



Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

October 2003

VOL. 33

#2

General Meeting

October 16, 7:30–9:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church
Conservation of Rare
Habitats in the Willamette Valley

Historically, much of the Willamette Valley was dominated by wet prairie, oak savanna, and floodplain communities. With the advent of civilization, much of these habitats were altered or lost. Changes to Valley habitats have led to declines in many of our native fish and wildlife species, including the need to federally list several species as threatened and endangered. The Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuges provide significant opportunities to begin to restore some of these native communities. Ongoing restoration efforts employ a variety of management techniques, including reintroduction of fire. Restoration of lands outside the refuge boundaries will also be critical in conserving viable wildlife habitat throughout the Willamette Valley.

The meeting is in the Education Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 8th Street at Monroe, downtown Corvallis. At each meeting we give updates on conservation and Audubon activities. Meetings start at 7:30 PM and speakers begin at 8:00. Come early for refreshments, conversation and browsing at display tables.

Meeting Place to Change Soon

The Corvallis-Benton County Library will be our meeting spot from January through April 2004.

Future Programs at General Meetings

- Nov. 20 David Copeland, world traveler from Salem, Chasing Birds and Orchids in Papua New Guinea
- Dec. 18 Member slides; each Audubon member is encouraged to show his/her ten most unusual/beautiful/educational slides

Atop the Nestbox

Report from the ASC Bluebird Trail

At the beginning of the 2003 Western Bluebird breeding season, Audubon Society of Corvallis entered into a cooperative effort in two new research projects using some of the nest boxes that were already established on the Bluebird Trail. Tara Robinson, Assistant Professor at O.S.U. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and Laura Nagy Ecologist with the E.P.A., placed additional boxes in suitable habitat which they and their field crews monitored.

This is a brief report of the results:

Tara Robinson:

27 boxes were added to 3 already in place at the OSU Sheep Farm pastures at Oak Creek Dr.

4 pairs of Western Bluebird nested;

3 pair, double brooded

1 pair, 1 late brood

36 young fledged; one nestling died.

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Bluebird Trail

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Laura Nagy:

Approximately 125 nest boxes were placed at Benton County locations:

At Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Corvallis Country Club, on farms west and south of Philomath and north of Corvallis.

Number of pairs and boxes used not available.

Adults trapped and banded:

31 males

30 females

351 nestlings banded when 12 days old (may include 37 Laura banded for me when I was on vacation).

All bluebirds were color banded.

Elsie Eltzroth—on the ASC Trail:

We banded 266 Western Bluebirds which included

9 in Lane Co.

5 in Polk Co. banded by Jeremy DePiero

50 pairs had one brood, several first broods failed.

23 pairs, double brooded.

3 pair, triple brooded.

We removed 26 nestlings at 11 nest boxes early in the season—most failed due to cold, wet weather.

8 nestlings died or were euthanized.

17 were fostered into other nests and fledged.

One was hand raised, released in Kings Valley.

-Elsie Eltzroth

Birds of Oregon

New Book by Gilligan and Burrows

Featuring 328 species of birds with full-color illustrations, important information, and visual aids. For each species there is information about habitat, nesting, feeding, voice, similar species, and viewing sites.

Written for both professional and amateur birders, the book includes a comprehensive introduction with notes and suggestions on everything from joining a birding group and setting up backyard feeders, to identifying bird habitats and supporting conservation initiatives in your area.

Authors Jeff Gilligan and Roger Burrows are veteran birders. Jeff Gilligan has lived in Oregon his entire life and is a specialist in Oregon birds while Roger Burrows is a naturalist, an interpretive planner, and author of a number of Lone Pine nature guides.

For more information, contact Shelley Braiden, Lone Pine Publishing: promo2@lonepinepublishing.com, (800) 661-9017 x 234

Fall 2003 Seminars

Oregon State University

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

- Sept 29 Monday, Stephen J. Dinsmore: Mississippi State Univ., Modeling avian nest survival: An example using Mountain Plovers; 4 PM, OSU, ALS 4000
- Oct 8 Wed., Amber Keyser: WSU, Vancouver, Life history, demography, and individual fitness in Western Bluebirds, 4 PM, OSU, Nash 206
- Oct 15 Wed., Mark Henjum: ODF&W, When Wolves Return: An Oregon Perspective, 4 PM, OSU, Nash 206
- Oct 22 Wed., John Marzluff: UW, Seattle, Coexistence and conflict on the urbanizing fringe: Birds, people, and politics, 4 PM, OSU, Nash 206
- Oct 29 Wed., Steve Nadeau: Boise, Wolf management in Idaho, 4 PM, OSU, Nash 206
- Nov 5 Wed., Jim Estes: USGS, Santa Cruz, CA, Defaunated food webs: large vertebrates and nature's balance, 4 PM, OSU, Construction and Engineering Hall
- Nov 12 Wed., Laura Nagy: EPA, Corvallis, Causes and consequences of individual variation in reproductive output in the black-throated blue warbler, 4 PM, OSU, Nash 206
- Nov 19 Wed., Michael Murphy: PSU, Breeding at the edge of the range: reproduction, paternity and parental behavior of Eastern Kingbirds in eastern Oregon, 4 PM, OSU, Nash 206
- Dec 3 Wed., Bret Toblaske: Univ. of Portland, Flight performance in small birds, 4 PM, OSU, Nash 206

Hesthavn Thanks

There are several persons and organizations that we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to. First we would like to thank Cy Statsvold. Cy is the architect who drew up the plans for the Hesthavn barn. Cy worked on the project for a greatly reduced rate has been extremely helpful in getting the nature center project moving. Secondly, we would like to thank the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District. It was through OWEB and the Benton SWCD that we received a grant that allowed for last spring's extensive planting (approximately 300 trees and shrubs were planted). In addition to providing the actual plants they provided us with the blue plastic tubing used to protect the plants, 2

large carts, and miscellaneous tools that we will make great use of for many years to come. Third, we would like to thank the PGE Foundation which has just awarded the Hesthavn project with a \$5,000.00 grant to develop the barn into a nature center. Lastly we would like to thank the following volunteers for their efforts at the August work party: Susan Brown, Paula Vanderheul, and Karan Fairchild.

Hesthavn Work Parties October 25 and November 29

9am–12pm: Restoration
1pm–4pm: Barn Renovation

Hesthavn Sanctuary is located 8590 NW Oak Creek Road, west of Corvallis. It is a quarter mile before the OSU Forest Field Station and trail head.

-Ray Drapek, 754-7364

Kids Day Success

ASC put on a Snipe Hunt at the Kids Day for Conservation held at the Benton County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 13th. Each participant was given a check sheet picturing 10 birds which were hidden throughout the arena which had been transformed into the Mary's River watershed. The goal was to find all 10 birds. Binoculars made from toilet paper rolls were given to many of the children to aid in their hunt. About 250 children participated. We received many favorable comments on our game and it was fun to see how excited the children got when they spotted a bird specimen.

I'd like to thank Sue Haig, Karan Fairchild and Paula Vanderheul for helping out at the booth. Paula Vanderheul also deserves thanks for transplanting a thistle weed from Hesthavn into a container—this plant was used to host the American Goldfinch. Bill Proebsting also deserves thanks for planting four flats of marsh grasses and reeds which served as an excellent home for the Snipe and Coot. For all those of you who contributed toilet paper rolls, your efforts were greatly appreciated.

-Marcia F. Cutler and Kate Mathews

The Chat by Email

If you 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 541-929-4041, 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

Field Trip Schedule

Oct. 11	Saturday local morning 7:30 AM
Oct. 18	Florence Coastal trip full day 7 AM
Oct. 28	Tuesday morning Bird Walk 8 AM
Nov 8	Saturday local morning 7:30 AM
Nov 15	Full day, Sauvie Island, Portland 7:30 AM
Dec 13	Saturday local morning 7:30 AM
Dec 14	Corvallis Christmas Bird Count

Local Morning Trip, October 11

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. Field trip leader is Paula Vanderheul 541-752-0470, vanderp@peak.org

Tuesday Morning, October 28

Marcia Cutler will lead a local Birding Walk. Everyone is to meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 8:00 AM.

Full Day Trips: October 18

We will car pool to Florence coast to bird the south and north jetty of the Siuslaw River. We will meet at the Benton Center north parking lot, 630 NW 7th street at 7 AM. The parking lot can be reached from 9th street and Reiman street near Avery Mall. Please bring warm clothing, rain gear, lunch, and water for a full day of birding. We should return by 7 PM. Contact Paula Vanderheul for further information.

November 15

We will car pool to Sauvie Island about 10 miles north of Portland. We will meet at the Benton Center parking lot at 7:30 AM. Bring warm clothing, rain gear, lunch and water. We should return by 6 PM.

Spring Weekend Trips

In the Spring there are two major long weekend field trips to Klamath Basin and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge that are led by Fred Ramsey. April 16–18, 2004 will be the Klamath Basin trip, and May 20–23, 2004 will be the Malheur trip. Sign-up sheets will be available at the field trip table at the general meeting each month, or contact Paula Vanderheul directly for sign-up or further information.

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

August 25 through September 22, 2003

Typical dry summer weather held until the second week of September, which brought a few soaking showers and some welcome cool weather. A frost pocket at Baskett Slough NWR even got cold enough for a few ice tendrils to sprout out of the mud on 13 Sep, but the frost was very localized. This was followed by a return to dry, warm weather which has brought swarms of **box elder bugs** at our place, a sure sign that autumn is at hand.

Correction: See the species account below for a correction and clarification regarding last month's Williamson's Sapsucker report from Linn Co.

Abbreviations & Locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; SF = State Forest; E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) is north of Corvallis along Hwy 99W. Baskett Slough NWR is near Dallas in Polk Co. Clear Lake and Lost Lake are in Linn Co. west of Santiam Pass. Cabell Marsh and McFadden Marsh are at Finley NWR south of Corvallis. The Pioneer Villa ponds are alongside I-5 west of Brownsville. Snag Boat Bend is an annex of Finley NWR near Peoria. Vineyard Mountain is north of Corvallis near Lewisburg. Willamette Park is in south Corvallis.

Inland Sightings:

Four **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at Ankeny NWR 31 Aug (Erik Knight). Two there on 10 Sep were joined by a **Snow Goose** (Diane Horgan).

Two to four **Wood Ducks** were at Stewart Lake throughout the period (Jamie Simmons). 25 were at the Philomath sewage ponds 20 Sep (Paula Vanderheul, Marcia F. Cutler). A juvenile **Gadwall** was at Stewart Lake 5 Sep (J Simmons) and at least one was at Philomath sewage ponds the next day (P Vanderheul).

The first **American Wigeon** of the season was at Stewart Lake 26 Aug (J Simmons). Eight were at Clear Lake 15 Sep (Randy & Mary Campbell). 22 were at Philomath sewage ponds 20 Sep (P Vanderheul). On 20 Sep **Cinnamon Teal** were noted at Finley NWR (P Vanderheul, M Cutler) and five were at the Snag Boat Bend (R&M Campbell). By then **Green-winged Teal** had also shown up at Finley NWR (P Vanderheul).

A female **Northern Shoveler** showed up at Stewart Lake 5 Sep and one or two were there through 22 Sep (J Simmons). By 20 Sep, 70 were on the Philomath sewage ponds (P Vanderheul, M Cutler) and 20 were at Snag Boat Bend along with one **Northern Pintail** (R&M Campbell).

Two female **Ring-necked Ducks** showed up at Stewart Lake 5 Sep and up to two pairs have been regular there since (J Simmons). A **Harlequin Duck** was along the North Santiam River above Detroit 15 Sep, when 19 **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were on Clear Lake (R&M Campbell).

On 20 Sep a **Ruddy Duck** was at Philomath sewage ponds (P Vanderheul) and another was at Snag Boat Bend (R Campbell).

An inland migrant female **Red-breasted Merganser** on Clear Lake 29 Aug was a surprise when our family stopped there after picking huckleberries in the smoke. The thin bill, high forehead and shape of the trailing crest distinguished it from the more expected **Common Mergansers**.

Ruffed Grouse were a highlight of the bicycle birding trip to the Brooklane open space area 14 Sep (Don Boucher). Pat Waldron saw one at her place e. of Scio 20 Sep. Joe Fontaine saw two **Blue Grouse** on Mary's Peak 8 Sep.

A **Wild Turkey** hen with a bunch of chicks were along Crescent Valley Rd. n. of Corvallis 20 Aug (Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth). Seven visited Jay and Sheila Faulcone's yard along Mountain View Rd 10 Sep.

Eight or more **Mountain Quail** showed up on Vineyard Mtn several times in September (M&E Eltzroth). Eleven were at Pat Waldron's place e. of Scio 22 Sep.

Two **Pied-billed Grebes** turned up at Stewart Lake 2 Sep, and were seen daily from 8 Sep onward (J Simmons). Three **Horned Grebes** were on Detroit Lake 15 Sep (R Campbell).

Great Egrets were noted at Pioneer Villa 31 Aug (Jeff Fleischer) and McFadden Marsh 6 Sep (P Vanderheul) as these birds began to return to the valley. One was feeding in shallow water near a smoldering island of willows at Lost Lake on 6 Sep (Steve Dowlan), alongside of a **Great Blue Heron**.

A **Green Heron** turned up at Stewart Lake 20 Sep (George Weaver fide J Simmons) Up to three were regular at the E.E. Wilson WA canal pond throughout the period, feasting on the abundant small **frogs**. On 31 Aug our family watched a juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Heron** also hunting frogs there; it was still there 2 Sep (Carol Karlen).

Turkey Vultures were noted throughout the month; watch for more "kettles" of these impressive birds this month, spiraling on thermals as they migrate south. **Osprey** also began to head south, but lingering birds were noted at Willamette Park 14 Sep (Steve Seibel) and at Irish Bend 20 Sep (P Vanderheul, M Cutler).

Sean Burgett saw a **White-tailed Kite** a few miles n. of Pedee 7 Sep. Another kite and a **Northern Harrier** were at the Brooklane open-space area 14 Sep (D Boucher).

Bill Thackberry spotted a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and a **Cooper's Hawk** in a migratory type of flight at Hayrick Butte in the Santiam Pass area 20 Sep (fide J Harding). A **Cooper's Hawk** chased a screaming **Pileated Woodpecker** off dogwood berries e. of Scio 20 Sep (P Waldron). A **Northern Goshawk** near South Cinder Peak in Linn Co. 15 Sep was a highlight of a 40-mile hike along the Pacific Crest Trail (R Campbell).

An adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in the NE part of E.E. Wilson when I checked on 8 Sep. A juvenile was at Lost Lake (a surprising location) on 22 Sep (Daniel Farrar), and two were at Cabell Marsh 23 Sep (S Seibel). A **Golden Eagle** was perched on the rim of Hayrick Butte 20 Sep (J Harding).

A dark **Merlin** was at E.E. Wilson 2 Sep (C Karlen). One at Cabell Marsh 23 Sep was harassing **Northern Flickers**, then got harassed in turn by a tiny male **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (S Seibel). An immature **Peregrine Falcon** was at Tangent sewage ponds 31 Aug (J Fleischer), and the ASC field trip to Baskett Slough NWR saw one 13 Sep (P Vanderheul). On 15 Aug a **Prairie Falcon** soared over the Pacific Crest Trail at North Cinder Peak, Linn Co. (R Campbell).

A **Black-bellied Plover** was the highlight of Jeff Fleischer and Phil Rempel's visit to the Tangent sewage ponds 27 Aug. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at Finley NWR 8 Sep (J Fontaine, J Simmons).

Seven **Greater Yellowlegs** were at Pioneer Villa 5 Sep (J Fleischer); smaller numbers were noted at widespread locations throughout the month. At E.E. Wilson WA, a **Lesser Yellowlegs** turned up 8 Sep after a juvenile **Solitary Sandpiper** turned up 3 Sep. On 9 Sep I had the treat of seeing both of them alongside a **Greater Yellowlegs**, lined up in order of size.

Spotted Sandpipers at Tangent sewage ponds 31 Aug and at Pioneer Villa 5 Sep (J Fleischer) were presumably migrants. **Western Sandpiper** migration peaked with 50 at Pioneer Villa 31 Aug and 40 at Finley NWR 8 Sep (J Fleischer; J Fontaine, J Simmons) but smaller numbers continued through the period. The **Least Sandpiper** count at E.E. Wilson reached 30 when I checked 9 Sep; about a dozen were still at Baskett Slough NWR for the ASC field trip 13 Sep (P Vanderheul).

The closest report of a **Baird's Sandpiper** was one at Baskett Slough NWR 6 Sep (Quinton Nice, Roy Gerig). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** showed up at Pioneer Villa 31 Aug (T Snetsinger), and 10 were there 5 & 9 Sep (J Fleischer); a juvenile I saw at E.E. Wilson WA 8 Sep seems to be the only Benton Co. report for this fall. A juvenile **Ruff** was at Ankeny NWR 19 & 20 Sep (R Gerig; S Dowlan).

Long-billed Dowitchers and **Wilson's Snipe** were reported in modest numbers from late August onward. **Red-necked Phalarope**

Field Notes continued on page 15

'Take Back Audubon' Group Seeks Proxies

As many Auduboners are aware, the National Audubon Society has made changes in its relationship with local Chapters that have significantly impacted Chapter finances, and the role of the Audubon grassroots in our organization.

In 2000, the NAS Board of Directors changed the long-standing policy of sharing membership dues with Chapters. Under the new policy that will be fully implemented this year, the dues share will drop to near zero for most Chapters. This loss of revenue has forced Chapters to cut back on newsletters and to reduce their conservation and education activities—the most effective activism in all of Audubon.

In 2001, the NAS Board enacted a new Chapter Policy over the written objections of 74 Chapters and over 88 Chapter leaders who signed on to a letter urging the Board to reconsider this policy. The letter asked NAS to engage in a true dialogue over this document and to seek a policy “that meets the needs of ALL of Audubon, including Chapters”.

At the 2002 Annual Meeting, the NAS leadership voted down resolutions brought by Chapter members to reform the governance of NAS by providing for access to information, competitive elections, and a greater voice for Audubon members and Chapters.

In addition, National Audubon has embarked on a major effort to establish hundreds of Audubon Centers, which many Chapter leaders fear will ultimately replace Chapters by draining funds and volunteers from local conservation work. A number of Chapters have already had serious conflicts with NAS over this issue.

In response to these actions by NAS, a grassroots organization, 'Take Back Audubon' (TBA) has sprung up, whose mission is “*to restore a true partnership between the independent Chapters and the National Audubon Society through a real voice in the NAS organization and in all decisions that affect Chapters*”. To date, 37 Audubon Chapters and over 100 Chapter leaders have endorsed Take Back Audubon.

Presently, TBA is engaged in an effort to elect an alternate slate of candidates to the NAS Board of Directors at this year's Annual Meeting on Dec. 6, 2003. They are seeking proxies from Audubon members to bring to the meeting to vote for this slate, and to support resolutions that will be presented to democratize Audubon and to restore the Chapter dues share.

The TBA slate is made up of Chapter leaders that will

give Audubon members a choice, by offering candidates that will stand up for the interests of local Chapters. The candidates are:

Charles Bragg, Santa Monica Bay Audubon Soc. (CA); 310-454-9662; cgbraggjr@worldnet.att.net

Marsha Cannon, Madison Audubon Soc. (WI); 608-251-1276; mpcannon@charter.net

John Gallagher, Clark County Audubon Soc. (OH); 937-323-0782; jfg4@msn.com

Andrew Mason, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Soc. (NY); 607-652-2162; AndyMason@earthling.net

Cary Meister, Yuma Audubon Soc. (AZ); 928-782-3552; cwm4@mindspring.com

Pat Rasmussen, Leavenworth Audubon Adopt-a-Forest (WA); 509-548-7640; patr@crcwnet.com

Tony Wagner, Buffalo Audubon Society (NY); 716-754-4231; twagner@adelphia.net

Darrel Whipple, Willapa Hills Audubon Soc. (OR); 503-556-9838; dwhipple@columbia-center.org

Jennifer Wilson-Pines, North Shore Audubon Soc. (NY); 516-767-3454; jwppines@juno.com

In addition, TBA is endorsing this year's regionally-nominated Chapter candidates:

Ione Werthman, Audubon Soc. of Omaha (NE)

John Whittle, Golden Triangle Audubon Soc. (TX)

Steven Zimmerman, Juneau Audubon Society (AK)

Biographies of the candidates, copies of the proposed resolutions, and background information on Take Back Audubon can be found at www.smbas.org/tba.

A Take Back Audubon proxy form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. To support this Audubon Chapter effort, complete the form and return to the address listed by **November 30, 2003**. Members are also asked to *not* return the NAS proxy that will be arriving in a few weeks.

For further information, please visit the TBA web site (above), or contact any of the TBA candidates.

ASC on the Web

www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

More functionality and resources than we could ever hope to put in the Chat! The web site is particularly helpful to newcomers, visitors looking for local events and current members away from home. With pride, we encourage you to visit the site.

Contributors to *The Chat*

Thanks to volunteers who contributed to this issue of *The Chat* : Joel Geier, Elsie Eltzroth, Susan Haig, Paula Vanderheul, Marcia Cutler, Ray Drapek, Carol Schuler, and Jim Fairchild.

Chat Distribution: Fran Gates, Alberta Pierce, Eleanor and Ken Kidd, and Joan Siegienski

ASC Endorses Take Back Audubon

In September, our Chapter Board formally voted to endorse the Take Back Audubon (TBA) mission of a growing number of Audubon Chapters around the country, and to endorse the slate of candidates supporting the efforts of TBA, which will be voted on at the National Audubon Annual meeting this December.

The mission of TBA is to restore a true partnership between the independent Chapters and the National Audubon Society through a real voice in all decisions that affect Chapters.

In addition, the four candidates listed on the proxy form will be introducing resolutions that we should improve the partnership between Chapters and National Audubon. Their complete text may be found on the TBA webpages at www.smbas.org.tba .

We hope that all of our Chapter members who are members of National Audubon Society will take a few minutes of their time and complete the proxy form below and mail it to the given address, or return it in person to any ASC Board member.

Proxy Instructions

Insert date of signing.

Print name exactly as membership is carried and shown on your magazine label. You must be a National Audubon Soc. member in good standing, as of Oct. 17, 2003 in order to vote.

Proxy to be signed by person in whose name membership is carried. If carried in two names or as Mr. & Mrs., either party can sign.

Show current address and zip code.

SIGN ONLY ONE PROXY FORM. DO NOT SIGN ANY OTHER PROXY FORM YOU MIGHT RECEIVE. HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SIGNED A PROXY FORM, THIS FORM WILL SUPERSEDE ANY EARLIER FORM.

Return signed proxy form by NOVEMBER 30 to John F. Gallagher, 121 Larchmont Road, Springfield, Ohio 45503.

PROXY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that I, the undersigned, a member of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC., do hereby constitute and appoint Marsha Cannon, John F. Gallagher, Andrew L. Mason, and Darrel K. Whipple, and each of them, with full power of substitution, my attorneys and agents for me and in my name, place and stead, to vote as my proxy the number of votes I should be able to cast if then personally present at the Annual Meeting of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC., to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Saturday, December 6, 2003, or at such other place and time as said Annual Meeting may be held, and at any adjourned meeting thereof as follows:

- (a.) For the election of directors for the terms expiring in 2006, or until their successors are elected; and
- (b.) In their discretion, for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____ Two Thousand and Three.

Signed **X** _____
(must be signed to be valid)

Address _____

Name _____
(please print name)

migration started with single birds at the Tangent and Brownsville sewage ponds 27 Aug, and peaked with 15 at Philomath sewage ponds 8 Sep (J Fontaine, J Simmons); one was at Snag Boat Bend 20 Sep (R Campbell).

A **California Gull** at Foster Reservoir 15 Sep (R Campbell) was the only inland gull report. Three **Caspian Terns** flew upriver past Peoria 31 Aug (R&M Campbell).

30 **Band-tailed Pigeons** visited Don & Elizabeth MacDonald's place in the Little Lobster Valley 13 Sep. Bill & Lena Proebsting still were seeing some in the Oak Creek area as of 23 Sep. Pat Waldron had 23 **Mourning Doves** at her place e. of Scio 20 Sep, as this species began to congregate in flocks.

A juvenile **Western Screech-Owl** stuck its head out of an owl box on Vineyard Mtn 18 Sep (M Eltzroth). **Great Horned Owls** have started calling again; the ones at our place were going at it by 8 Sep. A **Common Nighthawk** was SE of Albany 19 Sep (Dan Heyerly).

A few **Vaux's Swifts** were still overhead at Vineyard Mtn 19 Sep (M Eltzroth), by which time large migrant roosts were being reported in Independence and Eugene. Has anyone noticed a large roost in Corvallis this fall?

Vi and Clarence Omoto had an **Anna's Hummingbird** visit their yard 28 Aug (fide M Eltzroth). **Rufous Hummingbirds** were last seen in the Oak Creek neighborhood 12 Sep (B&L Proebsting), in NW Corvallis 15 Sep (D MacDonald), and e. of Scio 19 Sep (P Waldron).

A female **Acorn Woodpecker** turned up at Stewart Lake 17 Sep (the first time this species has been observed there) and was seen again 22 & 23 Sep (J Simmons). A **Pileated Woodpecker** visited Don & Elizabeth MacDonald's place in Little Lobster Valley 13 Sep.

In last month's notes I erroneously indicated Bill Thackaberry was the second observer on a **Williamson's Sapsucker** report. Also, the primary observer, Jeff Harding, suggested a bit of caution regarding the make-up of the reported sapsucker family group. Here is the corrected report:

On 27 Jul Jeff Harding, while hiking with Dan Thackaberry, saw a male **Williamson's Sapsucker** in the company of three other sapsuckers, two of which were juveniles of uncertain species, and one of which was either an adult female Williamson's or a juvenile Red-naped Sapsucker. This was in Linn Co. where Woodpecker Ridge meets the Pacific Crest Trail on the west side of Mt. Jefferson.

A migrant **Willow Flycatcher** stopped by our place near E.E. Wilson WA 15-15 Sep. A **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** was at Finley NWR 20 Sep (P Vanderheul, M Cutler). Tom Snetsinger saw a **Say's Phoebe** s. of Plainview 16 Sep.

A **Cassin's Vireo** was seen & heard singing on Mary's Peak 8 Sep (J Fontaine. One stopped by Vineyard Mtn 18 Sep, and a **Warbling Vireo** was there 12 Sep (M&E Eltzroth).

On 20 Sep eight **Gray Jays** visited M&E Eltzroth's place on Vineyard Mtn, and eight more visited D&E MacDonald's feeder in Little Lobster Valley, along with 7 **Steller's Jays**; meanwhile Pat Waldron counted 20 **Steller's Jays** at her place e. of Scio. Also on 20 Sep, D&E MacDonald saw a **Western Scrub-Jay** just S of Alsea, where this species is scarce. Another scrub jay e. of Scio 6 Sep (P Waldron) was also in "Steller's territory."

A **Horned Lark** at Mike Lippsmeyer's place in SE Polk Co. around 23 Sep was the first he has ever seen there.

Violet-green Swallows were the most abundant species in a swarm of hundreds feeding over the river at Willamette Park 9 Sep (S Seibel); 700 were perched on a wire along Bellfountain Rd 20 Sep (P Vanderheul). **Barn Swallows** were swarming to feed on what seemed to be a termite hatch on Vineyard Mtn 11 Sep (M&E Eltzroth); large numbers were still at Finley NWR 20 Sep (P Vanderheul).

Three **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were in the Coffin Butte unit of E.E. Wilson WA 2 Sep (S Burgett). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** turned up at our place 16 Sep.

Western Bluebirds were near McFadden Marsh 6 Sep (P Vanderheul). A **Mountain Bluebird** showed up at Thornton Creek in the Lincoln Co. Coast Range 27 Aug (Darrel Faxon).

Swainson's Thrushes were heard calling in nocturnal migration over Corvallis 23 & 30 Aug (Matt Hunter; Don Boucher). Their migration was still going strong 17 Sep when I saw and/or heard about 30 in the Lewisburg Saddle area of McDonald SF, including several feeding on blue elderberries alongside of eight **Hermit Thrushes**. Even side-by-side these two thrush species were not easy to tell apart, so I was glad that some were giving their characteristic "whit" and "chup" call notes.

Two **American Pipits** showed up at Pioneer Villa 5 Sep. Small flocks were at Baskett Slough by 13 Sep (P Vanderheul, ASC field trip). 5 to 60 **Cedar Waxwings** were at Stewart Lake throughout the period.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** I saw at E.E. Wilson WA 9 Sep was of the "gray-headed" subspecies that breeds east of the Pacific Crest. Jeff Harding and Bill Thackaberry found **Orange-crowned Warblers** and a **Nashville Warbler** in the Santiam Pass area 20 Sep.

3 to 4 **Black-throated Gray Warblers** were on Vineyard Mtn 20 Sep and a **Townsend's Warbler** was there 12 Sep (M&E Eltzroth).

A rather dark **Yellow Warbler** at Stewart Lake 17 Sep appeared to be a first-fall female of the *annicola* subspecies which breeds across northern Canada (J Simmons).

MacGillivray's Warblers and **Common Yellowthroats** were still at Lava Lake in the Cascades 20 Sep (J Harding). A female **Wilson's Warbler** at Stewart Lake 17-18 Sep was the first recorded occurrence of this species as a fall migrant there (J Simmons). On 8 Sep I was surprised to hear two **Yellow-breasted Chats** in the NE part of E.E. Wilson calling in between showers; I guess the rain reminded them of spring.

The last local **Western Tanager** report was of a female in the Oak Creek neighborhood 20 Sep (B&L Proebsting).

Many migrant **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at Detroit Flats in Marion Co. 8 Sep (S Dowlan). "**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrows** showed up by 16 Sep at E.E. Wilson WA. On 17 Sep one was on Vineyard Mtn (M&E Eltzroth). **Golden-crowned Sparrows** also showed up, with about 15 (all immature) at E.E. Wilson WA 16 Sep; some were at Oak Creek the next day (B&L Proebsting). Flocks of **White-crowned Sparrows** were noted from early Sep onward.

The last **Black-headed Grosbeak** report was on 25 Aug e. of Scio (P Waldron). A late migrant **Lazuli Bunting** (immature) stopped by our place 31 Aug.

Wintering **Western Meadowlarks** began to show up; one perched atop a tall Douglas fir at our place 16 Sep was certainly an odd sight.

The "birdseed" plantings at E.E. Wilson WA have attracted flocks of up to 180 **American Goldfinches**, with a few **Lesser Goldfinches** mixed in. Two **Evening Grosbeaks** were on Vineyard Mtn 14 Sep (M Eltzroth).

Jamie Simmons has had occasional visits from **Douglas' Squirrels** (**chickarees**) since 18 Aug, the first time in ten years in his NW Corvallis neighborhood. We have also had some show up at our place, for the first time in seven years. Tom Nelson is used to seeing chickarees at his place west of Crescent Valley High School, but says lately their numbers seem to have increased.

Reports of **Bobcats** also seem to be up this year. Max Geier saw one near Chip Ross Park around 14 Sep. John Snelling notes two sightings this summer in the area from Crescent Valley to Vineyard Mtn. Near her place e. of Scio, Pat Waldron saw a **Bobcat** running with a rabbit in its jaws 3 Sep. Then on 22 Sep she had a good look at a young **Mountain Lion**. She appreciates having one around, as they have plenty of deer.

Next month

Fall migration continues as large flocks of wintering waterfowl will be arriving, along with more wintering sparrows. Please send me your observations by 27 October.

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Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets

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Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

Calendar

- Oct. 11 Saturday local morning 7:30 AM**
- Oct. 13 **Monday**, board meeting, 7:30 PM, Kate & Chris Mathews
- Oct. 16 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, 1st Presb. Church*, Carol Schuler, Willamette Valley Refuges
- Oct. 18 Coastal trip full day 7 AM**
- Oct. 25 Hesthavn Sanctuary work party (see page 11)
- Oct. 27 Field Notes deadline
- Oct. 28 Tuesday morning Bird Walk 8 AM**
- Oct. 30 Chat deadline for November
- Nov. 4 Conservation Discussion, New Morning Bakery, 5:30 PM
- Nov. 8 Saturday local morning 7:30 AM**
- Nov. 13 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
- Nov. 15 Full day, Sauvie Island, Portland 7:30 AM**
- Nov. 20 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, 1st Presb. Church*, David Copeland, Birds and Orchids in Papua New Guinea
- Nov. 20 Field Notes deadline
- Nov. 27 Chat deadline for December
- Dec. 2 Conservation Discussion, New Morning Bakery, 5:30 PM

Everybody's welcome, including nonmembers, to any ASC function

* General Meeting location may change this year—see front page

**See page 11 for field trip descriptions

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