



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

December 2011

VOL. 41

#4

General Meeting

Thursday, December 15, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church

Noah Strycker: Among Penguins in Antarctica

Ice, penguins, and the cold comforts of living and working in Antarctica will be featured in a slide show by Oregon birder and author Noah Strycker. The free “Among Penguins” event, sponsored by the Audubon Society of Corvallis, will be at 7 PM on Dec. 15 at the First Presbyterian Church, corner of Monroe Ave. and 9th St.

Strycker spent three months during the Antarctic summer researching and photographing a quarter-million Adélie Penguins. He slept in a tent in below-freezing temperatures, endured howling blizzards, and spent his days in the 24-hour sunshine watching loud, active, and smelly two-foot-tall penguins go about their business nesting, fighting, incubating, waddling, feeding, napping, sliding, diving, and swimming. Strycker recounts his experiences on the coldest, windiest,



driest, least-populated, highest, and most remote continent in this presentation as well as in his new book, *Among Penguins: A Bird Man in Antarctica* (Oregon State University Press, 2011).

A birding wunderkind and magna cum laude graduate of Oregon State University, Strycker serves as associate editor of the American Birding Association’s *Birding*

magazine, has published photographs and articles in all major birding magazines, has contributed to several books (including *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference* and *Good Birders Don’t Wear White*), and works as a bird researcher in adventurous places around the world. He also hiked the full length of the Pacific Crest Trail this year and may recount a bit of that adventure.

Dave Mellinger

Holiday Tree Giveaway

Support Oregon White Oak Restoration at Finley NWR this Holiday Season

Oak restoration is an important part of managing for sensitive species on our local National Wildlife Refuges. As we continue oak savanna restoration projects on various areas of the refuge, we constantly battle Douglas-fir seedlings encroaching sensitive areas. These smaller trees can be easily removed instead of allowing them to grow and compete with oaks and their native understory.

With the approaching holidays, you could help support our efforts by hanging ornaments on a tree removed from local sensitive prairies. Trees will be cut on both the Refuge

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and by Jim Fairchild, who is restoring native prairie on property near Philomath. Species of trees include mostly Douglas-fir, with a few grand fir in the mix.

A limited supply of these less-than-perfect holiday trees will be available for pickup from November 30 through December 24 at Finley NWR headquarters off of Bellfountain Road south of Corvallis. Donations for trees will be gladly accepted in the Wild Goose Nature Store (WGNS), open Friday-Sunday from 10am-4pm. It's also a great place to do some holiday shopping! Proceeds from donations and the WGNS fund projects supporting the Refuges. The Friends of Willamette Valley Refuges manage the WGNS and are available to answer any questions.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov

Contact: Molly Monroe or Sallie Gentry
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Willamette Valley National Wildlife
Refuge Complex
26208 Finley Refuge Road
Corvallis, Oregon 97333
Phone: 541/757-7236
<http://www.fws.gov/willamettevalley/complex/index.html>
Molly Monroe

Field Trip Schedule

Monthly Year-Round Saturday Field Trips

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

January 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 parking area, 757 Polk Ave, Corvallis at 7:30 am. Unless otherwise noted, these trips finish by noon. We identify local birds by sight and sound while enjoying the outdoors.

Contact Bill Proebsting at proebstw@gmail.com or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Mid-Valley Birding listserv (<http://www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/>) for information on recent sightings. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately for field trips.

Homer Campbell Award— Input Needed

The Homer Campbell ASC Environmental Award, established in 2005, recognizes a local (Linn, Benton, Lincoln or Polk County) individual or organization that has made significant contributions to environmental

stewardship, awareness, or outreach. Contributions worthy of recognition might include, but are not limited to: promotion of environmentally sustainable practices, leadership on local environmental issues, classroom education of environmental stewardship, and habitat restoration or preservation. Both long-standing and short-term but significant contributions will be considered for this award.

A committee from the Audubon Society of Corvallis (ASC) will recommend one of the nominees, who will then be voted on by the Board of Directors. The selected awardee will then be recognized at ASC's April or May General Meeting and presented with an engraved plaque. The awardee's name will also be engraved on a permanent plaque that hangs at ASC's Hesthavn Nature Center.

Nominations should consist of letter(s) from one or more people that describe how the actions or activities of the nominee fit the criteria described above. Nominations should include contact information for both the nominee and the nominator and are due by January 31st, 2012.

Email submissions may be sent to Linda Campbell, lcampbell@peak.org; Karan Fairchild, alderspr@peak.org; Dave Mellinger, david.mellinger@oregonstate.edu; or Will Wright, willwright26@q.com. Postal mail submissions should be addressed to ASC, attn: HC Award Committee, PO Box 148, Corvallis OR 97339.

Previous winners of the Homer Campbell ASC Environmental Award:

2011: Steve Northway
2010: Jeff Mitchell
2009: Elsie Eltzroth
2008: Bill & Carla Chambers, Stahlbush Island Farms
2007: Wally & Mary Eichler
2006: Bob & Liz Frenkel
2005: Elzy Eltzroth

Karan Fairchild

2012 Winter Wings Festival, Klamath Falls, Feb. 17-19

From what we hear, some folks are reluctant to drive down to the Winter Wings Festival because of uncertain weather conditions or lack of suitable vehicles. We think that a train adventure could be just the solution! The fares are very reasonable and reportedly Amtrak is more timely now due to changes of right-of-way rules. We would love to have Auduboners take the train down and stay at one of our host hotels for the weekend ([see/www.winterwingsfest.org/travel](http://www.winterwingsfest.org/travel)).

Kenn and Kimberly Kaufman will be here along with several other notable birders and photographers. Winter birding is a special experience in the Klamath Basin.

Once here, visitors need to get to the departure points for field trips or the sites for other activities. With prior arrangement, visitors could rent vehicles suitable for driving

in the snow. Cab service is available.

Alternatively, we could try to work out a regular shuttle service to and from OIT to a hotel for a fee. We would need to know how many to expect from Portland, Salem, etc. to work out this arrangement with one of the host hotels.

I recommend that we choose either Best Western Olympic Inn or the Running Y Lodge (recently remodeled) for the Auduboners. The hotels will pick up visitors from the Amtrak station in downtown Klamath Falls. Rates at these two hotels start at \$89.

Most of the activities depart from or are conducted at the Oregon Institute of Technology which is about 10 minutes from the Best Western and about 25 minutes from Running Y Lodge. Several Friday events depart from the host hotels or are being held at the Running Y Lodge. (The Best Western has a student group from Redding that comes each year and only with early reservations could you house the group there.)

We should have our festival schedule posted at www.WinterWingsFest.org in the next couple of weeks and registration is expected to begin December 10th. If Oregon Chapters are interested, we need a contact person that our volunteers can work with to plan out the logistics. The shuttle option will require advance notice to make those arrangements. Let me know if you need any other information to publicize this winter adventure.

Here's the info on Coast Starlight as of this date. Leave Thursday, February 16th - Return Monday, February 20th
Portland - Klamath and return - 7 Hr - 25 Min— Cost each way \$37 — Departure to KF 2:25PM - Departure from KF 8:25AM
Salem - Klamath and return - 6 Hr - 13 Min— Cost each way \$32 — Departure to KF 3:35PM
Albany - Klamath and return - 5 Hr - 40 Min — Cost each way \$30 — Departure to KF 4:10PM
Eugene - Klamath and return - 4 Hr - 40 Min — Cost each way \$24 — Departure to KF 5:10PM
Chemult - Klamath and return - 1 Hr - 42 Min — Cost each way \$14 — Departure to KF 8:08PM
ARRIVE IN KLAMATH 10:00PM

*Diana Samuels,
Winter Wings Festival Coordinator
541-850-5832*

ASC Board Mtg. Summary

At the ASC Board meeting Nov 10, 2011, the board:

1. Accepted the budget
2. Voted to support the TMDL plan proposed by public works to build a wetlands for waste water treatment
3. Decided to name the listserv Audubon Society of Corvallis, with Karan Fairchild as administrative contact, to be for chapter business only. Next ASC Board meeting is December 8 at 7 pm at Tom Penpraze's home, 1610 NW Highland Dr.

Annual Appeal-Thank You!

Many thanks to those of you who made donations, large and small. You know your generosity will help in a multitude of community projects.

The Board of ASC

Hesthavn News

It has been a wonderful year at the little property on the creek. We will always be thankful for the generous donation by the Bergs. Through the work of many volunteers, the muddy horse pasture has become a nature trail, a habitat restoration project, a study in native plants, and education center, a gathering place, and a place for quiet reflection. Thank you for the dedication and energy to those who have made Hesthavn all that it is.

There will be Habitat Restoration Parties, at the Hesthavn Nature Center, on January 21, February 25 and March 24, 2012. Please contact volunteerasc@gmail.com for more information. Hope to see you there!

*Best wishes and Happy Holidays!
Audubon Board*

Looking for some Glory?

The Search for the next Chat editor

The Audubon Society of Corvallis is looking for a new editor of the newsletter you hold in your hand. The job itself is pretty fun and you shouldn't hesitate to call for more information if you think you might be interested. There is a commitment of time and energy, but depending on how quickly you type, it shouldn't take more than half a day, once a month – and remember, there's only one issue in the summer.

The Chat editor collects emailed submissions and enters them into a Microsoft Word template. It isn't necessary to know how to format the newsletter for publication, or how to print or distribute the issue – other volunteers perform those tasks. The Chat editor enjoys the near-deific power of selecting the stories that will appear in each issue (generally everything that is submitted) and then editing to make them fit. Again, if any of this sounds even slightly interesting, you are probably perfect for the job and should call me immediately before somebody else takes it!

The current editor will work with the new editor through the spring to assure a smooth transition. And here's another reason to call right now: for a limited time we are able to offer the following fabulous prize for any and all successful applicants for the post of Chat editor: one large American Dream pizza of your choice. It's all yours when you sign up as the next Chat editor! Think how badly you'll feel if you decide to "think it over" for a day or two, then find the position filled when you finally call? Call now for more information: Jim Sumich at 541-231-8898 or Will Wright at 541-753-4395.

Jim Sumich

Field Notes

10/28/11-11/24/11

The general area covered by the field notes is a rough circle centered on Corvallis, extending to around Sweet Home, Monroe/Harrisburg, Marys Peak and the nearby Coast Range, and Monmouth/Dallas.

A few heavy rainstorms helped to fill local wetlands as waterfowl continued to arrive and settle into wintering areas. Foggy mornings and rainy days may have limited visibility (and kept birders inside!). In the Cascades and Coast Range, the onset of cold, snowy weather continued to push birds downslope.

Locations: Finley = William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Cabell Marsh and McFadden Marsh are located at Finley, MRNA = Marys River Natural Area in Corvallis, Stewart Lake = pond at HP in Corvallis, Philomath STP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds, Monmouth STP = Monmouth sewage treatment ponds, Ankeny = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

Observers: Don Boucher (DB), Bob Burke (BB), Pam Comeleo (PC), Randy Comeleo (RC), Alan Contreras (AC), Marcia F. Cutler (MFC), Jim Fairchild (JFa), Karan Fairchild (KFa), Jeff Fleischer (JF), Andrea Foster (AF), Rana Foster (RF), Becky Geier (BG), Joel Geier (JG), Jeff Harding (JH), Amy Hill (AH), Sally Hill (SH), Richard F. Hoyer (RFH), Frank Kolwicz (FK), Jan Landau (JL), Sylvia Maulding (SM), Thomas Meinzen (TM), Lisa Millbank (LM), Molly Monroe (MM), Russ Namitz (RN), Pam Otley (PO), Doug Robinson (DR), Jen Sanford (JSa), Don Schrouder (DS), Steve Seibel (SS), Jamie Simmons (JS), Barb Taylor (BTa), Bill Tice (BTi), Brandon Wagner (BW), Will Wright (WW)

1 juvenile **Greater White-fronted Goose** was hanging out within a flock of **Cackling Geese** at Stewart Lake 10/18 and 10/27 (JS). Dusky subspecies **Canada Geese** were noted at Finley 11/6 (PO) and 11/20 (RN, BTa), when there were about 100 in a flock of 5000 cacklers. A winery pond on Airlie Rd. had a couple of small flocks 11/9 (JG, BG). A **Brant** was in the company of a flock of cacklers at Ankeny 10/29 (JSa), and another one was among cacklers 11/20 (RN, BTa). **Tundra Swans** were being seen more often this period, with 6 at Finley 11/6 (PO), 7 flying over LSNA 11/7 (PC & RC), 5 along Airlie Rd. N of Adair Village 11/9 (JG & BG), and several at Finley 11/9 (WW). No one reported Trumpeter Swans, but some should show up next period. As local wetlands gradually filled with autumn rain, waterfowl watchers were rewarded with the colorful spectacle of thousands of ducks on large marshes. There were multiple reports of huge rafts of **Mallards**, **Northern Shovelers** (including an all-white one at Philomath STP) and **Northern Pintails**. Widespread ducks that were reported in smaller numbers were **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Ducks** and **Lesser Scaup**. **Buffleheads** were seen at Philomath STP 11/6 (PO) and Monmouth STP 11/15 (BW). 1 **Canvasback** was at Monmouth STP 11/15

(BW). An uncommon visitor, 1 male **Redhead** was at the Philomath STP 11/6 (PO). A **Common Goldeneye** was at Philomath STP (KFa & JFa). **Hooded Mergansers** have showed up in ponds and slow-moving creeks (m.obs.).

A single mountain-climbing **Wild Turkey** at the top of Marys Peak 11/11 may have been the same rugged individual reported there in August (TM, AC).

A **Pacific Loon** was a very unusual find in a pond at Finley 11/14 (MM).

14 **Eared Grebes** and 2 **Western Grebes** were at Philomath STP 11/6 (PO), and some Eareds were still there 11/20 (KFa & JFa).

Great Egrets often seem more at home hunting voles in fields than in local wetlands. Just S of Finley, a collection of at least 14 in one field on 11/9 was the largest concentration reported (WW).

A few **Turkey Vultures** were seen this period, and may have been southbound stragglers or overwintering birds. 1 was on a carcass 11/7, near Oakville Rd. & Hwy 34 (RFH), and 2 were seen in the same area 11/17 (SS). The Linn County raptor survey route 5 on 11/20 found the highest reported number of **Bald Eagles** this period: 4 adults and 1 immature (JH, BB), but quite a few singles were reported around the area this period. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** killed an American Goldfinch 11/2 at a feeder in SE Corvallis (AH). An immature male **Goshawk** perched on a power pole on Hwy 99W a few miles S of Corvallis 11/9. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found at a few locations: Cabell Marsh 11/6 (PO), McFadden Marsh 11/10 (WW) and MRNA 11/13 (LM & DB). **Red-tailed Hawks** became a common sight, standing in fields and perched on posts throughout the area, with 39 found 11/20 along the Linn County raptor survey route 5 (JH, BB). **Rough-legged Hawks** continued in small numbers in open country throughout the period, with many reports from Bruce Rd. at Finley. 3 were seen there 11/10 (WW) and 3 were on Robinson Rd N of Adair Village 11/9 (JG & BG). An immature **Golden Eagle** was at Finley 10/31 (SH, DS, SM), and one (perhaps the same individual) was standing on a carcass there on 11/10 (WW). **American Kestrels** are abundant this winter, with 39 on the central Benton County raptor survey route 11/13 (JL, MFC), and 47 from Linn County raptor survey route 5 (JH, BB). Cletus, a Harris's Hawk trained for falconry, got a surprise while hunting rabbits when a feisty **Merlin** dive-bombed him (RFH). Merlins were reported regularly throughout the period, especially from Finley.

21 **Sandhill Cranes** were at Crabtree Creek near Crabtree during a raptor survey 11/20 (JH, BB).

1 **Black-bellied Plover** was E of Tangent 11/20 (RN, BTa). Only a single **Greater Yellowlegs** was reported in our area this period, from Philomath STP 11/6 (PO), although it is not too unusual to have a few overwinter. 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** were at Monmouth STP 11/15 (BW). A few of these usually overwinter somewhere in the valley. An unusual sandpiper found E of Tangent 11/19 (JH) proved to

be a puzzling identification challenge, but eventually it was determined to be a **Ruff**. This Eurasian shorebird is a rare visitor to North America. **Dunlin** were scattered in small groups, with no large flocks reported. 9 were at Philomath STP 11/6 (PO), 3 at Monmouth STP (BW), and several E of Tangent 11/19 (JH).

Gulls became noticeable over downtown Corvallis, but few were positively identified. Several appeared to be **Glaucous-winged Gulls** and **California Gulls** at Coffin Butte Landfill in mid-November (JG), and **Mew Gulls** were at Monmouth STP 11/15 (BW).

A single **African Collared-Dove** among 44 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** on 11/13 near Monroe means we have a new species to watch for locally. This bird is smaller than its Eurasian cousin but quite similar in appearance (DR).

A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was perched on a power line on Decker Rd. 11/7 and even called a bit before flying into the forest (TM). 1 **Short-eared Owl** was interacting with a Northern Harrier at the Finley Prairie Overlook 11/17 (SS), and 2 were standing in a field near Shedd 11/21 (JFI).

Hardy little **Anna's Hummingbirds** were common in Corvallis where feeders and winter-blooming shrubs are abundant, although a female at Adair Village 11/20 was somewhat unusual (JG).

Belted Kingfishers are becoming more widespread as migrant birds from colder climates arrive. They can also set up winter territories along smaller streams that do not support them during breeding season.

Two **Lewis's Woodpeckers** continued throughout the period at Finley, especially around the Bald Top/Cabell Barn area (m. obs.). **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** made for entertaining backyard guests, when one was observed hanging upside-down on a twig for a few minutes 11/15 (FK), and another maintained his sap wells 11/19 (AF).

Black Phoebes are uncommon, but becoming quite widespread, and were found at a few locations this period: Finley HQ ponds 11/6 (PO), Clemens millponds near Philomath 11/13 (RF), Monmouth STP 11/15 (BW) and Griggs millponds N of Lebanon 11/6 (JH).

A **Northern Shrike** was at Richardson's Gap E of Scio 10/30 (JH). **Hutton's Vireos** were fairly easy to find in mixed-species flocks.

Perhaps one of the **Clark's Nutcrackers** reported from the top of Marys Peak last period stayed for a while, as 1 was reported 11/11 (TM, AC).

1 late **Barn Swallow** was reported flying over Stewart Lake 10/27 (JS), hopefully headed toward a warmer wintering area.

Both **Chestnut-backed** and **Black-capped Chickadees** could be found in mixed winter flocks in local parks.

While many of them migrate south, some **Marsh Wrens** spend the winter locally; one of these hardy wrens was at Finley 11/2 (AH). Many **Pacific Wrens** have moved downslope and have become common birds in lowland wooded areas.

Tiny **Golden-** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** joined

roaming mixed-species flocks in yards and parks. Winter flocks of **Western Bluebirds** were conspicuous in some places, as they may consist of local birds and/or migrants from N and E of our area. 80 were on Marys Peak 11/11 (TM, AC), and about 100 were counted 11/13 on the central Benton County raptor survey route (JL, MFC). A **Hermit Thrush** showed up in a S Corvallis yard 11/6 (WW), and they should become more noticeable as they continue to settle into the lowlands. **American Robins** showed up in great numbers through the period, with some of the migrants continuing south and many others taking up residence in wet fields and neighborhoods (m.obs.). In more wooded areas, **Varied Thrushes** were fairly easy to find among foraging flocks of robins.

Large flocks of **American Pipits** are a welcome sight in winter grass fields, and a flock of about 300 were in the fields near Philomath STP 11/20 (KF & JFa).

Small numbers of **Townsend's Warblers** have shown up here and there, 1 female was at Pioneer Park in Corvallis 11/20 (DB & LM), 1 one was in a NW Corvallis yard 11/10 (AF).

The only **Swamp Sparrow** reported was 1 at the Griggs millponds N of Lebanon 11/6 (JH). An immature **Harris's Sparrow** was with a flock of other sparrows 10/30 (DR), and later seen by other sparrow-seekers 10/31 (SHI, DS, SM). Harris's Sparrows are rare in Oregon, but fairly regular, showing up almost every year. At least 60 **White-crowned Sparrows** were at Sunset Park 11/20 (DB & LM). Both tan-striped and white-striped forms of **White-throated Sparrows** showed up in scattered locations throughout the valley, probably best found among flocks of White- or Golden-crowned Sparrows.

A very late **Black-headed Grosbeak** showed up at a NE Corvallis feeder and was photographed 11/5 (AH).

A likely female **Rusty Blackbird** was found 11/13 on Elkins Rd. W of the Luckiamute River, among a flock of hundreds of **Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbirds**, **Brown-headed Cowbirds** and **European Starlings** (BTi). This is a rare vagrant that has been recorded fewer than a dozen times in Oregon.

Please post your reports to midvalleybirding.org, send them to lisaaves@peak.org, or leave a voicemail at 541-753-7689 by Thursday, December 22.

Lisa Millbank

Conservation News—Plastic Bags Continue As Hot Topic

Single-use versus multi-use bags continues to be a hot topic with Corvallis City Council members and local citizens. Corvallis Audubon members, John Gaylord and Stacy Moore, recently joined a packed city council meeting to present views on the issue.

About a dozen people shared their feelings with council members and by far the sentiment was in favor of Corvallis switching to more sustainable practices by banning single-use plastic bags (this does not include bags for meat or frozen food or items such as prescriptions) and charging for paper bags made from recycled materials.

John Gaylord spoke to the councilors and showed the audience photos of albatrosses that had swallowed and died from ingesting plastic or getting tangled in rubbish. “I am speaking for the animals that have no voice,” stated Mr. Gaylord. He displayed a Corvallis Audubon cloth bag stating how easy it is to keep several bags in his car to shop for multiple items. Councilor Joel Hirsch commented on the attractive Audubon bag and expressed that he would love to have a bag like that to do his shopping. Mr. Hirsch was then gifted the bag.

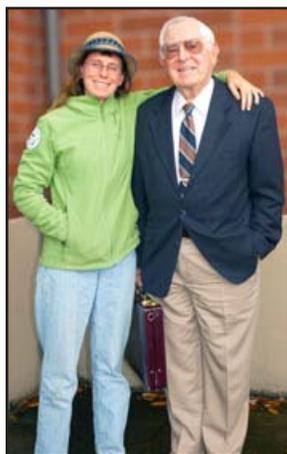
Stacy Moore talked about other cities she has lived in that have banned plastic bags. “The switch went very smoothly in these cities and people noticed less rubbish around town,” commented Mrs. Moore.

A representative from Pacific Northwest groceries, who speaks for stores such as Cosco, Fred Meyer and Wal-Mart, declared that they are in total support of banning plastic bags to promote more sustainable practices. A representative from small business owners said she would like to have time to adjust if the ban takes place. At the end of the meeting the City Council members voted to send the issue to committee to discuss further. Stayed tuned for future developments.

Stacy Moore



John Gaylord presents the alternative to plastic bags with the ASC's canvas tote.



Stacy Moore and her father John Gaylord

Atop the Nestbox

Please repair damaged boxes, consider moving boxes with persistent problems such as predation or occupation by unwanted species, and consider ways your bluebird nest boxes could be more effective next year

Raylene Gordin

Christmas Gifts

Looking for a wonderful holiday gift? Check out the photo below! People interested in purchasing a bird box can either email me (J. Brodrick) at jmbrodrick.com or boxes will be sold at the general Audubon meetings.



*Special note, decorations not included in Bird Box purchase.

Pricing is as follows:

- Small Bird Box \$15.00
- Medium Bird Box \$20.00
- Large Bird Box \$25.00
- Canvas Tote \$7.00

J. Brodrick

Christmas Bird Count

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 20, 2011. This will be the 50th Corvallis Christmas Bird Count. If you would like to join a team, please contact Marcia Cutler, 541-752-4313

Will Wright

GreenTip OF THE MONTH

As the rain and cold weather settles in around us, it is that time of year to weatherize your home. This will save you money and energy as well as help reduce your impact on the environment. Below are some tips from DoItYourself.com

- First, test your home for air tightness. On a windy day, hold a lit incense stick next to your windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures and other locations where there is a possible air path to the outside. If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have located an air leak that may need caulking or sealing.

- Caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting, or electrical wiring penetrates through exterior walls, floors, ceilings, and soffits over cabinets.
- Install rubber gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on exterior walls.
- Look for dirty spots in your insulation, which often indicate holes where air leaks into and out of your house. You can seal the holes by stapling sheets of plastic over the holes and caulking the edges of the plastic.
- Install storm windows over single-pane windows or replace them with double-pane windows. Storm windows as much as double the R-value of single-pane windows and they can help reduce drafts, water condensation, and frost formation. As a less costly and less permanent alternative, you can use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Remember, the plastic must be sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.
- When the fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper tightly closed. A chimney is designed specifically for smoke to escape, so until you close it, warm air escapes—24 hours a day!
- For new construction, reduce exterior wall leaks by either installing house wrap, taping the joints of exterior sheathing, or comprehensively caulking and sealing the exterior walls.

Stacy Moore

Friends Who Have Passed

Orr Wieman who died recently, was the most versatile monitor of the Audubon Society of Corvallis (ASC) Bluebird Trail from the mid-1980's until 1999. Environmentally concerned about the loss of bluebird habitat in the Willamette Valley, he began by building and donating nest boxes and feeders for the Trail with baffles to protect them from predation. He also monitored dozens of boxes south of Corvallis on tree farms. When spring and early summer wet and windy weather jeopardized early nesting bluebird success, he took food (mealworms) to the feeders every other day to supplement the lack of insects on which the birds depended. He occasionally educated children at the elementary school level.

Orr loved his bluebirds along with so many of his other interests in the world of nature. His volunteerism for (ASC) has never been equaled. He was the most unassuming individual that I ever worked with on the Trail. Please read the obituary from McHenry Funeral Home.

*With much respect,
Elsie Eltzroth*

Dave Marshall, longtime Portland Audubon Society member, and co-author of the new and revised *Birds of Oregon*, passed away on Nov. 21. A career biologist with the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service, Dave was a champion of wildlife, and birds in particular. He was strongly influenced by Stanley Jewett and Ira Gabrielson. He will be remembered for his passion for birds, and sorely missed. A memorial will be held in Portland on December 10.

Will Wright

BOOK CHAT

Featured this month is a stunning portfolio of Audubon prints. Published in 1988 by Abbeyville Press, this book, *Audubon's Birds of America*, referred to as the Baby Elephant portfolio edition, was edited by Roger Tory Peterson and Virginia Marie Peterson. ISBN 0-89659-2316 Trade Edition with a pelican on the slip cover. Still in its original Abbeyville Press shipping box, this magnificent 12" x 15-1/2" book is in like-new condition. Because copies of this edition have sold recently for prices ranging from \$185.89 through \$274.97, we have placed a price of \$200.00 on our copy. This magnificent gift book will be on display at the Book and Raffle Table at our December meeting. If you cannot come to the meeting, call or e-mail Sally Shaw at 541-757-2749 shaws@peak.org and she'll arrange a private showing.

Sally Shaw

Audubon Society of Corvallis is starting a listserve!

Sign up and get email messages about meeting changes, special events, reminders for events, etc! Send a request to [Karan Fairchild, alderspr@peak.org](mailto:karan.fairchild@alderspr@peak.org).

Contributors to the Chat

Dave Mellinger, Molly Monroe, Diana Samuels, Karan Fairchild, Lisa Millbank, Don Boucher, Raylene Gordin, Stacy Moore, J. Brodrick, Elsie Eltzroth, Sally Shaw, and Will Wright

Please Note: The Chat is available electronically. Please contact the Membership Chair, Karl Hartzell, at karlerun@yahoo.com if you are interested.

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

Co-Presidents:

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the **CHAT**

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

Calendar

- Dec. 7 Conservation Committee Mtg, 5:15pm NMB
- Dec. 8 Board meeting, Tom Penpraze's house, 1610 NW Highland Dr., Corvallis
- Dec. 10 Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
- Dec. 15 General meeting
- Dec. 20 Christmas Bird Count
- Dec. 22 Article submission deadline for December Chat
- Dec. 22 Field notes submission deadline for December Chat
- Jan. 21 Hesthavn Work Party
- Feb. 25 Hesthavn Work Party
- March 24 Hesthavn Work Party

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