



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

May 2008

VOL. 37

#9

General Meeting

Thursday, May 22 7:30 – 9:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church

Voyage to the Antarctic: A Family-Inspired Odyssey

A presentation by Chris and Kate Mathews

Our last program for the 2007-08 season will be given by our outgoing President Chris Mathews and Education Chair Kate Mathews. The Mathews took a voyage of a lifetime recently when they journeyed to South Georgia and Antarctica. While this would be a noteworthy trip for any of us, it held special meaning for the Mathews as Chris' grandfather, Robert Cushman Murphy, was an early ornithologist (a past president of both the National Audubon Society and the American Ornithologists' Union). In 1912 Murphy spent a year on a whaling vessel, collecting museum specimens on a voyage to South Georgia. He mapped part of South Georgia, including Grace Glacier, which he named for his wife (Chris' grandmother) and which Chris and Kate were privileged to see.

Directions

The chapter meeting is in the meeting hall of the First Presbyterian Church (upstairs), 114 SW Eighth Street. The meeting is preceded by a social period with refreshments, which begins at 7 pm.

Election of Chapter Officers

ASC officers for 2008-09 will be elected at this month's chapter meeting

Members are encouraged to participate in the election of our board and officer candidates during the May 22 meeting. Board and officer positions will take effect in September.

The Nominating Committee offers the following slate of candidates.

President Will Wright
Vice President/Program Chair Diana Brin

Secretary	Karan Fairchild
Treasurer	Judy Hays
Board Member—at-Large	John Gaylord
Board Member—at-Large	Linda Campbell
Board Member—at-Large	Rebecca Schwiebert
Board Member—at-Large	Gail Andrews
Board Member—at-Large	Jerry Paul
Board Member—at-Large	Carroll DeKock

Candidate Biographies:

Will Wright is a 3rd/4th grade teacher. He has served as a Teaching Interpretive Naturalist at Mt. St. Helens, Biology Instructor for O.M.S.I., Instructor at Camp Hancock Outdoor School, and staff member for Puffin Project in Maine for National Audubon Society. He spent one year following Spotted Owls with radios; two seasons doing cavity nesting bird surveys; four seasons doing Marbled Murrelet surveys. He has travel experience for birding and education in Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Hawaii, Japan, India, Nepal, Kenya, and Europe.

Diana Brin has served ASC as secretary for the past year after moving to Corvallis from New Jersey after working for over 12 years in New York City as a sugar futures trader.

see "Board Candidates" on next page

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Board Candidates *continued from front page*

After early years in Hawaii, most of her education was in Southern California with a M.A. in biogeography from UCLA. She spent a year in Public Health doing encephalitis research focused on avian transmission. This involved extensive field work, including banding red-winged and yellow-headed blackbirds. Subsequently, her career path changed to commodity and foreign exchange trading across the country. ASC offers Corvallis many opportunities to enjoy and learn more about not only birds, but our total natural world. As an active Master Gardener, she promotes planting for birds and insects, as well as food and beauty.

Judith Hays has served as Treasurer for the Audubon Society Corvallis for three years. She has a B.S. degree in chemistry and worked for many years as a computer programmer. She has volunteered for many years as treasurer of several organizations in the Corvallis area.

Karan Fairchild has been involved with the Audubon Society of Corvallis for over 25 years. She's served in many capacities during that time, from board member at large to fundraising chairperson. Most recently she instigated the successful Birdathon fundraisers, and continues to work for fundraising today. Karan has a strong interest in environmental preservation and teaching the next generation to protect and respect the earth.

Linda Campbell moved back to her home valley, where her daughter attends OSU, after 25 years of living on San Juan Island. She works for Oregon Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and takes frequent long rambles in the woods where she lives, along the Mary's River.

John Gaylord has been a current board member since 2004 and has attended conservation action in Washington DC for the chapter. He also promotes the Green programs within ASC, including the ASC cloth shopping bag and local tree planting programs. John has provided the hybrid car review on ASC website, and attended state Audubon meetings for ASC.

Jerry L. Paul's formal education is in Architecture and Urban Planning. He has worked as an Urban Planner in both the private and public sectors. After 15 years as a planner, he changed careers and became the Information Technology Manager for the City of Salinas, CA, from which he retired in July 2004. During their working careers, Jerry and his wife, Judith, owned and ran a cow/calf cattle operation. Their interest in landscaping with native plants brought many new species of birds to the ranch. Before leaving the ranch and relocating to Corvallis in August 2006, Jerry and Judith had recorded 90 species of birds on the ranch. In addition to birding, Jerry's other areas of interest are carpentry and woodworking. Jerry has worked on the revitalization of the Hesthavn Barn, staining the outside and paneling the inside. He also worked on the interpretive trail and will be constructing the panels for

the artwork that will be installed on the ceiling. He also volunteers at Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, doing their needed handyman/carpentry projects.

Becky Schwiebert is a veterinarian and moved to Corvallis last July to begin work as the Associate Director of Laboratory Animal Resources at OSU. She has lived in the Midwest, Southeast, and southern California, but considers herself a Californian at heart. Becky was previously active with the Los Angeles Audubon Society, and served as a member of the LAAS board. In addition to birds, she is interested in native plant gardening and habitat restoration/preservation.

Carroll DeKock grew up on an Iowa farm and has kept his interest in the outdoors since those formative years. His formal training is in Chemistry and he served for 32 years on the Chemistry Faculty at Oregon State University. Since retirement he and his wife have enjoyed many birding trips. He currently serves as a volunteer with the US Fish and Wildlife agency and is especially interested in habitat preservation and construction. He is a member of the newly established Friends of the Willamette Valley NWR and helped organize the February 2008 Owling night at Finley NWR. He has about 25 swallow nest boxes at his home and has hung a similar number at Snag Boat Bend. He has helped check and clean out the Wood Duck nest boxes at Snag Boat. If elected one of his interests would be to serve as liaison between the Audubon Board and the Friends group.

Gail Andrews had been involved in environmental education and research for the past 30 years. Most recently she was a statewide water quality educator for OSU Extension Service. Prior to that she worked with school-aged and college students in Alaska, Oregon, and up-state New York. A native of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, she has been an avid birder since 1979 and has been a regular on Corvallis Audubon spring field trips since the Malheur trip in 1991. Newly "retired" she looks forward to giving back to the organization.

HCP Part I:

What is an HCP and why is Benton County proposing one?

The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) generally requires protections for species listed as threatened or endangered. An "HCP", or Habitat Conservation Plan, as defined in the ESA, sets a determined level of protection for an extended period of time, in exchange for the freedom to legally "take" listed species wherever they occur outside that protection. This HCP becomes a "take" permit, allowing loss of the species where they are judged to be incidental and thus not important for their conservation. Benton County plans to submit this HCP proposal to US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) this fall.

Eight rare prairie species in this county are threatened by development. They have all become relic species due to human encroachment. County officials are responsible for protecting a) any listed species when development occurs on public lands or with federal funding, and b) any listed animals or their habitat on all lands, public or private. One federally listed butterfly, the Fender's blue, currently drives HCP development. This now identifies "hotspot" habitats, where conservation easements and voluntary conservation efforts may enhance these areas to provide created refugia for these prairie species.

Benton County wants to avoid legal liability when any permitted development, or their own management action "takes" a species. Additionally, Benton County will offer to extend this protection from liability to a number of cooperators and land managers, including E.E. Wilson, Greenbelt Land Trust, OSU, and municipalities like Corvallis and Philomath.

In the next issue of the Chat: What Risks are Involved?

Jim Fairchild

Field Trip Schedule

Monthly Year-Round Saturday Field Trips

- May 10: Meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 am
- June 14: Same as above
- July 12: Same as above
- Aug 09: Same as above
- Sept 13: Same as above

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of every month at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area (1210 SW Avery Park Dr, Corvallis) 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.

Midvalley birding discussion list

A free subscription email list posts local bird sightings and birding information. I post where the field trip will be going two days before the field trip date on this list. To subscribe, go to www.midvalleybirding.org and follow the instructions.

Spring 2008 Weekend Field Trips

May 15-18: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Fred Ramsey leads all the spring weekend trips. Fred has been leading these field trips for ASC for over 35 years. He is an amazing field trip guide, sharing his knowledge about finding birds in their habitat and 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. The Malheur deposit is \$50. Each deposit must be made payable to Fred Ramsey at 3550 NW Glen Ridge Pl. Corvallis OR 97330.

June 13-15: Summer Lake, Fort Rock and Fremont NF

A special last minute weekend field trip is planned for June 13-15 to Summer Lake, Fort Rock and Fremont National Forest area. If you are interested in joining this trip with Fred Ramsey, please contact him by email at framsey5@comcast.net or 541-753-3677 for complete details of lodging, what to bring, time and place to meet."

Paula Vanderheul

Bicycle Birding

- June 8 9 am – noon (E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area)
- June 22 9 am – noon
- July 27 9 am – noon
- Aug 24 9 am – noon
- Sept 28 9 am – noon

June 8: E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, North of Adair Village. 29555 Camp Adair Rd, Monmouth, OR. E.E. Wilson is east of Hwy 99W and opposite of the Coffin Butte Landfill. Meet at the pheasant cage parking lot on the north side of Camp Adair Drive.

June 22 through Sept 28: Meet at Avery Park Rose Garden: 1210 SW Avery Drive in Corvallis.

Trips are free. Bring a bicycle helmet, water and binoculars. We ride slowly, listen for birds and stop frequently. Trip lengths are usually less than 10 miles. For more information, contact Don Boucher, 753-7689, bouchdon@peak.org.

Don Boucher

Spring Hesthavn Programs

This spring we are offering three programs at Hesthavn for kids and families. Please spread the word and contact Elise (elliottsmith@yahoo.com; 750-7390) to register your child today!

May 18 Sunday, 1-3 pm, Family program (all ages)

Walk with the Natives - Come learn about native plants with instructors from the Corvallis chapter of the Native Plant Society. We'll learn a little in the classroom, go on a walk and native flower hunt, then we'll get our hands dirty planting natives on the banks of Oak Creek.

June 1 Sunday, 1-3 pm, ages 6-11

Art and Nature - Local artist, Leslie Green, teaches a series of workshops for kids focusing on the unique creative energy of each child and its joyful expression reflected in

more Hesthavn news on next page

painting and clay. The experience of nature at Hesthavn is freely brought to art.

June 8, Sunday, 10am to noon, ages 6-11

Birds and their food: beaks and feet meet bugs, seeds and meat. Come learn more about birds, what they eat, who they eat, and how they eat with local ornithologists Dr. Matthew and Branden Johnson.

Elise Elliott-Smith

May Hesthavn News

May 10 work party

A work party is scheduled at Hesthavn on Saturday May 10 from 9 am to 2 pm. Join us for any of the time you may have available. There will be more blackberry removal and some transplanting of native wildflowers and grasses from our donor garden.

You can get map directions to Hesthavn Nature Center which is located at 8590 NW Oak Creek Drive from ASC website at www.audubon.corvallis.or.us. The nature trail is open to the public every day of the week for visiting.

Also on the website is a volunteer email bulletin board that publishes work party dates and other events as they happen at Hesthavn Nature Center. The website has information on how to subscribe to the Hesthavn-news bulletin board.

Paula Vanderheul

Field Notes

25 March to 26 April 2008

If you like weather, this was the month for you. Rain, sleet, hail, snow, and sunshine all in the course of a couple hours on 28 March. Then, snow on the valley floor in late April! In between, periods of spring were followed by periods of winter. Overall, spring seemed quite tardy with late appearance of leaves on many trees. Yet, many spring migrants were well ahead of schedule and, no doubt, paid the price for arriving before the unseasonably cool weather was over. As the period started, waterfowl were still present in numbers, but most left by the end of April. Migratory songbirds arrived and raised the enthusiasm of birders looking for those first arrivals of the spring.

Abbreviations and Locations: m.ob. = many observers. Observer names are noted in parentheses after their reports. Observations without a name (or with WDR) are the editor's. ASC indicates observations made by Audubon Society of Corvallis field trips. EEW = E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area north of Corvallis. ANWR = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge in Marion County. FNWR = Finley National Wildlife Refuge, and includes Cabell, Cheadle, and McFadden marshes. STP = sewage treatment ponds; Philomath STP are off of Bellfountain Drive south of Philomath. Knoll Terrace STP are off of Elliot Circle in Corvallis. Stewart Lake is at Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis. Toketie Marsh is the remedial wetland for Coffin Butte landfill north of Corvallis, just off of Highway 99W. The Bellfountain Wetland along Bellfountain Drive south of Philomath is also sometimes called the Evergreen Mitigation Bank.

At the very end of the period, **Greater White-fronted Geese** were moving through the region. A flock of 500 stopped along Bruce Road (M. Monroe) and many hundreds were passing overhead without stopping after 20 Apr. Meanwhile, **Dusky Canada Geese** were well on their way to Alaska and the last big flocks of **Cackling Geese** headed north.

Dabbling ducks mostly departed, but some individuals of most species lingered through the period. A count of 28 **Gadwall** at McFadden

Marsh, 12 Apr, was a good local count. The last **American Wigeons** at Stewart Lake were 20 on 18 Apr (J. Simmons). A single male **Eurasian Wigeon** continued at McFadden Marsh throughout the period.

Numbers of **Cinnamon Teal** continued to build; a pair at Stewart Lake, 17 Apr, represented the first record in 15 years of counts by J. Simmons. At Philomath STP, a high count of 424 **Northern Shovelers**, 31 Mar, was about normal for spring. 21 **Green-winged Teal** on Stewart Lake, 18 Apr, were only about the sixth occurrence there in the last 8 years (J. Simmons). Three male and possibly two female **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** were seen 27 Mar; a pair was at FNWR and the others were at the Bellfountain wetland.

Diving ducks largely departed by middle of April. 108 **Ring-necked Ducks** foraged at McFadden Marsh, 9 Apr. The last **Greater Scaup** were 4 at Philomath STP, 9 Apr. Numbers of **Lesser Scaup** peaked at 108, 12 Apr, at Philomath STP. The last **Canvasbacks** left Stewart Lake, 27 Mar (J. Simmons). **Ruddy Ducks** peaked at 366 at Philomath STP, 27 Mar.

Grebes were few and far between, aside from Pied-billed Grebes, which are fairly common in ponds and lakes around Corvallis. A single **Horned Grebe** was at Philomath STP, 27-31 Mar. A **Clark's Grebe** stopped for a day at Philomath STP, 9 Apr.

American Bitterns announced their arrival at McFadden Marsh, 11 Apr, by calling from deep in the grass around the marsh. A **Green Heron** flying by the Systematics of Birds class at OSU was probably a spring arrival at OSU Farms, 8 Apr.

An adult **Northern Goshawk** was along Oak Creek Drive at the Bald Hill Park entrance, 14 Apr, for a rare spring record. **White-tailed Kites** were still at FNWR prairie through at least 15 Apr (M. Monroe). They tend to leave there during the spring and summer.

In contrast, a few **Northern Harriers** breed at the prairie; a nest with an egg was found 6 Apr (D. Boucher, L. Millbank). A **Merlin** was being harassed by crows at Sunset Park, Corvallis, 30 Mar (D. Boucher, L. Millbank). Flying over flew over Snag Boat Bend, 1 Apr, was a **Golden Eagle** (M. Monroe). A subadult Golden Eagle was near Philomath, 11 Apr (K. and J. Fairchild).

A couple days ahead of the bitterns was a **Sora**, which arrived at McFadden Marsh, 9 Apr. Surprising to many observers were several groups of **Wild Turkeys** making forays into Corvallis and north Albany in late Mar and early Apr, apparently searching out good foraging opportunities (J. Fontaine, M. Cutler, m.ob.). A **Ruffed Grouse** was drumming along Muddy Creek at FNWR, 6 Apr (D. Boucher, L. Millbank). They are rare there. More common in Mac-Dunn Forest, several were drumming, 12 Apr (J. Gibson).

Shorebirds began to appear in good numbers during the period. **Black-bellied Plovers** can be rare in spring, so 2 near Philomath STP, 9 Apr, and one at Lippmeyer's wetland along Stapleton Road in Polk County, 15 Apr, were good sightings. **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived 30 Mar, when one was with 17 **Greater Yellowlegs** at Bellfountain wetland. A good high count of 125 Greater Yellowlegs was at Lippmeyer's wetland, 11 Apr. A **Least Sandpiper** arrived 12 Apr at Philomath STP. **Western Sandpipers** were there by 26 Apr. A **Long-billed Dowitcher** arrived 30 Mar at Bellfountain Wetland. 200 of them at Lippmeyer's wetland, 15 Apr, was a very high local spring count. Likewise, 100 **Wilson's Snipe** at FNWR, 4 Apr, was a large concentration (L. Millbank).

Baby **Anna's Hummingbirds** entered the world by 30 Mar, where one was at Cynthia Craven's feeder in Corvallis. Uncommon in spring, **Calliope Hummingbirds**, both males, visited Corvallis, 7-8 Apr (M. Roberts) and 19-25 Apr (R. Enck). Reports of females are very rare, suggesting that females pass through our area less often or are more easily overlooked.

Six **Vaux's Swifts** on OSU campus, 17 Apr, were about 2 weeks ahead of schedule (K. Nelson). They were followed by a flurry of arrivals in the next couple days (m.ob.). The first **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** of the spring was at Bellfountain wetland, 30 Mar, a few days ahead of the long-term average arrival date. **Purple Martins** returned

to Middle Ridge, near Lebanon, 21 Apr (R. Gordin). **Cliff Swallows** arrived in the first week of Apr and were common by 11 Apr.

Other insectivores were right behind the swallows. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** was seen and heard along Oak Creek Drive, 14 Apr (B. and L. Proebsting). **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** were calling from several locations at FNWR, 26 Apr. A **Western Wood-Pewee** at Luckiamute Landing, 17 Apr, was about 2 weeks early (B. Proebsting).

Steller's Jays moved up slope from the valley floor into the mountains. A flock of 29 near Philomath, 17 Apr, represented the single largest concentration (K. Fairchild). A **Cedar Waxwing** was at Stewart Lake, 25 Mar (J. Simmons), but migrants had not arrived locally in any numbers by 26 Apr.

Probably the last big group of the spring, a flock of 200 **American Pipits** were at Marys River Natural Area, 30 Mar (D. Boucher, L. Millbank). A bit behind schedule was the spring's first **House Wren** at Willamette Park, 26 Apr.

The Armstrongs drew a pair of Western Bluebirds into their residential yard after putting up an ASC bluebird box. Just goes to show that "if you build it, they will come." A **Townsend's Solitaire** returned to Monmouth the last week of Mar (B. Waite).

Vireos and warblers arrived in force. A **Cassin's Vireo** along Oak Creek Drive, 14 Apr, was seen and heard (B. and L. Proebsting). A **Warbling Vireo** was at Willamette Park, 26 Apr, about 4 days behind schedule. **Nashville Warblers**, one of the rarer local species, put in a good showing at Willamette Park, with the first arrival being detected 16 Apr (N. Strycker); 3 were there 26 Apr. **Orange-crowned Warblers** arrived the last week of March, but the first big waves with numbers of birds arrived 3 Apr with 11 around

Stewart Lake in Corvallis (J. Simmons). **Black-throated Gray Warblers** arrived in Corvallis, 3 Apr, about a week ahead of schedule (H. Bruner).

The season's first **Yellow Warbler** was reported from FNWR, 26 Apr. A very early **Wilson's Warbler** was at Philomath, 12 Apr (K. and J. Fairchild). A **MacGillivray's Warbler** at Willamette Park, 16 Apr, was also quite early (N. Strycker). The first **Common Yellowthroats** of the year arrived 27 Mar when 2 were found at FNWR.

Continuing the long list of spring arrivals during this period were **Chipping Sparrows**, which arrived in Corvallis by 9 Apr (J. Simmons, M. Cutler). **Vesper Sparrows**, which have declined greatly in the last decades, arrived at Bald Hill, 3 Apr (B. Proebsting). Only a few local spots still have habitat for that species.

Becky Schwiebert had all four species of *Zonotrichia* sparrows in her Corvallis yard on 28 Mar. The **Harris' Sparrow**, **Golden-crowned** and **White-throated** that have been there since Nov were joined by a **White-crowned Sparrow**. A rare treat! The Harris' Sparrow was still there 22 Apr and was molting into his spring plumage (B. Schwiebert).

The only **Yellow-headed Blackbird** reported was one flying over Willamette Park, 26 Apr. A yellow **Purple Finch**, a rare color variant, was in Raylene Gordin's yard in Corvallis, 7 Apr. Continuing a Corvallis rite of spring, **Evening Grosbeaks** began to arrive in droves to devour tree seeds in town.

Next issue

Please send your reports for the next issue by 8 July.

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Malheur Field Station An Identity Problem

Many of you know that in addition to serving Corvallis Audubon as President, I serve also as Vice President of the Great Basin Society (GBS), the parent organization of the Malheur Field Station, and the site of our largest and most popular annual field trip. At a recent GBS Board meeting, we discussed the fact that many visitors to Malheur don't make a distinction between the Malheur Field Station and the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The Field Station is a distinct entity, a nonprofit corporation that leases its land (long-term, no-cost) from the Refuge, but which owns all of the facilities on that land. To add to the confusion, the store in Fields, Oregon, south of Frenchglen (and self-proclaimed home of the world's greatest milkshakes) recently renamed itself the Fields Station.

So remember, there is only one Malheur Field Station and it could use your help. The main reason I joined the GBS Board is because the Field Station needs help if it is to survive. The modest rates charged for lodging and meals keep the Station open, but do not generate enough income to maintain the aging physical plant, a former Job Corps training center, which dates from the mid-1960s. So my chief job with GBS is to write grant applications to charitable foundations, requesting funds for modernization, weatherization, and maintenance of the Field Station. At the moment grant applications to three foundations are under consideration. All three foundations have made it clear that they want to see contributions from the grantee organization. That means dues and contributions from Malheur Field Station members. For those of you who love Malheur as I do, I urge you to join the Malheur Field Station. This can be done by dropping into the office next time you are at Malheur or by visiting the Field Station website, www.malheurfieldstation.org/ (Note. The website is under development, so if you can't find the link, send an e-mail to mfs@highdesertair.com). Thanks for considering what you can do to assure survival of the Malheur Field Station.

Chris Mathews

Birdathon History!

By the time you read this, Birdathon 2008 will be history! With at least 11 teams and around 25 people signed up to bird on May 3 and 4, it looks to be a banner year. Paula Vanderheul, our hardworking Hesthavn Nature Center director, intends this year's earnings to "...provide a well and the water system for drinking water, hand washing and irrigating first year native plants at Hesthavn. It will feel so great to be able to wash my dirty hands off with warm water after a day's work digging, planting and removing invasive species at Hesthavn." Paula's many helpers and all the visitors to Hesthavn will appreciate this too! And to help us achieve this goal, Paula herself has already garnered *see "Birdathon History" on next page*

Birdathon History *continued from page 67*

over \$3,000 in pledges!

This year, Audubon Society of Corvallis is pleased to thank two corporate sponsors- Ken Hilton of Wild Birds Unlimited and Jeff Katz of Peak Sports! These two businesses are donating for every species seen by every team. And we thank Elsie Eltzroth, whose husband started this tradition of sponsoring every team, for continuing to do so!

Many thanks to all our generous sponsors and hard working birdathoners, for helping make Hesthavn into a successful, functioning Nature Center!

Karan Fairchild

From the Education Chair

I will be stepping down as Education Chair in May and Marcia Cutler will be taking over. I have been doing this for 10 1/2 years. It is time for a change. When I took over, we had a repertoire of 6 different programs which we took to the Elementary Schools in Corvallis, Philomath and Albany. This meant that if a child went to a school for 6 years there would be a different program each year: Raptors, Marsh Creatures, Oak Savannah, Bats, Coastal Birds, Local Birds. We would set up in the library and each class in a school would come and visit for 30 minutes. There was a slide show and an exhibit, which the children could then look at. We charged a small amount for giving the programs. First cost became an issue, then the libraries were not available, the teachers had too many other things to schedule, the times we would present were not necessarily when the teachers were giving lessons which fit in, and slide shows were becoming a bit obsolete. Several years ago I just started doing programs for individual teachers. I also got away from giving a slide show and just talking about the show and tell items I would bring along. Marcia began involving Audubon in Kids Day for Conservation and the 6th grade Outdoor School. I also did a few summer camps, after school and scout programs, garden clubs and setting up for Farmers Markets (more outreach than education in some ways).

It is time now to reorganize an Education Committee and look into how we can present programs to both children and adults. I suspect that an absence of programs will make what will be offered very welcome. Since there was not much in the line of invitations I let a committee go by the way side. Perhaps there are members out there who have been teachers in our local schools and could help Marcia develop programs which would help the teachers in the various grades with their teaching. Or create programs and props which could be checked out by teachers to do themselves. Or take our slide shows and make Power Point presentations from them with sound. I hope there are members out there who will contact Marcia and help her get a new committee started, with lots of fun ideas.

It has been an interesting 10+ years and well time for someone else to put her thoughts and ideas to work.

Kate Mathews

Fighting Greenhouse Gas

May 9 public meeting on proposed new rules

Over the past five years, Governor Kulongoski has developed an approach to combat global warming, and several initiatives are currently underway to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon. Last summer, the Governor asked the Environmental Quality Commission to consider adopting rules for mandatory greenhouse gas reporting as soon as possible. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued proposed rules on April 1, 2008, and will accept comments on them through May 16, 2008.

More information about the proposed rules is on the DEQ website <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/climate/rulemaking.htm>, and more information about climate change in Oregon is at <http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/GBLWRM/Portal.shtml>

DEQ has scheduled eight public hearings in seven cities throughout the state to accept comments on the proposed rules. These hearings will begin with a short presentation on the rules followed by an opportunity for people to ask questions about the proposal. The hearing in Corvallis is set for Friday, May 9, at 10:00 am at the Corvallis-Benton County Library. Hope to see you there!

Dave Mellinger

Birds Striking Windows

Besides pet cats, cars and pollution, windows are a primary way in which birds get injured or killed as a result of human presence. In the spring the problem can be quite common. A male bird will try to chase his own reflection from his breeding territory, mistaking it for an invading male. The rest of the year, birds might simply mistake the reflection as a place to fly to — ouch! This can kill a bird, but even if a bird is only briefly stunned by the impact, it can be vulnerable to attack from a pet or native predator.

I believe the best preventative measure is a combination of 3/4 inch netting and the addition of objects to obscure the reflectivity of the window. Netting is almost fool-proof, preventing birds from hitting the hard window and it affects the view from inside very little (especially when the netting is black, as it is most often sold). Netting should be weighted on the bottom or tied so birds bounce off it instead of getting tangled in it. You can obtain netting at a farm supply or hardware store, make sure you ask for 3/4 inch netting or something close. The netting used for soccer or other sports will work just fine. Install netting a foot or two from the window and you might hang it from the eaves. If a bird gets behind the net, it can't do much damage to itself because there is inadequate space to accelerate.

Hawk and Owl Decoys

Plastic owls and hawk silhouettes aren't very effective. Most birds learn to ignore these lifeless objects. Decoys that hang and move in the wind are slightly better. Shiny streamers which move in the wind are better but aren't effective enough when used alone.

Time to Decorate

Obscuring the reflection in the window will help the bird see the window instead of the reflection. The rule of thumb is easy: if you can see the reflection, so can the bird. Have fun with the idea instead of treating it like an obnoxious chore. Light-colored drapes are great and many will let sufficient light through on a sunny day. Decals, stained glass ornaments, kid's art projects or anything you like can be placed evenly throughout the window surface so that no large gap of reflection can be seen. There are hawk silhouette decals available. As I mentioned, these aren't very effective in scaring birds, but as a bird lover, I think they're cool, and work just fine for the purpose of breaking up the reflection. If the decoys happen to scare a few naive birds for a while then all the better. You may place streamers or other objects on the black netting so birds can see that too. If there are sheds with windows or other reflective surfaces on your property consider covering them up altogether if they are not in use. If birds are crashing into your car windows, you can cover them when not in use.

Bird Feeders

It's fun to place feeders next to windows but be mindful of how the birds will react to the nearby reflection. Sometimes birds see "the other" feeder in the reflection and "whack!" Placing feeders under nearby trees and shrubs may make the feeders less visible in window reflections. Follow guidelines used in many books about backyard feeder setups. Do an inspection of your feeder setup and imagine the bird's perspective. Rearrange things accordingly. Place feeders near a window that has the preventative measures installed as already mentioned.

There are likely other preventative techniques I missed here but the key is to use a combination of measures to insure effectiveness. It is unlikely you will eliminate all bird impacts but you can easily reduce the chances.

Don Boucher

ASC and AOU

ASC Contributes to Mega-Bird Meeting in August

Oregon is going to be crawling with ornithologists this summer as the annual meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, and Society of Canadian Ornithologists will be held jointly in Portland from 4-8 August (see <http://www.pdxbirds08.org/>). This meeting promises to be one of the largest gatherings of ornithologists ever held in North America, particularly since the AOU will be celebrating their 125th anniversary.

Putting on the meeting is requiring the assistance of students and faculty from OSU, Portland State, University of Portland, and various local Audubon Chapters.

A number of ASC members are helping with the meeting, and our chapter has donated use of our webspace for selling souvenirs for the meeting. Profits from the souvenirs help fund student travel, particularly for students from Latin America, to the annual meetings. Donation of the ASC webspace saved the local committee \$2500—which will be a great leg up for the student fund.

You might have fun checking out the souvenirs as Oregon coast artist Ram Papish developed a wonderful poster with the map and birds of Oregon (the poster is brighter than it looks on the website). The poster as well as mugs with individual birds from the painting will be available soon. Currently just the t-shirts and sweatshirts are available. You can order the souvenirs off the following website and get them before the meeting www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/tshirts.shtml.

AOU is the largest group of professional ornithologists in the world. COS is made of mostly western ornithologists, and SCO members are from north of the border.

Susan Haig

Atop the Nest box Western Bluebird season 2007

We banded at 51 boxes; ten at new locations. Many were double or triple brooded. On the Corvallis Bluebird Trail, Rita Snyder, Carole Steckly, Deb Savageau, and I banded 469 nestlings. Raylene Gordin, our sub-bander in Lebanon, banded 81. Nine chicks died before fledging. Eight were in rehab at Eltzroth's; seven were returned to the same box or fostered to other boxes.

As of yesterday, we had bluebird nest building in at least 15 boxes. I'm sure more will be reported to me as soon as the nasty weather abates. We have several nests with eggs and at three others the eggs have hatched. The chicks are at the feeders of Kristy Kingery, Rita Snyder, and Deb Savageau who have fed the adults all winter.

A most unusual sighting at the moment is the interest of a pair of unbanded bluebirds reported near Wilson Motors. Tom Wilson called to say that he was watching bluebirds on utility wires near the company plant. He got a nest box from Paula Vanderheul and they put a box on a pole nearby!

Elsie Eltzroth

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Chris Mathews, Paula Vanderheul, Jim Fairchild, Douglas Robinson, Don Boucher, Elsie Eltzroth, Sue Haig, Dave Mellinger, Karan Fairchild, Kate Mathews, Elise Elliott-Smith.

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the **CHAT**

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Calendar

May 8	Board meeting
May 9	Pubic Meeting on Emissions***
May 10	Second Saturday Field Trip**
May 10	Hesthavn Work Party**
May 15-18	Malheur Field Trip**
May 18	Hesthavn Program**
May 22	General meeting*
June 1	Hesthavn Program**
June 8	Hesthavn Program**
June 8	Bicycle Birding**
June 14	Second Saturday Field Trip**
June 22	Bicycle Birding**
July 8	Deadline for Summer Field Notes
July 10	Deadline for Summer Chat

*see pg 63

**see pg 65

***see pg 68



Black-headed Grosbeak photo by Matt Lee

The Chat is published 10 times a year by the Audubon Society of Corvallis, PO Box 148, Corvallis OR 97339. Annual ASC memberships are \$25 for an individual, \$30 for a family, \$15 for a student. Chat-only subscriptions are \$15.

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