



Audubon Society of Corvallis *the* **CHAT**

April 2003

VOL. 32

#8

General Meetings

William Sullivan
Oregon's Most Beautiful Trails
April 17, Thursday, 7:30 PM
****Corvallis Public Library****

Trails expert William L. Sullivan presents a slide show tour featuring the subject of his new book Oregon's Most Beautiful Trails.

A fifth-generation Oregonian, Sullivan has written many books about the state, including five titles in his popular "100 Hikes" series. Other recent works include "Hiking Oregon's History," a historical novel entitled "A Deeper Wild," and a new edition of "Listening for Coyote," the journal of Sullivan's 1,361-mile solo backpacking trek across Oregon in 1985.

Future Meetings

- May 15: Gordon Orians, Zoology Professor,
University of WA "Four and Ninety Black-
birds: A Very Tasty Dish"
- Summer: No General meeting in Summer. General
meeting resume in September

About General Meetings

General meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month from September through May.

Special Note:

For April 17, we will meet at the Corvallis Public Library, 645 NW Monroe.

Meetings are held customarily at the Education Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 8th Street and Monroe, downtown Corvallis. We give updates on conservation and Audubon activities and we have a featured guest speaker. Meetings start at 7:30 PM. The speaker begins at 8:00 PM and wraps up by 9:00 PM. Come early for refreshments, conversation and browsing at display tables. Everyone's welcome at our meetings.

Bluebird Lady's Retirement Reception

Audubon Society of Corvallis will host a reception to honor Elsie Eltzroth, our longtime Bluebird Trail coordinator, and her many volunteers, on Saturday May 3, from 2-4:30. The reception will be in the Corvallis Public Library's Meeting Room. All are welcome to come and hear stories, share refreshments, and look over the memorabilia of a long and fruitful "career".

If anyone would like to help with refreshments or memorabilia, please contact Karan Fairchild, Paula Vanderheul, Dodie Wilson, Rana Foster or Claudia Regier

Looking for Web Master

Sandy Segna, who is credited with getting the ASC on the Web, is stepping down as ASC web master. Since its inception, the ASC web page has been instrumental in notifying the community of ASC functions.

Sandy will train the next web savvy volunteer on our web page. Please contact Sandy (segna@peak.org, 753-9557) if you or somebody you know can help out.

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Atop the Nestbox

Volunteers Needed: Bluebird Study 2003 Study of Bluebird Incubation Rhythms and Temperatures

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's citizen science project, The Birdhouse Network (TBN) is looking for volunteers to help in a study of incubation temperatures of Eastern, Western, and Mountain Bluebirds. The study utilizes dime-sized temperature recorders, sponsored by the North American Bluebird Society (NABS), that permit researchers to infer incubation rhythms based on temperature fluctuations in the nest cup. Last year, volunteers used these data loggers for 2 purposes; 1) to measure nest box temperatures throughout the entire Eastern Bluebird breeding season in boxes facing different directions, and 2) to measure changes in nest cup temperature during Eastern Bluebird incubation in order to infer incubation patterns. This year the study is being expanded to include all 3 bluebird species and more locations. The researchers are also trying to obtain more temperature recordings during the transition from laying to incubation.

What's Involved?

Once the breeding season begins, confirmed participants of the Incubation Study can contact TBN as soon as they observe nest building by bluebirds anytime throughout the season (e.g., first, second, third attempts). Then, the participants are sent data loggers that are programmed to record (and store in memory) the date, time, and temperature every few minutes. One data logger attaches in the nest cup and one attaches to the nest box. After the eggs hatch, both data loggers are removed and returned to TBN. The data is downloaded and the data loggers are prepared for another nest attempt. Participants will be sent detailed instructions, attachment equipment, and a small data card with data loggers, as well as a posted, addressed envelope for them to return the data loggers and card to TBN. Volunteers will need to monitor nest attempts closely enough to record information such as estimated first egg date, clutch size, estimated hatch date, whether all eggs hatched on the same day or not, and the number of unhatched eggs.

If you expect to monitor any bluebirds this year and would like to participate, please e-mail Marilyn Moskal (mlm47@cornell.edu) to join TBN (in order to participate monitors must join TBN) and be sure to indicate that you would like to register for the Incubation Study. TBN has a limited number of data loggers, so participation is on a first come, first serve basis. If you are interested, please contact TBN as soon as possible for the bluebird nesting season is fast approaching!

-Dodie Wilson

For more information about last years study results, visit www.birds.cornell.edu/publications/birdscope/Sum-

mer2002/Rhythm_Bluebirds.html or
www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse/news/temp_pilot.html.
To learn more about TBN go to: www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse

Celebrate A Century of Wildlife Conservation

"One hundred years ago, President Roosevelt left us a great gift in the creation of the National Wildlife Refuge System," said Steve Williams, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This 95-million acre network protects many of America's most unique habitats and natural areas. Many National Wildlife Refuges were established along the four migratory bird flyways to provide crucial stopovers for birds to feed, breed and recharge during migration. With nearly 540 refuges, the National Wildlife refuge System offers something for everyone. Two Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuges will be celebrating this Centennial Anniversary in May 2003

Snag Boat Bend National Wildlife Refuge, Grand Opening Celebration

(11 miles south of Oregon Highway 34, on Peoria Road)
Saturday, May 10, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Grand opening ceremonies followed by guided walk. Come and see the new trails, boardwalk, and observation blinds. Learn about the endangered western pond turtle and recent riparian restoration. Watch a bird banding demonstration. See first hand the benefits of this refuge to wildlife, habitat restoration and you.

William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge International Migratory Bird Day Festivities

Saturday, May 10, 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- Join a refuge biologist for a bird walk along Woodpecker Loop - 7 a.m., 9 a.m., and 1 p.m.
- Wildflower walks through a native prairie habitat - 11 a.m.
- Learn about management practices on the refuge - 2 p.m.
- Hands on activities for adults and children 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Visit the historic Fiechter House 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering at one of these events, please call the refuge headquarters.

For more information or if you have special needs, please contact Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters at 541-757-7236.

ASC's Birdathon

Fun, a good cause, and great prizes entice Birdathon participants

ASC's 3rd Annual Birdathon is fast approaching. Exciting prizes are coming in weekly! These include gift certificates to local restaurants and other merchants, artwork, autographed bird guides, birding equipment and supplies, and much more! Remember, this year all teams and the top 3 pledgers will get prizes!

There's still plenty of time to sign up to participate in the Birdathon. And there are lots of ways to participate: Form a team (which can be just you, if you desire), join an already-formed team, or pledge to a team. If you need a packet call or e-mail Karan Fairchild (929-4049; alderspr@peak.org) and she'll send you one or come to our April meeting and pick one up.

People often cite a reluctance to ask for pledges as a reason not to take part in the Birdathon. Remember all those Girl Scout cookies and candy bars you bought from your neighbors and friends kids? Well, it's time to return the favor. The Birdathon packet includes helpful advice about how to ask, as well as information about Hesthavn. Just remember, you're not asking for yourself, but to help spread the love of nature to all of our community and to foster a sense of stewardship. This is one of the most important things we can do as Audubon members.

- Some of the prizes received as of March 23rd:
- Binoculars from Wild Birds Unlimited
- Print from wildlife photographer, Terry Steele
- Gift certificate to The Gables Restaurant
- Gift certificate to Michael's Landing
- Gift certificates to First Alternative Cooperative Grocery
- Autographed copies of two nationally known bird guides
- Gift certificates for local bookstores
- ...and much more!

Open House at Hesthavn

In conjunction with ASC's 3rd Annual Birdathon, an Open House will be held on April 27 from 10-3 at the Hesthavn Sanctuary, beneficiary of the Birdathon funds. Come on out for tours, refreshments, and a chance to see for yourselves what exciting projects your society is involved in.

Field Trip Schedule

April 12	Saturday local half-day 7:30 am
April 13	Bicycle Birding, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
April 18-20	Klamath Basin weekend
April 29	Tuesday morning Bird Walk 8 am
May 10	Saturday local half-day 7:30 am
May 10	Spring Migratory Bird Count
May 17	Butterflies at Hesthavn with Jeff Harding
May 16-18	Rogue Valley weekend / Theater in Ashland
May 27	Tuesday morning Bird Walk 8 am
May 29-June 1	Malheur NWR
June 14	Saturday local half-day 7:30 am

Saturday Local Half-day Trip, April 12

Our second Saturday local field trip meets at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 AM. This field trip is especially interesting for beginner birders and new birders to Oregon's mid-valley area. We spend a lot of time identifying local birds by sight and song.

Bicycle Birding, April 13, Sunday

9:00 AM, Meet at Avery Park Rose Garden. An easy, flat ride of 10 miles or less. Return to Avery Park by Noon. We'll tour great habitat not accessible to cars. These trips will continue monthly until autumn. Bring water and rain gear. Leader: Don Boucher 753-7689, bouchdon@juno.com

Migratory Bird Count, May 10, Saturday

Marcia Cutler is coordinating the Spring North American Migratory Bird Count in Benton County. If you would like to count birds for all or part of the day please contact her at 541-752-4313, mccarmel@peak.org

Tuesday Morning Trips

On April 29, Marcia Cutler will lead a local Birding Walk on the last Tuesday of each month through October. Everyone is to meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking lot at 8 AM.

Weekend Spring Trips

In the spring there are three long weekend excursions planned. April 18-20, 2003 will be a three-day weekend to Klamath Basin. May 16-18, 2003 will be to the Rogue Valley. Theater in Ashland will be included on this trip. May 29-31, June 1, 2003 is our trip to Malheur wildlife refuge. Fred Ramsey will be trip leader for all three weekends. The Rogue Valley and Malheur trips require deposits. If you have any questions about attending any of these trips contact Fred Ramsey, 541-753-3677 evenings, 3550 NW Glenridge Pl Corvallis OR 97330 (ramsey@stat.orst.edu). Rogue Valley deposit is \$40 and Malheur is \$50.

Look in the Chat for changes, additions, and updates of field trips each month. Come and join other bird watchers exploring a wildlife adventure in Oregon.

-Paula Vanderheul

Field Notes

February 25 through March 24, 2003

The mild winter turned to mild, rainy spring weather. Cottonwoods were putting out blossoms by 10 Mar, and by 24 Mar plum and apple trees were beginning to blossom, providing a good nectar supply for **Rufous Hummingbirds** which delighted many birdwatchers by returning ahead of schedule.

Abbreviations & Locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; SF = State Forest; WA = Wildlife Area. E.E. Wilson WA and is about 8 miles north of Corvallis along Hwy 99W. Finley NWR is 5 miles south of Corvallis. Stewart Lake is the pond at the Hewlett-Packard (HP) plant in northeast Corvallis. Toketie Marsh is the remediation wetland at Coffin Butte landfill, along Hwy 99W north of Corvallis.

Inland Sightings: Inland Sightings:

A **Great Egret** was at E.E. Wilson WA canal pond on 1 Mar (Marcia F. Cutler) and was still there on 7 Mar (Linda Fink). Nine **Double-crested Cormorants** were on a log in the river in downtown Corvallis on 27 Feb; one was there on 15 Mar (Marie Parcell).

Turkey Vultures continued to show up. Bill and Lena Proebsting noted two in the Oak Creek area on 8 Mar. Two were over downtown Corvallis on 15 Mar (M Parcell), and by the end of the period soaring vultures were a daily sight.

28 to 32 **Trumpeter Swans** were regular in a grass field at our place near E.E. Wilson WA from 27 Feb through 15 Mar (Becky Geier).

The feral **white domestic gander** and three **graylag geese** seem to have overwintered once again at the boat landing by Michael's Landing in Corvallis (M Parcell). After looking through references, Paul Jacobsen decided the odd white goose he saw near Suver last month (21 Feb) was most likely a juvenile **Snow Goose**.

Ducks at E.E. Wilson WA on 1 Mar included **Wood Ducks, Gadwall, American Wigeons, Mallards, Northern Pintails, Green-Winged Teal**, numerous **Ring-necked Ducks**, and **Hooded Merganser** (M Cutler, Paula Vanderheul). Don Boucher noted a good showing of **Wood Ducks** and **Hooded Mergansers** on the Canal Pond there on 22 Mar. On 5 Mar I saw a pair of **Cinnamon Teal** on the cattail marsh in the NE corner of E.E. Wilson WA.

A **Eurasian Wigeon** drake was observed at Stewart Lake on 6-7 Mar and 10 Mar (George Weaver; Jim Anderson; Jamie Simmons). Two **Eurasian Wigeon** drakes were with the **American Wigeon** flock at Grand Prairie Park, Albany, and one more was at Periwinkle Park, Albany on 17 Mar (Jeff Fleischer).

Two **Lesser Scaup** joined the **Ring-necked Duck** flock at Toketie Marsh on 10 Mar. Three female **Canvasbacks** were at Stewart Lake from the start of period through 17 Mar (J Simmons).

On 21 Mar Paula Vanderheul saw an **Osprey** fly to perch in a cottonwood along the Willamette River in downtown Corvallis. Despite harassment by two **American Crows**, but would not move from its perch. Another **Osprey** was at E.E. Wilson WA on 22 Mar (Don Boucher, Stephanie Haines).

A pair of **Northern Harriers** at E.E. Wilson WA flew in a courtship flight on 1 Mar, with the male executing a complete loop with a back flip (M Cutler, P Vanderheul).

Bald Eagles were seen regularly throughout the period at Peterson Butte in Linn Co., and one was near the Department of Motor Vehicles office in south Corvallis in mid-March (Steve Seibel).

A **Cooper's Hawk** visited Carol Argo's backyard in Millersburg on 9 Mar. One flew over the Kings and Grant St. In Corvallis on 12 Mar (Richard Hoyer Sr.).

A very black **Red-tailed Hawk** was in residence at Bill Thackaberry's place north of Lebanon as of 25 Feb. Marie Parcell noticed a pair of **Red-tailed Hawks** flapping around a tall tree along the Corvallis riverfront 20 Mar, perhaps near a nest site. Steve Seibel saw an adult **Golden Eagle** at Washburne Butte near Brownsville on 2 Mar.

A **Merlin** at the corner of Grant & 29th Ave, Corvallis on 4 Mar (R Hoyer) was the only one reported this month.

The **Mountain Quail** under Pat Waldron's feeders east of Scio on 19 Mar had to share space with **Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning Doves, a Varied Thrush, Fox Sparrows, Spotted Towhees, and juncos**.

Dodie Wilson heard a **Virginia Rail** calling in the NW corner of E.E. Wilson WA on 3 Mar. One was calling in the south part of the wildlife area on 24 Mar (M Cutler).

North of Lebanon on 25 Feb, Bill Thackaberry saw three **Sandhill Cranes** flying north against a stiff headwind, following the passage of flocks of up to 50 cranes in the preceding days. Jeff Harding heard some calling as they passed over the same area on 8 Mar. On 10 Mar Jeff Fleischer saw five in a field along Tennessee Rd. The only crane reported from the west side of the Willamette Valley was on 17 Mar, when Richard Hoyer saw one lifting off in the Greenberry area.

30 **Dunlin** visited a field by our place on 25 Feb, suggesting these birds were on the move. **Wilson's Snipe** were winnowing loudly at Jeff & Patricia Harding's place NE of Lebanon by 14 Mar.

Two **Band-tailed Pigeons** showed up at Pat Waldron's feeder east of Scio on 27 Feb. Another one showed up SW of Philomath the same day (Jim Fairchild).

A **Great Horned Owl** was still on the nest in the NE part of E.E. Wilson WA on 1 Mar (M Cutler). By the end of the period, an adult could regularly be seen perched on the side of the nest, but owlets were not yet visible. A **Burrowing Owl** along Linn Co. Rd. 211 at Blueberry Lane was last reported on 1 Mar (Mitch Ratzlaff).

On the evening of 17 Mar, Paul Adamus heard a **Western Screech-Owl** calling near 35th and Grant in NW Corvallis. On 23 Mar, Don Boucher, Stephanie Haines and Linda Sebring heard three owls calling in Avery Park: a **Barn Owl**, a **Western Screech-Owl**, and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl**.

Dave Budeau saw a **Vaux's Swift** at E.E. Wilson WA on 24 Mar, two weeks ahead of the previous record early date for our area.

A male **Rufous Hummingbird** showed up at the Fairchilds' place SW of Philomath on 27 Feb. Don & Elizabeth MacDonald saw a male in Little Lobster Valley in the Coast Range on 1 Mar; the first one in their Corvallis yard arrived a day later. Dan Waldron spotted a female **Rufous Hummingbird** visiting a feeder east of Scio on 2 Mar. Surprisingly the first male there this year was not seen until ten days later (Pat Waldron).

A **Rufous Hummingbird** joined the resident **Anna's Hummingbirds** at Sandy Bryce's place in SW Corvallis on 3 Mar. On 27 Feb a male **Anna's Hummingbird** sampled camellia blossoms at Alan McGie's place in North Albany.

While every birdwatcher hopes to be among the first to see a **Rufous Hummingbird**, the later arrivals help to show how protracted the migration of this species can be. The first male showed up at Phyllis Bailey's place in NW Corvallis on 8 Mar. Carol Argo finally saw one near Millersburg the same day, after hearing them a bit earlier. The first one in Bruce Black's yard in NW Corvallis finally showed up 23 Mar.

A female **Calliope Hummingbird** showed up at our feeder on 25 Mar, just three days behind the earliest local arrival on record for this species.

Wenbi Lai and Keigo Hirakawa watched a **Downy Woodpecker** and two **Acorn Woodpeckers** at the Woodland Dog Park (Witham Hill & Circle) on 12 Mar. One of the **Acorn Woodpeckers** was going in and out of a hole in a tree, perhaps a nest cavity. Another **Acorn Woodpecker** colony on the south slope of Vineyard Mtn had at least four members as of 16 Mar (P Adamus).

The male **Yellow-shafted (Northern) Flicker** was at Stewart Lake on 3 Mar; a bird with yellow shafts was also seen in flight there on 14 Mar (Jamie Simmons). An **intergrade Yellow-shafted x Red-shafted (Northern) Flicker** at Phyllis Bailey's suet feeder on 8 Mar has been in her NW Corvallis neighborhood for the past few months.

A **Say's Phoebe** was north of Lebanon 24 Feb (B Thackaberry). One was in Corvallis at 9th & Starker 5 Mar (D Boucher). One was south of Albany along Willoway Rd on 10 Mar (Jeff Fleischer). On 7 Mar Linda Fink,

Velta Mack and I heard a series of phoebe calls near E.E. Wilson WA headquarters, but the bird disappeared as some other people walked through the area, so we were not able to confirm that it was a Say's Phoebe.

Carol Argo saw an immature **Northern Shrike** near Millersburg on 9 Mar. **Hutton's Vireos** were heard singing through the month, reported by many observers.

A **Steller's Jay** in Jamie Simmons' NW Corvallis yard 20 Mar was in an atypical location, suggesting this individual might have been on the move. A dozen **Gray Jays** were still visiting Don & Elizabeth MacDonald's feeder in Little Lobster Valley on 23 Mar.

The **Horned Larks** in a grass field at our place near E.E. Wilson WA seemed to be pairing up and establishing territories by 24 Mar.

Four **Tree Swallows** were at E.E. Wilson WA 1 Mar (M Cutler). More than 40 were checking out nest boxes place east of Scio on 1 Mar, and by 18 Mar over 100 had arrived (P Waldron). At Stewart Lake, the first arrivals were two on 11 Mar; up to eight were seen almost daily through the end of the period (J Simmons).

A few **Violet-green Swallows** were at Willamette Park on 7 Mar (S Seibel). On 12 Mar Karan Fairchild saw hundreds of swallows SE of Philomath, probably this species. One was over the Lewisburg area on 16 Mar (P Adamus), and more were arriving at the end of the period.

On 16 Mar Don Boucher recorded the song of a small gray bird in Avery Park which sounded like a possible **Oak Titmouse**, but he realized that would be very unusual this far north. He was not able to get a good look at the bird and thinks it might have been a **Bewick's Wren**, a species known for its virtuosity.

Marcia Cutler saw **Bushtits** apparently gathering nesting material from budding willows at E.E. Wilson WA on 24 Mar. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were abundant there on 24 Mar.

By 8 Mar **Western Bluebirds** were claiming nest boxes at pat Waldron's place east of Scio. A **Hermit Thrush** was heard singing at Peavy Arboretum in late February (fide Don Boucher). Two **Varied Thrushes** stayed through the end of the period at Kris Graves' NW Corvallis yard.

Marcia Cutler found three **Wrentits** in the SW part of E.E. Wilson WA on 24 Mar, marking yet another part of the wildlife area that this species has recently colonized.

Up to 20 **Cedar Waxwings** were regular at Stewart Lake throughout the period, often feeding on rotten apples still on the tree (J Simmons).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was in the Lewisburg area 1 Mar (P Adamus). A bright male **Townsend's Warbler** fed on sunflower seeds at Phyllis Bailey's feeder in NW Corvallis on 8 Mar. As of 23 Mar, a **Townsend's Warbler** was still at Don & Elizabeth MacDonald's yard in NW Corvallis, where it wintered. Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** have also been regular there.

High numbers of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (Up to 40 one day) were at Stewart Lake throughout the period (J Simmons). As these birds gain their colorful spring plumage, the "Audubon's" and "Myrtle" subspecies will be easier to tell apart. Marcia Cutler saw a male **Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warbler** in bright breeding plumage at E.E. Wilson WA on 24 Mar, but noted that some females were still very drab.

A few of the **Fox Sparrows** which wintered abundantly at E.E. Wilson WA were singing on 1 Mar (M Cutler). One was singing in downtown Corvallis on 11 Mar (Don Boucher). Two that wintered in NW Corvallis remained through 23 Mar (D MacDonald), but on 24 Mar Marcia Cutler noted numbers at E.E. Wilson WA were greatly diminished.

Numbers of **Lincoln's Sparrows** in the wildlife area also thinned out. Marcia Cutler found 6 to 8 there on 1 Mar, but none in a short walk on 24 Mar. At the end of the period, I could only find one in a wet grassy patch where up to six had wintered. Of the two **Swamp Sparrows** that wintered at E.E. Wilson WA, I last saw the one in the NE corner on 4 Mar, and the one near headquarters was last seen around 10 Mar (D Budeau).

A **White-throated Sparrow** at a feeder in North Albany on 27 Feb was the first one seen there all year (A McGie). Bruce Black saw one in his NW Corvallis yard on 17 Mar, the first one there in 23 years. Two showed up there on 23 Mar. Three which wintered at Don & Elizabeth MacDonald's

Corvallis yard remained through 23 Mar. One that wintered in Jamie Simmons' NW Corvallis yard was last seen 8 Mar.

A **Red-winged Blackbird** was singing at Stewart Lake 10-14 Mar but since then seems to have departed (J Simmons). Carol Argo noted **Western Meadowlarks** in a pasture near Millersburg on 9 Mar.

A pair of **Lesser Goldfinches** showed up at Andrea Foster's feeders on 2 Mar. A male was singing at Stewart Lake 10-17 Mar, and two birds were there 24 Mar (J Simmons).

Finches visiting Sandy Bryce's SW Corvallis yard as of 3 Mar included **Pine Siskins**, **American Goldfinches**, and **Evening Grosbeaks**. A flock of about 15 **Evening Grosbeaks** visited Kris Graves' yard along NW Dixon St. on 24 Mar and a flock of 8 visited Stephanie Haines' feeders in Lewisburg on 29 Mar.

Dave Budeau noted that the **Terrestrial Garter Snakes** were out at E.E. Wilson WA on 24 Mar, joining the **Red-spotted Garter Snakes** which appeared earlier in the spring.

Coastal Notes

Sixteen participants on a pelagic trip to Perpetua Bank offshore of Newport on 1 Mar enjoyed a rare sighting of 1 to 3 **Manx Shearwaters**, along with the more expected **Short-tailed Shearwaters**, **Sooty Shearwaters**, **Pink-footed Shearwaters**, **Northern Fulmars**, **Black-footed Albatrosses**, and a **Laysan Albatross** (Wayne Hoffman; Steve Shunk).

Vicki Hoover and Greg Krutzikowsky saw a **Magnificent Frigatebird** flying south near Yaquina Head on 16 Mar (fide Range Bayer). One was independently reported two days later at the Sixes River mouth, near the California border, perhaps the same bird.

The Perpetua Bank pelagic trip on 1 Mar also yielded sightings of numerous **Black-legged Kittiwakes**, plus **Ancient Murrelets** and **Marbled Murrelets** (W Hoffman).

On 24 Mar, Roy Filby saw an **Osprey** perched near Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, while a juvenile **Bald Eagle** was perched on a stump out in the mud flats, and a **Northern Harrier** was hunting over the nature trail area.

A male **Costa's Hummingbird** visited flowering rosemary in Eric Horvath's yard in South Beach on 8 Mar. A female **Rufous Hummingbird** at Jorrie & Ken Ciotti's place east of Waldport was gathering cotton for nesting on 16 Mar.

More coastal sightings are documented in field notes of *The Sandpiper* (Yaquina Birders & Naturalists) which can be viewed at <<http://www.orednet.org/~rbayer/lincoln/bird.htm>>.

Next month

We'll await the main passage of shorebirds and most migrant songbird species, including swallows, warblers, and vireos. Please let me know about your latest sightings by 21 Apr.

Joel Geier, 14505 Corvallis Rd.
Monmouth, OR 9736
Telephone: (541) 928-2815
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Townsend's Warbler

Environmental Consequences of War

War exacts a terrible toll in human life and suffering. It can also have severe and long-lasting environmental consequences, and the war in Iraq is no exception. The most direct effects are the burning oil fires, spreading toxic smoke hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles downwind, and the lead from spent bullets and artillery shells that will forever leach into the water there. Armor-piercing shells sometimes contain uranium, and their use leads to widespread dispersion of substances that will remain radioactive for thousands of years.

Then there are the indirect effects. The chaos and disruption of war make affected people much more likely to resort to environmentally damaging actions, such as clearcutting forests for firewood because supplies of other heating material have been interrupted. Wildlife are shot for food to feed starving people. (Against these must of course be balanced the effects of not having a war in this case, the indirect effects of having Saddam Hussein's regime remain in power. His dictatorship has been cruel not only to the people, but also to the environment of Iraq.)

More subtle are the opportunity costs of war. While we are distracted by the necessity of supporting our troops in Iraq, we fail to plan for the future to promote a healthy environment for our children, our grandchildren, and ourselves. For instance, the Bush administration has proposed measures to allow logging to proceed in National Forests with virtually no public input but who has even noticed, with all of the headlines screaming of war? And when we spend billions on our war plans, we have little left for land conservation, ecosystem restoration, and the like. The money, energy, and attention spent on war are unavailable for any constructive use.

Whatever the political merits of the Iraq war, the environmental effects are surely disastrous.



Red-winged Blackbirds
Top: female
Bottom: male

Diazanone Pesticide Banned

The sale of diazanon-containing products will be prohibited after the end of 2004. The ASC Board has endorsed a campaign to get local garden stores to stop selling products with diazanon immediately.

Diazanone turned up as the single most significant pesticide in terms of toxicity levels for aquatic life, according to the recent USGS study of Willamette Valley streams. It is the most serious cause of bird deaths in the New York state study of dead birds (the study which has been frequently cited in West Nile virus reports).

National Forests

Major Management Changes Proposed

The Bush administration has proposed rule changes that radically alter the way National Forests are managed. In short:

“On November 27, 2002, the Administration proposed a National Forest Management Act planning rule that renders the public planning process virtually meaningless. It ignores the past advice of the Committee of Scientists whose input has been sought and considered by the Forest Service ever since the rule was adopted in 1979. It attempts to eliminate any assurance of fish and wildlife protection and requirements for monitoring population and habitat trends. It provides less protection and evaluation of inventoried roadless areas. It presumes every area is suitable for every multiple use, thereby skewing the planning process to favor commodity development and continued off-road vehicle use. It seeks to render plan standards more discretionary, further reducing agency accountability. By relegating management direction to the Forest Service Manual or handbooks, the proposed rule precludes judicial review of agency plans and diminishes opportunities for public comment on and availability of documents, further obfuscating what guides the agency on forest planning.”

This quote is from the Rahall-Dingell letter, a letter to the President being circulated in the House of Representatives. You can see the full text at <http://www.onrc.org/alerts/138.RahallDingellletter.html>. Many members of Congress have signed on to this letter, but the two representatives from Corvallis have not. Please write, call, fax, or email them and urge them to sign on to the Rahall-Dingell letter. Our representatives, Peter DeFazio and Darlene Hooley, can both be reached by calling the Capitol at 202-224-3121, or by writing to them at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. Please take a moment to contact them!

Conservation Events

Big Predators:

The Food Chain of Power and Glory

Thursday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Milam Auditorium, public lecture by David Quammen, author of “Song of the Dodo”, and columnist for Outside magazine. Sponsored by OSU Research Office; The Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature and the Written Word; and the College of Liberal Arts. FMI: 541-737-6198.

Audubon Monday Night

Bird Language, Secret Code of the Wild

Monday April 14, 7-8:30 PM at the Westminster House, 23rd and Monroe. Don Boucher will lecture and facilitate the discussion. Birds are always on the alert for potential danger, or a meal, so birds notice every creature nearby. Observing bird behavior and listening to their calls, we begin to perceive what they perceive — and to realize what we've been missing.

The Big Ten Conservation Challenges for a New Century

Where Do We Go from Here?

Wednesday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. at LaSells Stewart Center. Lecture and Booksigning with Dr. Michael Dombeck, conservationist and former director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. With an air of optimism and hope, Dombeck will discuss these critical issues ranging from mining law, to loss of biodiversity, to off-road vehicle use, to the incalculable value of water. Free. 737-1562 or http://osumu.org/mu/events_lectures.htm

Corvallis Environmental Center Procession of the Species

Saturday, April 19: Join the Procession of the Species as with your favorite nature critter costume, starting at 2:15 p.m. on the SE corner of Monroe and 11th Street.

Earth Faire, April 19

The Oddfellows Hall at 223 SW 2nd Street in Downtown Corvallis Starting at 4:30 PM and throughout the evening.

Earthfaire is a multifaceted Earth day event designed to inspire pro-activity in the Corvallis community through information, art, music, and dance.

Demonstrations will cover such topics as alternative transportation, water quality, home resource efficiency, recycling, forestry, local agriculture, and community. Kids' activities include making instruments from recycled materials, face painting and mask making while learning about different species. Join in the fun of skit performances, costume contest, silent auction, and John Pitney's sing-

along. Chow down on the yummy southwestern-style food provided by Bombs Away. Then dance and drum into the night with drumming sessions and performances by String Loaded, Oyaya, and The Well. Donations ranging from \$3 to \$15 are encouraged; which will support the Programs of the Corvallis Environmental Center. For more information, call the Corvallis Environmental Center at 753-9211 or e-mail us at ecenter@peak.org.

Panel Discussion

Monday, April 21 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in MU 213: Panel Discussion on the Bush administration proposal to eliminate consideration of threatened and endangered plants. FMI: <http://oregonstate.edu/groups/biodiversity/>.

The Kestrel's Eye

Video Night with NW Earth Institute

Friday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Westminster House, 23rd and Monroe. This portrait of a family of kestrels was filmed over several years. Their daily life is chronicled as they live in a church tower alongside a Swedish village. Nominated for a Swedish Oscar. 86 min. 1999. Informal NWEI general meeting starts at 6:45 p.m. All are welcome. FMI: 752-3517.

Living with Nuisance Wildlife

Wednesday, May 14 (and Wednesday, June 25) at 7:00 p.m. at the Corvallis Library: with Jeff Picton of Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and Nancy Allen. FMI: cwrc@peak.org.

The Chat by Email

Now that Spring is here, and the trees are unfurling their new leaves, we might remember that these same trees might prefer to leaf out, rather than become leaflets! If you agree and have computer access to email, we will save trees and also money for postage, and email you the Audubon Society of Corvallis' newsletter. Please contact Amy Schoener (Membership Chair) 929-4041, cloudrun@peak.org.

You will receive the CHAT in Adobe Acrobat format. File size will be 300k or less. Adobe Acrobat reading software is free and can be downloaded from Adobe's web site (www.adobe.com).

-Amy Schoener

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Thanks to volunteers who bring you the content and editing for this issue of *The Chat*:

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Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

Calendar

Apr. 10 Board meeting, 7:30 PM, Dave Mellinger's
Apr. 13 Bicycle Birding, 9:00 am-12:00 pm*
Apr. 12 Saturday local half-day 7:30 am*
Apr. 14 Audubon Monday Night, 7 PM, Bird Language (see page 63)
Apr. 17 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, **Corv. Public Library **
Bill Sullivan, Oregon's Most Beautiful Trails
Apr. 18-20 Klamath Basin weekend*
Apr. 21 Field Notes deadline
Apr. 24 Chat deadline for May
Apr. 26-27 ASC Birdathon (see page 59)
Apr. 27 Hesthavn Open House, 10 AM - 3 PM (see page 59)
Apr. 29 Tuesday morning Bird Walk 8 am*
May 3 Reception for Elsie Eltzroth, Corvallis Public Library Meeting Room, 2-4:30
May 6 Conservation discussion, 5:30 PM, New Morning Bakery
May 8 Board meeting, 7:30 PM
May 10 Saturday local half-day 7:30 am*
May 10 Spring Migratory Bird Count*
May 17 Butterflies at Hesthavn with Jeff Harding
May 15 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, 1st Presbt. Church
Gordon Orians on Blackbirds (see front page)
May 16-18 Rogue Valley weekend*
May 27 Tuesday morning Bird Walk 8 am*
May 29-June 1 Malheur NWR*

*See page 59 for field trip descriptions
Everybody's welcome, including nonmembers, to any ASC function

The Chat is published 10 times a year by the Audubon Society of Corvallis, PO Box 148, Corvallis OR 97339. Annual ASC memberships are \$20 for an individual, \$25 for a family, \$15 for a student. Chat-only subscriptions are \$10.

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