



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

October 2010

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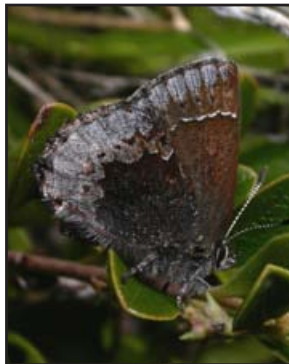
General Meeting

Thursday, October 21, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church

Dana Ross, entomologist, will talk about butterflies and moths of the Willamette Valley and the Pacific Northwest, with special emphasis on local endangered species. He has tracked Oregon populations of Taylor's Checkerspot since 2003 and is involved in the conservation of Seaside Hoary Elfin, Mardon Skipper, Johnson's Hairstreak, Coastal Greenish Blue, and Leona's Little Blue. He is currently conducting insect inventories at several Oregon sites.



Taylor's Checkerspot



Seaside Hoary Elfin

Ross is an independent entomologist from Corvallis, Oregon, specializing in the documentation and conservation of Pacific Northwest insects, especially butterflies. An avid insect collector since the age of 4, he earned a Master's Degree in entomology from Oregon State University under Jeffrey Miller. He has done work for the Nature Conservancy, Oregon State University, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and a host of other groups and agencies. Dana is a curatorial associate at the Oregon State Arthropod Collection (OSAC), acts as a technical advisor for the Benton County Prairie Species Habitat Conservation Plan, and

oversees records of Oregon butterflies.

Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and visiting. The chapter meeting commences at 7:00 pm, followed by the guest lecture at 7:30 pm. Questions about the series can be directed to Dave Mellinger at David.Mellinger@oregonstate.edu or 757-7953.

Directions

The chapter meeting is in the meeting hall of the First Presbyterian Church (upstairs), 114 SW Eighth Street.

Dave Mellinger

New Audubon President Some thoughts on Taking Office

I am now a few days into my new role as President of the National Audubon Society. It is a blend of discovery and delight. In every encounter, I learn something new about Audubon's conservation initiatives, achievements and opportunities. And I have been reminded time and again of the importance of the Chapter network in delivering real conservation success.

So far, staff members have gone out of their way to make me feel welcome and connected to our far-flung

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network. They are generous with their insights and eager to hear about my experiences, impressions and plans for the future. We are already collaborating on many fronts. The good work of the Policy and Communications teams led to publication of my first opinion piece as Audubon's CEO on Day Two. My op-ed urging the Senate to take decisive action to ensure the long-term restoration of the Gulf Coast ran in newspapers from the *Miami Herald* to the *Juneau Empire*, as well as on a number of national web outlets. I am also working closely with staff on the first trips I'll make to Audubon field locations through mid-October. The primary purpose of these visits is to let me experience the unique ways in which birds connect people with nature and inspire the concern, commitment and action that have fueled Audubon's conservation successes throughout its history. Seeing Audubon from the grassroots – and going birding – will give me a view of the organization from the field. We've had some media interest (the hook is about a CEO going to the birds – it's corny, but it's working) and that'll enable me to shine a light on the great work that's happening from coastal Louisiana to St. Louis. I'll have the opportunity to meet with some staff and some volunteer leaders, but the primary purpose of this first trip is to connect with Audubon's historic legacy.

I will make numerous follow-up trips to meet the many special people whose commitment and extraordinary contributions make possible our collective conservation achievements. I hope that by first seeking to better understand a very important source of their passion, my actions will speak for themselves: I respect all they bring to our work and I truly believe what I said in my first note to staff: We Are All Audubon.

Only a few days into the job, I am grateful for this exceptional opportunity and for the trust I've been given. The Audubon network is unique and well-respected within the conservation community and you are vital to its success. I look forward to future opportunities to meet face-to-face and to the many and varied victories we will achieve together for birds, for other wildlife and for the habitats that sustain us all.

David Yarnold

Field Trip Schedule

Monthly Year-Round Saturday Field Trips

Oct 9: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

Nov 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 parking area, 757 Polk Ave, 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 questions.

Rich Armstrong

Marine Reserves Resolution

On September 21 the Benton County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted for a strong resolution supporting the process for forming a network of marine reserves on Oregon's coast. They confirmed that this is not strictly a coastal issue, but that the ocean is of vital concern to all Oregonians. Thanks to Barry Wulff from Marys Peak Group Oregon Sierra Club, John Gaylord from Corvallis Audubon, and Derek Campbell from the Our Ocean Coalition for supporting the resolution at the Benton County Commissioners' meeting and for their continued support for good marine science when dedicating ocean sites for the future.

It is hoped the Corvallis City Council will sign on in the near future.

John Gaylord

Hesthavn News

During August and early September volunteers were Susan Brown and Paula Vanderheul working on weeding rock garden, watering shrubs and rock garden, weeding along the riparian areas, collecting native flower seeds, mowing, cleaning center, and filling bird feeders. On September 9, Paula presented a program to the Corvallis Garden Club about planting native shrubs and native flowers to attract birds, and butterflies to back yards. Volunteers needed to complete the following list of projects:

- Mowing the entire grass fields by October 15 with brush hog.
- Collecting cut grass for solar compost toilet winter use.
- Removing solarized ground cloth and prepare soil for fall planting of native prairie forbs in September/October after mowing grass fields.
- Planting fall prairie seeds in November.
- Moving ground cloth to new areas to be solarized for the coming year.
- Weeding along the riparian stream during the fall and winter months.
- Leaf clean up from rock garden from Bigleaf Maple tree. Leaf blower/vacuum provided.
- Burning brush pile mid- October/November

The Fall work parties/Open House schedules

October 23, Fourth Saturday

November 20, Third Saturday

Work parties are from 9 am to 1 pm.

Tools are provided and work gloves.

Bring a water bottle and your own gloves if desired.

Volunteer greeters are needed to welcome visitors in the nature center for the open house from 10 am to 1 pm. Instructions and tutoring are available to prepare volunteers.

Contact Paula Vanderheul for information about joining the Nature Center volunteer team.

You can find map directions to Hesthavn Nature Center, which is located at 8590 NW Oak Creek Drive, on the ASC website at www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

*Paula Vanderheul
vanderp@peak.org*

Field Notes

20 AUGUST 2010 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2010

Fall migration is underway and there were cooperative **Baird's Sandpipers**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, and **Common Terns**.

Abbreviations and Locations: mob = many observers. Observer names are noted in parentheses after their reports. EEW = E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area north of Corvallis. Cabell is the lake on Finley. NAMC was the North America Migratory Bird count on 9/19.

Up to 25 White Pelicans were at Cabell various times from all period (mob) and also at Ankeny much of the period. A **Black-crowned Night Heron** flew over Finley 8/20 (N Richardson). **Green Herons** have been somewhat scarce this year, but 1 has been at Thorton Lake in Albany all summer (Tristen) and 1 was at EEW 9/17 (J Geier) and 3 were there 9/23 (Tristen). 2 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were in fields next to Philomath Sewage Treatment Ponds 9/18 (mob) and 29 were at Finley on NAMC (D Robinson). 3 **Redheads** were at Philomath Ponds (D Robinson, mob). 5 **Mountain Quail** were seen on NAMC (F Ramsey).



Pectoral Sandpiper photo by Douglas Robinson

A **Black-necked Stilt** was at the Beta Ponds south of Albany 8/24 (J Fleischer), still there 8/26 (A Booth). Also there later on 8/26 was a **Baird's Sandpiper**, 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** with the Greaters, and a very cooperative **Sora** (M Cutler, P Vanderheul). The **Baird's Sandpipers** at Philomath Ponds 8/18-19 (D Robinson, mob) stayed a couple more days. A **Sanderling** flew over Philomath Ponds 8/20 (D Robinson). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Philomath Ponds along with 5-10 **Red-necked Phalaropes** 9/2 (D Robinson, mob), and stayed a few days, while another **Pectoral** was at Ankeny with 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** 8/23 (S Finnegan) and another **Pectoral** at Ankeny 9/9 (G Lindeman, R Gerig). 5 **Red-necked Phalaropes**

were at the Tangent Ponds 8/24 (J Fleischer). 2 **Long-billed Curlews** were at Diamond Hill wetland 9/4 (R Adney). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was at Ankeny 9/9 (G Lindeman, R Gerig). 8 **California Gulls** were at Philomath Ponds 8/20 (A Contreras, Tristen) 8/20. A **Common Tern** was at Ankeny 8/30 (S Finnegan) along with a **Marbled Godwit**. Another **Common Tern** was at Ankeny 9/17 (R Gerig) and 2 flew over Stewart Lake 9/17 (J Simmons) and then 2 were at the Philomath Ponds 9/18 (Tristen) and stayed for many observers. A **Caspian Tern** was at Bryant Park in Albany (Linn) 9/21 (Tristen).

A **Northern Goshawk** has been seen a couple times since 7/29 5 miles west of Philomath toward Mary's Peak (J&K Fairchild). There was a possible **Swainson's Hawk** at Finley 9/2 (K Heineck), but could not be found by others that looked. A **Merlin** was at Philomath Ponds 8/20 (D Robinson) and another 9/5 (W Wright) and another 9/18 (mob). Another **Merlin** was at Cabell 9/14 (B Proebsting). A **Barred Owl** was at Finley on NAMC (D Robinson). 3 **Common Nighthawks** were over clearcuts off Tampico Rd 8/20 (R&P Comeleo) and was seen west of Philomath 9/3 (J&K Fairchild). **Rufous Hummingbirds** were still at a couple feeders as late as 9/21 (mob). **Purple Martins** were still at Finley 8/20 (M Monroe). **Vaux Swifts** were seen going into chimneys at Whiteside, 6th/Washington, Weigand Hall on campus, and Monroe Elementary mid September with as many as 220 birds.

3 **Pileated Woodpeckers** were at Avery Park 8/26 (L Millbank). It might be another good year for **Lewis' Woodpeckers** as 1 was seen on Bellfountain near Finley 9/9, 1 was on Bald Top in Finley 9/13, and another at Finley 9/14 (M Monroe). 2 **Gray Jays** were west of Philomath on NAMC (K Fairchild). A **Black Phoebe** was at EEW 9/7 (B Proebsting), at Finley on NAMC (D Robinson), and at Ankeny various times (mob). A **Western Kingbird** was at Ankeny 8/23 (S Finnegan). A **Shrike** was seen on Soap Creek near Tampico 8/20 (J Geier). This time of year it would most likely be Loggerhead, but was not refound.

The bird of the month would be the **Golden-winged Warbler** that was at Irish Bend on NAMC (D Robinson), but unfortunately it didn't stay at all.

Vesper Sparrow were at Finley 8/20 (A Contreras) and Bald Hill 9/10 (B Proebsting). 3 **Chipping Sparrows** were at Finley on NAMC (D Robinson).

Next issue

Please send your reports for the next issue by 27 October.

Rich Armstrong
(541) 753-1978
richarmstrong@comcast.net

Who's Being Seen The October Transformation

In some positive ways October is more dramatic than springtime migration. From the beginning of the month until the end, there's an almost complete transformation from dry season patterns to the rainy season. The weather in early October is just a bit cooler and wetter, but nearly the same as August. By late in the month, Pacific storms roll in, the daylight pattern has shifted, most leaves have fallen and it already begins to look like winter in the Willamette Valley.



Cackling and Canada Geese photo by Sue Powell

In October, you can expect the sudden arrival of our most charismatic birds. Most notably, arriving from western Alaska, many tens of thousands of Cackling Geese arrive in the Willamette Valley. From October until early April, the sounds of their voices will fill the air continually. Many other waterfowl will arrive too, like the stately Dusky Canada Goose. Then there are the raptors. Bald Eagles will be as common as ravens. Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk numbers will substantially increase. Rough-legged Hawks arrive on the scene. Look for more frequent sightings of White-tailed Kites, Merlins, Peregrine Falcons, Prairie Falcons, Northern Harriers, Golden Eagles and Short-eared Owls.

After this October transitions, you can also look forward to the rare vagrants that inevitably show up during the rainy season. So don't lament the arrival of a dreary rainy season. Look forward to an exciting and productive season of birding.

Don Boucher

Atop the Nestbox

When is a barren pair not so barren? When it's altruistic, of course! This year in Linn County we had a pair of bluebirds that had not produced viable eggs for 2 years. In June, a trio of nestlings at a nearby clear-cut became orphaned

when their mother died on the nest, their father having disappeared a week earlier. The nestlings were 17 days old. Enter the barren pair, having given up on sterile eggs and built a new nest still devoid of eggs after 3 weeks. The orphans were placed in their nest, and voila! Mr. Altruism ecstatically went about the work of feeding them. Mrs. A took a few days to warm up to the little guys, but soon she was helping, just in time for the fledge.

The youngsters must have gotten Mrs. A's hormones in gear, as shortly thereafter she produced 4 eggs and went about the business of incubation. Unfortunately, those eggs went the way of their predecessors and failed to hatch. The foster fledglings, now foraging independently, were getting antsy and it looked like the family would be leaving their nesting grounds soon. But wait! A desperate call from Salem yielded another 3 orphans, these only 12 days old. Fingers crossed and hearts pounding, we transplanted the new nestlings and removed the sterile eggs. This time, Mrs. A did not hesitate to help Mr. A with the fostering. And if that wasn't enough, one of the fosters helped as well. Talk about paying it forward!

Congratulations to Joe and Lucy Chisholm, who won the drawing for a new raccoon-proof nest box with their report of a banded bluebird on their property in Albany. I hope we will have more participation in the sightings program next year. Stay tuned for our 2010 nesting data.

Raylene Gordin

Kids Day for Conservation

Your Family is invited to the Eighth Annual Kids Day for Conservation Saturday, October 9th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Benton County Fairgrounds Arena in Corvallis.

Kids Day for Conservation is free and open to the public. Over 40 organizations, agencies and businesses will conduct a wide variety of hands-on natural resource activities suitable for children of all ages. KDC is designed to educate and encourage kids to make a difference for conservation in their community.

Kids will have an opportunity to discover reptiles and other critters that live in our area. Activities include building a bird house to take home, making a recycled art project, learning about no trace camping and climbing inside the belly of a salmon. Families will learn how to conserve energy and water, see how wildfires spread and how to protect your family from them. Kids will have the opportunity to explore alternative energy sources including wind turbines and solar cells. This is only a sample of all you can see and do at this annual family event.

There will be something for everyone at Kids Day for Conservation. The event will be held under cover, rain or shine. Every year is different; come and see what new activities await your family at KDC. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

Volunteers Needed

This year ASC will be collaborating with Avery House Nature Center in presenting Backyard Wildlife Habitat. Children will be able to explore a “backyard” and learn what things are good for wildlife and what things are bad. We also plan to make small bird feeders out of milk cartons.

If you are interested in volunteering at our booth, please contact Marcia F. Cutler at marciafcutler@comcast.net or 541-752-4313.

Marcia F. Cutler

GreenTip OF THE MONTH

Plastic Bag Facts

1. Americans use 60,000 plastic bags every 5 seconds.
2. It takes 100 years to decompose a plastic bag and 450 years to decompose a plastic water bottle.
3. Every square kilometer in the “Pacific Garbage Patch” has 334,271 plastic bags in it.
4. Many sea bird and turtle species are struggling to survive living with an invasion of plastic bags in their habitat.

Several years ago ASC took a stand against plastic bags and created an attractive and useful cloth tote bag. Familiar birds found in Oregon adorn the front of each bag. Please support this effort by not accepting plastic grocery bags. Proudly use a reuseable cloth ASC bag. Hopefully we can be a small part of the solution to this ugly problem. We at ASC and the planet thank you.

John Gaylord

Letters from Readers

Dear Editor-

For several years now across the nation we have been struggling with the issue of single use plastic bags. Our children are active in our cities speaking out against single use bags, and issue after issue my Audubon Magazine arrives in what?! Yes a single use plastic bag. Could we please have a marketing department with a little more responsibility? Frustrated in Corvallis!

Lon Otterby
Member, Corvallis Audubon
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Bald Eagle adult photo by Matt Lee



Bald Eagle juvenile photo by Matt Lee

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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

Oct. 9 Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
Oct. 9 8th Annual Kids Day for Conservation
Oct. 14 Board meeting
Oct. 21 General meeting
Oct. 23 Hesthavn work party
Oct. 28 Article submission deadline for October Chat
Oct. 30 Field notes submission deadline for OctoberChat
Nov. 13 Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am



White-breasted Nuthatch 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.

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