



Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

April 2004

VOL. 33

#8

General Meeting

April 15, Thursday, 7:30-9:00 PM
Corvallis Public Library

Ambassador to the Penguins

Northwest author Ellie Mathews will give a presentation based upon her recent book, "Ambassador to the Penguins." The book recounts the yearlong adventure of her grandfather, Robert Cushman Murphy, on one of the last wind-powered whaling ships. In 1912 Murphy, then a 25-year-old assistant museum curator, was invited to ship aboard the brig Daisy, out of New Bedford, Massachusetts on a whaling and sealing voyage to South Georgia, where he would collect specimens and record his observations on natural history. The voyage was a grand adventure, and it laid the foundation for Murphy's subsequent career as the leading twentieth-century authority on oceanic birds of the Southern Hemisphere.

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

May 20 Roy Lowe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, speaking on wildlife refuges of the Oregon Coast
Summer General meetings resume in September

Work on New Trail at Finley Starts Soon

Work on the trail along the west side of Cabell Marsh at William Finley NWR will begin sometime in late April or early May. This will be a cooperative project among the Audubon Society of Corvallis, the Greenbelt Land Trust and refuge staff. Initial work will include locating and brushing out the trail route. This trail, to be dedicated to the memory of Homer Campbell (a former ASC president and relentless environmentalist), will complete a loop around Cabell Marsh, avoiding the present out and back route. Part of the trail will traverse wet areas, requiring several hundred feet of boardwalk. We have enough lumber for about 100-200 feet, but much more of this expensive material is needed. I'm writing a grant proposal to the National Wildlife Friends Group for \$5,000 to help pay for trail materials.

I have a list of volunteers from ASC and am looking for more. Along with the help of Greenbelt Land Trust volunteers and refuge personnel providing heavy equipment, we hope to complete the trail by fall of this year. Please e-mail or call me if you would like to help.

Gary Gibson
gibgrn@juno.com
929-3804

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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.

-Karan Fairchild

Birdathon

April 24 and 25

ASC will be holding its 4th annual Birdathon April 24 and 25. This annual fund-raiser 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 make the education center a reality. If you can help by being a Birdathon team member or supporting a team, please contact Karan Fairchild, 929-4049 or alderspr@peak.org, or see me or a board member at the meeting.

In Gratitude

Meyer Memorial Trust

The Audubon Society of Corvallis wishes to thank the Meyer Memorial Trust for its generous support of Hesthavn, in the form of a \$7,500 grant. We also wish to thank the PGE Foundation for a grant of \$5,000, also for work at Hesthavn. The generosity of these two Oregon foundations will allow our project to go a long way and we are sincerely grateful!

Jim Faulkner

Thanks to Jim Faulkner for making a mason bee box for Hesthavn, and putting it up on the south side of the barn! These native bees will help pollinate the many plantings at Hesthavn, and provide educational opportunities as well.

Hewlett Packard

Audubon Society of Corvallis would like to thank Hewlett Packard and an anonymous Chapter member for teaming up, through HP's charitable giving program, to donate a digital (video) projector. This HP vp6120 will project clear images and sound from computers, video tapes or televisions even in a well lit room! Look for this in use at future meetings!

-Karan Fairchild

Hesthavn Open House

Sunday, April 25

If you have been curious about the Hesthavn Sanctuary but have been afraid that if you come I might hand you a shovel and set you to work, then Sunday April 25 will be an ideal opportunity. We will hold an open house from 10 AM to 3 PM and a good time is guaranteed for all. Delicious refreshments will be available (thanks in part to the generosity of the First Alternative Coop) and regular tours will be run. We will be calling in the press this time, so a Hesthavn visit that day affords an excellent opportunity for getting your mug on the front page of the Gazette Times. Rumor has it that the last two remaining Beatles will show up for an impromptu reunion concert. OK I made that last part up, but better yet someone from Chintimini will be there with one or more live birds. So bring the kids! See you there!

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



*Pileated
Woodpecker*

ASC Field Trip Schedule

Apr 10	Saturday local morning
Apr 16-18	Klamath Basin
Apr 28	Wednesday morning bird walk
May 8	Saturday local morning
May 7-9	Medford/Ashland Area
May 16	Bicycle Birding
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

Bicycle Birding at E.E. Wilson in Adair May 16, Sunday

9:00 AM - Noon, Meet at the Pheasant cage parking lot on Camp Adair Drive. An easy, flat ride of 10 miles or less. For die-hard bicyclists, you can meet at 8:00 AM at the Benton Center parking lot 630 NW 7th and we'll ride to E.E. Wilson. Bring water and rain gear. Leader: Don Boucher 753-7689, bouchdon@juno.com

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

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:

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	Beazell 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:

February 23 through March 22, 2004

No matter what the calendar says about spring starting on the vernal equinox, spring comes sooner in the Willamette Valley. This month brought leaves to the cottonwoods, blossoms to the willows, and the return of **Rufous Hummingbirds** and **Violet-green Swallows** to mark the start of neotropical migration.

Abbreviations & Locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge. 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. Toketie Marsh is the remedial wetland at Coffin Butte landfill n. of Corvallis. Vineyard Mtn. is on the north side of Lewisburg, n. of Corvallis.

Sightings

In Albany 13 Mar, Jeff Harding found a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Timber-Linn Park and another at Grand Prairie Park. A **Snow Goose** was at Baskett Slough NWR 17 Mar (Karen Sparkman).

On 20 Mar Paula Vanderheul and Marcia Cutler noticed two **Canada Geese** using an osprey nest high atop a regional power-line tower west of Scio. The tendency of Canada Geese to occupy such lofty nests always raises the question: How do the goslings get down? Steve McDonald of Eugene reports having witnessed this process a few years back: Goslings one by one took the plunge from a high tower, flapping their tiny wings and relying on the air resistance of their light, fluffy bodies to further slow their descent. Within a few minutes the parents had gathered the entire brood safely on the river.

100 **Tundra Swans** were along American Dr and another 50 were along Lake Creek Dr in Linn Co. 2 Mar (Jeff Fleischer). About ten remained in the Adair Village area through 23 Mar (Becky Geier).

On 28 Feb Julie Gibson noted a nice display of ducks at the marsh just s. of the restrooms at Finley NWR, including **Wood Ducks**, **American Wigeon**, **Northern Pintail**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **Hooded Mergansers**. A **Gadwall** was at Simpson Park in Albany 13 Mar (J Harding) and two were at E. E. Wilson on 17 Mar.

A **Eurasian Wigeon** drake was at Stewart Lake 12 Mar (Jamie Simmons). Four were at Grand Prairie Park in Albany 13 Mar (J Harding). The **Cinnamon Teal** pair which showed up last month at Toketie Marsh were a highlight of the ASC field trip 13 Mar (M Cutler). Two **Northern Shoveler** drakes at Stewart Lake 12 Mar (J Simmons) were the only ones seen there since a flock of 40 stopped by on 20 Feb (J Simmons). About 40 **Green-winged Teal** were at E. E. Wilson 17 Mar as flocks began to move north.

Canvasbacks were noted throughout the period at Stewart Lake, with eight there on 7 Mar, 16 on 8 Mar, but just a handful by 11 Mar dwindling to a lone female on 22 Mar (J Simmons; D Boucher). Two **Redheads** were at Finley NWR on 28 Feb through 1 Mar (Joe Fontaine, Ben Young; P Vanderheul).

About six **Lesser Scaup** at Stewart Lake 7 Mar were in the company of what appeared to be a **Greater Scaup** drake (D Boucher). Flocks of **Ring-necked Ducks** and **Buffleheads** continued through the season.

Twelve **Common Goldeneyes** were on the Willamette River across from Peoria 11 Mar (Randy Campbell). One was at the Brownsville Sewage Ponds 13 Mar (J Harding). Two female **Ruddy Ducks** were at Stewart Lake 1 Mar, and a single female was there through 12 Mar (J Simmons).

By 1 Mar, the **Mountain Quail** at Pat Waldron's place e. of Scio began to show up in pairs instead of as a covey. A pair visited Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth's yard on Vineyard Mtn 13 & 20 Mar. They also had seven **Wild Turkeys** in their driveway 2 Mar, and Elsie saw 14 farther down the hill on 4 Mar.

Pied-billed Grebes were vocalizing at E.E. Wilson 13 Mar (M Cutler). Two **Horned Grebes** were at Foster Reservoir on 13 Mar (J Harding).

Three **Great Blue Heron** nests at Snag Boat Bend were occupied by 7 Mar (Larry McQueen), but as of 11 Mar two colonies along the Willamette River n. of Harrisburg were not yet active (Mark Nikas). A **Green Heron** was below Foster Reservoir Dam 13 Mar (J Harding).

A **Turkey Vulture** was at Stewart Lake 7 Mar (D Boucher). Four were soaring around Linn Co. 7 Mar (R Campbell). Six were over Lewisburg 17 Mar (Paul Adamus).

On 11 Mar an **Osprey** flew west along the Santiam River near the I-5 bridge in northern Linn Co (J Fleischer). Toni Camarda and Howard Fellows saw one over the angling pond at E.E. Wilson 21 Mar. A pair at the Harrison Street bridge in Corvallis was spotted on 24 Mar (D Boucher). Three **White-tailed Kites** continued at Finley NWR 10 Mar (Steve Seibel, J Fleischer).

A total of 53 **Bald Eagles** were observed in raptor surveys in four different parts of w. Linn Co. 2-11 Mar (J Fleischer, R Campbell). In February, one **Bald Eagle** flying low over Carol Argo's place near Millersburg caused a young cat to reverse course and run pell-mell back to the barn. Carol also saw a juvenile **Golden Eagle** harassed by an **American Crow** 21 Mar, the only Golden Eagle sighting for the month.

A male **Sharp-shinned Hawk** caught a **Dark-eyed Junco** on Vineyard Mtn 1 Mar (M & E Eltzroth).

A **Harlan's (Red-tailed) Hawk** was near the Griggs School ne. of Lebanon 29 Feb (Sam Pointer). A **Rough-legged Hawk** glided over Middle Ridge near Lebanon 25 Feb (Raylene Gordin). Three were near Finley NWR 5 Mar (David Irons). One flew north over our place 15 Mar. A total of 158 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 189 **American Kestrels** were found in raptor surveys around w. Linn Co. 2-11 Mar (J Fleischer, R Campbell).

A very dark **Merlin** was near the Corvallis airport through 5 Mar (D Irons), and another was over Alpine 11 Mar (Mike Denny). Single Merlins were also spotted n. of Lebanon 8 Mar and e. of Finley NWR 10 Mar (J Fleischer, S Seibel).

The **Gyrfalcon** that wintered along Llewellyn Rd. s. of Corvallis was last reported 4 Mar (Suzanne Austin). The one at Baskett Slough NWR was last reported 19 Mar (Ryan Kepler). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings included one adult w. of Halsey 2 Mar (J Fleischer), one w. of Tangent 7 Mar (R Campbell), and one at Finley NWR 10 Mar (J Fleischer, S Seibel). Two **Prairie Falcons** were in w. Linn Co. 7 Mar (R Campbell).

Virginia Rails were calling near the Thackaberry sheep farm n. of Lebanon 13 Mar (J Harding). A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** were along Tennessee Rd. n. of Lebanon 8 Mar (J Fleischer). On 16 Mar Andrea Foster had a glancing view of what looked like a pair of cranes near the DMV office s. of Corvallis.

A **Greater Yellowlegs** was east of Tangent 13 Mar (J Harding). About three dozen Least Sandpipers were at Stow Pit Rd. 28 Feb (P Vanderheul, M Cutler). A few **Least Sandpipers** were at the Tangent sewage ponds and a few **Dunlin** were at Pioneer Villa in Linn Co. 13 Mar (J Harding). A flock of about 150 **Dunlin** zoomed past me at E.E. Wilson 17 Mar. Six more were at Finley NWR 20 Mar (T Camarda, H Fellows). Jeff Harding heard **Wilson's Snipe** winnowing along Griggs Drive n. of Lebanon 10 Mar. Seven **snipe** were flying and feeding at E.E. Wilson 20 Mar (T Camarda, H Fellows).

Five **Herring Gulls** and 15 **Glaucous-winged Gulls** continued in field e. of E.E. Wilson 27 Feb, using the field as a resting area in between visits to Coffin Butte landfill. Jeff Harding noted **Herring Gulls**, **Glaucous-winged Gulls**, and **Ring-billed Gulls** in Linn Co. 13 Mar.

Pairs of **Band-tailed Pigeons** arrived e of Scio on 28 Feb (P Waldron) and along Oak Creek w. of Corvallis 6 Mar (Bill & Lena Proebsting).

A **Barn Owl** along the OSU dairy bike path was Bill Proebsting's

reward for going to work before dawn on 4 Mar. **Western Screech-Owls** were calling at the Thackaberry sheep farm n. of Lebanon 13 Mar (J Harding). One stuck its head out of a nest box on Vineyard Mtn 19 Mar (M Eltzroth). A **Great Horned Owl** was brooding on the nest in cottonwoods 1/4 mile n. of the angling pond at E.E. Wilson and was enjoyed by the ASC field trip there 13 Mar (M Cutler).

An unbanded **Burrowing Owl** was along Potter Rd. near Peoria 7 & 11 Mar (R Campbell; Mark Nikas). Mitch Ratzlaff and Ben Young found a road-killed **Long-eared Owl** along Hwy 99W near Logsdan Ridge on 28 Feb, less than a mile from where one was seen in 1999.

Barbara & Dan Gleason and Jill Hubbard saw a **Short-eared Owl** hunting over McFadden Marsh at dusk 12 Mar. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was calling frequently on Middle Ridge s. of Lebanon as of 22 Mar (R Gordin).

Rufous Hummingbirds males arrived about a week ahead of the females as usual. The first males were in Peoria 29 Feb (R Campbell) and along Oak Creek w. of Corvallis 3 Mar (B & L Proebsting). Two females joined a male on Vineyard Mtn 10 Mar (M Eltzroth). Arrivals at Raylene Gordin's place s. of Lebanon have been very consistent, with the first male returning on 8 Mar each of the past three years, and the first female appearing either 6 or 7 days later (14 Mar this year). The first female to arrive at the Fairchilds' place e. of Philomath on 11 Mar was immediately courted by a displaying male (Karan Fairchild). One was heard at higher elevation on Mary's Peak by 22 Mar (J Gibson).

A pair of **Acorn Woodpeckers** continued at Stewart Lake through 22 Mar (J Simmons). Marie Parcell watched a female **Northern Flicker** hunting bugs in the grass in Corvallis 14 Mar. A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** visited Vineyard Mtn 12 Mar (M Eltzroth), and a **Pileated Woodpecker** visited on 12 Mar and again on 14 Mar (E Eltzroth; M Eltzroth). **Pileated Woodpeckers** were calling e. of Scio by 19 Mar (P Waldron), and one made several appearances s. of Lebanon during late March (R Gordin).

A **Black Phoebe** was flycatching and calling at Stewart Lake 11 Mar but only stayed for one day (J Simmons). Another which wintered at Snag Boat Bend was still there 11 Mar (M Nikas). A **Say's Phoebe** was near Franklin Butte in Linn Co. 29 Feb (S Pointer).

A **Loggerhead Shrike** was NE of Lebanon 11-12 Mar (J Harding), and another was on the e. flank of Ward Butte 11 Mar (M Nikas). A few **Northern Shrikes** were reported in Linn Co. through 20 Mar (R Campbell; J Harding; Quinton Nice).

Four **Gray Jays** were on Vineyard Mtn 6 Mar (M & E Eltzroth).

Five **Tree Swallows** were at Stewart Lake on 7 Mar (D Boucher), and the species was seen almost daily from 14 Mar onward (J Simmons). I saw 20 **Violet-green Swallows** at McFadden Marsh 5 Mar, and Paul Adamus saw a flock of 24 over Lewisburg 16 Mar as the main wave of migrants began to show up. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at Simpson Park in Albany 13 Mar (J Harding).

Both **Black-capped Chickadees** and **Bushtits** at Snag Boat Bend had bright yellow faces on 7 Mar after feeding in pollen-laden willow blossoms (L McQueen). At Stewart Lake, a pair of **Bushtits** were carrying nest material 8 Mar, and two completed nests were found on 12 Mar and 16 Mar (J Simmons). By 22 Mar, the flock of about 40 that wintered at Don & Elizabeth MacDonald's Corvallis yard had dispersed and just one pair remained. One joined a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** flock s. of Lebanon 17 Mar (R Gordin).

Seven **Western Bluebirds** were sw of Halsey 2 Mar (J Fleischer). A pair were defending a nest box on Middle Ridge s of Lebanon 12 Mar (R Gordin). Two **Hermit Thrushes** were at E.E. Wilson 13 Mar (M Cutler). On 24 Mar a few were heard singing at the neighborhood near Border's Bookstore (D Boucher).

A **Varied Thrush** continued on Vineyard Mtn through 16 Mar (M Eltzroth). On 17 Mar I noticed a leucistic **American Robin** in a flock of about 100 in a grass field near E.E. Wilson. This bird had a buff-colored back and cream-colored wings, and a pale orange breast and belly.

Phyllis Bailey found a **Wrentit** at E.E. Wilson 29 Feb. A pair were

n. of the angling pond there on 13 Mar (M Cutler).

By 17 Mar the flock of **American Pipits** in a field at our place had grown to 210 as these birds gathered prior to migration.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** that wintered from 27 Nov onward in NW Corvallis was last seen March 21 (E & D MacDonald). One was spotted at Bald Hill Park on 10 Mar (L Millbank). Meanwhile spring migrants began to arrive including one in Lewisburg 19 Mar (P Adamus) and one gleaning insects s. of Lebanon 22 Mar (R Gordin).

On 11 Mar, a few **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at Peavey Arboretum and a "multitude" were at Stewart Lake (J Gibson; J Simmons). A male **Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warbler** at E.E. Wilson 13 Mar was in bright breeding plumage. A **Townsend's Warbler** that wintered in NW Corvallis was last seen 19 Mar (E & D MacDonald).

A **Fox Sparrow** made an appearance s of Lebanon 12 Mar (R Gordin). On 17 Mar I saw a **Song Sparrow** carrying nest material in a thicket near E.E. Wilson. The three **Swamp Sparrows** which wintered there were last noted 27 Feb.

About a dozen **White-throated Sparrows** were reported from various locations including four around one NW Corvallis yard (J Simmons) through 12 Mar. One in NW Corvallis was last seen 21 Mar (D MacDonald), but one or two remained at our yard e. of E.E. Wilson through 23 Mar, chipping loudly from their evening roost in a red-cedar tree. A **White-crowned Sparrow** that turned up at Pat Waldron's feeder e of Scio 18 Mar may have been a migrant. A female **Slate-colored Junco** was seen during the ASC field trip to E.E. Wilson 13 Mar (M Cutler).

Red-winged Blackbirds were singing at Stewart Lake by 9 Mar (J Simmons).

Purple Finches had arrived and were singing sw. of Philomath by 11 Mar (Karan Fairchild). Two were e of Scio 18 Mar (P Waldron). Several **Pine Siskins** were s. of Lebanon 28 Feb (R Gordin); four were in Lewisburg 19 Mar (P Adamus). Three **Lesser Goldfinches** visited a thistle feeder s. of Lebanon 9 Mar (R Gordin); two were in NW Corvallis 14 Mar (J Simmons). **American Goldfinches** made occasional visits to Andrea Foster's NW Corvallis yard during the period. **Evening Grosbeaks** began to show up in SW Corvallis by 29 Feb (Sandy Bryce).

A **Bobcat** made another appearance on Vineyard Mtn 8 Mar (M Eltzroth). David Mellinger saw one run across the road west of Blodgett 10 Mar. A **Raccoon** on Vineyard Mtn. was napping in an old hawks' nest on 10, 13, & 20 Mar (M & E Eltzroth). Julie Gibson enjoyed a noon chorus of **Coyotes** near Dunn State Forest on 12 Mar.

At her place e. of Scio, Pat Waldron has been seeing groups of 4 or 5 **Elk** as well as many colorful **garter snakes** soaking up the sun. **Red-legged Frogs** there had hatched by 19 Mar.

Coastal Notes

Andrea and Greg Foster saw **Western Grebes**, **White-winged Scoters**, and rafts of **Common Murres** off Heceta Head 13 Mar, as they enjoyed an hour-long view of two **Peregrine Falcons** resting atop the rocks. Two male **Rufous Hummingbirds** visited their feeders there all through the week of 13 Mar.

Next month

We'll await the main passage of shorebirds and most migrant songbird species, including more swallows, warblers, and vireos. Please let me know about your latest sightings by 26 Apr.

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

A Paradox

Bald Eagle Poisonings Linked to Pesticide Misuse

On 17 March ABC television national news reports that New Yorkers are thrilled by the return of Bald Eagles, a threatened species, to the Hudson River and metropolitan areas. Eagle watching has become a favorite pastime for many people.

Immediately following this broadcast KATU Channel 2 Portland reports that 17 Bald Eagles have been poisoned and found dead in Linn County over the past 13 years. Two of these eagles were found last month about four miles NW of Harrisburg. Fenthion, a pesticide that is illegal in Oregon, has been found ingested with sheep tissue in 16 of the carcasses. Fenthion is approved for use only in two Counties in Florida as mosquito control. It is toxic to honeybees, frogs, aquatic creatures, birds and other organisms.

Bald Eagles are predominantly scavengers. Rarely, with the exception of fish, do they take healthy animals. They are protected by both Federal and Oregon laws including the Endangered Species Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty and Oregon's Statutes. In addition, the use of Fenthion, except in the two Florida Counties, is a violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act plus Oregon Administrative Rules.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the Humane Society of the United States, and the Corvallis and Portland Audubon Societies are offering a reward of \$4000 for information leading to conviction of those responsible for these poisonings. Anyone with information about this case or other cases of deliberate harm to protected species should call the Oregon State Police Wildlife Tip Line 1-800-452-7888. This number may also be used to report misuse of pesticides.

All money in the ASC Wildlife Watch Fund derives from personal contributions expressly specified for use as rewards.

-Elzy Eltzroth

Third annual Corvallis Procession of Species

April 24, 2004 at 3 PM

Come one, come all to the third annual Procession of the Species, a whimsical community earth day event representing the collaborated effort of Corvallis Environmental Center, City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation, Common Pulse, Downtown Corvallis Association, Hour Exchange, and Corvallis Art Center's ArtCentric. This is the chance for all community members to dress up as their favorite creature (real or mythical) and parade through downtown.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 24th, starting at 3 PM, and ending downtown for the Earth Day event we call Earth Faire. Dust off your existing animal costume, put one together with friends, or join one of the many workshops this spring listed below. Multiple-person costumes, kinetic sculptures, and musical instruments are welcome as are families with young children up through the ages. This will be a rhythmic event too, so bring your percussive instruments.

The following are just some of the workshops offered this spring. Check out our webpage, www.corvallisprocession.org, and local event sites for more workshops throughout the community. Contact the Corvallis Environmental Center at 753-9211.

Create a likeness of your favorite non-human from the following categories:

Earth — land species

Water — aquatic species

Air — flying species

Fire — extinct or fantasy

(Please no live pets, motorized vehicles, cartoon characters, or written words)

www.corvallisprocession.org

Sponsors: Corvallis Environmental Center, Corvallis Parks and Recreation, Common Pulse, ArtCentric, Downtown Corvallis Association, Hours Exchange

Costume making and rhythm workshops are planned. Visit website or call Parks and Recreation for more information 766-6918

Protecting the Great Northern Forests

**Boreal Conservation Framework Lays
Out Vision for Protecting Vital Breeding
Grounds for Billions of North American
Birds**

Stretching from Alaska to the Atlantic Ocean, Canada's boreal forest is one of the world's largest forests. It accounts for 25 percent of the earth's remaining intact forests, covers 1.3 billion acres, and is larger than the Brazilian Amazon. With more fresh water than any place on earth, Canada's boreal forest supports some of the largest populations of wildlife such as grizzly bears and wolves, and provides vital breeding grounds for up to a third of North America's land birds and 40 percent of its waterfowl.

In December 2003, the Canadian Boreal Initiative (CBI) announced a landmark vision to protect this global treasure. The Boreal Conservation Framework proposes a new approach to balancing conservation and economic develop-

ment: the establishment of a network of large interconnected protected areas covering about half of Canada's boreal region, and the use of cutting-edge sustainable development practices in remaining areas. The Framework reflects an extraordinary alliance of conservation organizations, First Nations, and timber and oil companies who have signed on to the Framework. (Information about the Framework can be found at CBI's web-site: www.borealcanada.ca)

While vast tracks of the boreal region remain unspoiled at this point, the release of the Framework comes at a time when development is rapidly escalating and land use decisions in every Canadian province and territory will determine the fate of much of the boreal region within the next three to five years. With over 90% of the boreal under public ownership, a critical next step will be to persuade Canadian governments to play a central role in making the Framework's vision a reality.

Much of the resource development in the boreal is being driven by U.S. consumption. The U.S. is the leading importer of Canadian forest products and oil and gas. Eighty-one percent of Canada's forest products go to the United States, and most of the wood cut in Canada's boreal is used to make paper, including catalogs, junk mail, magazines, and newspapers. And the U.S. buys more of its oil and gas from Canada — 60% of which is produced from the boreal — than any other single source.

Of the 298 bird species that have some of their breeding grounds in the boreal forest, at least 40 species of land birds and several species of ducks are already experiencing population declines in part due to habitat loss from logging and oil and gas development.

While American consumption is largely responsible, it also means that American citizens and companies can influence the fate of this global treasure. The boreal is perhaps the greatest forest conservation opportunity left on earth.

An international campaign focused in the U.S. is emerging. The Boreal Songbird Network is a new network of conservation groups that include: the Boreal Songbird Initiative, the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the American Bird Conservancy. These groups are working to build a broad base of international support for boreal conservation and the adoption of the Boreal Framework.

For more information on how you can help protect the boreal forest, please go to the Boreal Songbird Initiative website at www.borealbirds.org.

The Boreal Songbird Initiative is a new project dedicated to educating bird conservationists and naturalists throughout the United States about the importance of North America's boreal forest to migratory birds.

Submit Your Bird Photo for the Chat

I would like to invite submissions of bird photos for the Chat. I won't have space for it every month, but due to digital printing technology, photos cost no extra to print and come out quite well. Photos must be clear, sharp, high contrast and recognizable in black and white. Avoid submitting common birds that are easy to photograph. If you submit by e-mail, make sure the photo is 300 dpi at 3.5 inches wide. If you send a print, make sure the bird takes up at least one-third of the field of view, especially if it is a 3 x 5 print. Contact me, the editor, for more information (see back page).

-Don Boucher



Photo by Andy Dale

This savannah sparrow joined us in fog about 20 miles off Newport. We were making a survey on OSU's research boat Elakha, and it was migration season (early October 2003). Hitch-hikers like this will often ride the boat back to port, but this sparrow rested up for a while, then headed off to an uncertain fate.

-Andy Dale

Contributors to *The Chat*

Paula Vanderheul, Joel Geier, Chris Mathews, Ray Drapek, Elzy Eltzroth, Gary Gibson, Karan Fairchild, Lynn Tennefoss, Andy Dale and Marcia Cutler

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

Audubon Society of Corvallis
www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

President: Susan Haig, 1646 NW Crest Pl., Corvallis, 97330,
753-5068, sue_haig2003@yahoo.com
Vice President/Program: Chris Mathews, 3336 SW Willamette
Ave, Corvallis, 97333, 754-1172, mathewsc2@attbi.com
Secretary & Historian: Marcia Cutler, 835 NW Merrie Dr.,
Corvallis, 97330, 752-4313, mccarmel@peak.org
Treasurer: Susan Ford, 2301 Wooded Knoll, Philomath, 97370,
929-6207, sandsford@peak.org

Board Members at Large

Hal Batchelder, 24566 Elderberry Lane, Philomath, 97370,
929-3537, hbatchelder@coas.oregonstate.edu
Gay Brier, 6791 SW Randall Way, Corvallis, 97333, 754-7385,
gaybrier@yahoo.com
Susan Brown, 107 NW 31st Street, Corvallis, 97330, 753-9444,
todd.g.brown@comcast.net
Paul Catullo, 830 SW Bridgeway, Corvallis, 97333, 762-1019,
arboles@hotmail.com
Dave Mellinger, 3798 NW Jameson Dr, Corvallis, 97330, 757-7953,
DavidKMellinger@yahoo.com
Bill Proebsting, 7350 NW Oak Creek Drive, Corvallis, 97330,
752-0108, proebstw@science.oregonstate.edu
Siobhan Van Lanen (alternate), 4535 Big Oak Place #6,
Corvallis, 97330, 760-8590, mabhanipoo@hotmail.com

Committees and Coordinators

Hesthavn Sanctuary Chair: Ray Drapek, 3273 SE Hathaway,
Corvallis, 97333, 754-7364, drapek@fsl.orst.edu
Conservation Chair: Jim Fairchild, 31540 Homestead Road,
Philomath, 97370, 929-4049, alderspr@peak.org
Education Chair: Kate Mathews, 3336 SW Willamette Ave,
Corvallis, 97333, 754-1172, kate.mathews@cmug.com
Membership Chair: Amy Schoener, 24362 Cardwell Hill Dr,
Philomath, 97370, 929-4041, cloudrun@peak.org
Newsletter Editor/Outreach: Don Boucher, 913 NW Tyler Ave,
Corvallis, 97330, 753-7689, bouchdon@juno.com
Field Trip Coordinator: Paula Vanderheul, 991 NW Sequoia,
Corvallis, 97330, 752-0470, vanderp@peak.org
Publicity: Bob Smythe, 2758 SW Fairmont Drive, Corvallis, 97333,
757-6357, patbobsmy@peak.org
Birdathon Coordinator: Karan Fairchild, 31540 Homestead Road,
Philomath, 97370, 929-4049, alderspr@peak.org
Refuge Keeper/Sales: Gary Gibson, 25071 Evergreen Road,
Philomath, 97370, 929-3804, gibgrn@juno.com
Electronic Communications: Sheridan McCarthy, 2807 NW
Morning Glory Drive, Corvallis, 97330, 602-1470,
sheridan@larkonline.net
Chat Distribution: Fran Gates, 2960 NW Bryant Street, Corvallis
OR 97330, 757-0036
Chat Email Distribution: Joe Fontaine, fontaine_joe@hotmail.com
Field Notes Editor: Joel Geier, 14505 Corvallis Rd, Monmouth OR
97361, 928-2815, jgeier@attglobal.net
Hospitality: Rana Foster, 1415 SW Brooklane Dr, Corvallis OR
97333, 753-7944, tweet37@juno.com
Bluebird Trail Liaison: Elsie Eltzroth, 745-7806, 6980 NW Cardinal,
Corvallis OR 97330, eltzroth@peak.org

Audubon Society of Corvallis
P.O. Box 148
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Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

Calendar

Apr 8 Board Meeting, 7:30 P.M. at the Eltzroth's
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 58)
Apr 25 Open house at Hesthavn (see page 58)
Apr 26 Field Notes deadline for May
Apr 28 Wednesday morning bird walk**
Apr 29 Chat deadline for May
May 8 Saturday local morning**
May 7-9 Medford/Ashland Area**
May 16 Bicycle Birding**
May 20-23 Malheur NWR**
May 26 Wednesday morning bird walk**
June No Chat issue in June
Summer No General meetings in June, July or August

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

* General Meeting change this year—see front page

**See page 59 for field trip descriptions

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