



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

January 2009

VOL. 38

#5

General Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church

Birding with Fred

A presentation
by Fred Ramsey

The Audubon Society of Corvallis (ASC) will proudly feature our founder, Fred L. Ramsey, as the speaker for our January meeting to kick off 2009. A lifetime birder, Fred co-founded ASC in 1970 and has led the weekend field trips since 1971. There are usually waiting lists for these trips and many of us consider them mandatory annual visits to Bandon, Klamath Falls, Rogue Valley and Malheur with everyone vying to be in Fred's van. Seating is now randomly assigned daily by picking a number.



Since the Audubon Society of Corvallis published Fred's 1979 site guide, *BIRDING OREGON*, with its sections on difficult Oregon identification problems, there has been a mild revolution in the field identification of birds. Affordable, flexible, powerful, and user-friendly optical and photographic equipment has brought our birds much closer and into better focus. And there has been an explosion of books written on the visual identification of difficult groups of species, culminating in a magnificent epic of the *Gulls Of The Americas*, by Steve N. G. Howell and a new way of viewing identification problems in general by Peter Pyle: *Identification Guide To North American Birds, Parts I And II*. Fred's program will not present the material contained in these important texts. Both authors are nearby at Point Reyes Bird Observatory and may be enticed to make presentations themselves. Rather, the program will present some general concepts of how one goes about trying

to put a name on a bird that looks a bit odd to you. It will illustrate some of the hard problems in Oregon: dowitchers, empidonax flycatchers, and—good grief!—gulls.

We are most fortunate to have this opportunity to enjoy and learn from Fred, his photos and tips. As a world-traveled and respected ornithologist, his other interests include music, theatre, fishing and baseball. So circle Thursday, January 15 for a birding experience with Fred Ramsey.

Upcoming Presentations:

- 19 February:** *The California Condor in Oregon* by David Moen, Species Recovery Biologist for the Oregon Zoo Conservation
- 19 March:** *32 Years Later—the ASC Bluebird Trail* with Elsie Elzroth & friends, ASC
- 16 April:** *A Mid-Valley Safari* with Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank, of the Neighborhood Naturalist program
- 21 May:** *Grassland Birds of the Willamette Valley* by Anne Mary Myers, Willamette Valley Grassland Biologist, ODFW

Questions about the series can be directed to Diana Brin (908-6166, dianaASC@gmail.com).

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.

Diana Brin

In this issue:

Day of Action	34
Hesthavn News	34
Green Stimulus	34
2009 'Tree' Planting	35
Field Trip Schedule	35
Rivers and Wildlife Celebration	35-36
New Climate Czar	36

December General Mtg Members' Night cancelled due to weather

The winter storm warnings on Wednesday 18 December were enough to cancel the meeting in the interest of safety for our members. Since our speaker schedule is full, we may have to postpone the photo night until next December. I will keep the photos submitted until we can decide on another date. Our apologies to anyone who went to the church only to see the cancellation notice left by our President, Will Wright, but since we tried to wait until the last feasible moment, that was the best way of notifying people. Should this happen in the future, we will send a notice to the Mid-Valley Birding email list to broaden the notification.

Diana Brin

Day of Action Oregon Conservation Network

Join the Oregon Conservation Network's Day of Action on January 13th. Fifty of Oregon's leading environmental groups have joined to set six priorities for the 2009 Oregon Legislature. Come listen as we publicly unveil these priorities, hear in depth descriptions of the priorities from policy experts, and discover how we can take further action to help pass these priorities.

The Environmental Day of Action will include:

- Information from experts on each of the priorities
- Clean Energy rally on the Capitol steps
- Citizen Action trainings to gear you up for the upcoming session
- Information on how to get more involved in helping pass your favorite issue

Our elected officials have the responsibility to protect those things that keep Oregon a special place for our families to call home—our forests, farmland, rivers, fish and wildlife. Come learn how you can lobby your legislators by such simple methods as phone calls, letters, and spreading information.

Taking action on these six Priorities for a Healthy Oregon, while resisting calls to weaken existing safeguards, will help us leave a strong legacy for our children and grandchildren.

- Meet at the Micah Building, 680 State Street, 9 am – 3 pm.
- Clean Energy Rally: 12 pm – 2 pm on the Capitol steps
- Note: if you can't come for the whole day, please join us for any portion of the day.

Register online at www.olcveducationfund.org/events

Questions: melissa@olcv.org or (503) 227-8073.

Melissa Chapman

Hesthavn News No work party or open house scheduled for January

New grants: on November 20, a National Audubon Society Collaborative fund grant of \$1000 was awarded to Hesthavn rainwater catchments system. On November 21, the Corvallis Evening Garden Club awarded Hesthavn a grant of \$190 for purchasing fall seeds planted at Hesthavn Nature Center (HNC). On December 2, the Corvallis Kiwanis awarded a grant of \$300 for a classroom microscope, and a dissecting scope for use with nature classes at Hesthavn. The ASC board is grateful for these grants that support the educational program, help in the restoration of native habitat, and bring water to Hesthavn for irrigation.

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.

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

Paula Vanderheul

Green Stimulus Environmental Economic Recovery

Audubon and sixteen other national environmental groups have created a list of more than 80 projects and proposals designed to help create good jobs, grow the American economy, and safeguard public health, safety and the environment at the same time. The report, "Economic Recovery through Investments in our Environment, Energy System and Heritage," was sent to the transition team for President-elect Barack Obama.

According to the report, as many as 3.6 million jobs could be created by investing in ecosystem restoration projects, water resources and infrastructure, national wildlife refuges and parks and other public lands, green transportation and energy grid, renewable technologies, energy efficiency, and national and community service. See the full report and read related material on the National Audubon website.

Audubon is particularly emphasizing ecosystem restoration in places like coastal Louisiana, Long Island Sound, the Mississippi River, and the Great Lakes as well as environmental education.

National Audubon website

2009 Tree Planting

ASC/Finley tree planting date set

Audubon Society of Corvallis and Finley National Wildlife Refuge staff have selected February 28, 2009 as the next tree planting date. However, this time instead of trees, volunteers will plant Spurred Lupine and Nelsons Checkermallow. According to head biologist, Jock Beall, these native plants are currently found in only very small numbers at Finley. The Lupine and Checkermallow are important to a variety of wildlife including birds and butterflies. The plants come in easy-to-plant plugs and Finley staff members Jock Beall, Molly Monroe, and Sallie Gentry have selected a lovely upland hill near Woodpecker Loop trail as their new home. This is not in bottom land and should be easy to plant in. Parking, sign in, and refreshments will be nearby. Signs along the road at Finley will indicate the planting area. We are asking volunteers to assist in the planting and to help out with set up, refreshments, parking, and car pooling. The 2008 February tree plant was a great success due to a lovely spring-like day. Almost 200 persons showed up to help and 1000 trees were quickly planted Please help us make the 2009 plant another success! Call John Gaylord at 541-745-5088 or 908-2898 (cell) for information and to volunteer. Happy New Year!

John Gaylord

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.

Jan 10: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

Feb 14: 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 (richarmstrong@comcast.net, 541-753-1978) with 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 and follow the instructions.

Spring 2009 Weekend Field Trips

Mar 20-22: Bandon Coast

April 17-19: Klamath Basin

May 1-3: 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. 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 play. 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.

Rich Armstrong

Rivers & Wildlife Celebration

March 20 – 22 in Kearney, Nebraska

Audubon Nebraska presents the 39th annual Rivers and Wildlife Celebration, to be held Friday-Sunday, March 20 – 22, 2009, in Kearney. Timed to coincide with the annual migration of 500,000 Sandhill Cranes and millions of waterfowl through central Nebraska, this annual wildlife festival is for anyone interested in experiencing one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on Earth and learning more about the natural world in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

Featured speakers for this year's event are:

- Pete Dunne: Author and birding expert from Cape May Bird Observatory
- Joel Sartore: National Geographic photographer
- Felipe Chavez-Ramirez: Director, Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust

Throughout the festival, local birding experts will lead field trips to the best birding hotspots in the area. The highlight is a full-day birding trip with Pete Dunne on Sunday, March 22. Other full-day and half-day trips will take place on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to the Rainwater Basin and other migration stopovers. Tours may also include stops at local prairie-chicken booming grounds and prairie dog towns.

There will also be trips to viewing blinds along the Platte River at Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary at sunrise and sunset. Witnessing Sandhill Cranes leave from and return

see "Rivers & Wildlife" on next page

Rivers & Wildlife, continued from page 35

to the river up close is an event no birder should miss. Field trips have limited space, so participants are encouraged to register early.

Other conference highlights include Brian “Fox” Ellis, who portrays John James Audubon; a photography workshop with Randy Hampton and Joel Sartore; a free crane behavior class; and lots more.

To obtain a registration brochure, call or write Audubon Nebraska, P.O. Box 117, Denton, NE 68339; 402/797-2301; Nebraska@audubon.org. Brochures can also be downloaded at www.Nebraska.audubon.org.

Additional crane viewing information can be obtained from Rowe Sanctuary, (308) 468-5282; www.rowsanctuary.org.

The Rivers and Wildlife Celebration is presented by Audubon Nebraska, Audubon’s Rowe Sanctuary, and the Nebraska Partnership for All-Bird Conservation.

Kevin Poague

Our New Climate Czar Obama Team Chooses Audubon Board Chair Carol Browner for Key Post

President-elect Obama has named Carol Browner, Chair of the Board of the National Audubon Society, to the position of “Climate Czar”. Ms. Browner will lead the new administration’s policies on climate change and energy.

Ms. Browner is best known as the longest serving EPA administrator during the Clinton Presidency. Her position is one of several environmental selections Obama has recently announced, including physicist Steven Chu as energy secretary, New Jersey governor Jon Corzine’s chief of staff Lisa Jackson as head of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Los Angeles deputy mayor Nancy Sutley as head of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. A recent New York Times editorial called Obama’s environmental appointments “admirable” and that they were “heartened” by Ms. Browner’s new role.

Prior to joining the Clinton administration, Ms. Browner served as Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation for two years.

Ms. Browner has called climate change “the greatest challenge we ever faced” and has acclaimed the ability of “American ingenuity and innovation” to rise to environmental challenges. Audubon made climate change its top priority under her leadership.

National Audubon Website

Field Notes

25 November – 24 December 2008

An unusual dry spell, a near record-breaking cold snap, and snow and ice on the valley floor made for quite the interesting period. Unfortunately, the poor weather created roads with dangerous driving conditions and kept many of us indoors rather than out looking for the

birds. The icy conditions caused postponement of the Corvallis CBC to 30 Dec. Nevertheless, there were some interesting discoveries, including a Cattle Egret, Ferruginous Hawk, Pacific Loon, Palm Warbler, and a very late Western Tanager.

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.

Cackling and **Canada Geese** were present in good numbers throughout the period, often foraging for grass by digging in the snow. A **Snow Goose** was along Bruce Road, 14 Dec (R. and N. Armstrong), but there were no reports of Greater White-fronted Geese.

More than 20 **Wood Ducks** on the Monroe STP, 7 Dec, was a good count (R. Armstrong). Thousands of dabbling ducks aggregated at McFadden and Cabell Marshes during the cold spell. By 23 Dec, many had moved out of the area, but Mallard, Northern Pintails, and Green-winged Teal were still numerous. Peak counts of ducks during the period were 6000 **Mallards** at Cabell Marsh, 21 Dec; 312 **American Wigeon** at Cabell Marsh, 12 Dec; 3700 **Northern Pintails** at McFadden Marsh, 23 Dec; 3000 **Green-winged Teal** at Cabell Marsh, 12 Dec; 1,010 **Northern Shovelers** at Philomath STP, 29 Nov; 260 **Ring-necked Ducks** at Cabell Marsh, 21 Dec; 72 **Lesser Scaup** at Philomath STP, 29 Nov; 22 **Bufflehead** at Philomath STP, 22 Dec; and 268 **Ruddy Ducks** at Philomath STP, 23 Dec.

There have been no reports of Common Goldeneyes so far this winter. At Thornton Lake, 26 Nov, 48 **Hooded Mergansers** must have been quite a spectacle (T. Gholson).

In keeping with our recent trend of discovering only dead loons in Benton County, a **Pacific Loon** was found dead on a Corvallis street, 3 Dec (S. Fitzpatrick), and deposited in the OSU bird collection.

The last **Eared Grebe** of the fall season was at Philomath STP, 13 Dec.

A few **Great Blue Herons** braved the icy conditions and continued to forage near small patches of open water or for mice in grass fields. **Great Egrets**, however, largely departed FNWR, where 27 were present on 29 Nov. By 23 Dec, only one was still there.

A **Cattle Egret** was in north Monroe, just off of Highway 99W, at least 5-7 Dec (J. Hubbard, D. Horgan, m.ob.). The species formerly appeared in western Oregon during Nov and Dec with some regularity, but has been very rare in the last decade or more. A **Green Heron** was along the Willamette River in Corvallis at dusk on 9 Dec, and headed to roost in a conifer.

The bounty of field mice has attracted large numbers of **Rough-legged** (see photo) and **Red-tailed Hawks** as well as **American Kestrels**. The Benton County raptor route from Kiger Island to FNWR, 7 Dec, turned up 37 Red-tailed Hawks, 24 American Kestrels, 14 **Northern Harriers**, 8 Rough-legged Hawks, a **White-tailed Kite**, a **Prairie Falcon**, and a **Burrowing Owl** (M. Cutler, J. Landau).

A surprising find at FNWR, 13 Dec, was a juvenile, female, intermediate (rufous) phase **Ferruginous Hawk**. The bird provided a rare county record and the first since 2006. Elsie Eltzroth and Nan Moore saw a **Merlin** at 53rd and SW Nash, 29 Nov. They also saw two **River Otters** at McFadden Marsh that day. A **Merlin** was in Corvallis, 18 Dec, as well (D. Battaglia). Three **Peregrine Falcons** were at FNWR, 7 Dec (L. Millbank, D. Boucher).



Good numbers of Rough-legged Hawks moved into the area. This bird was at Finley NWR, 23 Dec (photo: W. D. Robinson).

Shorebirds were a bit scarce because of the dry weather. A single **Black-bellied Plover** was at FNWR, 13 Dec. A gathering of 400 **Killdeer**, 13 Dec, along Llewellyn Road was the largest flock reported. Only two **Least Sandpipers** were found during the period, both at FNWR. The biggest group of **Dunlin** was 139 at FNWR, 23 Dec. Single **Long-billed Dowitchers** were at FNWR, 18 and 23 Dec; the former was roosting on the ice at Cabell Marsh.

About 50 gulls were at the Coffin Butte Road wetland, 20 Dec (J. Geier). The flock, which was still there the next day, contained the following species: **California**, **Ring-billed**, **Herring**, **Thayer's** and **Glaucous-winged**. In addition, there was an adult Glaucous by Glaucous-winged Gull hybrid and a Western by Glaucous-winged Gull hybrid. Seven Ring-billed Gulls and two **Mew Gulls** were at MacFarland Road, 23 Dec.

A **Barred Owl** was along Highland Dell Drive in Corvallis, 3 Dec (T. Olson). The species continues to increase in abundance and to occur in town as well as in forests around town.

Three **Yellow-shafted Flickers** were at the FNWR prairie, 18 Dec. One was at Chris Miller's feeder in Corvallis, 19 Dec, too.

A **Northern Shrike** was a pleasant site to many at FNWR, 7 Dec (m.ob.).

Four **Gray Jays** foraged in the snowy fir trees along Lewisburg Saddle in McDonald-Dunn Forest, 23 Dec (T. Robinson).

The Armstrongs enjoyed a **Hermit Thrush** in their yard in NW Corvallis, 16-22 Dec. One wonders if the snowy weather has pushed a

lot of mountain birds down to the Valley floor and how those birds have handled the exceptional cold we have experienced this month.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was in Corvallis, 25 Nov (R. Hoyer); the species is rare but regular during winter in the local area. Counts of 17 and 15 **Townsend's Warblers** along two different walking routes in Corvallis, 25 and 26 Nov, respectively, were good numbers (R. Hoyer). A **Palm Warbler**, quite rare during winter, was in Peoria, 29 Nov through at least 20 Dec (R. Campbell, m.ob., see photo). The bird was probably found because so many people had visited Peoria searching for the **Pyrrhuloxia**, which was still present throughout this period.



This Palm Warbler was a nice discovery in Peoria. It was quite cooperative and remained for at least 3 weeks. Cheryl Whelchel took this photo on 30 Nov.

Four **White-throated Sparrows** at EEW, 4 Dec, were a pretty normal count for a morning of effort there (R. Hoyer).

A very late **Western Tanager** (female-plumaged) was along Garfield Avenue in Corvallis, 25 Nov (R. Hoyer).

After an absence of a couple weeks, **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** were found again on Marys Peak, 7 Dec (J. Ray).

Next issue

Please send your reports for the next issue by 22 January.

W. Douglas Robinson
 Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife
 Oregon State University
 Corvallis, OR 97331
 (541) 737-9501
 Douglas.robinson@oregonstate.edu

Great Backyard Bird Count **Count for Fun, Count for the Future** **February 13-16, 2009**

Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 13-16, 2009. A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

"The Great Backyard Bird Count benefits both birds

see "Great Backyard Bird Count" on next page

Great Backyard Bird Count, *continued from page 37*

and people. It's a great example of citizen science: Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity," said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. "Families, teachers, children and all those who take part in GBBC get a chance to improve their observation skills, enjoy nature, and have a great time counting for fun, counting for the future."

Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards- whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

The data these "citizen scientists" collect helps researchers understand bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists.

"The GBBC has become a vital link in the arsenal of continent-wide bird-monitoring projects," said Cornell Lab of Ornithology director, John Fitzpatrick. "With more than a decade of data now in hand, the GBBC has documented the fine-grained details of late-winter bird distributions better than any project in history, including some truly striking changes just over the past decade."

Each year, in addition to entering their tallies, participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest. Many are featured in the popular online gallery. Participants in the 2009 count are also invited to upload their bird videos to YouTube; some will also be featured on the GBBC web site. Visit www.birdcount.org to learn more.

Businesses, schools, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in the GBBC can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call (607) 254-2473), or Audubon at citizenscience@audubon.org or (215) 355-9588, ext 16.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by support from Wild Birds Unlimited.

National Audubon Society website

Message to the President

Statement of Audubon President

"Voters in this historic election cast their ballots not only for change, but for a new era of hope for our environment, and the people, birds, and other wildlife that depend on

it. Washington has been ignoring critical environmental issues for too long. President-elect Barack Obama and a more environmentally aware Congress offer the promise of leadership and fundamental change that could usher in new protections for America's great natural heritage, and a new lease on life for species in decline.

"Despite real reason for optimism, we cannot take conservation gains for granted. Audubon is committed to helping the new Administration and Congress to live up to their great promise; and to make conservation, clean energy and green jobs part of America's path to a brighter tomorrow.

"Through our local Chapters, state offices and national grass roots efforts, Audubon will join with others in the environmental community to ensure that our newly elected leaders lead the way on issues vital to our environment, our economy and diversity of life on Earth."

Issues demanding prompt attention include:

- **Presidential Appointments:**
President-elect Obama should start by appointing to key environmental positions within his Administration qualified leaders who will defend our clean air and water, protect habitat and endangered species, aggressively address global warming, and steward our great natural heritage for future generations.
- **Scientific Integrity:**
The Department of the Interior should systematically review and reverse decisions made by the past Administration under the Endangered Species Act that were influenced by political considerations and not based on sound science.
President-elect Obama should send a clear signal to everyone in his administration to restore and respect scientific integrity in all environmental decisions.
- **Global Warming and Renewable Energy:**
President-elect Obama has said that: "We cannot afford more of the same timid politics when the future of our planet is at stake." He's right. We welcome the opportunity to help him deliver his promised \$150 billion plan for clean energy technologies that would protect our environment and stimulate the economy, creating up 5 million new green jobs.
The Congress should pass legislation providing significant incentives for development of renewable energy such as a strong Renewables Portfolio Standard and a long-term extension of the Production Tax Credit, and pass significant legislation to address global warming with a comprehensive cap-and-trade program.
The new Administration and Congress must lead a transformation in American energy production and use through investments in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies. This can minimize the fluctuation of gas prices while protecting our

beaches, coastal ecosystems and the Alaskan landscape from the threats of oil and gas drilling.

- **Endangered Species Conservation:**

We'll work with the Administration to secure reversal of the Bush administration's weakening of the Endangered Species Act, such as the controversial decision to allow agencies to self-consult regarding the impacts of federally-approved projects on endangered species.

Congress should pass new tax incentives to encourage private landowners to work toward recovery of endangered species.

- **Bird and Habitat Conservation:**

The Administration and the Congress should reinvest in the National Wildlife Refuge System and address the unacceptable \$3.5 billion maintenance backlog crippling this critical tool for conservation.

The Congress should pass legislation to conserve neotropical migratory birds and address the steep declines in America's common birds that are disappearing from parks, farms, and backyards across the country.

- **Ecosystem Restoration:**

The Administration and the Congress should fund significant new restoration projects to improve the status of America's great natural ecosystems: The Mississippi River, the Everglades, Long Island Sound, and the Great Lakes.

National Audubon Website

Book Reviews

Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson, by Elizabeth J. Rosenthal. Lyons Press, CT. 2008. 437pp, 16pp photos.

Peterson's "Field Guide" was published in 1934, and by the time the second edition appeared in 1939, it could be described in reviews as being "too well known to need any introduction." Elizabeth Rosenthal's detailed account of the life and times of one of the great figures in birding and conservation includes great anecdotes. Two of my favorites: Peterson once herded a moose through a Maine youth nature camp so the kids could see the animal; and sculptor Kent Ullberg recounts Peterson, dressed to the nines to meet British royalty later in the day, wading after sandpipers on Padre Island, soaking his pants and shoes. Roger Tory Peterson's childhood interest in birds ignited in 1920, on Swede Hill, when he touched a tired (probably ill) flicker, and it burst into flight. He explained that it was the 'most vivid expression of life' he had ever seen, and he spent the rest of his own life helping others identify and understand these extraordinary creatures. This is an entertaining biography. For more information, visit the author's website: petersonbird.com.

Birds in Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly, by Carrol L. Henderson. Voyageur Press, MN. 2008. 159pp, more than 150 photos.

The author is a wildlife biologist whose photos have appeared in the *NY Times*, *Audubon*, and other publications. Many of the photos in this book are really fantastic: a Purple Martin rolling upside down in mid-flight, a White-capped Albatross coolly eyeing the camera. There are also chapters on the science of bird flight—the aerodynamics of feathers and wing shapes and so on. Luckily, these chapters also include plenty of nice photos. A lovely book, well worth a look.

Neil Lidstrom

Call for Contributions

A few months ago, we asked for your help with the Chat, and the response was fantastic. In fact, we got so many submittals that we weren't able to run everything as quickly as we would have liked. To all the authors who had to wait a few issues to see their work appear, thank you for your patience!

Not having enough room for everything is such a nice problem for your Chat editors! But that is no longer our problem. We're afraid that we have now used up all your stories and we're broke again.

Please send your birding stories, poetry, photos, or other and help make your Chat more fun for everyone!

Chat Editors

Contributors to the Chat

Diana Brin, Melissa Chapman, Paula Vanderheul, John Gaylord, Kevin Poague, Rich Armstrong, Douglas Robinson, Neil Lidstrom



Wilson's Snipe photo by Matt Lee

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

President: Will Wright, Will_Wright@Monroe.k12.or.us,
753-4395
Vice-president: Diana Brin, dbrin13@yahoo.com, 908-6166
Secretary: Karan Fairchild, alderspr@peak.org, 929-4049
Treasurer: Judith Hays, haysj@comcast.net, 745-5692

Board Members

Board member: John Gaylord, gaylordjohng@aol.com,
745-5088
Board member: Linda Campbell, lcampbell@peak.org,
929-9420
Board member: Jerry Paul, jlpaul2006@msn.com, 745-3934
Board member: Carroll DeKock, candgdecock@centurytel.net,
491-3934
Board member: Rebecca Schwiebert, Schwiebert@linkline.com,
310-729-5039
Board member: Gail Andrews, gail.glick.andrews@oregonstate.
edu, 745-5323

Committees and Coordinators

Conservation Chair: David K. Mellinger,
DavidKMellinger@yahoo.com, 757-7953
Education Chair: Marcia F. Cutler, marciafcutler@comcast.net,
752-4313
Bluebird Trail Chair: Elsie Eltzroth, eltzroth@peak.org,
745-7806
Christmas Bird Count Compiler: Marcia Cutler,
marciafcutler@comcast.net, 752-4313
Hesthavn Chair: Paula Vanderheul, vanderp@peak.org,
752-0470
Publicity Chair: Don Boucher, bouchdon@peak.org, 753-7689
Electronic Communications Chair: Tom Haig,
tomhaig@hotmail.com
Birdathon Coordinator: Mary van Brocklin,
mary_vanbrocklin@yahoo.com, 745-7170
Membership Chair: Karl Hartzell, karlerun@yahoo.com,
758-2275
Field Trip Chair: Rich Armstrong, richarmstrong@comcast.net,
753-1978
Sales Table team: Sally Shaw, 757-2749, shaws@peak.org
Bev Clark, oreflygirl12@earthlink.net,
753-4456
Refreshment Chair: Gail Nickerson, gailhops@aol.com,
754-0406
Field Notes Compiler: Douglas Robinson, douglas.
robinson@oregonstate.edu, 737-9501
Newsletter Editors: Joan Newhouse and Neil Lidstrom,
chateditors@gmail.com, 754-3120

Audubon Society of Corvallis
P.O. Box 148
Corvallis, OR 97339

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 56
Corvallis, OR



Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

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

Calendar

Jan 8: Board meeting
Jan 10: Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
Jan 13: Day of Action*
Jan 15: General meeting
Jan 22: Field notes submission deadline for Feb Chat
Jan 29: Article submission deadline for Feb Chat
Feb 13-16: Great Backyard Bird Count
Feb 14: Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
Feb 28: ASC/Finley NWR tree planting*

*see pg 35



Dark-eyed Junco 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, \$35 for a family, \$15 for a student. Chat-only subscriptions (email delivery only) are \$15.

Printed on Recycled Paper