



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

March 2004

VOL. 33

#7

General Meeting

February 18
Thursday, 7:30-9:00 PM
Corvallis Public Library

Whoooo Goes There? **Owls of Oregon by James Davis**

People have always been fascinated by owls, and pretty confused, since they are nocturnal and therefore mysterious. To many bird watchers they are also pretty mysterious because they are so hard to find and that doesn't give us much chance to practice identifying them. James Davis, natural history author, former education director of Portland Audubon, and naturalist at Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, will present a slide and discussion program on Oregon's owls. He will discuss their amazing adaptations for nighttime hunting and other natural history tidbits. James will breakdown and simplify the identification of Oregon's 13 "regular" owls, including using their sounds. Appropriate for adults and interested teens.

-James Davis

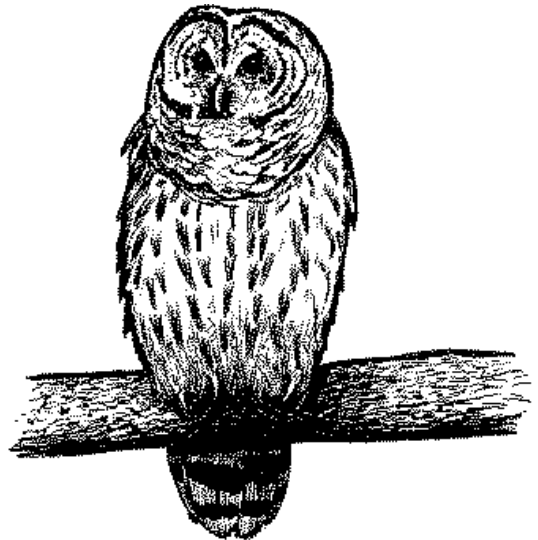
The meeting is in the conference room of the Corvallis-Benton County Library, 6th Street at Monroe, downtown Corvallis. At each meeting we give updates on conservation and Audubon activities. Meetings start at 7:30 PM and speakers begin at 8:00. Come early for refreshments, conversation and browsing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

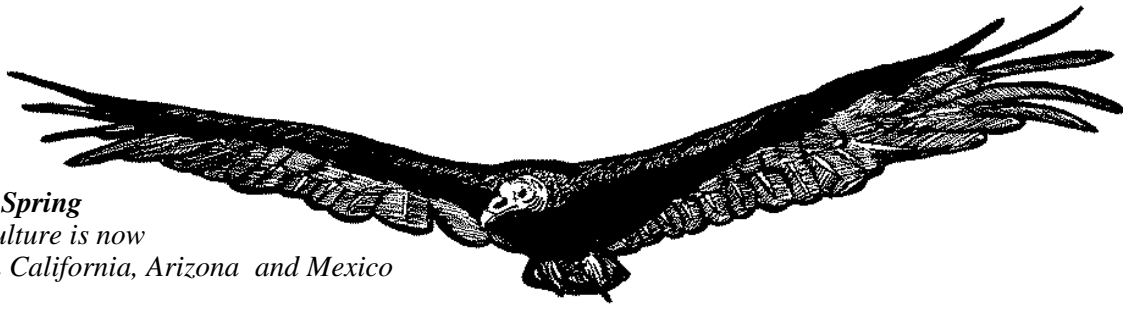
- Apr 15 Ellie Mathews on her recent book, "Ambassador to the Penguins"
- May 20 Roy Lowe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, speaking on wildlife refuges of the Oregon Coast
- Summer General meetings resume in September



Barred Owl

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Harbinger of Spring
*The Turkey Vulture is now
arriving from California, Arizona and Mexico*

Super Binocular Raffle

Just not seeing those birds or butterflies well enough? Looking for a good pair of binoculars or thinking about upgrading, but just can't spare \$400 to get a really good pair? Then imagine spending only five dollars for them!

For just \$5.00 per ticket, ASC will be selling just 400 tickets to win a new pair of Eagle Optics top-of-the-line 8x42 binoculars, with a lifetime warranty! Highly recommended by our field trip coordinator, this super model of very lightweight, nitrogen-purged, waterproof, fog-proof, armored roof prism binoculars also have twist-lock eyepieces and long eye relief—great for part-time or full-time eyeglass wearers. Oh, and they focus to within 5.2 ft, so details of that butterfly at your feet are outstanding!

More details on these Eagle Optics Ranger, Platinum Class 8 x 42 binoculars may be found at www.eagleoptics.com, or stop by Wild Birds Unlimited, in Corvallis at 1935 NW 9th— where Eagle Optics are sold and whom we thank for generously supporting this Super Binocular Raffle.

You may purchase tickets at our monthly meetings or mail your money and a SASE to Kate Mathews, Binocular Raffle, 3336 SW Willamette Ave, Corvallis, OR 97333.

Remember, only \$5 per ticket and only 400 tickets will be sold!

Birdathon

April 24 and 25, 2004

ASC will be holding its 4th annual Birdathon April 24 and 25! This annual fund-raiser for Hesthavn is still necessary to insure we have a steady income for items such as the electricity bill, and to demonstrate to granting agencies, and others, our commitment to making the education center a reality. If you can help by being a Birdathon team member or supporting a team, please contact Karan Fairchild at 929-4049 or alderspr@peak.org, or see me or a committee member at the meeting.

Birding Classes at the Avery House

This is a joint effort between the Avery House Nature Center (part of the Corvallis Environmental Center) and The Audubon Society of Corvallis.

Birding in the Willamette Valley

Starts April 7: 2-weeks. A study suitable for beginners and newcomers. 2 classroom sessions and 2 field trips. \$8

Birding by Ear

Starts April 21: 2-weeks. A Study in the Sounds of Nature. 2 classroom sessions and 2 field trips. \$8

Register by contacting the Avery House Nature Center: 541-758-6198, ahnc@peak.org

For questions about course content, contact Don Boucher (back page, Chat editor)

The Bobcat and the Coyote

On February 7, 2004 I had one of life's great thrills—witnessing an encounter between a bobcat and a coyote on our property on Vineyard Mountain. The cat was preening in a deer bed when it rose in a humpbacked defensive posture. It started moving slowly forward when I saw the coyote. As the cat advanced the coyote gave ground but at a certain distance it started hopping back toward the cat, playfully like a puppy. This pantomime continued three or four times until the bobcat had moved the coyote down the path and out of sight.

I got Elsie's attention just in time to see the tail end of this. Then she went looking for them without success. She did hear one "yip" however. It looked very much like the coyote wanted to play but the cat wasn't having any of that. In fact its body language clearly said, "Do you want a piece of me? Come on!" Apparently the coyote understood.

Marvelous! I'll never forget it!

-Elzy (Merlin) Eltzroth

ASC Field Trip Schedule

Mar 13	Saturday local morning
Mar 19-21	Bandon Coast weekend
Mar 31	Wednesday morning bird walk
Apr 10	Saturday local morning
Apr 16-18	Klamath Basin
Apr 28	Wednesday morning bird walk
May 7	Saturday local morning
May 7-9	Medford/Ashland Area
May 20-23	Malheur NWR
May 26	Wednesday morning bird walk

Local Morning Trip

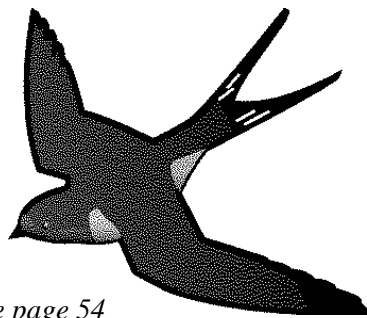
On March 13, 2004 our second Saturday local field trip meets at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 AM. This field trip is especially interesting for beginner birders and new birders to Oregon's mid-valley area. We spend a lot of time identifying local birds by sight and song. We visit the valley National Wildlife Refuges—Finley, Basket Slough, and Ankeny as well as other birding areas throughout the year. Field trip leader is Paula Vanderheul 541-752-0470, vanderp@peak.org

Spring Weekend Trips

In the Spring there will be four major long weekend field trips with the first 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 all 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. A \$40 deposit needed for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival production of "A Raisin in The Sun" in Ashland by February 28. A \$50 deposit needed for Malheur NWR by February 28, 2004. Both 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



*Coming in April
Barn Swallows, see page 54*

Morning Walks Changed to Last Wednesdays

I've changed the bird walks on the last Tuesday of the month to the last Wednesday because of other commitments. This year they will all be morning walks. There will also be two evening excursions on Wednesdays: one on June 23d (to celebrate Midsummer's Night) will visit the McFadden Marsh/Cheadle Marsh area; and one on July 14th will be a bat viewing in Albany. Also new this year, each walk will be at a scheduled location. For the walks in Corvallis, we'll meet at a parking lot at the scheduled location at 8 A.M. For walks outside Corvallis, you can meet me at 8 A.M. at the Rose Garden parking area at Avery Park and we may carpool to the scheduled location or you can join me at 8:30 at the parking lot at the scheduled location.

The Wednesday walk schedule:

Mar 31	E.E. Wilson (8:00 A.M. at Avery Pk or 8:30 A.M. at the pheasant pen parking lot)
Apr 28	Avery Park (8:00 A.M. Rose Garden parking lot)
May 26	Fort Hoskins (8:00 A.M. Avery Pk or 8:30 A.M. main parking lot with restrooms)
Jun 23	McFadden/Cheadle Marshes, Finley NWR (5:30 P.M. north end of LBCC Benton Center parking lot or 6:00 P.M. at McFadden Marsh parking lot by viewing blind)
Jun 30	Simpson Park, Albany (8:00 A.M. Avery Pk or 8:30 A.M. at Simpson Park parking lot)
Jul 14	Bat watch. Meet at 8:00 P.M. at north end of LBCC Benton Center parking lot to carpool or 8:30 P.M. at west end of parking lot for Takena Point Restaurant (formerly Buzzsaw, 421 Water Ave, Albany)
Jul 28	Willamette Park (8:00 A.M. end of south parking lot (the turnaround area) accessed from Goodnight Ave)
Aug 25	Bezell Memorial Forest (8 A.M. Avery Pk or 8:30 in parking lot by restrooms)
Sep 29	Bald Hill (8 A.M. in Oak Creek parking lot)
Oct 27	Snagboat Bend (8 A.M. Avery Pk or 8:30 A.M. at Snagboat Bend)

If you have any questions please contact me (752-4313 or mccarmel@peak.org)

-Marcia F. Cutler

Field Notes:

January 26 through February 23, 2004

After January's snow and ice, February brought a return to more typical Willamette Valley winter weather: mild temperatures and rain alternating with sun breaks, and by the end of the period, warming weather that brought a feeling of spring.

A few **Rufous Hummingbirds** have shown up along the coast, and even one in Eugene, but so far none have turned up in our area. They should be here any day though! Flocks of migrant **Sandhill Cranes** were being reported as I wrote this column, mainly from the east side of the Willamette Valley. Spring is on the way!

Abbreviations & Locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; Res. = Reservoir. E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) is north of Corvallis along Hwy 99W. Baskett Slough NWR is near Dallas in Polk Co. Cabell Marsh and McFadden Marsh are at Finley NWR south of Corvallis. Snag Boat Bend in Linn Co. near Peoria is an annex of Finley NWR. Stewart Lake is on the HP campus in north Corvallis.

Sightings:

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** and a **Ross's Goose** were at Finley NWR on 8 Feb (Mary Anne Sohlstrom, Patty Bernardi); the **Ross's Goose** was seen through 24 Feb (Joe Fontaine, Randy Moore). A **Snow Goose** was there on 22 Feb (Mitch Ratzlaff, Ben Young).

On 28 Jan Carolyn Paynter saw about 60 **Tundra Swans** at McFadden Marsh, possibly with a few **Trumpeter Swans** mixed in. Other large swan flocks included 550 **Tundra Swans** sw. of Brownsville 27 Jan (J Fleischer) and 166 **swans** seen by Linda Fink and Barbara & John Woodhouse along Airlie Rd. in Polk Co. on 25 Jan. The Airlie Rd. flock was mostly **Tundra Swans** but included some **Trumpeters**. The Woodhouses sent me a nice video of the flock, but unfortunately our video machine went on the fritz so I will have to wait to come up with a good estimate of the composition. 45 swans including some Trumpeters were still there on 22 Feb (Noah Strycker). Small flocks of 5-8 **Trumpeter Swans** paid visits to our place near E.E. Wilson on 18-24 Feb (Becky Geier), and about 12 **Tundra Swans** were frequenting Ryals Rd. near Adair Village through the end of February.

A huge flock of **Canada Geese** were along the OSU campus bike trail west of Corvallis in late Jan (Marie Parcell). Julie Gibson saw a pair on the bank of the Calapooia River in mid-Feb which seemed to be on the verge of nesting.

Wood Ducks and **Gadwalls** were noted at Finley NWR 11-16 Feb (M Cutler, Kate Matthews; Paula Vanderheul).

Quite a few **Eurasian Wigeons** have been reported this winter, including 1 drake at the pond along Beta Dr. s. of Albany, 4 drakes and 1 hen at Grand Prairie Park in Albany, and 1 drake at the rice ponds along Gap Rd near Brownsville on 27 Jan (J Fleischer), 1 at McFadden Marsh 28 Jan (C Paynter), 1-2 at Finley NWR 11-13 Feb (M Cutler; Sandy Bryce; Roger Robb), 1 drake at Stewart Lake 12 Feb (Jamie Simmons), 1 at a pond along Stow Pit Rd 14 Feb (M Cutler, P Vanderheul), and 1-3 at Cabell Marsh 15-25 Feb (Erik Knight; Dave Westerfield). For the most part these were mixed in with larger numbers of **American Wigeons**.

Flocks of **Northern Shovelers**, **Northern Pintails**, and **Green-winged Teal** continue to be seen around the area. A **Falcated Duck** (Eurasian species) was seen at the pond below Fern Ridge Dam, Lane Co. on 14 Feb (John Houle and many observers), but has not been relocated since being spooked from this pond.

Pairs of **Cinnamon Teal** began showing up, including one pair at Toketie Marsh north of Corvallis by 9 Feb. 15 **Canvasbacks** were on Stewart Lake throughout early Feb, with 13 still there 15 Feb (J Simmons).

A first-winter male **Tufted Duck** (the Eurasian counterpart of our familiar **Ring-necked Duck**) was discovered on a pond near Finley

NWR headquarters 10 Feb (Hendrik Herlyn), and was seen by many at least through 27 Feb (Jim Carlson). There are still a few questions as to whether this is a pure Tufted Duck or if it has some faint traces of other scap ancestry, but most characteristics suggest a pure Tufted Duck.

A notable concentration of over 200 **Lesser Scaup** were at the Stow Pit Rd. pond 14 Feb, along with a dozen **Ring-necked Ducks** (M Cutler, P Vanderheul). At least 3 **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were at Foster Reservoir on 25 Feb (Kerri Cawthon, Dave Barclay).

Hooded Mergansers have become more noticeable in recent weeks as the males have gained their striking breeding plumage and are courting the females. A pair of **Common Mergansers** were on the Willamette River in Corvallis 11 Feb (M Parcell). Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at Stewart Lake 12 Feb (J Simmons).

Julie Gibson reports that **Ruffed Grouse** had started drumming by 22 Feb, another sign of spring although occasionally they will drum out of season.

A **Great Egret** turned up on the Hwy 20/34 bypass across the river from downtown Corvallis 3 Feb, providing an interesting comparison with the "**Great White Heron**" (white morph of **Great Blue Heron**) that made a brief appearance there last month (Bil Burton). Four **Double-crested Cormorants** were at Monteith Park in Albany 23 Feb (M Parcell).

A few **Turkey Vultures** spent the winter in the southern Willamette Valley, but reports began to pick up in mid-Feb to indicate real migration was underway. Jim Fairchild saw one w. of Corvallis 14 Feb, flying n. over Hwy 20/34. Steve Seibel saw one over Corvallis the next day, and notes a friend had seen one near Corvallis two weeks prior. On 20 Feb Tom Olson & Carrie Burkholder saw one sunning itself just w. of Philomath. Another was at Burkhart Creek near Lebanon 21 Feb (Ken & Carole Steckley fide Elsie Eltzroth).

Two to three **White-tailed Kites** were seen around Finley NWR throughout the month, most often at the prairie overlook at the north entrance. Jeff Fleischer also spotted a pair along Airlie Rd. about a mile w. of Hwy 99W on 12 Feb.

Bald Eagle concentrations in the Willamette Valley have been remarkably high this winter, with over 60 using a roost near Fern Ridge Reservoir where a fish die-off (due to disease) has provided a convenient food source. 30 were found in Linn Co. on 3 Feb, including a swirling "kettle" of 8 near Brownsville (J Fleischer, Jack Turner). 6 were roosting together near Monroe 15 Feb (J Houle, Daphne Turner). Julie Gibson notes they have been common both at Finley NWR and over the river in Peoria. One was spotted over downtown Corvallis 17 Feb (Don Boucher).

Sharp-shinned Hawks and **Cooper's Hawks** were also seen occasionally through the month at many locations. A surprising accipiter in the valley this month was an immature female **Northern Goshawk** that was pounce-hunting in the restored prairie at the north entrance of Finley NWR 24 Feb, while being harassed by much smaller **Northern Harriers** (R Moore, J Fontaine).

The **Red-shouldered Hawk** frequenting the west end of the Harrison-Circle bike path in Corvallis was seen again 3 Feb (M Cutler). By 12 Feb, **Red-tailed Hawks** were noted to be pairing off as breeding season got underway (J Fleischer). At least 13 **Rough-legged Hawks** were still in the valley through 11-12 Feb (J Fleischer). A dark-morph juvenile was at Finley NWR 22 Feb (M Ratzlaff). Three **Golden Eagles** were at Indian Head Hills, Linn C. 27 Jan (J Fleischer).

A **Merlin** in downtown Corvallis (near 9th & Tyler) made off with a small bird on 2 Feb (D Boucher) and was seen again 22 Feb. Sadly another died when it struck a window in Peoria while going after another bird on 3 Feb (Randy Campbell); it has been donated to ASC's educational collection. About six others were reported through the month, including one seen regularly at the north entrance of Finley NWR (P Vanderheul and others).

At least two **Gyrfalcons** have been in the valley this winter. The

one along Coville Rd. just e. of Baskett Slough NWR was seen regularly through 19 Feb (R Robb). Another reported along Hwy 99W at Llewellyn Rd s. of Corvallis, first reported by Steve Gordon 16 Jan, was seen through the end of the period (L Fink, Velta Mack). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings this month included 1 juvenile n. of Harrisburg and 1 along Bond Butte Rd 3 Feb and an adult in the Dever-Conner area near Millersburg 5 Feb (J Fleischer), 1-2 at Finley NWR 10-15 Feb (Randy Campbell; J Houle), and one perched at the Willamette River greenway off Riverside Drive 21 Feb (D Boucher, Stephanie Haines). **Prairie Falcons** were seen regularly in Linn Co., including 1 s. of Brownsville 27 Jan (J Fleischer); 1 w. of Halsey and 1 near Bond Butte 3 Feb (J Fleischer, J Turner), and 1 w. of Peterson Butte 7 Feb (R Campbell). Another continued to be seen w. of Baskett Slough NWR through 6 Feb (Carol Karlen, Marilyn van Dyk; Dave Helzer), and one was near Finley NWR 10 Feb (fide H Herlyn).

A **Virginia Rail** was in a marshy area along the Long Tom River at Monroe 13 Feb (S Gordon, J Carlson). Marcia Cutler and Paula Vanderheul noted **Killdeer** and about 20 **Dunlin** along Stow Pit Rd. 14 Feb. Large Dunlin flocks numbering in the thousands continued to be seen at Ankeny NWR and Fern Ridge Reservoir. Six **dowitchers** were at Finley NWR 16 Feb (P Vanderheul).

On 3 Feb Alan Contreras noted a flock of over 2000 small gulls (most likely **Mew Gulls** and/or **Ring-billed Gulls**) east of I-5 near Butte Creek, apparently flying in to roost from all directions. Gulls at Finley NWR 9 Feb included **Mew**, **Ring-billed**, and **California Gulls** (H Herlyn). About 50 **Glaucous-winged Gulls** and 10 **Herring Gulls** were in a field on the east side of E.E. Wilson WA (not far from Coffin Butte landfill) on 24 Feb. Marcia Cutler and Kate Matthews found 1 immature and 3 adult **Bonaparte's Gulls** at the Monroe sewage ponds 11 Feb.

A **Great Horned Owl** was on a nest off Coville Rd. near Baskett Slough NWR by 11 Feb (J Fleischer). One at E.E. Wilson WA was brooding on the usual nest north of the angling pond by the end of the month. Randy Campbell figures at least three unbanded **Burrowing Owls**, as well as the banded owl on Blueberry Lane, have spent the winter in the Peoria area; one was along Davis Rd. 22 Jan, one was along Fayetteville Rd. 27 Jan to 6 Feb, and one was on Potter Rd. 27 Jan to 7 Feb.

In another sign of spring, a **Downy Woodpecker** was whinnying in Corvallis 19 Feb (Ryan Kepler). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was in Avery Park in Corvallis 22 Feb (D Boucher).

The **Black Phoebe** found in Monroe in Nov continued through 7 Feb (Tanya Bray). Another one at Snag Boat Bend has been around since late November (fide R Campbell), at least through 20 Feb (T Bray). A **Say's Phoebe** was at near Ward Butte 7 Feb (R Campbell).

An immature **Northern Shrike** was seen regularly near the prairie overlook at Finley NWR, 28 Jan thru 16 Feb (C Paynter; P Vanderheul). Another was in Corvallis along the Harrison-Circle bike path 3 Feb (M Cutler). **Hutton's Vireos** were singing in Lewisburg by the first week of Feb (Paul Adamus). Four were in Avery Park 22 Feb (D Boucher). A **Steller's Jay** was along 18th St, Corvallis 20 Feb (M Parcell).

Randy Moore has been surveying wintering **Horned Larks** in the valley, but had to call it a season as the flocks were breaking up and breeding activity got underway. By 10 Feb the males of the endemic subspecies *strigata* ("Streaked" form) were singing like crazy and chasing each other around the fields, sometimes even sitting on fence posts as they staked out their territories.

More migrant **Tree Swallows** showed up, including 5 at Baskett Slough NWR 5 Feb (S Gordon) and 2 visiting nest boxes e. of Scio 15 Feb (Pat Waldron). About 6 were at Finley NWR 28 Feb (Toni Camarda, Howard Fellows). Two juvenile **Barn Swallows** were at Snag Boat Bend 27 Jan, and may have been there earlier as the area was closed for the winter months (R Campbell).

Black-capped Chickadees, **White-breasted Nuthatches**, **Brown Creepers**, **Winter Wrens** and **Bewick's Wrens** were singing by mid-

Feb (R Kepler; P Adamus). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were also singing by the end of the month.

Western Bluebird flocks were reported from Snag Boat Bend 27 Jan (R Campbell), Lewisburg 8 Feb (P Adamus), and regularly from Finley NWR. Around our neighborhood I've been seeing flocks of 6-8 birds in the Palestine area, at Luckiamute Landing greenway, at the Vanderpool Tract greenway, and adjacent to E.E. Wilson, certainly more than in any previous year — thanks no doubt to the dedicated efforts of Bluebird Trails volunteers. Increasing numbers of **American Robins** were noted around Lewisburg by 8 Feb (P Adamus); a flock of 700 was near the north entrance of Finley NWR 13 Feb (R Robb). **Varied Thrushes** added their ethereal voices to the spring chorus in Corvallis 19 Feb (R Kepler).

Flocks of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were noted in Tangent 15 Feb (J Gibson) and at the Willamette River greenway off Riverside Drive 21 Feb (D Boucher, S Haines). On 11 Feb Gabriela from Mr. Reynolds' 3rd grade class at Mountain View Elementary spotted a pretty yellow bird in some conifers by the school's wetland, which Marcia Cutler helped identify as a **Townsend's Warbler**. On 9 Feb Hendrik Herlyn found a pure male **Hermit Warbler** with a flock of **Townsend's Warblers** along Bruce Rd. near Finley NWR, the second one that has been found wintering in our area in the past four years.

Savannah Sparrow numbers in the fields around E.E. Wilson WA continue to be very low in the wake of January's icy weather. Only a couple seem to have survived the winter in one field by our place, out of more than 70 that were present in late November.

An unusual **Fox Sparrow** was along the Long Tom River path in Monroe 11 Feb, notably lighter than the typical wintering Fox Sparrows, rather grayish-brown, with distinctly redder wings and tail, and a yellowish-gray bill (M Cutler); possibly this was an example of the **Slate-colored** form, which is rare in our area. Bill & Lena Proebsting had a **Slate-colored Junco** in their Oak Creek yard 31 Jan.

Tanya Bray found a **Swamp Sparrow** at Snagboat Bend 20 Feb, just past the end of the boardwalk. The three wintering in the NE corner of E.E. Wilson WA continued through the month. On 22 Jan Randy Campbell found a **White-throated Sparrow** in a loose and diverse flock of about 300 sparrows at the Hoacum Island greenway near Peoria. 1 was at the LBCC Benton Center on 12 Feb (D Boucher).

Ten **Western Meadowlarks** were near the north entrance of Finley NWR 12 Feb (R Kepler), and some were still singing there 16 Feb (P Vanderheul). A flock 8 near E.E. Wilson WA 24 Feb were the most I've seen since the January ice storm.

Purple Finches at Finley NWR were also singing 12 Feb (R Kepler). About 25 **Pine Siskins** were in Lewisburg 8 Feb (P Adamus).

Marie Parcell noted on 23 Feb that the former Costume Loft store on Water St. in Albany has been vacated; for years this building has hosted a colony of **Big Brown Bats**.

On 21 Feb Don Boucher and Stephanie Haines came across some tracks at the greenway along Riverside Drive, which showed the record of an encounter between a **Bobcat** and a **rabbit**.

Next month

Rufous Hummingbirds and **Band-tailed Pigeons** could arrive before this goes to press, with **Violet-green Swallows**, **Orange-crowned Warblers**, and **Ospreys** to follow. Please send me your observations by 22 march.

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

Corvallis Bird Phenology / Migrant Arrival Dates

Bird phenology records in Corvallis date from 1970. The last phenology table was published in the *Chat* in March 1994. This list updates the arrivals through the spring of 2002.

Average arrival	Species	Number years	Earliest arrival	Average arrival	Species	Number years	Earliest arrival
Jan 29	Say's Phoebe (M)	04	Jan 07	Apr 22	Hammond's Flycatcher	11	Apr 14
				23	MacGillivray's Warbler	29	Apr 02
Feb 10	Tree Swallow	27	Jan 10	24	Semipalmated Plover (M)	17	Feb 07
19	Turkey Vulture	29	Jan 17	24	Warbling Vireo	28	Mar 20
27	Horned Grebe (M)	03	Feb 03	24	Whimbrel (M)	03	Apr 13
				26	Western Kingbird	23	Apr 15
Mar 02	Rufous Hummingbird	32	Feb 14	27	Calliope Hummingbird (M)	13	Apr 06
03	Violet-green Swallow	29	Feb 21	27	Western Tanager	27	Feb 28
13	Cinnamon Teal	27	Jan 31	28	Hermit Warbler	18	Apr 01
13	Sandhill Crane (M)	17	Jan 26	28	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	26	Apr 02
16	Band-tailed Pigeon	20	Feb 04	29	Yellow Warbler	22	Apr 10
19	Long-billed Dowitcher (M)	20	Jan 19				
21	Orange-crowned Warbler	30	Feb 11	May 01	Pectoral Sandpiper (M)	04	Apr 15
22	Osprey	30	Jan 28	01	Purple Martin	10	Mar 17
31	Cliff Swallow	25	Mar 17	03	Swainson's Thrush	24	Apr 05
				03	Western Wood-Pewee	21	Apr 07
Apr 02	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	24	Mar 22	04	Red-eyed Vireo	02	Apr 06
03	American Bittern	17	Feb 16	05	Black-headed Grosbeak	29	Apr 23
04	Common Yellowthroat	31	Mar 18	05	Bullock's Oriole	23	Apr 11
05	Barn Swallow	27	Mar 22	06	Blue-winged Teal (M)	20	Apr 21
05	Sora	20	Feb 22	06	Lazuli Bunting	26	Apr 22
08	Lesser Yellowlegs (M)	19	Jan 20	07	Olive-sided Flycatcher	23	Apr 20
09	Black Swift (M)	03	Mar 30	07	Red-necked Phalarope (M)	13	Apr 23
10	Black-throated Gray Warbler	30	Mar 15	10	Wilson's Phalarope (M)	20	Apr 20
10	House Wren	24	Feb 21	12	Yellow-breasted Chat	21	Apr 04
11	Chipping Sparrow	26	Mar 07	14	Marbled Godwit (M)	02	May 09
12	Black-bellied Plover (M)	10	Feb 26	16	Willow Flycatcher	18	Apr 25
12	Palm Warbler (M)	01	Apr 13	18	Black-throated Sparrow (M)	04	May 15
13	Long-billed Curlew (M)	05	Mar 18	19	Black Tern (M)	07	Apr 02
14	Vesper Sparrow	13	Mar 19	20	Black-chinned Hummingbird (M)	01	May 20
15	Nashville Warbler	18	Mar 13	25	White-faced Ibis	01	May 24
17	Cassin's Vireo	30	Mar 26				
18	Black-necked Stilt (M)	09	Apr 09	Jun 02	Pacific Golden-Plover (M)	02	May 19
18	Willet (M)	03	Apr 03	04	Common Nighthawk	13	May 10
18	Wilson's Warbler	28	Apr 03	07	Eastern Kingbird (M)	04	May 23
20	Vaux's Swift	30	Apr 05				
21	Solitary Sandpiper (M)	21	Apr 08	July 11	American Redstart	01	Jul 11
21	Yellow-headed Blackbird	20	Feb 21				

(M): Migrant, does not spend the season or breed in our area
 -Compiled by Alan McGie

Oregon State Park's Snowy Plover

The Last Public Hearings on State Park's Snowy Plover Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

Pacific City—March 16th, Kiwanda Senior Center,
7-9 P.M.

Tillamook—March 17th, Tillamook High School
cafeteria, 7-9 P.M.

contact Jim Fairchild (see back) for possible carpooling

As part of their Ocean Shore Management Plan, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has extended public hearings on plans that vocal coastal residents feel threatens their open access to beaches along the coast. In the face of encroachment by invasive beach grass, increased human access and disruption of nesting by hikers, dogs and vehicles, snowy plover populations continue to decline. Under its listed species status, this HCP (if approved) would insulate OPRD from incidental take of snowy plovers if it offers to gradually restrict access during nesting for up to 25 additional miles of beach—for the return of snowy plovers. But the current coastal furor caused by any such government “regulation” misses several points:

- An approved HCP would assure state park managers that routine actions would not be subject to USFWS review and possible revision.

- Most restrictions would apply only during nesting season, and would only limit activities known to reduce species persistence. Some restrictions would apply year round for wintering birds. This buffering will provide real protection for real birds.

There are many other portions to the Ocean Shores Management Plan, addressing other shorebirds, wildlife, rocky intertidal areas, driftwood and sand removal, and recreational uses in the state parks. More snowy plover details and links may be found at:

www.prd.or.us/plovers.php

But most importantly, you can make your voice heard by writing:

OSMP.HCP@state.or.us or calling Michelle Michaud at (503)986-0737

Bald Eagle Nest Survey Call for Help

The annual bald eagle nest survey for Oregon and the Washington side of the Columbia River is changing this year. We have decided to quit much of the aerial survey work because of cost, safety concerns, and in order to involve more people in this rewarding effort. Consequently, we are soliciting volunteer help from interested individuals or teams.

If you would like to learn about bald eagles, while contributing to a long-term study of bald eagles nesting in Oregon, then contact Frank Isaacs. Eagle nest watchers must be self motivated, need mobility by vehicle and on foot, need good binoculars and a spotting scope, should be patient, should have a basic knowledge of raptor identification, and should be willing to provide detailed reports on their observations in a timely manner. Frank Isaacs will provide training and guidance where needed.

Frank B. Isaacs
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FAX (call for instructions)
Email: isaacsf@onid.orst.edu
Senior Faculty Research Assistant
Oregon Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit
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Corvallis, OR



White-crowned (left) and Golden-crowned Sparrow

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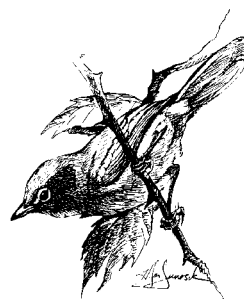
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Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

Calendar

- Mar 11 Board Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Paula Vanderheul's
- Mar 13 Saturday local morning**
- Mar 18 General Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Corv-Benton Library*, James Davis, Owls of Oregon
- Mar 19-21 Bandon Coast weekend**
- Mar 22 Field Notes deadline for April
- Mar 25 Chat deadline for April
- Mar 31 Wednesday morning bird walk**
- Apr 6 ASC Conservation Committee meeting 5:30-6:30 P.M., New Morning Bakery, 219 SW 2nd Street
- Apr 7 Birding classes start (see page 50)
- Apr 8 Board Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
- Apr 10 Saturday local morning**
- Apr 15 General Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Corv-Benton Library*, Ellie Mathews, "Ambassador to the Penguins"
- Apr 16-18 Klamath Basin**
- Apr 24-25 Birdathon (see page 50)
- Apr 25 Open house at Hesthavn
- Apr 26 Field Notes deadline for May
- Apr 28 Wednesday morning bird walk**
- Apr 29 Chat deadline for May

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

* General Meeting change this year-see front page

**See page 51 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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