



# Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

November 2006

VOL. 36

#3

## General Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 7:30 – 9:00 pm  
First Presbyterian Church

### Song Behavior in the Eastern Kingbird and its Relationship to Parentage

*A presentation by Dr. Michael Murphy, Department of Biology, Portland State University*

Our November lecture will be presented by Dr. Michael Murphy from Portland State. Dr. Murphy is Head of the Biology Department at PSU and has studied Eastern Kingbird behavior for years. In his words, “Kingbirds have a ritualized dawn song and we’ve found that males vary greatly in a number of dawn song characteristics. They also are not as monogamous in their mating system as we have previously thought. Interestingly, our work has shown that extra-pair paternity is better predicted by features of a male’s song than either their morphology or parental nest defense behavior”. Come hear the rest of the Kingbird saga on Thursday, 16 November 2006.

*Sue Haig*

### Program for the December General Meeting

Dec 14 Members Slide Show

### Directions

The chapter meeting is at the meeting hall of the First Presbyterian Church (upstairs), 114 SW Eighth Street. As usual, the meeting will be preceded by a social period with refreshments, beginning at 7:00.

## Yes...I Want to Help!

The Audubon Society of Corvallis is in its 36th year of providing the people of Linn, Benton, and part of Lincoln Counties with opportunities to enjoy and learn about birds, other wildlife, and the importance of their habitats. The society provides a forum for advocating responsible public policy and personal behavior that respects, conserves, and

restores wildlife habitat. Through educational programs for outdoor school students, Kids Day for Conservation, birding classes and Art & Nature classes at Hesthavn, and community events, we reach out to a wide spectrum of the local population. Our society is fortunate to have one of the finest Western Bluebird Trails, thanks to the help of local homeowners and volunteer trail monitors. The Conservation Committee provides information of local and national issues affecting the environment. We are encouraged to write letters stating concerns about specific issues to protect wetlands and important habitats from misuse. Birding field trips are held monthly throughout the year for beginner and new birders to Oregon. Birding classes are provided for adults each spring. The Chat, our newsletter, is published ten times a year informing members about current ASC activities and local bird sightings. Our Wildlife Watch coordinator works with state and federal authorities to combat illegal killing of protected non-game birds. ASC Hesthavn Nature Center, a six-acre natural area with a barn, is being restored to provide learning experi-

*See "I Want to Help" on next page*

### In this issue:

Five Minutes for the ESA	18
October in Nova Scotia	18
Art & Nature for Kids	18
ASC Goes Green	18
Field Trip Schedule	19
Homer Campbell Nominations	22
Corvallis Christmas Bird Count	22
Field Notes	20
Morro Bay Festival	22
Oregon Coast Birding Trail	22-23
Congress Approves Migratory Bird Law	23
Chat Printing and Distribution Integrated	23

## I Want to Help

*continued from front page*

ences for students and families. ASC coordinates the local Corvallis Christmas Bird Count with a countdown potluck at the end of the day. From September through May, the society provides excellent nature programs featuring guest speakers, free to its members and the public.

It is totally amazing that volunteer members of ASC provide all of this! We are proud to have their wealth of talents to provide informative and well-balanced events for the community. While the labor has been freely donated, the society still incurs cost for supplies, mailing services for the Chat, rent for meeting room, insurance cost, and more.

The membership dues go far toward meeting expenses of the chapter, but they do not totally sustain our wide range of activities. ASC needs your support to maintain the quality of service improving the above listed programs. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. If you would like further information about programs, or volunteering your services, please contact any board member listed on the back of the Chat, or at the ASC website [www.audubon.corvallis.or.us](http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us) The annual donation envelope is included.

*Paula Vanderheul*

## Five Minutes for the Endangered Species Act

After the election, Congress may try to weaken the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This is particularly likely if Democrats gain a majority in either house of Congress in the election, since the Republicans may see it as their last good chance to weaken the ESA. Late-session, short-notice backroom deals in Congress are notorious for some terrible environmental laws, and it may happen again.

What you can do: It takes only five minutes! Simply call your senators and representative and tell them you support a strong Endangered Species Act. Say that if there is any move to weaken it, the senator or representative should oppose it.

### Who to call:

Sen. Gordon Smith: 503-326-3386 (Oregon) or 202-224-3753 (D.C.)

Sen. Ron Wyden: 503-326-7525 (Oregon) or 202-224-5244 (D.C.)

Rep. Darlene Hooley\*: 503-588-9100 (Oregon) or 202-225-5711 (D.C.)

Rep. Peter DeFazio\*: 800-944-9603 (Oregon) or 202-225-6416 (D.C.)

\* Ms. Hooley represents some parts of Corvallis, Mr. DeFazio other parts.

*Dave Mellinger*

## October in Nova Scotia

We recently returned from an early October, twelve-day tour of the Canadian Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia including Cape Breton Island and Prince Edward Island [PEI] where we observed some typical seasonal birds. Our tour did not focus on wildlife so our bird watching time was limited. Top of the list would have to be one lonely Red Phalarope in white winter plumage paddling a few feet from shore in Summerside, PEI on 10/10/06. From what I could find online, these birds are not often seen from shore, but more likely out on the ocean.

Soaring, sky diving Northern Gannets were seen in abundance off Cape Breton's French Mountain area. They have such long but delicate-looking wings. Adults are white but for wings dipped in black ink. After a lot of ocean wave scanning, we did manage to see one pair of Common Eiders riding the waves off Neils Harbor, Cape Breton. Boreal Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches were seen while on a Cape Breton National Park area hike. After awhile, Bald Eagles became as common as dirt. Lots of Great Black-backed Gulls were seen on the rocky shorelines as well as Yellowlegs on the muddy shores. Green-winged Teals were resting in a large flock along a tidal bore Salmon River area off the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia.

Pilot whales with their black, bowling ball-shaped heads, were seen from a ferry. Besides gorgeous fall weather and stunning autumn leaf colors, other eye-catchers were one moose, one red fox, and one of the highest tidal bores (49 feet) of the year.

*Andrea Foster*

## Art & Nature for Kids

On September 24 we held the third Art & Nature Workshop for Kids at Hesthavn. Although the group was small, the creative energy of the kids filled the tables with drawings and work in clay. While we explored the natural area at Hesthavn, I quickly realized that these kids were very aware of nature and in some cases the 6-year olds knew more about bees and some plants than I did. Of course, these were Audubon kids with very earth-connected parents. When we took that same earth-awareness inside and brought out the art supplies, the creative exuberance of the children overflowed. A great time was had by all of us.

We plan to continue these workshops on an ongoing basis and will put a notice in the upcoming Chat when a date is set.

*Leslie Green*

## Audubon Society of Corvallis Goes Green

Audubon Society of Corvallis initiated a leadership position at the recent regular meeting. It was felt our society needs to show support for conservation and protection

of the planet and therefore has asked the membership to support a 14 point Green list. This list contains practical, everyday suggestions to assist in reducing global warming and protecting the Earth.

Some members may already be doing the majority of these items, but we felt it would be worthwhile for the entire club to buy into the project. We are asking each member to sign up at the regular meeting or by mail. Please help Audubon go Green.

### Green List

The following is a list of practical suggestions we are asking our members to voluntarily do to assist in saving the planet and help the Audubon Society of Corvallis become a "green" club. We want to lead by example and feel these suggested items will fit into most people's life style.

1. Buy energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs for your most heavily used lights. (This may save 70kg of CO2 per year)\*
2. Utilize renewable energy sources, when able; (Blue sky)
3. Drive less. Walk, cycle, carpool or use public transport where possible. (Will save 1 kg of CO2 per kilometer and will help reduce obesity)\*
4. Recycle more. Recycling household waste (paper, plastic, glass) on average saves 1080 KG CO2 per year.\*
5. Plant a tree. (One tree will absorb over a ton of CO2 in a life time )\* Several members have property suitable for planting.
6. Frequently check your tires for proper inflation. Saves up to 3% on fuel.\*
7. Use less hot water. Washing clothes in cold water reduces CO2 production 230 KG per year.\*
8. Avoid products with excessive packaging. Choose reusable products over disposable ones.
9. Adjust your thermostat 2 degrees cooler in winter and 2 degrees warmer in summer. (Will reduce CO2 production 1000 KG per year)\*
10. Run your dishwasher only with full loads. Use energy saving settings to dry dishes.
11. Install low-flow shower heads to save hot water.
12. When shopping for groceries, use reusable cloth bags instead of plastic to carry out goods.
13. When time and budget permits, buy a more fuel efficient vehicle - one that gets at least 5 more miles per gallon.
14. Develop the habit of turning out lights when not needed.

\*Listener magazine [www.climatecrisis.net](http://www.climatecrisis.net)

*John Gaylord*

## Field Trip Schedule 2006-07

### Monthly Year Round Second Saturday

- Nov. 11 Saturday morning local birding 7:30 AM  
Baskett Slough NWR
- Dec. 9 Saturday morning local birding 7:30 AM

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of every month at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 AM. This field trip is especially interesting for beginner birders, and birders new 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, Baskett Slough, and Ankeny, as well as other birding areas throughout the year. Paula Vanderheul is field trip leader. [vanderp@peak.org](mailto:vanderp@peak.org) 541-752-0470

### Full Day Birding – (Sept – May)

- Nov 18 Tualatin River NWR

About 3 to 4 times a year we schedule full-day trips to the coast, and other refuges within Oregon. On these trips we car pool sharing gas cost with the drivers. Everyone should bring a large lunch, water/drinks, binoculars, spotting scope (if available), warm clothing, sturdy shoes, and rain gear. We meet at 7:30 AM at the Benton Center parking lot at 757 NW Polk, which can be reached by turning east on Polk at the corner of Polk and 9th Street, where Borders Books is located. Contact Paula Vanderheul for further information.

### Spring 2007 Weekend Field Trips

- March 16-18 Bandon Coast  
April 27-29 Klamath Basin  
May 11-13 Rogue Valley  
May 17-20 Malheur NWR

Fred Ramsey leads all the spring weekend trips. Fred has been leading these field trips for ASC over 30 years. He is an amazing field trip guide sharing his knowledge of finding birds in their habitat, pointing out wild flowers, butterflies, mammals, and reptiles. The field trips fill up early in the fall. Sign-up sheets are available at the general meeting or email Paula Vanderheul with your requests. [Vanderp@peak.org](mailto:Vanderp@peak.org)

*Paula Vanderheul*

# Field Notes

September 26 thru October 26, 2006

Despite two weeks of mostly rainy weather in early October, rainfall this season continued to be less than half of usual as clear weather returned. Clear cool nights at the end of the period brought pockets of light frost to the edges of the Willamette Valley. Fall colors peaked with our native bigleaf maples and Oregon white oaks turning yellow, and brown by the end of the month, and poison oak lending splashes of red.

This month's notes include sightings from two field trips to the newly designated Luckiamute State Natural Area (SNA), which includes the Luckiamute Landing greenway in Polk Co., as well as the Vanderpool Tract in Benton Co. This is now the official name (although the state is still taking comments on the master plan for the SNA), so will be used henceforth in this column. Sightings by the 14 Oct field trip were reported by trip leader Paula Vanderheul and by Marcia Cutler.

*Abbreviations & Locations:* NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; STP = sewage treatment ponds; juv. = juvenile; p. obs. = personal observation. Baskett Slough (NWR) is north of Dallas. Cabell Marsh is at Finley (NWR) s. of Corvallis. Coffin Butte and E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) are north of Corvallis along Hwy 99W. Knoll Terrace is a mobile home park in the Lewisburg area n. of Corvallis. Middle Ridge is s. of Lebanon. Vineyard Mtn. is just nw. of Lewisburg.

## Inland Reports:

**White-fronted Goose** migration started with 12 at Baskett Slough 30 Sep (Roy Gerig). That evening, Jim, Karan and Karl Fairchild saw high-flying goose flocks presumably of this species near Coffin Butte, and Paula Vanderheul heard "tootling" calls of three flocks over Corvallis after dusk. Molly Monroe heard several flocks low over the Coast Range 7 Oct. **Cackling Goose** flocks arrived at Baskett Slough by 30 Sep (R Gerig).

Two **Gadwall** were at the Philomath STP 15 Oct (Joe Fontaine). Ten **American Wigeon** were at Knoll Terrace STP 11 Oct (Rich & Nanette Armstrong, Paula Vanderheul); 65 were at Philomath STP 15 Oct (J Fontaine) as flocks continued to show up.

Two lingering **Cinnamon Teal** were at Philomath STP 18 Oct (R & N Armstrong, P Vanderheul, Marcia Cutler). Meanwhile **Northern Shovelers** continued to arrive, with 180 at the Philomath STP 15 Oct and 500 by 18 Oct (J Fontaine; R Armstrong et al.). A **Northern Pintail** was also there 25 Sep (R Armstrong et al.). Seven **Green-winged Teal** showed up at Finley 30 Sep BN (Erik Knight) and eight were at Philomath STP 15 Oct (J Fontaine).

More diving ducks also arrived, including a **Redhead** at Philomath STP 15 Oct joined by a second 17 Oct (J Fontaine; Tom Snetsinger). 75 **Ring-necked Ducks**, six **Greater Scaup**, and a **Lesser Scaup** were there 15 Oct (J Fontaine); the **Lesser Scaup** flock increased to 30 by 18 Oct (R Armstrong et al.). A female **Bufflehead** turned up at Knoll Terrace STP 11 Oct (R & N Armstrong, P Vanderheul); three were at Philomath STP 15 Oct (J Fontaine). Eight **Hooded Mergansers** were at Knoll Terrace STP 11 Oct, increasing to 19 by 17 Oct (R Armstrong et al.). 40 **Ruddy Ducks** were at Philomath STP by 15 Oct (J Fontaine).

A few **Surf Scoters** also stopped by the Philomath STP on their annual overland migration, with four there 15 Oct (J Fontaine), and three on 17 & 19 Oct (T Snetsinger; R Armstrong).

A few **Sooty Grouse** were seen along the Marys Peak Rd. 29 Sep and 22 Oct (R Armstrong et al.). Seven **Mountain Quail** turned 25 Sep up in Elsie Eltzroth's yard on Vineyard Mtn; she saw them again 5-7 Oct.

A **Horned Grebe** was at Philomath STP 15-19 Oct (J Fontaine; R Armstrong). **Eared Grebes** made a good showing with at least three there most days 25 Sep thru 19 Oct (R Armstrong et al.), with high counts of six 15 Oct and eight 17 Oct (J Fontaine; T Snetsinger). A **Western Grebe** was at Knoll Terrace STP 11 Oct and another was at Philomath STP 18 Oct (R Armstrong et al.).

A few **Double-crested Cormorants** flying past Willamette Park during a Lincoln School 6th-8th grade field trip 27 Sep were the last

ones noted inland this season.

**Great Blue Herons** began to gather in numbers, with 23 at Baskett Slough NWR and ten at Finley 30 Sep BN (R Gerig; E Knight). Four **Great Egrets** were also at Finley 30 Sep (E Knight). A juv. **Green Heron** at Cabell Marsh 30 Sep managed to swallow a bullfrog (E Knight); one was still there 1 Oct (R & N Armstrong).

**Turkey Vultures** continued to be seen into October this year. On 3 Oct our 8-yr-old Martha and her 9-yr-old friend Brian came running in to report "20 or 22" vultures cruising south along Tampico Ridge behind our house. On 5 Oct I counted 71 heading south over Coffin Butte in the space of fifteen minutes; spiraling high on the thermals over the butte before gliding off, single-file, toward Tampico Ridge to the south. One at Oak Creek 20 Oct (Bill & Lena Proebsting) was the last report for our area, but six were still near Fern Ridge WA in Lane Co. 21 Oct (P Vanderheul).

An **Osprey** was at Willamette Park 27 Sep (Makai Bradley, Lincoln School 6-8th grade class). An adult **Bald Eagle** was a highlight of the Luckiamute SNA field trip 14 Oct. The field trip there on 4 Oct watched a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** doing laps around a clump of bushes, chasing out a large flock of **goldfinches**, and perhaps catching one as it disappeared into the bushes. Later Dave Mellinger spotted a **Merlin** perched in the Vanderpool Tract. Another **Merlin** chased a sparrow or finch across the Campus Way bike path 16 Oct (B Proebsting). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at Cabell Marsh 1 Oct (R & N Armstrong).

Four **Sandhill Cranes** were along Gerig Dr. n. of Lebanon 9 Oct (fide M Monroe); a small flock has wintered in this area in recent years.

A **Black-bellied Plover** was at Cabell Marsh 30 Sep (E Knight). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was there 29 Sep (J Fontaine). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Willamette Park 27 Sep (Lincoln School field trip). 50 **Least Sandpipers**, ten **Dunlin**, and 70 **Long-billed Dowitchers** were at Cabell Marsh 18 Oct (R Armstrong et al.). A juv. **Pectoral Sandpiper** was there 29 Sep (J Fontaine). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were there 30 Sep BN (E Knight) and six were at Knoll Terrace STP 11 Oct (R Armstrong et al.).

Four juv. **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at Philomath STP 30 Sep (J Fontaine, Randy Moore, Billi Veber). A subadult **Pomarine Jaeger** was there 15 Oct (J Fontaine; N & R Armstrong). Although the ASC field trip to Fern Ridge 21 Oct found a good variety of gulls, just one was reported from our area, a **California Gull** at Cabell Marsh 1 Oct (R & N Armstrong).

Six **Band-tailed Pigeons** were at Finley 30 Sep (E Knight) and one perched atop a Douglas-fir at our place below Tampico Ridge 1 Oct. On 28 Sep Chris Miller found a pile of **Mourning Dove** feathers in her Corvallis yard, along with one tail feather from a **Cooper's Hawk** which presumably was responsible for the demise of the dove.

A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was calling at dusk on Middle Ridge 29 Sep (Raylene Gordin). While camped in the Coast Range on the weekend of 7 Oct, Molly Monroe heard this species as well as **Barred Owl** and **Northern Saw-whet Owl** calling, then a pair of chattering **Western Screech-Owls** the next morning. A **Short-eared Owl** was in a field near Philomath STP 18 Oct (R Armstrong et al.).

No **Vaux's Swifts** were reported from our area this month, although a few hundred migrants were still being seen in Eugene 10 Oct (Judie Hansen). A pair of **Anna's Hummingbirds** in nw. Corvallis were visiting Andrea Foster's feeder in closer proximity to each other by 23 Oct, suggesting that courtship might begin soon. This hardy species sometimes nests as early as late January in our area. **Anna's Hummingbirds** did not visit feeders on Middle Ridge all this month, but Raylene Gordin heard one there on 12 Oct.

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** visited Bob Altman's birdbath on Logsdan Ridge near Lewisburg 10 Oct, and was joined by a second 11 Oct. One of the woodpeckers was killed by an accipiter near the end of the period. Two **Pileated Woodpeckers** chased each other around the trunk of an oak tree in nw. Corvallis 7 Oct (Audrey Ansell). Julie Gibson saw **Pileated Woodpeckers** at Gray Creek Swamp at Finley 8 Oct and along the Extendo Trail in McDonald SF 9 Oct, noting that they seem to have

shifted territories from prior years.

On 1 Oct Larry McQueen found a **Black Phoebe** at Snag Boat Bend (near Peoria), where this species has become regular in winter. A migrant **Northern Shrike** was at the summit of Marys Peak summit 17 Oct (p. obs.).

A **Cassin's Vireo** still at Coffin Butte 26 Sep and a **Warbling Vireo** at Willamette Park 27 Sep (p. obs.) were unusually late for these species. **Hutton's Vireos** were seen/heard regularly on Coffin Butte thru the period, and also during at Luckiamute SNA 14 Oct.

A **Gray Jay** was seen on Marys Peak 30 Sep (J Fontaine et al.). Some **Steller's Jays** shifted territories as they often do in fall; on 5 Oct I was amazed to see a loose flock of at least 28 streaming along the crest of Coffin Butte. 4 **Horned Larks** "not of our valley type" were atop Marys Peak 25 Sep (R Armstrong), perhaps the same larks identified as subspecies *arctica* there on 30 Sep (J Fontaine et al.).

Most swallows departed this month. After 1000 **Violet-green Swallows** were at Philomath STP 30 Sep (J Fontaine et al.), the last reports were two sw. of Philomath 4 Oct and a few over Coffin Butte 5 Oct (J Fairchild; p. obs.). 12 late **Barn Swallows** were at Luckiamute SNA 3 Oct (R Armstrong).

We don't often think of chickadees and nuthatches as migrants, but some do shift elevations and neighborhoods with the seasons. On 26 Sep Chris Miller noted that she was seeing only **Black-capped Chickadees** in her nw. Corvallis yard, as **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** have been absent for many months. Perhaps the latter will soon reappear, as more move downslope from the forests where they nested. **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, another denizen of conifer forests, were visiting Andrea Foster's nw. Corvallis feeders by 23 Oct. **White-breasted Nuthatches** were found in the Vanderpool Tract of Luckiamute SNA 14 Oct. Andy Purviance photographed a **Brown Creeper** at Finley 30 Sep.

By 15 Oct **Winter Wrens** had moved in and started calling from slash piles on Middle Ridge, where Douglas-firs were cleared as part of an oak savannah restoration (R Gordin). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** flocks began to show up at low elevations, including 15 on Coffin Butte 26 Sep (p. obs.). One of these, our tiniest songbird species, joined a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at the birdbath in Jerry & Judith Paul's Lewisburg yard 8 Oct. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were also regular in the Timberhill neighborhood of nw. Corvallis by 23 Oct (A Foster).

**Varied Thrushes** also moved into lower elevations. Karan Fairchild was hearing them in the woods sw. of Philomath by 28 Sep. Two turned up on Vineyard Mtn 4 Oct (E Eltzroth). One showed up on Audrey Ansell's lawn in nw. Corvallis 7 Oct. By 21 Oct John Snelling was hearing their song in the Soap Creek Valley; damp weather seems to inspire these tin-whistle songsters.

Karan & Jim Fairchild heard some late migrant **Swainson's Thrushes** calling as they passed over before dawn on 28 Sep, sw. of Philomath. On 4 Oct one straggler called from a willow thicket where it stopped to rest near E.E. Wilson. Four **Hermit Thrushes** were atop Marys Peak 29 Sep (R & N Armstrong, P Vanderheul). A **Wrentit** was singing along the Marys Peak road 29 Sep (R Armstrong et al.); Bill & Lena Proebsting encountered three sets on a walk near Mill Hill and Pigeon Butte at Finley 21 Oct.

**American Pipits** continued to be seen on Marys Peak thru 17 Oct (p. obs.). Several at Vanderpool Tract 3 Oct signaled their arrival at lower elevations. Many **Cedar Waxwings** were at the Luckiamute SNA 14 Oct; 200 were in a tree at Finley 18 Oct (R Armstrong et al.).

Flocks of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at Snag Boat Bend 1 Oct (L McQueen). Late **Black-throated Gray Warblers** included a female at Finley 8 Oct and a male on Coffin Butte 10 Oct (Michael Dossett; p. obs.). A **Townsend's Warbler** turned up in a shrubby fence row near Bald Hill 24 Oct (J Gibson). The last **Common Yellowthroat** reported was a juv. male at Finley 7 Oct (M Dossett).

A **Western Tanager** at Oak Creek 7 Oct (B & L Proebsting) was unusually late. 15 **Chipping Sparrows** along Coffin Butte Rd. 17 Sep (R Armstrong) were a notable flock, presumably migrants. On 17 Oct, 80 Savannah Sparrows were just w. of the closed Inavale School 17 Oct,

foraging in a tilled field and flying across Decker Rd. to perch in a standing cornfield as vehicles approached; this strategy produced casualties as cars and trucks now go fast on that stretch of road (p. obs.).

Wintering sparrows, including **Sooty Fox Sparrows** and **Lincoln's Sparrows**, continued to infiltrate brushy areas of the valley. **Song Sparrows** numbers also swelled with the arrival of wintering birds. As if these furtive brown birds weren't already hard enough to tell apart, we have to deal with multiple subspecies. Of two **Sooty Fox Sparrows** in our yard 30 Sep, one was the heavily-spotted, dark chocolate type that winters abundantly in blackberry hedgerows, while another was one of the paler types which we see mainly as migrants headed farther south.

A **White-throated Sparrow** turned up in Bill & Lena Proebsting's Oak Creek garden 27 Sep, and was seen there most days thru 16 Oct. Bill also noted one along the Campus Way bike path 16 Oct, and one at Bald Hill 18 Oct. Another was at Knoll Terrace STP 11 Oct (R & N Armstrong, P Vanderheul), one was at Vanderpool Tract 14 Oct (ASC field trip), and one was near Cabell Marsh 18 Oct (Marcia Cutler).

Andy Purviance photographed a **Western Meadowlark** at Finley 18 Oct. A **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** was atop Marys Peak 20 Oct (Doug Robinson). **Red Crossbills** were encountered on Marys Peak frequently thru the period (R Armstrong et al.). One flew over Coffin Butte calling 25 Sep (p. obs.).

Some **Black Bear** scat on Middle Ridge 9 Oct was revealing of the bear's autumn diet, as it was full of cascara seeds (R Gordin). **Rough-skinned Newts** were abundant at Finley NWR 16 Oct (A Purviance). **Yellow jackets** seemed more abundant than usual this year; a nest along the Beaver Pond trail at Finley was still active 16 Oct (A Purviance).

#### Coastal Notes

**Aleutian Cackling Goose** migration along the coast peaked around 15 Oct, when 2000 passed s. of Newport; one flock had a **Snow Goose** in the lead (Wayne Hoffman, Rebecca Cheek). Four **Harlequin Ducks** were at Seal Rock State Park 3 Oct (Greg Gillson). About 20 **Surf Scoters** were at Alsea Bay 22 Oct (Jeannine & Gil Lawrence). A **Long-tailed Duck** passed Boiler Bay along with scoter flocks 16 Oct (Phil Pickering). Two dozen **Brown Pelicans** were diving for fish at Alsea Bay 22 Oct (J & G Lawrence).

**Red-throated, Pacific, and Common Loons** as well as **Red-necked Grebes** were all noted on the nearshore part of a pelagic trip to Perpetua Bank out of Newport 30 Sep (Pamela Johnston). Pelagic species enjoyed on this trip included **Black-footed Albatross, Northern Fulmar, Pink-footed, Buller's, and Sooty Shearwater** as well as a rare **Manx Shearwater** (P Vanderheul; P Johnston). A **Leach's Storm-Petrel** was with a flock of over a thousand **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels** at Perpetua Bank (G Gillson). Participants enjoyed 23 **South Polar Skuas** and over 150 jaegers, including **Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers** (G Gillson et al.). Gulls included **Heermann's and Sabine's Gulls**, and alcids included **Common Murre, Cassin's Auklet, Marbled Murrelet, Pigeon Guillemot, Rhinoceros Auklet**, and one **Tufted Puffin** (P Vanderheul, P Johnston).

A **Tropical Kingbird** turned up in South Beach 15 Oct (Eric Horvath fide Range Bayer). A **Northern Shrike** and 60 **American Pipits** were at Beaver Creek Marsh 14 Oct (Paul Adamus). A **Palm Warbler** was on Cascade Head 29 Sep and 9 Oct (P Pickering). A **White-throated Sparrow** turned up in Jorrie & Ken Ciotti's yard e. of Waldport 14 Oct. Two **Lapland Longspurs** were on Cascade Head 1 Oct and one was there 11 Oct (P Pickering).

Pelagic trip participants enjoyed close views of five **Humpback Whales** at Perpetua Bank 30 Sep, but were left puzzled as to the identity of a **small yellow songbird** that flew over the boat (G Gillson).

#### Next issue

Please send me your latest sightings by 27 Nov.

Joel Geier

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## **Homer Campbell Award Nominees Sought**

Audubon Society of Corvallis established the Homer Campbell Award in 2004 to recognize local achievements in conservation and to honor the memory of Homer Campbell, a former ASC leader and a giant among Oregon conservationists. The first Homer Campbell Award was conferred in Spring 2005 upon the late Elzy Eltzroth. In 2006 we honored a great two-person team, Bob and Liz Frenkel.

Nominations for the 2007 awardee are invited from Corvallis Auduboners and from the local conservation community. A screening committee will make a recommendation to the ASC Board, which will select the awardee. Nominations can be sent electronically to Linda Campbell (lcampbell@peak.org) or mailed as hard copy to Homer Campbell Award, Audubon Society of Corvallis, P.O. Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339. Each nomination should include brief biographical information about the nominee and should describe in some detail the contributions for which this recognition is being recommended. Additional supporting letters are welcomed but not required. One thoughtful and detailed nomination letter is often more informative than ten perfunctory letters of endorsement.

Nominations should be submitted before January 31, 2007, giving time for the screening committee to review all nominations and present its recommendation to the ASC Board. The award will probably be presented at the April ASC chapter meeting.

*Chris Mathews*

## **Corvallis Christmas Bird Count Tuesday, December 19**

Everybody is invited to join us for the 46th Corvallis Christmas Bird Count (CBC). 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 which documents 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.

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 birds. Half-day participants and home feeder-watchers are also welcome. I would like to particularly encourage anyone with feeders in the count circle who can spare at least one hour to watch their yard to participate. Some counts, particularly in Canada, are mostly made up of feeder watchers. Even Eugene has about 30 feeder watchers compared to the 4-

6 Corvallis usually gets, so there is room to grow in this area. Winter feeder watching can be quite rewarding as birds try to expend the least amount of energy to get the most amount of food.

Participants aged 19 and older 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 their 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 541-752-4313 or e-mail me at [marciafcutler@comcast.net](mailto:marciafcutler@comcast.net).

*Marcia Cutler*

## **Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival**

**January 12-15, 2007**

Come to where the birds are and join Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for our 11th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway and one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots. The area is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is sponsored by MCAS and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

For more information about the festival, check out our new website at [www.morrobaybirdfestival.org](http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org), or call (805) 772-4677. You can request that your name be added to the mailing list for our 2007 brochure, or register online. Both the brochure and online registration will be available in October 2006. The registration deadline is January 4, 2007 and early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.

*Katy Budge*

## **Check Out the Oregon Coast Birding Trail Website!**

ASC members will find the Oregon Coast Birding Trail

website interesting ([www.oregoncoastbirding.com](http://www.oregoncoastbirding.com)) It contains a complete birding guide to the Oregon coast, broken down into seven PDF files for easy downloading and printing. From the site homepage: "We invite you to come and see the vast variety of birding opportunities offered along the scenic seascapes of the Pacific Northwest. Whether you make your trip a one day adventure or a week or more vacation you will be impressed by the wonders of the Oregon Coast Birding Trail. The introduction section gives you more information on the trail along with important birding ethics, site description abbreviations, a legend to the icons, safety tips and more. Our sponsors have a special section and we encourage you to support them when making plans for your trip. The coast is divided into four sections that list the 173 sites, numbered from north to south. The guide is complete with maps, site descriptions, directions, and a listing of the birds you may see, along with site services and facilities. Finally, a birding checklist shows the 250 birds most likely to be detected and the ease of detecting them."

*Oregon Coast Birding Trail*

## Congress Approves Migratory Bird Conservation Law

Washington, DC, October 2, 2006 – Late last week, Congress approved legislation backed by the National Audubon Society designed to protect America's native migratory birds when they travel south to Latin America and the Caribbean during their migrations.

Known as the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act, its chief backer, Wisconsin U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D) introduced it last year. By updating six year old bird legislation, it earned the immediate support of the National Audubon Society, and subsequently passed through Congress without major opposition. Its two main achievements are that it increases conservation program funding from \$5 million to \$6.5 million; and it allows Canada to apply for conservation grants.

"Neotropical migratory birds are important to America's more than 40 million bird watchers, vital to the United States' economy, and critical to the western hemisphere's environment," said Mike Daulton, Director of Conservation Policy for Audubon. "We applaud Representative Kind for guiding this important legislation through Congress with bipartisan support."

Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD), and Sens. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) and Jim Jeffords (I-VT) have also been strong advocates of the bill. The bill is also supported by several other prominent conservation groups.

Neotropical migratory birds breed in North America and travel south to Latin America and the Caribbean during their migrations. When these birds travel to Latin America,

they face a range of serious threats, from the clear-cutting of forests to harmful pesticides in agricultural fields.

Audubon has lobbied for three years to pass the bill. For more information, Audubon's official 2005 testimony before Congress on the bill can be found at <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/>.

*Audubon.org*

## Chat Printing and Distribution Integrated

For many years each monthly issue of the Chat has been printed by a commercial printer and then turned over to the Chat Distribution Committee, chaired by Fran Gates. The committee held a monthly party, at which copies were folded, mailing labels were affixed, and each copy was prepared for mailing. Recently chapter leader Paula Vanderheul negotiated with another printer to arrange an integrated service, including printing and mailing, for very little more than what we have been paying for printing alone. This means that we can release the Chat Distribution Committee members from their monthly servitude, although we hope that they will keep on enjoying each other's company anyway. ASC owes a debt of gratitude to these long serving volunteers: Fran Gates, Ken and Elizabeth Kidd, Joan Siegienski, and Alberta Pierce.

*Chris Mathews*

## Naturalist Adventure

*Conducted by the Neighborhood Naturalist program.  
Free, Monthly, Starting in November*

### Meet at Avery Park Rose Garden Tracking - Wild Edibles - Plants - Birding

Each trip will focus on a seasonal topic of interest. Sometimes we may seek edible plants, find mushrooms, visit a tracking spot or even birding. They will be conducted in a 'poke-around' fashion and nothing of interest will be ignored. If you want to learn about tracking, these field trips are for you. Children are welcome but trips are not structured for small children. Please leave dogs at home.

Nov. 19	Sunday, 9am-Noon
Dec. 17	Sunday, 9am-Noon
Jan. 21	Sunday, 9am-Noon

For more information. Don Boucher 753-7689  
[www.neighborhood-naturalist.com](http://www.neighborhood-naturalist.com)

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*Audubon Society of Corvallis*

*the* **CHAT**

*Renew your membership before the date on the mailing label to avoid missing issues of the Chat.*

## Calendar

Nov 11	Saturday morning local birding 7:30 am*
Nov 16	General Meeting 7:30 pm, Dr. Michael Murphy
Nov 18	Full day birding, Tualatin River NWR*
Nov 27	Field Notes deadline
Nov 30	Chat deadline for December
Dec 9	Saturday morning local birding 7:30 am*
Dec 19	Corvallis Christmas Bird Count

\*see page 19

*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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