



THE CHAT

JANUARY 2020

VOL. 49 #5

January 16 Program:

Birding in South Africa

Tom and Ginny Stevens would like to invite you along on a birding adventure they took in 2018. They started out in Zimbabwe, visiting friends in the capital city of Harare, then on to Victoria Falls. In Victoria Falls they hired a guide for two days of exploring the falls, including a boat ride on the Zambezi River.

They then traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa, meeting up with their Rockjumper tour group for a 25-day adventure circling the country. After coming back to Johannesburg, they finished up with 5 days in Kruger National Park.

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.

Upcoming programs:

February 20: Dan Luoma: Come walk with us - wildflower hikes with Native Plant Society of Oregon

March 19: Worth Mathewson: Natural History of the Band-tailed Pigeon



Blue Crane and Livingstone's Turaco photos by Tom Stevens

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

ASC General Meeting

Current venue for ASC General Meetings on third Thursday of each month, through May, 2020, is:

First United Methodist Church

1165 NW Monroe Ave., Corvallis, in Wesley Hall, upstairs (elevator access is through doors on Monroe)

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President's Corner

Willamette Valley Bird Symposium: Recommended!

In last year's January Chat, I recommended the Willamette Valley Birding Symposium to all area persons interested in birds. Well, the 6th Annual WVBS will be held at Oregon State University's CH2M Hill Alumni Center on January 25. If you have

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 Good-night 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.

A couple of days before the field trip, check for updates on the Midvalley ListServ, www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding. Weather may alter plans.

Next Field Trip: On January 11, 2020, we will explore Philomath Sewage Treatment Works.

Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess

Weekend Field Trips

The year 2020 brings ASC to its 50th anniversary. Its origin was the first Malheur field trip. And now, many of ASC's other birding field trips come to their 50th anniversary. We have begun the reservation process, and the first signup sheets will be present at January's general meeting. But if you wish to get a jump on the rest of the pack, you can sign up by contacting me at framsey5@comcast.net. Here is the proposed schedule:

March 27-29 Bandon & South Coast

April 17-19 Klamath Basin

May 1-3 Rogue Valley

May 16-19 Malheur NWR

June 19-21 Summer Lake

July 23-26 Steens Mtn.

August 21-23 Shorebird chase

Fred Ramsey, Weekend Field Trips Chair

not attended in previous years, check it out, it is a day well-spent.

WVBS is put on by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and showcases the variety of ornithological research at OSU. The work is presented for a general, but keen audience, it's easy and enjoyable to hear. Parking is easy on a Saturday, CH2M Hill is a comfortable facility and you will be impressed by the range of interesting work conducted at OSU.

A keynote address starts the day's program. This year's speaker is Noppadol Paothong, an eminent nature/conservation photographer and Associate Fellow with the International League of Conservation Photographers. Besides addressing the WVBS, he will be holding a half-day photography workshop around this time. Check the gallery on his website, the photos are spectacular. I am sure his presentation will be outstanding.

ASC sponsors WVBS at the "Dusky Grouse" level and, also contributed \$500 again towards paying for registrants age 12-18. We can only do this thanks to our generous donors. All the more reason to come down and experience this uniquely Corvallis event.

The WVBS will almost certainly sell out. Pre-registration closes January 10, so don't put it off. On-line registration is easy and convenient.

willamettevalleybirds.org See you there.

Bill Proebsting, Chapter President

For Updates Between CHAT Issues -

Learn about what's current with ASC, and to share your questions, photos and exciting sightings: find us at Audubon Society of Corvallis or tag us @corvallis-audubon.

Kai Frueh and Nancy DeMasi, ASC Facebook

The new ASC website is at auduboncorvallis.org, Learn about our vast array of programs and services to help this community Connect with Nature and others who share this goal. Enjoy all the pretty birds, and tell us what you think!

Sue Powell, ASC Website

Help Needed on ASC Video

I am looking to develop a promotional video for ASC. What I imagine is something similar (but different) to a video by Cornell lab which you can see at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDUiRcy0V8Q>

It will help new people to understand what ASC is about, what our cause is, what we do for our community and why one should support us. I would appreciate help getting footage which I can edit into one longer video

Please contact me if you want to be part of this project, and I will include you in communications. Let me know if you have any thoughts or questions. My contact info is on last page of the CHAT

Kai Frueh, ASC Facebook page co-manager



National Audubon Award-Winning Bird Photos Coming to Corvallis in April



ASC is excited to announce that we will be hosting the 2019 Traveling Audubon Photography Awards Exhibit April 1-22 at the OSU Center for the Humanities. These 10 photographic prints are the 2019 National Audubon Photography Contest award winners and honorable mentions and cover a range of species and geographic locations. These are some truly amazing photographs that you won't want to miss! ASC will also be hosting a reception on an evening during the exhibit (check back in subsequent Chats and ASC website for date, time and place).

Dodie Wilson, Photo Exhibit Coordinator

Education News

Beginning Birding Workshop

Reminder: there are still spaces available for two ASC beginning birding workshops by Corvallis naturalist Don Boucher. Please pass the word to friends or family who you would like to introduce to the fascinating and colorful world of birds.

The class runs from 10 am to 2 pm on either Feb 1 or 29, 2020. It will be a fun introduction to bird identification, field guides, binocular use, bird watching culture, backyard birding and more. This includes a classroom session and time outside looking for birds. The class will be held at Corvallis Audubon's Hesthavn Nature Center on Oak Creek Dr.

Don Boucher has 18 years of experience instructing birding classes and leading field trips. Other Audubon volunteer instructors will assist with outside birding.

Cost: \$15 per student (\$10 for ASC members)

Registration (pick only one):

Feb. 1, 2020: <https://forms.gle/TE5uG9Jkknwtr3u99>

Feb. 29, 2020: <https://forms.gle/r4kKxTC7vgGo23qP8>

Register early to ensure your spot. Class size is limited, registration will close once class is full. Contact Don Boucher for more information:

donaboucher@gmail.com

Teri Engbring and Don Boucher

Ed team Projects Coming Soon

Our education team volunteers will be at several events and programs in the coming weeks to help our neighbors connect with nature! Coming soon:

- Franklin School Science Night 1/23/2020
- Willamette Valley Bird Symposium 1/25/2020
- Beginning Birding Classes at Hesthavn in Feb
- Insights into Gardening 2/8/2020
- Raptor Identification Workshop 3/1/2020
- Sustainability Fair 3/12/2020
- Winter Wildlife Field Day 3/14/2020
- National Audubon Photo Awards Show in April
- Field trip classes at Chintimini April-June

For more info, email Teri at chateditors@gmail.com!
Thanks,

Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team

Hesthavn News

Coming Work Parties

Sunday Jan. 12, 10 am to 2 pm. Weed work party. We will be pulling blackberries and laying garden cloth down to cover a shiny geranium infestation near the barn.

Sunday Jan. 26, 10 am to 2 pm. Barn and yard work party. We will be working from a task check-list which includes things from checking mouse traps to cleaning the gutters

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

Hesthavn Nature Center will be open for visitors on 2 coming dates

ASC Volunteer Dale Mitchell and others have offered to open up Hesthavn so guests of all ages can enjoy the interactive displays and extensive taxidermied bird collection from 1:00 to 4:00 pm on two coming Saturdays: January 11 and January 25.

Guests who respect nature are also welcome to walk the trails and enjoy the birds on our grounds any day between sunrise and sunset. See the ASC website for more information.

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 Nature Center. Hesthavn will be on your left shortly before the end of Oak Creek Dr.

Corvallis Christmas Bird Count, the Short Summary

The 57th Corvallis Christmas Bird Count was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. 43 intrepid count-

ers ventured out and did their best to see and count birds through fog that lingered into early afternoon. While the thermometer never rose above 40 degrees, it mostly stayed above freezing and was dry. Another ten people conducted feeder counts from the luxury of their own homes.

At the countdown that evening at the Osborn Aquatic Center, a total of 118 species was tallied, which is below the normal number for recent years (generally in the mid-120's). Two more species were added through late reports – Green Heron and Burrowing Owl, bringing the total to 120 species. Count week birds were Lewis's Woodpecker and Herring Gull.

While the fog hampered the ability to see raptors and other field birds, a major factor for the low species count was probably the exceedingly dry fall resulting in very dry fields. No more than 3 gulls were seen that day, and only 1 was identified as to species. Good birds for the count included Tricolored Blackbirds (2nd detection on this count) and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – a new species for this count.

A complete list of all the species seen on the count can be seen on our website, corvallisaudubon.org under Birding / Bird Surveys.

A complete tabulation will be in the February Chat.

Marcia F. Cutler, Compiler

New CBC Chair needed

Marcia Cutler is stepping down as coordinator of the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count. Marcia has just completed managing her 15th CBC, thus, we have almost a year to find a successor who can work with Marcia to understand the system and benefit from her extensive experience.

If you would like to take over this key position that operates over two months each year in support of local birding research and a day of fun but intense volunteer field work, please contact Marcia at:

marciafcutler@comcast.net.

Community Notes

Airlie/Albany Christmas Bird Count

This year's Airlie/Albany Christmas Bird count is Saturday, January 5, 2020. No fee is required to participate, and newcomers are welcome to join up with more experienced birders. The count includes the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, Luckiamute State Natural Area, Helmick State Park, and most of the city of Albany. It also extends to parts of the Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge, McDonald-Dunn Forest, and the Lewisburg area. See the map at the link below. For details on meeting place and times, contact Paul Adamus (541)

231-3095, adamus7@comcast.net; Joel Geier (541) 745-5821, joel.geier@peak.org

Paul Adamus

Wild & Scenic Rivers film in Corvallis Monday, January 6 - Corvallis Library Meeting Room

Join Oregon Wild and partners for a screening of the film *Run Wild, Run Free: 50 Years of Wild and Scenic Rivers* and learn how you can be part of an historic effort by Sen. Ron Wyden to protect more of Oregon's wildest rivers from dams and development.

We'll help get you inspired to protect more of Oregon's amazing rivers, and have all the tools you need to nominate your favorite rivers and get plugged in to this inspiring campaign.

Doors open at 6:00, film and program begins at 6:30 pm.

To learn more about the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, go to: <https://www.rivers.gov/wsr-act.php> or call me at 541-344-0675.

Chandra LeGue

Oregon Wild, Western Oregon Field Coordinator

From Our Friends at Finley NWR Roosevelt Elk in the Valley Sunday, January 5, 2PM to 4PM at Refuge Office & Nature Store, William L. Finley NWR (10 miles south of Corvallis, OR)

Join Nancy Taylor, a local ODFW Wildlife Biologist, for an overview of elk populations, behaviors, and movements here in the Willamette Valley. Information specific to the Finley NWR resident herd, including recent survey data, will be shared by Dave Landkamer, President of the Friends. There will be hands-on artifacts, and we may visit prime viewing spots in search of our elk. There will be limited walking. Attendees may make short trips by car to some viewing sites.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend, and email questions to: fwnwrc.outreach@gmail.com

Art Displays: Vistas and Vineyards, Paintings of Finley

November through January (Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm, Saturday & Sunday 10 am-4 pm) Refuge Office, William L. Finley NWR (~10 miles south of Corvallis)

The Refuge office has some new artwork on display featuring the buildings, landscapes and wildlife of Finley provided by the Vistas & Vineyards painting group. These beautiful paintings will be on display & available for purchase from November-January. A portion of the sale for most paintings will go to the Friends of the Willamette Valley NWR Complex. Come take a look and support local art and the Friends! For questions please email isabel_justiniano@fws.gov. For a map of the



refuge visit William L. Finley NWR website/Trail Map.

Where Willamette Valley Wild Things Live Monday, January 13, 6PM to 8PM at Old World Deli, (341 2nd St, Corvallis)

Samantha Bartling, visitor services manager of Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex, will present on the wildlife of the Willamette Valley. For questions please email fwvnwrc.outreach@gmail.com, or check out Science Pub Corvallis.

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

2020 Winter Wings Festival Klamath Basin Audubon Society

The Festival celebrates its 41st anniversary this year over Presidents' Day Weekend, February 13th-16th. The complete WWF program is available online at www.WinterWingsFest.org. You can look at the tabs to see each type of activity listed on the web along with the bios of the leaders/presenters, or print out the schedule with activity descriptions. This year we have a record-breaking 35 field trips and an exciting variety of new workshops and presentations. Also see the website for information about our annual photo contest, the youth art contest, vendor applications, etc.

REGISTRATION Online registration opened on Dec. 7th. Several popular field trips are already booked but there are still openings and lots to do. If you have questions about registering, leave a message for Jill at 1-877-541-BIRD.

Diana Samuels, Winter Wings Festival Coordinator

Field Notes

11/22/19-12/26/19

After an uncharacteristically mild and dry autumn, many seasonal wetlands were still dry through 29 Nov when the first hard freeze of the winter, with temperatures down to 21 F, froze puddles in the roadways at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area. This surprised a few **American Robins** and **Song Sparrows** that skidded as they landed on ice where they were hoping for water to drink.

Two **Snowqueen** (*Synthyris reniformis*) plants were flowering sw. of Philomath 24 Nov (Karan Fairchild), just before that brief cold snap.

December finally brought significant rain, but the total of four inches during the period in Corvallis was only about half of the historical average. Snowpack in the Cascades was only about one quarter of normal at the end of December, raising concerns of drought in the coming year.

Abbreviations and locations: CBC = Christmas Bird Count, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds. Baskett Butte is the main hill on Baskett Slough; the southernmost of its three summits is sometimes called Mt. Baldy. Luckiamute State Natural Area is along

the Willamette River northwest of Albany. Philomath STP is south of Philomath and requires access permission. Talking Water Gardens are in NE Albany. Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR.

Mild-weather beneficiaries?

The mostly mild temperatures through fall and early winter may have made life easier for some birds that historically have usually wintered farther south, and perhaps other creatures that tend to go dormant in the winter.

A female **Blue-winged Teal** swam with three **Cinnamon Teal** and wigeons at Talking Water Gardens 28 Nov (Kaplan Yalcin). Another **Blue-winged Teal** continued at the Philomath STP through the end of Nov. These two teal species were formerly rare in our area in winter, but in recently years they've become more regular at water treatment facilities where warm-water input helps to maintain a food supply through the winter.

A **Turkey Vulture** was over Witham Hill 24 Dec (Fred Ramsey); the next day Jim & Karan Fairchild saw one soaring over Walnut Blvd. just w. of there.

Say's Phoebes were found in higher numbers than typical for the region. One continued on the se. side of Ward Butte through the period, just outside the Brownsville CBC circle where three more were found 15 Dec (Mark Nikas). Another was n. of Knox Butte near Albany 14 Dec (Fang-yu Shen). In Benton Co., one was along McFarland Rd. on the s. side of Finley NWR 8 Dec (Robert Jilek) and one was along Bellfountain Rd. w. of there 17 Dec (Tom Gilg).

A **Black Phoebe** was on Truax Island 27 Nov (Gary Whitehouse), along the Willamette River where this species has become regular in the course of its northward range expansion. One also turned up in the Soap Creek Valley 22 Dec, hawking insects over Doug & Mardi Bilisland's pond.

Most **Orange-crowned Warblers** migrate south in winter, but a few may winter in bottomland areas. On 16 Dec Paul Adamus found three in a single bush near Anderson Co. Park ne. of Monroe.

Thatch ants still were active along the snow-free road at the top of Marys Peak 24 Nov, with the ants still out and active at 3 pm but heading back into their nest for the night by 5:20 pm (Rana Foster).

Local movements and post-solstice singers

A **Mountain Quail** visited Nancy and Jim Hemming's yard near Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in nw. Corvallis 30 Nov. This species is native to the Coast Range and Cascades foothills but is seldom encountered in residential parts of Corvallis.

300 **American Crows** flew east over Airlie on the morning of 9 Dec, apparently flying out from a nocturnal roost (Olin Allen).

Two pairs of **Western Bluebirds** visited Anne Trehu's birdbath w. of Corvallis 29 Nov.

A few **Black-capped Chickadees** and **Song Sparrows** sang near the OSU campus 23 Dec (Don Boucher).

Four **Evening Grosbeaks** called as they flew into ponderosa pines at Luckiamute SNA 9 Dec.

A **Cougar** was spotted as it crossed Sulphur Springs Rd. heading up into McDonald Forest on the evening of 13 Dec (Sarah VanderPol, Charlotte Patel).

A **Bobcat** sauntering down Bruce Rd. at Finley NWR was one of the highlights for a Portland Audubon field trip to the

refuge 23 Nov.

Winter visitors

Six **Trumpeter Swans** and one **Tundra Swan** swam on Kester Pond se. of Airlie 1 Dec. Family groups of both species were on McFadden Marsh by 6 Dec (Howard Bruner). On 24 Dec fifteen **Snow Geese** flew over McFadden Marsh, while a single **Greater White-fronted Goose** swam on the marsh alongside the wintering multitudes of **Cackling** and **Canada Geese** (Kit Larsen). 25 **Snow Geese** were there 26 Dec (Howard Bruner).

A **Horned Grebe** swam on the river with **Buffleheads** at Willamette Park 24 Dec (Kai Frueh).

On 20 Dec two **Sandhill Cranes** were along Tennessee School Rd. n. of Lebanon, where small numbers have often wintered in the past (Mark Nikas).

Roadside raptor surveys during December indicated lower numbers than usual of **Northern Harriers** and **Red-tailed Hawks** in the region (fide Jeff Fleischer). However a "**Harlan's**" **Red-tailed Hawk** hunted over McFadden Marsh 1-5 Dec (Pam & Randy Comeleo).

Rough-legged Hawks included a dark morph perched on a very thin branch at the North Prairie 23 Nov (Brodie Talbott). A light morph turned up in the Palestine neighborhood w. of Albany 25 Nov. One turned up along Hwy 99W just north of the railroad overpass in n. Corvallis 9 Dec (Olin Allen) and continued to be seen there, hunting a remnant patch of open space north of the Corvallis STP and behind the retail buildings across the highway – a surprising bird to see in town!

Five **Bald Eagles** were near a regular winter roost sw. of Tangent (on private land off McLagan Dr. and Seward Rd.) on 27 Nov (Phyllis Bailey).

Three **Great Egrets** hunted in the OSU dairy pastures 26 Nov (Anne Trehu).

A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** that was stunned after striking a window in the Witham Hill neighborhood was released in good health by Chintimini volunteers on 8 Dec (fide Marge Popp). A **Short-eared Owl** hunted over a private wetland conservation easement near the North Prairie at dusk on 26 Dec (Howard Bruner).

Lewis's Woodpeckers seem to be wintering in higher than usual numbers for recent years. One was sallying after flying insects from a charred snag on Baskett Butte 24 Nov (Dan Battaglia), about two miles from the private vineyard where Frank Kolwicz has seen one since October. Frank also saw one at the north end of Morris Rd. 2 Dec. One continued at Bald Hill Farm through the period (per Greenbelt Land Trust staff). A remarkable flock of twelve were flycatching in oaks and firs on Diamond Hill s. of Brownsville 14-15 Dec and another was on Washburne Butte 15 Dec (Mark Nikas, Jeff Fleischer).

A **Merlin** made an unsuccessful pass at a flock of sparrows and finches on Logsdon Ridge 27 Nov (Carma Henry). One fed on feathered prey at the Buick/GMC dealership on the north side of Corvallis 8 Dec (Lisa Millbank). Two more **Merlins**, a **Peregrine Falcon** and a **Prairie Falcon** were near Scio 24 Dec (Jeff Harding). Another **Prairie Falcon** was w. of McFadden Marsh 24 Dec (Kit Larsen).

A Portland Audubon field trip to Finley NWR 23 Nov found three **Northern Shrikes** – two at the North Prairie and a first-winter bird along Bruce Rd (Brodie Cass Talbott).

Notable concentrations of **Horned Larks** included 70 along Livermore n. of Baskett Slough NWR 28 Nov (Lars Norgren). The Livermore Rd. flock included many pale birds that were likely migrants, but also many with bright yellow faces and throats that were likely our endemic "**Streaked**" **Horned Larks**.

This seems to be a good winter for **Townsend's Warblers** in our area, with flocks reported from multiple locations in Corvallis, Monmouth, and other valley towns. A bright male showed up in Louise Barden's yard in nw. Corvallis 9 Dec.

A sparrow flock along the Campus Way bikepath w. of the OSU campus included a **White-throated Sparrow** and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** along with **Song Sparrows** and **Golden-Sparrows** on 25 Nov (Karan Fairchild). The Dunawi Creek Community Garden has also had good mix of wintering sparrows (Don Boucher). A **Swamp Sparrow** was in the s. part of E.E. Wilson WA 30 Nov (Howard Bruner).

A **Harris's Sparrow** turned up along Coville Rd. at Baskett Slough NWR 23 Nov (Tyler Hallman, Fang-yu Shen, Jenna Curtis, and Suzanne Austin). Another turned up at the Philomath STP at the end of Nov.

Up to three **Tricolored Blackbirds** were seen regularly at the Philomath STP, where a few wintered last year.

Rare or off-course birds and other surprises

A young male **Tufted Duck** turned up on 25 Nov at the Philomath STP, where a puzzling duck found last month – thought to be either a young female Tufted Duck or an *Aythya* sp. hybrid – was still present (Duncan Evered).

An immature **Northern Goshawk** flew off "less than gracefully" to avoid Howard Bruner when he encountered it in the s. part of E.E. Wilson WA on 11 Dec.

A large gull concentration Coffin Butte landfill on 30 Nov included one huge gull that I estimated as 15-20% longer in body length compared to other large "pink-footed" gulls standing next to it. Its massive bill and plumage were consistent with 3rd winter **Great Black-backed Gull**, an Atlantic species that has been documented in Washington and California but not previously in Oregon.

After about half of the gull flock flew off toward evening roosts, Pam Otley and Mark Baldwin found two apparent first-year **Western Gulls** among about 200 gulls that remained at the landfill. However neither they nor others who looked in subsequent days were able to relocate the bigger gull.

A first-winter **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** turned up at the old Clemens Mill Pond site in Philomath (now a scout lodge) on 29 Nov (Robert Jilek). An adult male **Red-naped Sapsucker** was found in Crabtree 14-19 Dec (Jesse Laney; Roy Gerig).

A **Northern Mockingbird** in Suver 29 Nov (Mitch Ratzlaff) may have been the same bird seen near Airlie, a few miles west of there, in early Nov.

A very unusual chickadee – seemingly an aberrant **Black-capped Chickadee** – visiting Jed Irvine's feeder in nw Corvallis had white wing feathers and a black cap that extended onto the sides of its nape.

A "**Red**" **Fox Sparrow** s. of Independence 29 Nov (Mike Lippsmeyer) appeared to be from relatively grayish subspecies (*zaboria*) that nests in boreal regions from Alaska east as far as northern Manitoba.

While scoping carefully through a flock of 140 **Horned Larks** and 50 **American Pipits** nw. of Halsey 23 Dec, Adrian Hinkle picked out a **Lapland Longspur** and a more

grayish longspur that appeared to be a **Chestnut-collared Longspur**.

Next month: The CBC season wraps up with the Airlie-Albany CBC on 5 Jan. January sometimes brings in more migrant birds from the north, but as the climate changes, we increasingly see swallows, vultures, and other less hardy birds that venture north from their traditional wintering

areas. 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 29 Mar.

Board Meeting Summary

From December 12, 2019

1. ASC will need a new Secretary by 12 March 2020, at the latest!
2. The Board will vote on a new Chat publication policy in January. We hope to transition to digital publication & distribution.
3. Oregon Wild and other sponsors will show a movie at the Corvallis Public Library on January 6th. The Board voted to co-sponsor this event.
4. The Conservation Committee recommended that ASC support non-timber uses in the Elliot State Forest & the Board voted unanimously in favor.
5. A neighborhood letter advocating the restructuring of the College of Forestry at OSU was not supported by a majority of the Board.
6. On-going discussions about ways to discourage non-ASC use of Hesthavn's parking lot reached no conclusions on a specific course of action.

Linda Campbell, Board Secretary

Wanted: ASC Board Secretary

After alternating several terms as Secretary and Board Member, Linda Campbell is leaving Corvallis this winter. As a result, ASC is looking for a Secretary to complete Linda's term, from March through May, and then elect a candidate for the 2020-21 term.

The Secretary records and maintains the official business of ASC, mainly via minutes of the Board Meetings held ten times per year. Linda and Gail Nickerson are our most recent holders of this office. Both would be happy to visit with you about the position. Their contact info is on last page of the CHAT.

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

Welcome to new member:

Brenda Kellar

General Membership Renewal Information

For membership renewal online go the ASC website (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 listserv 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 listserv administrator (Karan Fairchild, alderspr@peak.org) and request to be added.

Have You Changed Your Contact Info?

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, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Joel Geier, Don Boucher, Fred Ramsey, Dodie Wilson, Ray Drapek, Linda Campbell, Sue Powell, Kai Frueh, Nancy DeMasi, Kris Ebbe, Carolyn Suckow, Diana Samuels, Paul Adamus, Duncan Ev-ered, and Chandra LeGue

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

Jan 5	Airlie/Albany Christmas Bird Count
Jan 6	Wild & Scenic Rivers, 6:30 at library
Jan 9	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Natural Grocers
Jan 11	Second Saturday Field Trip, 7:30 am
Jan 11	Hesthavn Nature Center open 1-4:00 pm
Jan 12	Hesthavn Work Party 10-2
Jan 16	ASC Monthly Members meeting, 6:30 pm First United Methodist Church
Jan 23	Articles due for Feb. 2020 CHAT
Jan 23	Field Notes submissions due
Jan 25	Hesthavn Nature Center open 1-4:00 pm
Jan 26	Hesthavn Work Party 10-2
Mar 27-29	First 2020 Weekend Field Trip: Bandon & South Coast

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
P.O. Box 148
Corvallis, OR 97339

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Officers

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