



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

November 2003

VOL. 33

#3

General Meeting

November 20

**Thursday, 7:30–9:00 PM
Corvallis Public Library**

Papua New Guinea

David Copeland, world traveler from Salem, will give a presentation on chasing birds and orchids in Papua New Guinea.

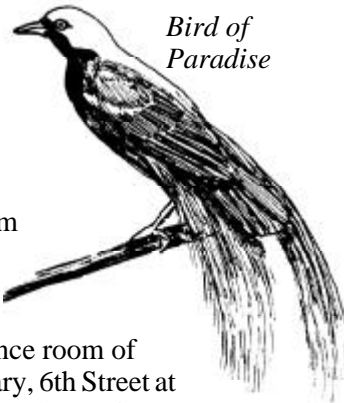
The meeting is in the conference room of the Corvallis-Benton County Library, 6th Street at Monroe, downtown Corvallis. At each meeting we give updates on conservation and Audubon activities. Meetings start at 7:30 PM and speakers begin at 8:00. Come early for refreshments, conversation and browsing at display tables.

Meeting Place Has Changed

The Corvallis-Benton County Library will be our meeting spot, *not* the First Presbyterian Church.

Future Programs at General Meetings

- Dec 18 Member slides; each Audubon member is encouraged to show his/her ten most unusual/beautiful/educational slides
- Jan 15 Fred Ramsey, Corvallis Audubon/OSU faculty, speaking on his latest interest (butterflies)



Bird of Paradise

ASC Annual Fund Drive

Finish Our New Nature Center This Year

Each year, ASC has a fund drive to supplement the meager funds (from member dues) sent to us from National Audubon. This year, the situation is worse than ever with only a few dollars sent per member.

In addition, we have a very special need for additional funds this year. Ray Drapek and his crew have been working diligently on Hesthavn, our nature center, and we are very close to having the funds needed to finish turning the barn into a functional nature center.

Currently, we have a contractor lined up to start work next week on pouring the concrete foundation, building a wood floor over it, building a storage room, and framing the other parts of the building.

However, if we could raise another \$2,120, he would be able to insulate and drywall the museum specimen storage room thereby allowing us to start using it as early as next spring. We would have a functioning facility!

In addition to having a functional nature center, we would be one of the few “Green” buildings in Corvallis. The nature center is being built using the latest “green” technology so it will be as environmentally responsible as possible (well...as we can afford).

Thus, please consider a special donation to ASC this year (envelope enclosed). ASC and our community will

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Annual fund drive

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greatly benefit by your tax-deductible gift. We have made such wonderful progress in developing Hesthavn, provided so many excellent conservation education programs to a diversity of audiences, etc. that it would be tragic to cut back or end any of these efforts. Please help us continue these important programs. Thanks so much!

-Sue Haig, President, ASC.

National Audubon Society

Election Proxy Votes— Alternatives Available

All National Audubon (NAS) members should have received a separate letter announcing the coming Annual meeting and election of new Board Directors. In this letter from Carol Browner, former EPA chief and NAS Board Chair-elect, National Audubon makes a strong appeal to support their accomplishments in conservation, public policy and education by encouraging you to return their proxy form.

In our October CHAT we included the Take Back Audubon (TBA) proxy form, which supports an alternative slate of candidates and important resolutions. Our Chapter board has voted to support the TBA campaign, and encourages you to send in the completed TBA proxy form. TBA fully supports the activities of NAS, but wants you to know TBA also fully supports Chapters and the crucial role they play. TBA will submit resolutions at the Annual Meeting to have competitive elections, nomination by petition or by nominating committee, the right to initiate ballot measures by petition, polling of Chapters on Chapter-related issues, timely access for members to election information, sponsorship of regional congresses of Chapters and reinstatement of a fair dues share to Chapters.

If you sign and mail the NAS proxy, your vote will be cast AGAINST those changes by NAS's proxy agents. On the other hand, if you sign and mail the TBA proxy, TBA's agents will cast your vote FOR those changes. TBA will also cast your vote to elect the nine TBA candidates from chapters across the country who have stepped forward to lead this effort. (Read their bios on the TBA web pages at www.smbas.org/tba).

If you have already filed and sent your NAS proxy, not all is lost! Please send in the TBA proxy form. It's later date will allow it to supercede your NAS proxy. Just be sure to enter your name EXACTLY as it appears on your magazine mailing. And thank you for supporting a reinvigorated grassroots Audubon organization!

Hesthavn Work Parties

November 22

9am-12pm: Restoration

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.

The *afternoon* work party for November 22 is being canceled. My apologies for all the schedule changes. There still will be a morning work party on November 22 from 9-12. On November 23 the Hillel Jewish student organization will come from 10-1 for another work party. Work party activities will depend on the weather and on what progress is made by the contractors in the barn. Contact me (Ray Drapek) at 754-7364 for questions.

We would like to thank the Corvallis 1st Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for their help on October 25th. I lost count how many people showed up, but there were at least 20 people at one point. Thanks to Eagle Scout Garret Simmons for organizing the event. They were able to seed the old drive with blue wild rye grass seed, plus clear out the barn for renovation work, plus pull out many false brome (weed grass) clumps and lay some garden cloth for false brome control.

-Ray Drapek, 754-7364

Many thanks to Ray Drapek for his concerted efforts in writing a grant to the PGE Foundation, for \$5,000 for barn conversion at Hesthavn. The grant was duly received, and thank you very much to the PGE Foundation.

Searching for a Field Notes Editor

Since 1970, the ASC has published notable bird reports in *The Chat*. Our current Field Notes editor, Joel Geier, has been doing a splendid job for the last couple of years but now has other commitments. We are looking for a bird savvy replacement to glean reports (by email, phone and mail) for noteworthy reports of Mid-Valley and Central Coastal birds and occasional other wildlife. We are hoping for a year's commitment for this volunteer position but will accept any help that is offered. Tell you birder friends!

For more information contact me, see back of the Chat.

-Don Boucher

Field Trip Schedule

Nov 8	Saturday local morning 7:30 AM
Nov 15	Full day field trip Sauvie Island Portland 7:30 AM
Dec 13	Saturday local morning 7:30 AM
Dec 14	Corvallis Christmas Bird Count
Mar 19-21	Bandon Coast weekend
April 16-18	Klamath Basin
May 7-9	Medford/Ashland Area
May 20-23	Malheur NWR

Local Morning Trip

On November 8, 2003 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

Full Day Trips

November 15, 2003 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. Contact Paula Vanderheul for sign-up and any questions. vanderp@peak.org 541-752-0470

Spring Weekend Trips

In the Spring there will be four major long weekend field trips to Bandon Coast March 19-21; Klamath Basin April 16-18; Medford/Ashland area May 7-9; and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge May 20-23 that are led by Fred Ramsey. 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. \$40 deposit needed for Medford/Ashland and \$50 deposit needed for Malheur NWR by February 28, 2004 payable to Fred Ramsey 3550 NW Glenridge Pl Corvallis OR 97330 541-753-3677 flramsey5@earthlink.net

Watch 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

Christmas Bird Count

Corvallis: Sunday, December 14th

Everybody is invited to join us on Sunday, December 14th for the 42nd Corvallis Christmas Bird Count. Whether you are a beginner or experienced CBCer, every set of eyes and ears is needed to help tally all the birds within a 7.5 mile radius of the Corvallis airport. The Christmas Bird Count is an organized, continent-wide, survey that docu-

ments every bird seen on a given day from sunrise to sunset. Since the turn of the 20th century, the Christmas Bird Count has contributed to the knowledge base of wintering birds in North America. This has aided conservation efforts as well as documented good bird watching sites.

The count is an all-day event open to anyone wishing to participate. This is an excellent opportunity for novice bird watchers to join with seasoned veterans and learn more about identifying and finding the local avifauna. Half-day participants and home feeder-watchers are also welcome. Participants need to pay a fee of \$5.00 to cover National Audubon's costs of printing the results. As in the past, the Corvallis count circle will be divided into 13 units, with a team of 3-6 individuals assigned to each section. Team leaders for each section will make arrangements with the rest of the group for a meeting place and time (usually between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m.) the morning of the count. Participants should bring cold- and wet-weather gear, binoculars and snacks for the day. A notepad and pencil, field guides and a thermos with something hot are always good ideas as well.

If you are interested in participating or would like further information, please contact me at 752-4313 or e-mail me at mccarmel@peak.org.

-Marcia Cutler

Upper Nestucca Christmas Bird Count

A group of energetic birders in Yamhill County are reviving the Upper Nestucca Christmas Bird Count. This count ran for 20 years, from 1977 until it was discontinued in 1996. Corvallis birdwatchers of all skill levels are invited to join this "restored" count northwest of McMinnville, in the beautiful Oregon Coast Range. The count date is Friday, January 2, 2004. To join this count or learn more about it, please contact Don Albright (503) 538-8890 or e-mail: donalbri@teleport.com

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 Notes

September 23 through October 27, 2003

This October brought some notably warm fall weather, with temperatures over 80° F for a few days, interspersed with more typical days of wet weather. The first real frost at our place in SE Polk Co. came on 31 Oct as I was compiling these notes, and as the big-leaf maples were dropping their colorful leaves.

Abbreviations & Locations: LCMC = Linn County migration count results reported by Jeff Fleischer; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; Res. = Reservoir; SF = State Forest; s.p. = sewage ponds. E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) is north of Corvallis along Hwy 99W. Baskett Slough NWR is near Dallas in Polk Co. Big Lake, Clear Lake and Lost Lake are in the Santiam Pass area of Linn Co. Cabell Marsh and McFadden Marsh are at Finley NWR south of Corvallis. Knoll Terrace s.p. are in the Lewisburg area n. of Corvallis. The Pioneer Villa ponds are alongside I-5 west of Brownsville. Snag Boat Bend is an annex of Finley NWR near Peoria. Stewart Lake is on the HP campus in north Corvallis. Tidbits Mtn. is in se. Linn Co. about 8 miles se. of Cascadia. Vineyard Mountain is north of Corvallis near Lewisburg. Willamette Park is in south Corvallis.

Sightings:

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Brownsville s.p. 19 Oct (Quinton Nice). “**Cackling**” **Canada Geese** returned to our area 25 Sep, when a small flock flew low over Mike Lippsmeyer’s place in SE Polk Co.

Gay Brier had “oodles” of **Wood Ducks** at her pond s. of Corvallis 16 Oct. Ten were at Stewart Lake 29 Sep, but numbers there declined later in the month (Jamie Simmons). A few **American Wigeons** that showed up at Stewart Lake last month disappeared after 29 Sep, but a few have been seen almost daily from 14 Oct onward (J Simmons).

Five **American Wigeons** were at Big Lake 30 Sep (Jeff Fleischer) and ten were still there 15 Oct (Roy Gerig). **Mallard** migration through the high elevations peaked with a total of 38 on Lost Lake and Big Lake 14 Oct (J Fleischer). 11 **Cinnamon Teal** were still in Linn Co. 23 Sep, and 57 **Northern Shovelers** were also found (LCMC).

Two **Northern Pintails** were found in Linn Co. 23 Sep (LCMC). Six were at Big Lake 14 Oct (J Fleischer). A female at Stewart Lake 30 Oct was the first there in 11 years (J Simmons). Four **Green-winged Teal** were at Big Lake 30 Sep (J Fleischer). On 28 Oct a female was at Stewart Lake where this species is seldom seen (J Simmons).

Two **Redheads** were at Foster Reservoir 28 Oct (J Fleischer, Mark Nikas). **Ring-necked Duck** numbers at Stewart Lake increased from 5 on 29 Sep to 85 on 23 Oct (J Simmons). Big Lake held a male **Lesser Scaup** 30 Sep (J Fleischer), a first-year male **Greater Scaup** 15 Oct (Roy Gerig), and two **Greater Scaup** 18 Oct (Tom & Christina Snetsinger).

Nine **Surf Scoters** were at Big Lake 14 Oct (J Fleischer) but were gone by 18 Oct (T & C Snetsinger). However, a male and female were there 27 Oct (Randy Campbell). A **Bufflehead** was at Foster Res. 14 Oct (J Fleischer). Several were at Big Lake 27 Oct (R Campbell). A male showed up at Stewart Lake 27 Oct (Bill Looney), and a pair were there by 28 Oct (J Simmons).

Ten **Barrow’s Goldeneyes** were found in Linn Co. 23 Sep (LCMC). One was at Clear Lake 30 Sep (J Fleischer). 13 were there 27 Oct when 8 more were at Trailbridge Res. (M Nikas).

Eight **Hooded Mergansers** were at the Knoll Terrace s.p. 17 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn). Eight **Common Mergansers** were on the east end of the flooded gravel pit on Stahlbusch Island on 2 Oct – that was as much of the “lake” as I could see due to new access restrictions.

Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at Big Lake 18 Oct (T & C Snetsinger). One was at Knoll Terrace s.p. and 14 were at Philomath s.p. 19 Oct (P Vanderheul). Four were still at Philomath s.p. 21 Oct (J Simmons).

Karan Fairchild was surprised to head a **Ruffed Grouse** drumming 6 mi SW of Philomath on 3 Oct. Perhaps the fine weather had that grouse thinking about spring. Hendrik Herlyn and Oscar Harper saw two

more plus a **Blue Grouse** and 15 **Mountain Quail** in the Marys Peak - Harlan area 4 Oct. On 13 Oct, a scolding **California Quail** hen chased nine young **Mountain Quail** away from her four chicks at Pat Waldron’s place e. of Scio.

A **Pacific Loon** was on the Willamette R. at Bowman Park near Albany 19 Oct (J Fleischer). One was on Foster Res. 27 Oct (R Campbell). A **Common Loon** was there 14 Oct (J Fleischer), and five were at Big Lake 27 Oct (M Nikas; R Campbell).

A **Red-necked Grebe** that showed up at the Knoll Terrace s.p. 14 Oct was a rare bird for Benton Co. (Randy Moore). It appeared to be a juvenile in transition plumage, and stayed at least through 19 Oct (J Simmons; P Vanderheul). On 27 Oct one was at Big Lake and two were at Foster Res. (R Campbell); the two at Foster Res. were still there 28 Oct (J Fleischer & M Nikas).

12 **Horned Grebes** were at Foster Res. 30 Sep (J Fleischer). High-elevation migrants were noted at Big Lake 5 Oct (R Gerig) through 27 Oct (M Nikas) when three were at Foster Res. 27 Oct (R Campbell). One in winter plumage was at the Tangent s.p. 7 Oct (Jamie Simmons). Several small grebes at the Brownsville s.p. 19 Oct were probably this species (Q Nice).

Migrant **Eared Grebes** were noted at Big Lake 5 Oct (R Gerig) through 18 Oct when 4 or 5 were there (T & C Snetsinger). Three were at the Tangent s.p. 5 Oct (J Fleischer) and one was still there 7 Oct (R Campbell). Eight were at the Philomath s.p. 19 Oct (P Vanderheul) and at least seven remained on 21 Oct (J Simmons). Four **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Stewart Lake 14 Oct (J Simmons).

On 5 Oct Marie Parcell saw an unusual, slender-necked, black-and-white bird on the Willamette R. near the Mary’s River confluence. This was probably the **Western Grebe** that Paula Vanderheul saw preening there on 8 Oct. Another was at Tangent s.p. 5 Oct (J Fleischer).

Great Blue Herons and **Great Egrets** began to be seen more often in fields as rains improved their foraging prospects. Steve Dowlan saw an apparent **Snowy Egret** along the Willamette R. at Albany 17 Oct. Two **Green Herons** were at the Willamette and Marys R. confluence 5 Oct (Marie Parcell).

Five **Turkey Vultures** were s. of Stayton 9 Oct (P Waldron). Around Corvallis, Steve Seibel saw a group of 50 on 8 Oct, then 20 on 12 Oct and finally three on 15 Oct for the last report of the season.

An **Osprey** was at Willamette Park 25 Sep (S Seibel). One was at Snag Boat Bend 9 Oct (Karen Sparkman). A **White-tailed Kite** was at the Finley NWR prairie overlook 7 Oct (S Seibel).

An immature **Bald Eagle** was at Cabell Marsh 5 Oct (Joe Fontaine). A northbound adult was soaring by Hayrick Butte in the Santiam Pass area 27 Oct (M Nikas). Fifty had gathered at Odell Lake SE of Willamette Pass to feast on **kokanee** by 28 Oct (S Seibel).

On 27 Oct I watched two immature **Northern Harriers** hunting in close company at Luckiamute Landing greenway in SE Polk Co., while an adult female hunted nearby, calling frequently.

A juvenile **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at Willamette Park 25 Sep was harassed by about 20 **American Crows** (S Seibel). Matthew Blakeley-Smith saw a **Cooper’s Hawk** in downtown Corvallis 6 Oct. Three staked out Pat Waldron’s feeders e. of Scio 25 Oct.

A **Northern Goshawk** over Hayrick Butte 27 Oct was sparring with a westbound **Prairie Falcon**; meanwhile three **Red-tailed Hawks** and a **Rough-legged Hawk** were headed south (M Nikas). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was hover-hunting near Seven Mile Lane in Linn Co. 25 Oct (J Fleischer). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Cabell Marsh 5 Oct (J Fontaine).

A juvenile **Golden Eagle** was at Ward Butte nw of Brownsville 26 Oct (R Campbell). On 28 Oct two adults there were accompanied by a chirping youngster (J Fleischer). Two **Golden Eagles** (adult & immature) were at Hayrick Butte 27 Oct (M Nikas).

A female **Merlin** (subspecies *suckleyi*) was at Stewart Lake 30 Sep (J Simmons). A **Merlin** was seen at Cabell Marsh 4 Oct (Don Boucher, Stephanie Haines), 5 Oct (J Simmons), and 7 Oct (S Seibel).

One was along Harrison Blvd. in Corvallis 4 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn).

An **American Kestrel** was a nice new "yard bird" for the forested habitat on Vineyard Mtn. 23 Sep (Merlin Eltzroth). Quinton Nice reported a **very large falcon**, possibly a **Gyr Falcon**, that passed over the Brownsville s.p. 19 Oct. A juvenile **Peregrine Falcon** was at Cabell Marsh 22 Oct (S Seibel).

Two **Sandhill Cranes** flew west over the Willamette R. in Corvallis on 29 Sep (P Vanderheul). 150 to 200 Sandhill Cranes circled in the air e. of Scio 24 Oct, then headed SW (P Waldron).

A **Killdeer** was at Big Lake 14 Oct (J Fleischer). An **American Avocet** was at Cabell Marsh 4-11 Oct (D Boucher, S Haines; P Vanderheul). A few **Greater Yellowlegs** continued through the period at E.E. Wilson WA. The Linn Co. count turned up a **Lesser Yellowlegs** 23 Sep (LCMC). A **Solitary Sandpiper** seen daily at Snag Boat Bend 29 Sep thru 7 Oct (R Campbell) seemed to be hobbling a bit, but less so by the end of its stopover.

A **Western Sandpiper** and 10 **Least Sandpipers** were at Cabell Marsh 5 Oct; one Western and two Least were at Snag Boat Bend 7 Oct (J Fontaine). Three **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at Pioneer Villa treatment ponds 30 Sep (J Fleischer). Two dozen **Dunlin** showed up at Pioneer Villa s.p. 28 Oct (J Fleischer). Six **Long-billed Dowitchers** were still at E.E. Wilson WA on 13 Oct. A **Red-necked Phalarope** was a highlight of the Linn Co. Count 23 Sep (LCMC).

Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Big Lake 14 Oct (J Fleischer). On 30 Sep eleven Ring-billed Gulls were at Foster Res. and one was at Big Lake 30 Sep (J Fleischer).

Many **Band-tailed Pigeons** were near Alsea Falls 5 Oct (H Herlyn). 2 or 3 were seen daily through 14 Oct in the Oak Creek neighborhood w. of Corvallis (Bill & Lena Proebsting).

Two **Great Horned Owls** were calling in daylight (early evening) 5 Oct at Cabell Marsh (J Simmons). About five **Western Screech-Owls** were calling at Wells Landing, SE Polk Co. 13 Oct (Wil Geier, Steve Shunk, and me). A hatch-year **Western Screech-Owl** continues to use the owl box at Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth's place on Vineyard Mtn. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was calling at Little Lobster Valley 27 Sep (Don & Elizabeth MacDonald).

Jim Fairchild watched 50 **Vaux's Swifts** descend into a chimney of the Whiteside Theater building at 4th and Madison in Corvallis 7 Oct (Jim Fairchild).

Two **Anna's Hummingbirds** were still at Raylene Gordin's place in the hills s. of Lebanon 3 Oct, causing her to wonder what they would use for shelter in winter. A female showed up in Pat Waldron's garden e. of Scio 25 Sep, and a male was there 16 Oct.

Another female **Anna's Hummingbird** was hawking insects in Alan McGie's North Albany yard 14 Oct. She was much more appreciated than a **horney's nest** that Alan found in the same hedge the next day. Jamie Simmons (4 Oct) and Paula Vanderheul (12 Oct) also saw **Anna's Hummingbirds** in their NW Corvallis neighborhoods.

Gay Brier saw a **Pileated Woodpecker** at her place s. of Corvallis 16 Oct. A **Lewis's Woodpecker** was at Snag Boat Bend 23 Sep and one was on near Ward Butte 6 Oct (J Fleischer). Two were at the Tidbits Mtn. trailhead (Al Prigge). A female **Acorn Woodpecker** spent the period at Stewart Lake (J Simmons). A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** was in the Hoodoo area 30 Sep (J Fleischer). A male "**Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker**" was at Big Lake 18 Oct (T & C Snetsinger).

A very late **Western Wood-Pewee** was at Stewart Lake 29 Sep (J Anderson, B Looney, J Simmons). Two non-vocal **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** stopped by Vineyard Mtn. 28 Sep (M Eltzroth).

A **Black Phoebe** was reported near Baskett Slough NWR 18 Oct (Sylvia Maulding). A **Say's Phoebe** was n. of Lewisburg 14 Oct (Bob Altman). One was also seen in Linn Co. 23 Sep (LCMC).

The first **Northern Shrike** to show up in our area this fall was near Ward Butte 6 Oct (J Fleischer). Don Boucher saw a couple of **Hutton's Vireos** in Avery Park 25 Oct.

The **Steller's Jays** that showed up at Jamie Simmons' NW Corval-

lis yard in August continued, adding to the list of Corvallis neighborhoods where they are now seen regularly. Jamie also noted one or two intermittently around Stewart Lake.

A **Horned Lark** was at Big Lake 18 Oct (T & C Snetsinger). The flock at our place e. of E.E. Wilson WA swelled to 65 by 13 Oct.

Ten **Tree Swallows** were still in Linn Co. 23 Sep (LCMC). 50 **Violet-green Swallows** were flying above the river in downtown Corvallis 8 Oct (P Vanderheul). About 25 **Barn Swallows** were at Tangent s.p. 7 Oct (J Simmons). On 16 Oct I watched eight **Barn Swallows** forage over a grass field by our place, and a bit later saw about 30 **Violet-green Swallows** over a freshly plowed field.

Don Boucher noted dozens of **Bushtits** and several **White-breasted Nuthatches** in Avery Park 25 Oct.

An **American Dipper** swimming in Carmen Res. 27 Oct had Mark Nikas puzzled for a minute before he figured out what it was. The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at Stewart Lake this season was noted 6 Oct (J Simmons).

On 27 Oct I saw eight **Western Bluebirds** near the new Vanderpool Tract greenway in NE Benton Co. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was on the east side of Tidbits Mtn. 23 Sep (A Prigge). A **Swainson's Thrush** at our place 1 Oct seems to be the last one noted locally. A **Varied Thrush** was calling at Pat Waldron's place e. of Scio 10 Oct.

Two **Wrentits** were just n. of Dunn SF 25 Oct (Sean Burgett). Two were at Avery Park in Corvallis 29 Sep (D Boucher).

15 **American Pipits** were at Big Lake 30 Sep, feeding on the exposed lakebed, and two were there 14 Oct (J Fleischer).

5 to 60 **Cedar Waxwings** were at Stewart Lake throughout the period (J Simmons). About 30 joined the **American Robins** in Kris Grave's yard 28 Oct. On 20-23 Oct Pat Waldron watched hundreds of **American Robins** feasting on every edible berry in her yard, both on trees and bushes, with help from 14 **Cedar Waxwings**.

Warblers in Linn Co. 23 Sep included 44 **Orange-crowned Warblers** and a **Nashville Warbler** (LCMC). On 13 Oct I was surprised to see a female **Yellow Warbler** at E.E. Wilson WA; this was a very late date. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at our place 1 Oct was the latest one noted. A **MacGillivray's Warbler** and two **Wilson's Warblers** stayed in Linn Co. until 23 Sep (LCMC). An immature male **Common Yellowthroat** at Stewart Lake 29 Sep (J Simmons) was the last report. Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** showed up there 29 Sep (J Simmons).

Two **Vesper Sparrows** in Linn Co. 23 Sep (LCMC) were the last reported. **Savannah Sparrows** have dwindled but 20 remained in a field by our place 13 Oct. A migrant was foraging along the shoreline at Big Lake 27 Oct (M Nikas). More wintering **Fox Sparrows** showed up, with arrivals noted e. of Scio 24 Sep (P Waldron) and in NW Corvallis 4 Oct (D & E MacDonald).

A **White-throated Sparrow** was at Peoria 9 Oct (R Campbell). An immature White-throated Sparrow showed up in Don & Elizabeth MacDonald's NW Corvallis yard 14 Oct. A tan-striped adult was there 18 Oct, and a white-striped adult was there 24 Oct, so they know they have at least three around. A tan-striped bird also visited Jamie Simmons' NW Corvallis yard 26 Oct. He also had a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** there 4 Oct, the same day Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth had their first of the season on Vineyard Mtn. A "**Slate-colored Junco**" joined the "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco flock in D & E MacDonald's yard 4 Oct.

Western Meadowlarks in the OSU dairy pastures were seen 10 Oct from Campus Way bike path and 12 Oct from Harrison Blvd. (B & L Proebsting). A nice flock of 22 was at Luckiamute Landing 27 Oct.

A **Purple Finch** was singing SW of Philomath 3 Oct (Karan Fairchild). Mark Nikas noted **Red Crossbills** were numerous and **Pine Siskins** were abundant at Big Lake 27 Oct.

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Field Notes

continued from previous page

The **chickarees (Douglas's Squirrels)** which turned up in Jamie Simmons' NW Corvallis neighborhood along with the Steller's Jays in late August continue to be seen. Al Prigge noted several **pikas** in a large rockslide on the east side of Tidbits Mtn. 23 Sep.

Next month

Watch for more wintering sparrows and finches to show up, along with shrikes and raptors which will continue to filter into their wintering territories. Please send me your observations by 20 November.

Joel Geier, 14505 Corvallis Rd., Monmouth, OR 97361
Telephone: (541) 928-2815
e-mail: jgeier@attglobal.net

Audubon Wildlife Watch Fund

A fund (formerly called Secret Witness Fund) was established by the Audubon Society of Corvallis in January 1981 to try to reduce the intentional harming of protected nongame birds. While the full extent of the problem is not known, it is likely that thousands of protected birds are killed or injured in Oregon each year by people who don't know, or don't care about the consequences.

All birds, including predators such as hawks and owls, herons and kingfishers, are protected by federal and Oregon law. The only exceptions are starlings, house sparrows and feral pigeons (rock doves). In extreme cases of crop depredation, some birds may be killed if a federal permit is first obtained.

Any intentional harm such as shooting, poisoning or trapping is considered a Class-A misdemeanor punishable by fine of up to \$2500 or one year in prison, or both.

The Wildlife Watch Fund, consisting entirely of private donations, offers reward money for information leading to convictions of persons responsible for killing, or attempting to kill, nongame birds. Anyone wishing to furnish information may do so anonymously. If a conviction follows, reward money will be paid in the manner suggested by the individual who gave the information. Rewards up to \$750 have been offered in several cases, including the shooting of eagles, falcons, hawks, herons, ospreys and owls, and the poisoning of an eagle. The Wildlife Watch Fund also offers reward money up to \$300 on a matching basis to any public or private agency or organization in Oregon that seeks prosecution and obtains conviction of anyone who has engaged in harming nongame birds.



Report Suspected Violations to:

1. The nearest office of the Oregon State Police, or the State Police statewide toll-free line:
1-800-452-7888
2. The nearest enforcement office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Wilsonville - 541-682-6131
Klamath Falls - 541-883-6900
3. Corvallis Audubon's Wildlife Watch: 745-7806
(This number may be used to discuss arrangements for the protection of identity.)

Information of critical importance is:

1. Time and location of incident.
2. Vehicle description and license number.
3. Description of the person or persons involved.

For further information about the Wildlife Watch Fund or tax deductible contributions to the fund, write:

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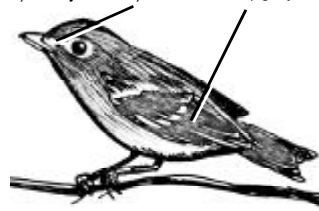
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Kinglet Impostor

Don't Overlook the Hutton's Vireo

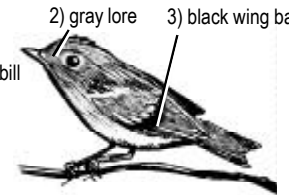
One of our common winter birds, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, has a not so common look alike, the Hutton's Vireo. The two species, even after a good look, can seem identical. Another species, the Golden-crowned Kinglet, looks similar but is easily identified by its black, white and yellow stripes on the head. I've heard many features birders use to distinguish Hutton's Vireos from Ruby-crowned Kinglets and I will list some of them here. There are *identification features* and then there are *tendencies*, which I will list separately. For short, I will refer to either species as either Kinglet or Vireo.

1) heavy bill 2) white lore 3) gray wing bar



Hutton's Vireo
length 5 in.

2) gray lore 3) black wing bar
1) thin bill



Ruby-crowned Kinglet
length 4 1/4 in.

Identification features

These are quantifiable, exclusive features, which will help you make a positive ID.

- 1) **Bill size:** The Hutton's Vireo has a heavier bill than the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. This requires a good look at the head.
- 2) **Lore:** The lore is the space between the bill and the eye. Both species have a white eye ring but the Vireo has a well-defined white lore.
- 3) **Wing Bars:** Both have two white wing bars. The Kinglet's second wing bar is followed by a black bar. The Vireo's second wing bar is followed by gray.
- 4) **Voice:** The two species sound very different. The call of the Kinglet is a soft raspy and rapid "cht cht cht". This is always a giveaway because the Vireo makes no such sound. The call of the Vireo is slower. It is an ascending, gravely whistle that is repeated no more than twice a second and typically for 30 seconds. The song of the Kinglet, usually heard in the spring, is a complex and sprightly collection of warbles and whistles. The Vireo's song seems to be no more than the call note drawn out and repeated for a longer duration.

Tendencies

These features may help you sway your opinion but alone they cannot be used to ID the bird. Kinglets are known for their incessant wing flipping. Vireos may also do this wing flipping but the Kinglets do this almost constantly. Both Vireos and Kinglets are hard to follow due to their constant moving about. The Kinglet, however, will be more of a challenge to get in your field of view. Both Kinglets and Vireos glean insects in the trees and bushes. Vireos feed most all day in the top center of the crowns of deciduous trees and less often conifers. Kinglets do this too, but you will more often find them in low bushes, small trees and conifers. Kinglets may be a regular visitor to your suet feeder but the Vireo may pay you a visit too. Kinglets leave for the mountains in mid to late spring. In summertime, Vireos breed in the Valley whereas Kinglets breed only in the high Coast Range and Cascades. The Vireo has a seemingly noticeable neck but the Kinglet's head seems directly attached to its body. The Kinglet's ruby crown is seldom often. Only male Kinglets have a ruby crown which they raise when excited or aggravated.

More Common Than You Think

Kinglets are much more common than Vireos but I believe the Vireos can get overlooked. I see them monthly, sometimes weekly. Keep a sharp eye on those mixed flocks of little winter birds. I find Vireos flocking with Chickadees, Bushtits, Kinglets, Townsend's and Yellow-rumped Warblers. In the winter, it's much easier to spot them in the leafless trees.

-Don Boucher

Atop the Nestbox

Quilt Square Honors Willamette Valley Bluebirds

Recently we learned that Audubon Society of Corvallis Bluebird Trail was honored by one of our dedicated and hard working volunteers. Members of Consumer Power Incorporated (CPI) were asked to submit squares for a celebratory quilt to recognize the cooperative's 50th Anniversary. Rita Snyder submitted a square depicting a pair of bluebirds on a typical nest box. Her square was one of 50 accepted for inclusion for the quilt. A picture of the CPI celebratory quilt was in the October 2003 newsletter, the *Ruralite*.

The handiwork of the quilters was to "create blocks depicting their rural heritage, rural electrification, local landmarks or scenes" that were significant in their lives. Rita chose the return of the Western Bluebird. Rita and her husband, Bill Snyder, have been hosting pairs of Western Bluebirds in boxes on their Crescent Valley Drive property since 1988.

Volunteers, who had monitored boxes nearby for several years, had seen bluebirds foraging in Snyder's pastures and ancient oaks. They mentioned to Rita and Bill that these birds were frequenting their property.

The Snyder's nest boxes, now numbering eight, have fledged 269 young bluebirds. Their contribution has made a tremendous difference in the local population of bluebirds which have returned to the Willamette Valley year after year.

-Elsie Eltzroth



Rita Snyder's square in the CPI quilt

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Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

Calendar

- Nov 13 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
- Nov 15 Full day, Sauvie Island, Portland 7:30 AM**
- Nov 20 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, **Corv-Benton Library***, 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
- Dec 13 Saturday local morning 7:30 AM**
- Dec 14 Corvallis Christmas Bird Count**
- Dec 18 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, **Corv-Benton Library***, Member slides of Nature
- Dec 22 Field Notes deadline
- Dec 25 Chat deadline for January
- Jan 6 Conservation Discussion, New Morning Bakery, 5:30 PM
- Jan 8 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
- Jan 10 Saturday local morning 7:30 AM**
- Jan 15 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, **Corv-Benton Library***, Fred Ramsey on butterflies

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

* General Meeting change this year—see front page

**See page 19 for field trip descriptions

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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