



# Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

September 2008

VOL. 38

#1

## General Meeting

Thursday, September 18 7:30 – 9:00 pm  
First Presbyterian Church



Jarod Jabousek. Photo courtesy of US F&WS

### Partners for Fish and Wildlife

*A presentation by Jarod Jabousek*

ASC will kick off the 2008-09 speaker program with Jarod Jabousek, an enthusiastic wildlife biologist for the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex since 2001. Jarod is based at our neighborhood William Finley refuge. He has been working with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program since 2002 and will talk about the progress in restoring wildlife habitat on private lands. His focus covers riparian, grassland and wetland revitalizations. In his spare time, Jarod is an avid birder and fisherman.

The 1987 Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act established this program for on-the-ground wetland restoration projects on private lands. It is operated within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Initially the program was only funded with \$100,000, but has grown to about \$75 million. It has now expanded to more diversified habitat restoration and has assisted thousands of private landowners and wildlife,

including stream restoration, fish and endangered species habitat restorations.

*Diana Brin*

### 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.

## Endangered Species Act Under Attack

### Public comments due September 15th!

In its final few months, the Bush Administration is attempting to gut the Endangered Species Act. This time, it's a proposal to allow federal agencies to decide unilaterally that a proposed project is not likely to adversely affect listed species — no consultation with wildlife experts at the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) required. The proposed rule would replace the current requirement that federal agencies must consult with the FWS and NMFS to insure that an agency's actions do not jeopardize the existence of a species or adversely change or destroy its habitat.

Audubon and other conservation groups are mobilizing a full-scale effort to defeat this proposal. We have already

*see "Endangered Species Act" on next page*

### In this issue:

Vaux Swift Observers Needed	2
The Big Sit	2
Support for Wetlands Restoration	2-3
Field Trip Schedule	3
Hesthavn News	5
Nature in the City	5-6
San Juan Birding	6

## **Endangered Species Act** *continued from front page*

joined with other groups in seeking an extension of the 30-day comment period, which is unreasonably short in light of the huge potential impact of the proposed change. Whether or not the comment period is extended beyond the September 15 due date, Audubon will be filing comments strongly opposing the proposal.

We are counting on you! Please submit your own comment to the government at the Audubon Action Center (<http://www.audubon.org/news/ESA.html>). We only have a short time to get as much public participation as possible, so we will need your help to spread the alert far and wide.

*National Audubon Society*

## **Volunteer Recognition**

### **Thanks to field trip volunteers!**

Rich Armstrong is our new field trip leader and coordinator for local Saturday and full-day events. I was pleased with the responses to my call for volunteers to help with leading local and full-day field trips this coming season. Rich will have help from Marcia Cutler, Joel Geier, Bill Proebsting, Cheryl Whelchel and Becky Schwiebert in scheduling trip leaders.

*Paula Vanderheul*

## **Observers Needed**

### **Audubon member sought to observe Vaux's Swift**

Larry Schwitters, project coordinator of Vaux's Happening of Issaquah, WA is attempting to find out if there is interest in tracking Vaux's Swifts border to border as an Audubon project. He says they had a good effort in Washington State this spring with 70 observers doing 211 observations on 180,000 swifts at 30 different roost sites. Corvallis has the Presbyterian Church as an important stop for the birds.

An official 2000 Swift watch was conducted in Corvallis by volunteers for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. We are seeking a volunteer from our Audubon Chapter to take on this project watch.

Please contact Paula Vanderheul for more information at [vanderp@peak.org](mailto:vanderp@peak.org).

*Paula Vanderheul*

## **The Big Sit**

### **Watch birds at Finley on Sunday, October 12**

Keep Sunday, October 12 open for the 2008 BIG SIT! This is an annual, international, fun event sponsored by Bird Watcher's Digest. It was founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club. This year, people will be submitting reports from the National Wildlife Refuges, and since our local William L. Finley Refuge is such a wonderful birding spot, birders are encouraged to join a group to submit sightings. Contact Molly Monroe at [monroemolly@hotmail.com](mailto:monroemolly@hotmail.com) if you'd like to participate at Finley. Check out the website

for all the details.

Although this is a non-competitive event, there is a \$500 prize from Swarovski Optics to the "circle" that finds the "Golden Bird." Check out the website for details. <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/funbirds/bigsit/bigsit.aspx>

*Diana Brin*

## **Support for Wetlands**

### **Restoration**

#### **Polled Louisianans See Wetlands as Hurricane Defense**

A new poll released a week before the third anniversary of Hurricane Katrina (August 29, 2005) shows that voters in south Louisiana are more concerned about coastal erosion than they are about crime or the economy. The poll also shows South Louisianans are almost as concerned about coastal erosion as they are about their highest-ranking worry — gas prices.

The poll of 500 registered voters in 16 Louisiana parishes was conducted by Public Opinion Strategies/Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates for three leading national conservation groups: Environmental Defense Fund, National Wildlife Federation and National Audubon Society.

"Katrina showed us that we can't rely on levees alone for protection," said Maura Wood, Senior Program Manager of Coastal Louisiana Restoration for the National Wildlife Federation. "This poll shows Louisianans overwhelmingly believe that we need to preserve our wetlands and coastal areas in order to protect our people, communities and jobs. The good news is that the vast majority of those polled believe we can rebuild the wetlands and coastal areas we've lost."

Southeastern Louisiana was traditionally sheltered from the full power of hurricanes by 80 miles of wetlands that lay between the Gulf of Mexico and the city of New Orleans, but those wetlands have been disappearing at an alarming rate. Every day, Louisiana loses an area of coastal wetlands the size of 32 football fields.

The new poll shows Louisianans see wetlands as the first line of defense against storms and hurricanes. Those polled also believe that the continued loss of coastal areas and wetlands will result in worse damage from hurricanes, loss of communities, and threats to the economy of south Louisiana. Three-quarters of those polled said that restoring the wetlands is an issue that requires urgent attention.

"Voters overwhelmingly said that the wetlands are Louisiana's first line of defense against hurricanes," said Paul Harrison, Louisiana Project Manager for Environmental Defense Fund. "They also said they are deeply worried that the disappearance of the wetlands will continue to compromise the safety of their families and communi-

ties. This poll shows that government efforts to fund and fast-track coastal restoration efforts will get broad popular support.”

According to the poll, 84 percent of southern Louisiana voters said coastal erosion and the loss of barrier islands was an extremely serious or very serious problem, and 81 percent said the loss of wetlands and marshes was an extremely serious or very serious problem. The only issue that ranked higher was gas prices, at 87 percent. These issues ranked well ahead of concerns about the economy (68 percent), crime (65 percent), and rebuilding from Katrina taking too long (70 percent).

Almost 80 percent of those polled said that Louisiana’s wetlands and coastal areas can be protected, and even more – 87 percent – believe that eroded areas can be rebuilt.

An overwhelming 90 percent of those polled supported rebuilding barrier islands and wetlands using sediment dredged from rivers. Another 87 percent supported diverting water and sediment from the Mississippi River into undeveloped wetland areas in order to rebuild damaged wetlands and protect existing ones.

“This poll bodes well for vital efforts to restore Louisiana’s wetlands,” said Paul Kemp, Vice President of the Gulf Coast Initiative for the National Audubon Society. “These projects won’t be easy, but Louisianans clearly recognize the importance of restoring and protecting our state’s first line of defense against hurricanes. The poll confirms that Louisianans support immediate action to protect and rebuild these natural hurricane barriers.”

*National Audubon Society*

## Field Trip Schedule

### Monthly Year-Round Saturday Field Trips

Note the new meeting place for all future local Saturday and full-day trips! The Benton Center is at 757 NW Polk Avenue.

Sept 13: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

Oct 11: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

Nov 8: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

Dec 13: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of every month at the Benton Center (757 NW Polk Avenue, 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. Contact Rich Armstrong at richarmstrong@comcast.net or 541-753-1978 with any questions.

### 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](http://www.midvalleybirding.org) and follow the instructions.

### Full-Day Birding Schedule

Sept 20: Fern Ridge Reservoir 7:30 am

Oct 18: Newport Coast 7:00 am

About three or four times a year we schedule full-day trips to the coast, and other refuges within Oregon. On these trips we carpool, sharing the cost of gas with the drivers. Everyone should bring a large lunch, water/drinks, binoculars, spotting scope (if available), and layers of warm clothing, sturdy shoes, and rain gear. We meet at the Benton Center (LBCC) parking lot in Corvallis. Contact Rich Armstrong at richarmstrong@comcast.net or 541-753-1978 with any questions.

### Spring 2008 Weekend Field Trips

Mar 20 – 22: Bandon Coast

Apr 17 – 19: Klamath Basin

May (TBD): Rogue Valley

May 28 – 31: Malheur NWR

June 12 – 14: Summer Lake/Ft Rock/Fremont NFS

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 at [vanderp@peak.org](mailto:vanderp@peak.org)

#### Please note:

- The Rogue Valley and Malheur trips require deposits by February 28, 2009.
- The Rogue Valley deposit is \$40 for the trip. The trip date will be announced in future issues of the Chat after the Oregon Shakespeare Festival schedule has been posted.
- The Malheur deposit is \$50. Each deposit must be made payable to Fred Ramsey at 3550 NW Glen Ridge Pl. Corvallis OR 97330.

*Paula Vanderheul*

### Bicycle Birding

Sept 28 9am to noon

Meet at Avery Park Rose Garden: 1210 SW Avery Drive in Corvallis.

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](mailto:bouchdon@peak.org)

*Don Boucher*

# Field Notes

July 9 – Aug 31 2008

Late summer is a time of abundance and of transition. Many parents send fledglings out of their care, so fields and forest edges are alive with bird activity. Fruits draw songbirds to easy, energy-rich pickings. But days begin to get shorter signaling the approach of a time of scarcity, so many birds begin to wander south. By the end of August, some species that were so numerous all summer they were hard to miss become difficult to find. In contrast, other species that bred to our north begin arriving here on the way south. This July and August were, on average, about typical in temperature and rainfall. July was a drier than average and August, after storms 17-22 and 25 Aug, was slightly wetter than average.

*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. The Diamond Hill Road wetland is in Linn County.

Flocks of up to 200 of the local races of **Canada Geese** became conspicuous during this period as they moved around the landscape searching for productive foraging and roosting locations. The long-distance migratory races of Canada Geese are still a few weeks away from Corvallis.

The early migrating ducks began arriving. **Blue-winged Teal** joined flocks of **Cinnamon Teal** at Philomath STP in small numbers beginning 28 Jul; the peak count of Blue-winged Teal was 6 on 30 Aug and of Cinnamon Teal was 72 on 29 Aug. The first flock of Cinnamon Teal fall migrant arrivals was 16 on 24 Jul at Philomath STP. Earlier in July, a female Cinnamon Teal with her brood of three young foraged at Philomath STP. **Northern Shovelers** arrived in mid-August and were common by 23 Aug at Philomath STP. The first **Northern Pintail** of the fall was in female-like plumage at Philomath STP on 20 Jul, but the first real flock of arrivals did not appear until 27 Aug when 16 birds were at FNWR. The first **Green-winged Teal** of autumn stopped by Philomath STP, 30 Jul.

Diving ducks arrive much later than the dabbling species. A few interesting observations of diving ducks occurred this summer. A hatching-year **Redhead** loafed at Philomath STP, 13 Jul, and an adult male Redhead foraged at Cabell Marsh, 29 Jul. A male **Lesser Scaup** was at Philomath STP, 27-29 Jul. A hatching-year **Ring-necked Duck** was at Philomath STP, 20-21 Jul, and a female was there, 27-30 Jul and 10 Aug.

Perhaps the local event of the season was appearance of **American White Pelicans** at Cabell Marsh, FNWR. Pelicans are not annual at FNWR despite their regular appearances to our north at Baskett Slough NWR and to our south at Fern Ridge Reservoir. On 22 Jul, 6 Pelicans (2 ad, 4 imm) were found at Cabell, representing the first local record in a few years. Numbers changed quite a bit over the following days, dropping to 5 on 23 Jul then to 3 on 25 Jul then rising back to 12 (4 ad, 8 imm) on the evening of 26 Jul and early morning of 27 Jul and to 13 by late morning on 27 Jul; those 13 continued through at least 29 Jul. By 9 Aug, 17 were there. Those 17 were last reported 26 Aug and were absent 28 Aug.

The first fall group (3) of **Double-crested Cormorants** arrived at Cabell Marsh, 23 Aug. **Great Blue Herons** were especially conspicuous

during the period when they foraged in fields for abundant voles, much the same way that Secretarybirds forage for prey across the plains of Africa. **Great Egrets** did not breed locally, but some began to appear at Cheadle Marsh, FNWR, 10 Aug (L. Millbank, D. Boucher); numbers increased to 10 by 24 Aug.

**Ospreys** began to wander south and leave the local area. One was still at FNWR, 29 Aug. **White-tailed Kites** continued to be reported regularly from FNWR (m.ob.). Three fledgling **Cooper's Hawks** were noisily begging from their parents in Pioneer Park, Corvallis, 21 Jul (D. Boucher, L. Millbank). At least 4 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were encountered regularly at FNWR, especially in mid- and late Aug (m.ob.). The first **Merlin** of the autumn was at Cheadle Marsh dive-bombing a kingfisher, 23 Aug (L. Millbank, D. Boucher). Two **Peregrine Falcons** at Cabell Marsh, 11 Aug, were more concerned with each other than with hunting, but the local ducks were rather alarmed about the rapidly deteriorating condition of their neighborhood.

The Diamond Hill Road wetland in Linn County had ideal conditions for shorebirds. Among the interesting finds during the period were two **Whimbrels**, a **Long-billed Curlew**, and an **American Golden-Plover** (R. Moore).

In Benton County, shorebird habitat was very scarce. Nevertheless, a few interesting sightings were made. A **Solitary Sandpiper**, fairly rare during autumn, was at Cabell, 28-29 Aug. **Lesser Yellowlegs** returned 22 Jul, when 4 were with 5 **Greater Yellowlegs** at Cabell Marsh. A **Long-billed Curlew** along Bruce Road at FNWR was cooperative and represented one of very few local records, 17-18 Aug (M. Hunter, T. Snetsinger). Representing about the fourth local record was a juvenile **Sanderling** in the company of **Least Sandpipers** at Philomath STP, 29-30 Aug (WDR, m.ob.).

Also a local rarity was a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (juv.) at Philomath STP, 30 Jul – 2 Aug and again on 10 Aug (WDR, m.ob.). It was cooperative enough to allow a photo of the diagnostic webbing between its toes (see photo below). Juvenile **Baird's Sandpipers** appeared at Philomath STP, 23 & 26 Aug. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at Philomath STP, 25 Aug, and at Cabell Marsh, 26 Aug; both birds were flying and never settled down to forage. Two adult **Wilson's Phalaropes** visited Philomath STP, 10 Jul. 5 juveniles were there, 13 Jul, and 3 juvs were there, 29-30 Jul. The first **Red-necked Phalarope** of the fall migration was a juvenile at Philomath STP, 21 Jul. 37 were there on 24-25 Aug.

Gulls are typically quite rare during summer, except for **California Gulls**, which can be locally numerous for a few weeks. A juvenile **Bonaparte's Gull** stopped at Philomath STP, 10-12 Aug. A juvenile **Mew Gull** was at Philomath STP, 10 Aug, representing the second summer record in the last 3 years. Two first-cycle **Ring-billed Gulls** were also at Philomath STP, 10 Aug. The **California Gull** migration was in full swing during the period, with a high count of 31 on 10 Aug. By end of Aug, most California Gulls had moved through the area.

Unlike most years, it was a great one for terns. Numbers were low, but three species were found. Four **Caspian Terns** were fishing along the Willamette River at Simpson Park, Albany, 26 Jul (J. Fleischer). In the wee hours of the morning on 23 Aug, J. Geier heard a Caspian Tern as it flew over the Coffin Butte area. A juvenile **Black Tern** was at Cabell Marsh, 13 Jul, circling for about a minute before heading north. Later that morning the same bird was at Philomath STP and stayed well into the afternoon. Another juvenile was at Philomath STP, 26 Aug. An adult **Common Tern** was at Philomath STP at dawn on 30 Aug, but stayed only for about 45 minutes before disappearing just as a flock of birders arrived to see it. It appears that bird may have been only the second Benton County record.

**Western Kingbirds** nested successfully at the FNWR prairie; a family group was near the overlook throughout early Jul (m.ob.)

Two **Purple Martins** flew over Cabell Marsh, 29 Jul and 23 Aug, and three were there 28 Aug. Large flocks of swallows gathered during the period, staging before heading south. A high count of 2450 **Violet-**

**green Swallows** at Philomath STP, 24 Aug, was impressive. Much rarer, **Bank Swallows** were detected six times at FNWR and Philomath STP from 20 Jul to 24 Aug. **Cliff Swallows** and **Tree Swallows** had largely departed the region by the end of Aug.

The first **Golden-crowned Kinglet** on the Valley floor was detected 23 Aug at FNWR. **Swainson's Thrushes** were flying overhead giving their distinctive night-time calls by 26 Aug. A common breeder in the hills around Corvallis, **Wilson's Warblers** largely leave the Valley floor during summer, but wander down-slope after nesting. The first **Wilson's Warblers** returned to forest edge at FNWR, 20 Jul.

A flock of 16 **Chipping Sparrows** in a weedy Christmas tree plantation along Lakeside Drive was a good count, 31 Aug. Two immature **Brewer's Sparrows** were at Cabell Marsh, 29 Jul, but there were no reports from Aug. Large flocks of **Savannah Sparrows** gathered in fields beginning the last week of Jul. Counts of 100 or more in a morning were regular as these groups of adults and young of the year aggregated. It is not clear if they are migratory groups or move into remaining fields as hay is harvested.

It was a banner breeding season for **Lazuli Buntings**. Counts of 15-20 in a morning at FNWR were routine during Jul. Very rare in the Valley, a **Bobolink** visited Bill Thackaberry's farm near Lebanon, 18 Aug.

Perhaps one of the largest groups of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** ever to occur locally was a group at Cabell Marsh from 22-29 Jul. The maximum count during that week was 14 (4 ad, 10 imm). The birds roosted and foraged along the southern edge of the water at Cabell.

**Red Crossbills** began appearing regularly on the Valley floor for the first time in about 18 months. Birds flying by in singles and pairs from east to west were first noted 24 Jul in north Corvallis, but were largely absent after 7 Aug.

#### Next issue

Please send your reports for the next issue by 24 September.  
W. Douglas Robinson  
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*This Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Philomath Sewage Treatment Ponds and delighted many birders by allowing close approach. Photo by Cheryl Whelchel*

## Hesthavn News

Sept 27 Hesthavn work party/open house

Oct 25 Hesthavn work party/open house

Work parties will be from 9 am to 1 pm. Join us for any of the time you may have available on these dates. We have invasive false brome to remove from the property. Bring gloves, water, and lunch. We have shovels and other garden tools.

Open house visitation will be on the same dates as the work parties. We could use a couple of volunteers to greet the public during the hours of 10 am to 1 pm. If you have questions or would be interested, please contact Paula Vanderheul.

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

A volunteer email bulletin board that publishes work party dates and other events as they happen at Hesthavn Nature Center is available at [www.corvallisaudubon.org/mailman/listinfo/hesthavn-news](http://www.corvallisaudubon.org/mailman/listinfo/hesthavn-news). The website has information on how to subscribe to the Hesthavn-news bulletin board.

We need someone specifically to join our educational program at Hesthavn to be the advertising person of programs with the community through newspaper, schools, placing posters around town. This person should be available during the day time to make contact with the media. The advertising commitment covers programs that are held four times a year. Please contact me; your service will make a remarkable difference.

*Paula Vanderheul*

## Nature in the City

### Simple citizen-science project reaches urbanites of all ages

Ithaca, N.Y. Nature has the power to soothe and enthruse. More people are finding that out as they join the free, year-round "Celebrate Urban Birds!" citizen-science project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. From schools, hospitals, and senior centers, to wellness programs, scout packs, and military bases, participants are reaping the benefits of a closer connection to the natural world and a new appreciation for city birds.

A girl in 4-H changed her mind about city birds after taking part in the project: "At first I didn't like urban birds," she said. "I thought of them as pests. Then I realized that they are just like me and other kids. We are ignored or people just see us as pests or don't see us at all...yet if you look a little deeper you can see that on the inside we are pretty unique and cool!"

*see "Nature in the City" on next page*

## Nature in the Coity *continued from page 5*

People of all ages and backgrounds participate in Celebrate Urban Birds through gardening, cultural activities and citizen-science. For the citizen-science part of the project, participants watch city birds for 10 minutes, check off 15 target species of birds, and send the information through the mail or the Internet to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Once enough data are gathered, scientists hope to learn more about how birds survive in cities and how they use urban green spaces such as parks, rooftop gardens, and even potted plants on balconies for food, resting sites, and shelter.

Individuals can participate on their own or through public events organized by local groups. Celebrate Urban Birds has partnered with more than 2,000 organizations to hold special “birdy” events featuring the arts, science, gardening, or other ways to draw people into bird study and observation. While supplies last, everyone who signs up will receive a Celebrate Urban Birds kit in English and Spanish with two colorful urban birds posters, educational materials about birds and urban greening, a data form, and a packet of sunflower seeds to plant in pots and gardens. More than 60,000 free kits have been distributed.

After receiving his kit, one elementary school youngster with Down syndrome declared, “I will take these posters home and put them up on my wall forever because I’m going to be a scientist when I grow up!” Teachers find that the 10-minute bird observation can be done within a class period, and it reinforces math, reading, scientific, artistic, and team-building skills. One teacher noted, “Our group of middle school boys was impressed with being able to help with a project sponsored by a university.”

Some groups go beyond a single event by greening their neighborhood creating habitat for birds on balconies, rooftops, front stoops, or community spaces. Others are tapping into the arts, creating dances, drawings, murals, sculptures, puppet shows, and short films based on city birds. The Celebrate Urban Birds web site has lots of resources and suggestions about how to craft an event or project for libraries, nature centers, schools and youth groups, community gardens, home-school groups, or individuals.

Winners have been chosen for the project’s first “Beautiful Birds in Urban Places” video and photo contest. Marian Mendez of Hialeah, Florida, captured first prize with her images of birds found in her back yard. She said, “I like to single out one bird and watch it for a while, trying to see the personality and mind behind it. And I’m out in the fresh air, getting sunshine and a new perspective on life.” You can see Marian’s photos and other great entries on the web site. Stay tuned for the next photo contest! Learn more about Celebrate Urban Birds and sign up at [www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org](http://www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org)!

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership

institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth’s biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Lab’s web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.

*Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

## San Juan Islands Birding

**October 6 – 8, 2008**

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society this fall for a three-day cruise October 6-8, 2008, through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago. We will depart from John Wayne Marina aboard the MV Glacier Spirit (a 65-foot motor vessel, well-known from our many cruises around Protection Island), and cruise to Roche Harbor Resort; then touring various sites on San Juan Island for either birding or sightseeing. On day two, we will cruise onward for a mid-day visit to the Sucia Island State Park for a walk-about and picnic lunch, returning to Roche Harbor Resort on San Juan Island for the second night. On day three, we will cruise back home again to John Wayne Marina by way of dramatic Deception Pass, pausing for a close look at Smith Island for birds and sea mammals. Look for registration materials on our website ([www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org](http://www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org)). For additional information, contact 360-681-4076, or email [rcoffice@olympus.net](mailto:rcoffice@olympus.net).

*Bob Hutchison*

## Call for Contributors

**You too can be a published author!**

Does this month’s Chat look a little thin? It is! We have plenty of space for your articles, photos, artwork, notices, poetry and other items. Have you ever opened the Chat and thought, ‘Hmm, I could write a couple of hundred words on my experiences hand-feeding turkey vultures – and it could hardly be more of a snooze than this lengthy article culled from the National Audubon Society website’? If you have, we sure wish you would take the time to write that article up – and so would your fellow subscribers – who, let’s remember, also had to wade through that gigantic article on the Louisiana poll.

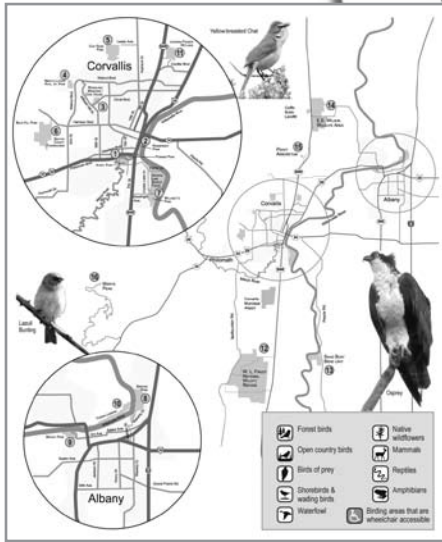
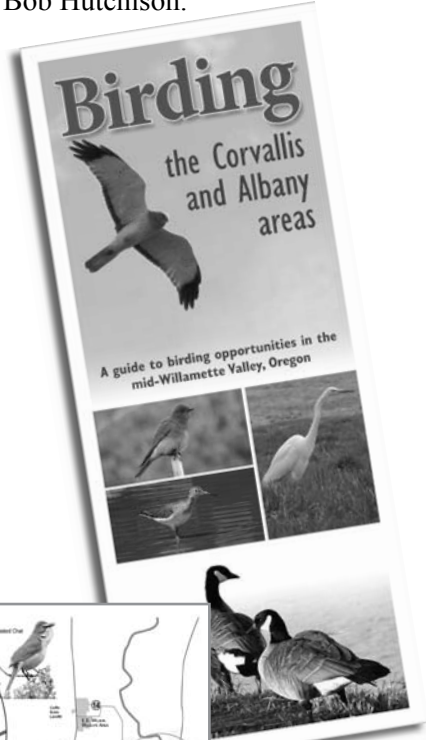
Just think of all the great times you’ve had birding, and all the strange things you’ve seen, and all the quirky, brilliant insights you’ve had into bird, or birder, behavior – is it right or fair to keep all that to yourself? Please think of posterity, and joining the pantheon of Chat contributors. Please think of your fellow Auduboners, and how happy they’ll be that they checked their mail and found the Chat with your article inside.

And most of all, please think of your Chat editors, who have to fill eight pages – eight pages! – each and every month.

*Your Chat Editors*

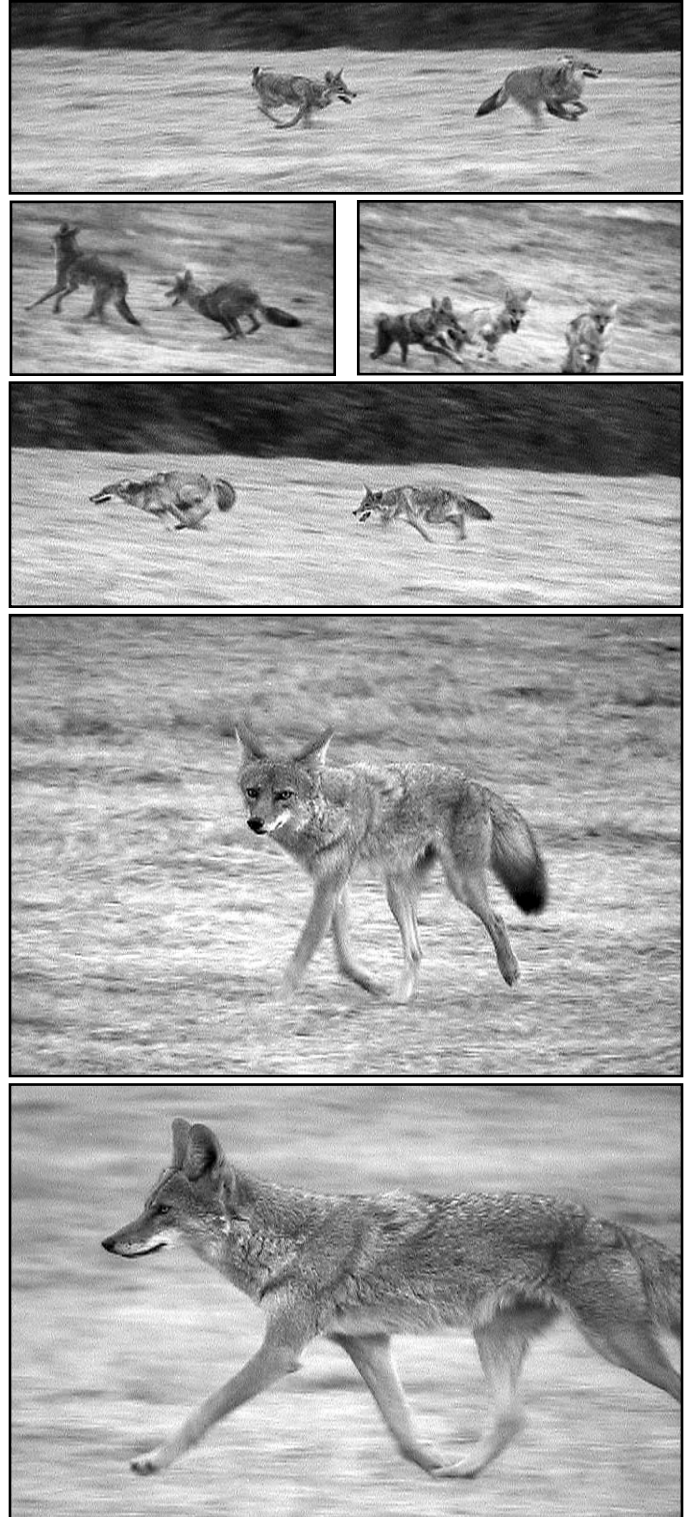
# Contributors to the Chat

Diana Brin, Paula Vanderheul, Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank, Douglas Robinson, Bob Hutchison.



## Birding the Corvallis and Albany Areas Local Birding Brochure Debuts

As a partnership between Corvallis Tourism and the Audubon Society of Corvallis, a new brochure about local birding areas is hot off the press. You might see copies at the next general meeting on Sept. 18. Thanks to Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank for volunteering to put it together. The content was loosely based on *Birding in Corvallis*, a booklet by the late Merlin “Elzy” Eltzroth. This color brochure features a map, descriptions of popular birding spots and photos of local birds.



*This family of 5 coyotes spent one August sunrise playing wild games of chase in a field at Finley NWR. One coyote would hide in a blackberry thicket, and then leap out and chase any nearby coyote. After 15 minutes of playing, they wandered back into the woods. Photos by Lisa Millbank.*

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

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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

Sept 11 Board meeting at Hesthavn  
Sept 13: Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am  
Sept 18 General meeting  
Sept 20 Full day birding at Fern Ridge  
Sept 20 Kids Day for Conservation\*  
Sept 24: Field notes submission deadline for Oct Chat  
Sept 25: Article submission deadline for Oct Chat  
Sept 27: Hesthavn work party/open house  
Sept 28: Bicycle birding, 9 am  
Oct 6 – 8: San Juan Islands birding  
Oct 11: Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am  
Oct 12: The Big Sit  
Oct 18: Full day birding at Newport  
Oct 25: Hesthavn work party/open house

\*see Summer 2008 Chat

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