR.

Southward movements

Mary Garrard heard a flock of **Greater White-fronted Geese** over nw. Corvallis during the second week of Sep. Another flock gave their characteristic "tootling" calls as they flew south over Cabell Marsh 16 Sep (Howard Bruner), and Deanna Emig heard and spotted a flock over Albany 17 Sep. Flocks of **Canada Geese** continued to arrive throughout the period; southbound flocks of **Cackling Geese** were noted from 18 Sep onward.

The earlier-than-usual fall rains may have briefly slowed the southward migration of **Turkey Vultures**. In a morning sun break on 16 Sep close to a hundred **Turkey Vultures** rose on thermals around Coffin Butte and Tampico Ridge north of Corvallis, but had to ramp back down to roost as showers moved in.

Fall migration of **Vaux's Swifts** can produce some of the most remarkable avian spectacles of the year, as migrant flocks swirl down to roost in chimneys for the night. In downtown Corvallis, a modest flock of 64 flew into the chimney of a vacant building on 1st St 20 Aug (Mary Garrard). A week later, over a thousand funneled into the chimney of the Cascade Body Studio on the south end of the downtown (Molly Monroe). About a hundred swirled into the Old World Deli chimney 11 Sep (Nancy Baumeister). 980 flew down to roost in the ΔΔΔ sorority near the OSU campus 13 Sep (Mary Garrard); sorority members mentioned that an accipiter hangs out near the chimney and would occasionally grab a swift for breakfast as the flocks flew out in the morning.

No large flocks of swifts were reported in Albany so far this season, but Linda Morrison counted 700 flying into the chimney of the Lebanon Hotel 9 Sep. On 22 Sep Mike Lippsmeyer watched about 500 flying around over downtown Independence 22 Sep; two nights later he saw over 250 drop into a chimney on the back side of the town's Chamber of Commerce. More information on these remarkable birds and their migration throughout western North America can be found on the website www.vauxhappening.org.

Swallows mostly left for the tropics, but a few flocks of **Violet-green Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** continued to be seen through the end of the period.

Southward movement of **Western Tanagers** was apparent by 23 Aug when I saw about 20 flying between patches of trees on their way through Bald Hill Farm. A few continued in our area through the end of the period.

Many migrant **Swainson's Thrushes** were heard from 20 Sep through the end of the period, either giving flight calls as they flew over in the night, or their distinctive "water drop" contact calls around dawn as they dropped down into trees and bushes to rest and forage for the day. In late Sep one stopped by Linda and Earl Hadfield's water feature for a bath. 35 were captured at an OSU banding station at Luckiamute SNA 19 Sep.

Waxwings and goldfinches massing



8 Sep Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank encountered hundreds of **Cedar Waxwings** in the Cheldelin neighborhood in ne. Corvallis; most were in black hawthorn trees eating berries. Over 200 fed on elderberries in Jackson-Frazier wetland in the first week of Sep (Paul Adamus). Flocks were also seen near the Dunawi Creek bike path 12 Sep (Marge Popp).

More than a hundred **American Goldfinches** gathered in Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank's ne. Corvallis neighborhood in the first week of Sep.

Other migrants and wanderers

A **Common Loon** on the Patjens Lake in the Santiam Pass area 11 Sep (Tom Gilg) was likely a migrant that stopped to rest and refuel on its way to the coast.

A southbound **Calliope Hummingbird** visited Willamette Park 6 Sep (Duncan Evered).

Twelve **American White Pelicans** flew over Willamette Park 14 Sep (Caryn Stoess). Pelicans at Cabell Marsh shared space with other large white birds 16 Sep, as **Great Egrets** hunted along the edge of the marsh (Howard Bruner).

A rare **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was with 20 **Western Sandpipers**, 35 **Long-billed Dowitchers**, and 11 **Greater Yellowlegs** at Cabell Marsh 25 Sep (Zachary Person). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at Morgan Lake 24 Sep (Tom Love). Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** visited the Philomath STP 26 Sep (Zachary Person).

Two **Peregrine Falcons** flew together westward high over the Cheldelin neighborhood in ne. Corvallis 7 Sep (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank).

A pair of **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** turned up 25 Aug at Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's farm s. of Independence, several miles from their usual conifer-forest habitat. Tom Gilg also noted this species showing up in Brownsville around 20 Sep.

A migrant **Say's Phoebe** briefly hawked flying insects above the banding table in Luckiamute SNA 19 Sep (Lars Norgren). A **Western Kingbird** spent 26-28 Aug along a fence line at Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's farm s. of Independence, then moved on. A first-fall **Hammond's Flycatcher** stopped by Baskett Slough NWR 1 Sep (Frank Kolwicz).

A female or immature male **Lazuli Bunting** was at Big Lake in the Santiam Pass area 12 Sep (Tom Gilg).

Late summer youngsters

Jenny Swanson and Gary Wheeler heard a family of **Barn Owls** calling loudly at night and even daybreak, over a six-week period through the end of Aug, on their farm s. of Corvallis. The long duration of this noisy period might mean that they had a good year of nesting. These owls lay and incubate their eggs in intervals, so there can be a spread in age of two or three weeks between the oldest and youngest nestlings. In a lean year, the youngest might not get fed. But in years with a good supply of rodents, more of them survive to the stage where they can fly around on their own – while pestering their parents for tasty rodents!

While searching for huckleberries along back roads above Quartzville Creek in the western Cascades 30 Aug, Martha Geier, Lincoln Worley and I saw over a dozen **Sooty Grouse** and three **Ruffed Grouse**; nearly all of them were hatch-year birds approaching adult size.

Two young **Black Phoebes** continued 7 Sep along the Marys River near Wren where a family group turned up in late summer. A nearby flock of **Western Bluebirds** on the

same day included several still-spotted juveniles.

On 8 Sep Karan Fairchild noted a new batch of young **Spotted Towhees** begging from their parents sw. of Philomath. Jim Smith also still had juvenile towhees visiting his s. Albany yard through that date. A recent fledgling visited Peter & Judy List's nw Corvallis feeders on 6 Sep, the second brood that they noted over the summer.

Chipping Sparrows continued at nesting sites in the Soap Creek Valley and Wren areas through 7 Sep, with many young birds from late broods still in transitional plumage.

American Goldfinches and **Lesser Goldfinches** start nesting later into summer than most locally-nesting songbirds, waiting for a good supply of seeds. Carma Sue Henry noted begging fledglings through mid-Aug on Logsdon Ridge ne. of Lewisburg.

Three young **Gray Foxes** raised as kits under the deck of neighbors continued to show up on Carol and Jim Hiler's backyard trail camera through 3 Sep.

Lingering birds

A **Blue-winged Teal** was with **Cinnamon Teal** continuing on the Philomath STP 26 Sep (Zachary Person).

Two **Rufous Hummingbirds** visited a feeder along Oak Creek w. of Corvallis through 18 Sep and one continued through 24 Sep (Bill Proebsting). A late **Common Nighthawk** winged over Willamette Park 11 Sep (Duncan Evered).

Green Herons continued at Willamette Park and Stewart Lake through the end of the period (Duncan Evered; Jamie Simmons).

A few **Ospreys** continued to be seen along the Willamette River, and **Band-tailed Pigeons** also continued through the end of the period.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** called 26 Aug from the edge of Dunn Forest, where this species was detected through the breeding season. One was along Riverside Drive in Albany 29 Aug (Paul Adamus) was likely a southbound migrant. A **Western Wood-Pewee** was in Marys River Estates w. of Philomath 14 Sep (Carol Savonen). One was s. of Independence 22 Sep (Mike Lippsmeyer). Two late birds were at Willamette Park 26 Sep (Duncan Evered).

A well-described but silent "**Western**" **Flycatcher** was on a Greenbelt Land Trust riparian restoration site near Monroe 25 Sep (Paul Adamus, Matt Blakeley-Smith). The most expected species in our region, **Pacific-slope Flycatcher**, is indistinguishable from its sibling species **Cordilleran Flycatcher** except by voice and DNA sampling, but based on range the former is far more expected west of the Cascades.

The OSU bird-banding class heard two **Red-eyed Vireos** and captured one hatch-year bird in the north unit of Luckiamute State SNA on 30 Aug. Another was captured 7 Sep. One was heard and seen again in Willamette Park 3 Sep (Duncan Evered).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was in Chip Ross Park 15 Sep (Don Boucher, Neighborhood Naturalist field trip). A late **Yellow Warbler** was captured and banded at Luckiamute SNA 19 Sep. A migrant **MacGillivray's Warbler** was at Willamette Park 25 Sep and a **Common Yellowthroat** and three **Black-throated Gray Warblers** were still there the following day (Duncan Evered).

Two **Chipping Sparrows** were in Willamette Park 14 Sep (Caryn Stoess). Upward of 15 "**Oregon**" **Vesper Sparrows**

were still at a nesting site in Soap Creek Valley through 23 Sep (Bob Altman) but apparently left by 28 Sep.

A juvenile male **Lazuli Bunting** was in Soap Creek Valley 25 Aug, after most adults had finished nesting and departed. A very late female **Black-headed Grosbeak** visited Virginia Stanton's feeder s. of Philomath 25 Sep.

Finding dinner in town

Lucia Durand has been feeding birds in her College Hill backyard for years, but three **Turkey Vultures** working on a dead squirrel on 5 Sep were new birds for her "feeder" list.

On 7 Sep Olin Allen saw an adult female Cooper's hawk on the ground in shrubbery between the Bi-Mart parking lot and the adjacent cannabis dispensary in n. Corvallis. The hawk was walking around peering up into the shrubs, apparently looking for the **House Sparrows** that frequent the area.

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** lurked in Sunset Park 15 Sep (Marge Popp). Flocks of **Black-capped Chickadees** dined on poison-oak fruits in Chip Ross Park 15 Sep.

Fall arrivals

Cackling Geese began to show up in the mid-valley by 19 Sep when a flock of 35 flew over Luckiamute SNA, heading north toward Ankeny NWR (Lars Norgren).

Wintering flocks of **Northern Shovelers**, **American Wigeon**, **Northern Pintail**, and **Green-winged Teal** continued to arrive. A **Eurasian Wigeon** joined the growing **American Wigeon** flock at Philomath STP 26 Sep (Zachary Person). Seven **Ring-necked Ducks** were on Gordon Lakes near Tombstone Pass 20 Sep (Tom Gilg). A few **Lesser Scaup** also began to show up by the end of the period.

Double-crested Cormorants were seen more frequently along the Willamette as more continued to return from breeding sites along the coast and inland basins.

A **Horned Grebe** and three **Eared Grebes** stopped by the Philomath STP 26 Sep (Zachary Person)

Single **Lewis's Woodpeckers** turned up along in the Timberhill area in NW Corvallis 3 Sep (Hendrik Herlyn), on a private ranch just n. of Baskett Slough NWR 13 Sep (Frank Kolwicz), and near the Ray Bentley oak savanna overlook at Finley NWR 29 Sep (Bill Proebsting). This species formerly nested in the Willamette Valley but now are seen only as fall/winter birds. The best time to look for them in oak savanna habitat is on warm, sunny days in fall when they often "hawk" insects by sallying out from high perches in the oaks.

A **Merlin** turned up at Willamette Park 19 Sep (Duncan Evered). At least two were there for the ASC field trip 14 Sep (Caryn Stoess, Duncan Evered).

A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was in brush near the summit of Marys Peak 11 Sep. Downslope movement of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** from montane forest habitats into the valley was also apparent by the end of the period.

American Pipits began to show up with three at Philomath STP 1 Sep (Isaac Denzer) and another near the top of Marys Peak 11 Sep. Several dozen were along the road leading to Herbert Open Space 16 Sep (Howard Bruner).

Along with substantial rain on the morning of 18 Sep, four **Varied Thrushes** moved downslope to Jim & Karan Fairchild's place at 700 ft elevation sw. of Philomath. A **Hermit Thrush** was captured at the OSU banding station at Luckiamute SNA 19 Sep (Lars Norgren).

A first-fall **Yellow-rumped Warbler** foraged alongside of 25 Western Bluebirds near Wren 11 Sep. More of these hardy warblers continued to arrive through the end of the period. Two **Townsend's Warbler** were in Chip Ross Park during the Neighborhood Naturalist field trip on 15 Sep.

Three **Lincoln's Sparrows** were sneaking around in a patch of sedge near the summit of Marys Peak 11 Sep. Two hatch-year **Golden-crowned Sparrows** visited a backyard water feature near Wren 5 Sep (Frank Isaacs), and two more were near Bald Hill 7 Sep (Joy Jensen); more began to arrive in good numbers by 11 Sep. Numbers of **White-crowned Sparrows** and **Dark-eyed Juncos** in valley locations were also increasing by then. A juvenile **White-throated Sparrow** was captured at the banding station 19 Sep (Lars Norgren).

Wintering "**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrows** also began to turn up, starting with one along Oak Creek w. of Corvallis 9 Sep (Bill Proebsting), and scattered individuals at widespread locations in the following weeks.

Rare or off-course birds and other surprises

A **Snow Goose** was with a flock of 60 Canada Geese at Morgan Lake 19 Sep (Roy Gerig, Don Berg).

A **Stilt Sandpiper** that showed up late in the last period continued at Ankeny NWR through 23 Aug (Sally Hill). Another turned up at Morgan Lake along with a juvenile **Ruff** 19 Sep (Roy Gerig); more common shorebirds in the flock included 80 **Long-billed Dowitchers**, several **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and 10 **Western Sandpipers**.

A first-fall **Franklin's Gull** was on Foster Reservoir 19 Sep (Tom Gilg). A **Common Tern** winged over Morgan Lake 7 Sep (Russ Namitz). A migrant flock of eight terns at the Philomath STP 16 Sep included at least two **Arctic Terns** based on photos and appeared to all be of the same species (Douglas Robinson, Hendrik Herlyn).

Phyllis Bailey and her husband saw a **Great Gray Owl** flutter down to the edge of a road a few miles w. of Lyons on 24 Sep. This species is thought to have nested in Silver Falls State Park about ten miles north of Lyons in recent decades, but sightings away from the park are extremely rare.

Clark's Nutcrackers showed up atop Marys Peak this month, starting with one on 6 Sep (Pam Otle) and eight there on 19 Sep, feasting on a bumper crop of grasshoppers in the meadow (Jenna Curtis).

Marsh Wrens are common in local marshes with cattails, but capturing one deep in brush at Luckiamute SNA was a surprise for the OSU banding class 19 Sep.

One 19 Sep Nancy Baumeister found two **Northwestern Garter Snakes** twined together on a blackberry vine about a foot above the ground. This kind of behavior is usually seen for these snakes only during their spring mating season.

A **Ringneck Snake** met its demise at the parking lot for Morgan Lake 26 Sep, when a **Great Horned Owl** flew down and captured, then ate as Mike and Karen Lippsmeyer watched from nearby.

Natural areas: Jackson-Frazier Wetland

This wet-prairie site at the north end of Lancaster Street in northeast Corvallis might have been converted to apartments in the mid-1980s, if not for the efforts of the late Bob Frenkel, an OSU biogeography professor and conservation champion who drew attention to the presence of rare plants including two endangered species: **Nelson's checkermallow** and **Bradshaw's lomatium**. The developer defied the local government and attempted to proceed,

using a bulldozer to scrape part of the area where the rare plants had been found. Finally the State of Oregon intervened to halt the destruction and the developer left with an unpaid tax bill.

After Benton County foreclosed on the property, a grassroots effort led by Bob and Liz Frenkel persuaded the county to set this aside as a natural area in 1992. They raised funds and rallied volunteer energy to build a 0.6 mile wheelchair-accessible boardwalk that loops through part of the wetland area. This has become a popular site for bird and nature observation, notable especially as a place to hear and occasionally see **Virginia Rails**, along with **Marsh Wrens** and other wetland birds. Brushy areas along the edges can be good places for winter sparrow-watching. The wetland's proximity to Cheldelin Middle School makes it especially valuable as a resource for teaching ecology. It also helps to buffer nearby residential areas from floods during winter rain storms.

This year the county embarked on an effort to repair some of the damage wrought by the rogue developer in the 1980s, restoring the gentle contours of areas that were gouged up by bulldozers, and removing reed canary-grass which invaded the disturbed ground. Paul Adamus, who has been surveying birds there as a volunteer, notes that the restoration is coming along well, and should be interesting to watch as fall rains begin to fill the newly flattened landscape.

Next month

Fall migration moves into its later stage as wintering waterfowl, raptors and sparrows continue to arrive, while most songbirds that winter in the tropics will depart. 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 24 Oct.

Board Meeting Summary

September 12, 2019 Board Meeting

1. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the 2019-20 Budget presented by our new Treasurer, Carolyn Peterson.
2. The PayPal link on the new website works for memberships and donations!
3. Cars parked at Hesthavn Nature Center by folks recreating in MacDonald Forest is becoming a neighborhood problem. Larger, more explicit signage is coming.
4. Under the auspices of ASC, Kai Frueh is spearheading the formation of a new Young Birders group to go on field trips together with adult sponsors & to exchange birding information with each other.

Next ASC Board meeting is: 7pm on October 10, at Natural Grocers, 1235 NW 10th St, Corvallis

Linda Campbell, Board Secretary

Open Board Meetings

ASC Board of Directors meetings are open to all ASC members, and the board encourages you to come and see what we do. Our monthly board meeting is on Thursday, one week before the General Meeting. See the Board meeting minutes or ASC website for location.

Membership Corner

ASC has two new members: Welcome to Bob Forgie and John Longcore, and thanks to 11 people who renewed during the month of September

General Membership Renewal Information

For membership renewal online go the ASC website (<https://auduboncorvallis.org/membership/>) 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 join 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 the listserve administrator (Karan Fairchild, alderspr@peak.org) and request to be added.

Have You Changed Your Contact Information?

If you have moved or changed your email/mail address please update your contact information.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Paul Adamus, Membership Chair

Contributors to this Chat

Mark Baldwin, William Proebsting, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Joel Geier, Don Boucher, Ray Drapek, Linda Campbell, Paul Adamus, Sue Powell, Kris Ebbe and Carolyn Suckow

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

Oct. 6	Hesthavn Work Party, restoration, 8-12
Oct. 10	ASC Board meeting, 7 pm at Natural Grocers
Oct. 12	Second Saturday Field Trip - Willamette Park
Oct. 17	ASC Monthly Members Meeting, 6:30 at First United Methodist Church (note NEW venue this year)
Oct. 24	Articles due for Nov. 2019 CHAT
Oct. 24	Field Notes submissions due
Oct. 27	Hesthavn Work Party, Barn and yard, 10-2
Nov. 9	Second Saturday Field Trip - location TBD
Nov. 10	Hesthavn Work Party. Weeds, 10-2
Nov. 24	Hesthavn Work Party. Barn and yard, 10-2

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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Interested in volunteering?
Please let us know:
volunteerasc@gmail.com

Renew your membership before the date on the mailing label to avoid missing issues of the Chat.

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