



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

April 2012

VOL. 41

#8

General Meeting

Thursday, April 19, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church

Uganda Adventure

Fred Ramsey

This program presents the wonders of this often-overlooked country sitting on the equator in East Africa. Uganda is unique among the countries of East Africa in having substantial sections of Congolese forest. The program highlights Uganda's spectacular bird life as well as its mammals, butterflies, and scenery. And it provides a useful message to us here in the U.S. about how entrance fees at parks and refuges can be used to preserve natural areas.



Lilac-breasted Roller

Fred Ramsey is a 'native' Oregonian, growing up in east Portland. He attended the University of Oregon while working summers in Glacier National Park, and then earned a PhD in statistics at Iowa State University. He is now Emeritus Professor of Statistics at Oregon State University, where he has been on the faculty since 1966.

He was a co-founder of ASC in 1970, became its first president, and served in this position again in the 1980s. He is currently Treasurer. Fred has led the weekend field trips since 1971, edited the *Chat*, led ASC trips to Australia in 2007, 2009, and 2011, and served in many other positions over the years. As a world-traveled and respected ornithologist, his other interests include music, theatre, fishing and baseball. His many publications include *Birding Oregon* (the first site guide to Oregon), which was published by ASC in 1978.

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 541-757-7953.



Crowned Cranes

Directions

The monthly chapter meeting is in Dennis Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 114 SW Eighth Street (8th and Monroe).

Dave Mellinger

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Homer Campbell Environmental Award:

Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank

Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank are the winners of the Homer Campbell Environmental Award for 2012. They have both exemplified green living and have guided many people in appreciating and understanding the natural world.



Both of them exemplify environmentally sustainable practices, both in their daily life and also in how they communicate this to others. They are never “preachy” but are always demonstrating how it’s possible to live happily without a car, commute by bicycle, work in the community gardens, enjoy and respect nature, and so on. Many of us wish that we could live up to their positive example.

Both of them show leadership on local environmental issues, again mostly by example. Through their organization Neighborhood Naturalist, they conduct nature walks for the public at which they point out interesting features -- birds, plants, tracks, mammals, insects, scat, herps, and so on. They consistently encourage mid-valley residents to focus on the environment that is close to all of our back yards. In so doing, without being strident in any way, they give others the knowledge and sense of attachment that is so vital to environmental advocacy.

Also through Neighborhood Naturalist, they publish a seasonal newsletter that highlights an interesting plant, animal, or other organism, promoting education and exploration to all ages. The Neighborhood Naturalist web site also features photos, sounds, and videos they have made of local wildlife as well as educational materials for downloading.

Through Neighborhood Naturalist, they have been instrumental in making the first two years of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition’s Natural Areas Celebration Week a resounding success. The Neighborhood Naturalist program led many of the hikes during the celebration week and helped us introduce plants, animals and local natural areas to over 300 members of our community. In addition to the hikes, they also offered a showing of their movie, *A Mid-Valley Safari*, as well as a collection of high quality photos illustrating bird migration. They were instrumental in creating posters and fliers for the event.

Their *Birding in the Willamette Valley* and *Birding By Ear* classes offered through the Corvallis Environmental Center over many years have introduced many local residents to the natural world around us. When opportunities are posted to work on habitat restoration and preservation, Don and Lisa have shown up and worked hard, usually adding quite a bit to the event by sharing their knowledge with other volunteers.

Don and Lisa’s passion for the outdoors is obvious in

how dedicated they are to sharing their knowledge with those around them. Their natural talent for observing, attracting and documenting wildlife is truly a gift that we are thankful they are so willing to share.

Dave Mellinger

Field Trip Schedule

Local Monthly Second Saturday Field Trips

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of every month at the Benton Center parking area, behind the Cannery Mall, Corvallis at 7:30 am. This field trip is especially interesting for beginner birders and birders new to Oregon’s mid-valley area. We focus on identifying local birds by sight and song while enjoying the outdoors. We visit the valley national wildlife refuges—Finley, Baskett Slough, and Ankeny, as well as other birding areas throughout the year. Contact Bill Proebsting at proebstw@gmail.com or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley List Serve, www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding, the week before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately.

Half-Day Field Trip

April 14. Susan Atkisson will lead this month’s trip. They are planning to go to Talking Water Gardens in Albany and East Thornton Lake Natural Area in North Albany.

Bill Proebsting

Multiple Day Field Trips:

ASC Klamath Basin Field Trip

April 27-29, 2012

Meeting: Friday, April 27, 8 am at the Benton County Fairgrounds.

Transport: 12-passenger vans from Enterprise.

Accommodations: Quality Inn (OR413) in Klamath Falls. The Quality Inn is nicely located near our first Sunday stop on Lake Ewauna.

Return: Sunday, April 29, 7-8 pm

Cost: Van costs will be ~ \$130 per person, but are dependent on gas prices. The costs are collected at trip’s end. Meal costs are to be covered individually.

ITINERARY

(Approximate) This trip hits the peak of the shorebird migration and the tail end of the duck and goose migration.

Friday: Dexter Reservoir; Greenwaters Park in Oakridge; Odell Lake; US 97 Rest Stop; Military Crossing; Klamath Marsh NWR; dinner at El Rodeo; Klamath Falls

Saturday: Lower Klamath Lake NWR; Tule Lake NWR; Lava Beds NM; Petroglyph Point; back to Quality Inn; dinner Chinese.

Sunday: Lake Ewauna; Putnam’s Point; Moore Park; Rocky Point; Collier State Park; Corvallis

If interested, contact Fred Ramsey at flramsey5@comcast.net or 541-753-3677

Fred Ramsey

Bicycle Birding 2012

May through September, 2012

Note: We will be meeting at a different location for every trip. We changed from previous years where most trips met at Avery Park. This gives us convenient access to more birding areas. See trip descriptions for meeting places.

Trips are free. Bring a bicycle helmet, water and binoculars. We ride slowly, listen for birds and stop frequently. Trip lengths are usually less than 10 miles. For more information, contact Don Boucher, 541-753-7689, bouchdon@peak.org

All trips are on the 4th Sunday of each month.

May – Sept., 9am - Noon

Sunday, May 27: E.E. Wilson Chat-o-Rama—north of Adair Villiage. Meet at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area.

Parking at E.E. Wilson requires a permit (see www.dfw.state.or.us). We'll start at the pheasant cage parking area, north of the road, 29555 Camp Adair Rd, Monmouth, OR. Consider parking for free at Adair County Park (get there 20 minutes early) and riding the 2.8 miles north to E.E. Wilson.

Sunday, June 24: Willamette Park/Kendall Natural Area—Corvallis. Meet at the Crystal Lake Sports Fields/boat landing parking area on Fischer Lane.

Sunday, July 22: McDonald Forest (moderate hills)—just west of Corvallis. Meet at the trailhead at the end of NW Oak Creek Dr. We will slowly tour gently-sloped gravel roads which most bikes can handle.

Sunday, Aug 26: Albany Bike Trails—Meet at Monteith Park in downtown Albany. There's a parking area at the corner of Water Ave and Washington St.

Sunday, Sept 23: Benton County Fairgrounds, Bald Hill Park and Campus Way Covered Bridge, Corvallis—Meet at the Benton County Fairgrounds near the intersection of 53rd Ave and Reservoir Rd.

Don Boucher

Hesthavn News

We have done it! We have met the match! A giant thank you to all who have sent in donations for the construction of the footbridges at the Hesthavn Nature Center. Special thanks and much appreciation go to Chris and Kate Mathews.

Chris and Kate were our anonymous donors! Their offer to put up the matching funds for the first \$5,000 of our bridge campaign got the ball rolling for the successful raising of the funds we need for the footbridges. We have reached \$13,000 towards our goal of \$15,000. We have enough funding for all of the supplies needed for the footbridges, themselves, and we hope to install the bridges, this year, rather than in 2013, as we had anticipated. We are still very much in need of additional funding for the required permits and the cost of the labor for the bridges installation work. If you would like to support our cause, for a successful completion and installation of these footbridges, please send your tax-deductible donations to the

ASC, PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

Hesthavn will be hosting Open Houses, each Saturday from April 7, through June 30. We are offering "Special Saturdays", the first Saturday of each month, beginning in April with our "April Artist Appreciation Reception." This will be held on April 7, in honor of Katie Douglas, the painter of the Flying Geese panels that are now a permanent addition to the Hesthavn Nature Center. The reception runs from 11:00am until 3:00pm and will be a catered event with a free wine tasting of the Nuthatch Cellars' lovely red wines. Hope to see you there!

Susan Atkisson

Atop the Nestbox

We are still conducting our study on the longevity/survivorship of the Western Bluebird, and we need your help. Please report any banded bluebirds you see between March 1 and June 30. Last year's birds were banded with one orange plastic band and one numbered metal band. The metal band is on the right leg. The orange band may be on the right or left leg. Please take a moment to tell us what you see. You can notify me by phone or e-mail, or you can download our sightings form and send it in. 541-258-6625, gordin@centurytel.net, www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/bluebird_trail.shtml. Thank you!

Raylene Gordin

Birdathon Time!

Birdathon 2012 is set for the weekend of April 28. This is our yearly fundraiser for the Hesthavn Nature Center. In past years we've raised thousands of dollars for projects and improvements for this wonderful local Audubon sanctuary.

How it works: Put together a team (or go solo). Ask people to sponsor you at so many cents a bird, or for a flat rate. Then go birding the weekend of April 28 and see how many species you can see! (Another weekend in that time frame is fine too, if you have a birding trip planned or a scheduling conflict.) Bird anywhere – your backyard, the coast, the Rio Grande... the sky's the limit (literally). If you feel shy about asking people to sponsor you, get creative. For example, you can pledge to your own team, perhaps in honor of a nature-loving relative. Just drop me an email to let me know you are planning to participate. Sponsor forms and report forms will be on the ASC website under Birdathon. Results will be announced at the May meeting and in the summer Chat.

If you own a local business, you could generate some good publicity by having your business be a sponsor of the event. Your business could sponsor every team at a certain rate. This encourages more people to form a team and participate, knowing they already have their first sponsor. Beyond raising more funds for Hesthavn activities, this involves more people, who then feel they personally have a stake in Hesthavn's success and, more broadly, in wildlife and nature conservation.

UPDATE!!

Since the last printing, we have some news about the

Birdathon.

From Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank: “We will be offering 10 cents per species for all motorized teams, BUT for all motorless teams, 50 cents per species! **Our Motorless criteria:** No driving at all during the Birdathon. That means not driving to any location even if the team is only counting while not driving. Bicycling, walking, feeder watching, skateboards, boating, wheelchairs and public transportation all count. (Technically motorized wheelchairs and buses have motors but we want to encourage no driving.) Even people with limited means can go motorless and rack up the pledge amount per species.”

From Joel Geier: “Along with Don & Lisa’s generous offer, my company, Clearwater Hardrock Consulting, will pitch in a more modest 25 cents per team per species, for either “motorless” teams (as per Don & Lisa’s definition), or “transit-assisted” teams (which includes use of public buses, ferries and/or Amtrak, but otherwise follows motorless rules). With the fine, free bus system in Corvallis plus the Hwy 99W Express which runs out to Adair Village near E.E. Wilson, I’d think that this could be a fun & productive way to go birding for a day. Using Amtrak could make it possible to spend a weekend bicycling around the Klamath basin or riding the ferries on Puget Sound to pick up a few pelagic birds, without ever getting into a car.”

Ken Hilton, of Wild Birds Unlimited, will again be donating 25 cents per species for all teams, and Elsie Eltzroth has continued her generous tradition of also supporting all teams, with 10 cents per species.

So anyone doing a motorless Birdathon now has an effortless \$1.10 per species! Thanks to all our generous sponsors!

Good Birding! And email me at [Karan Fairchild](mailto:Karan.Fairchild@alderspr@peak.org), alderspr@peak.org, with any questions.

*Karan Fairchild
Interim Birdathon Coordinator*

Field Notes

2/24/12 – 3/22/12

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.

Cooler-than-average temperatures and plenty of rain and snow marked this period. An unusual spring snowstorm dumped heavy, wet snow on our area at the end of the period. Despite the snow, trilliums and violets brightened leafless woodlands and early spring migrants continued to arrive. The first Rufous Hummingbirds, Violet-green Swallows and Orange-crowned Warblers gave us a peek at spring despite the unseasonably cold weather.

Locations: Finley = William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Ankeny = Ankeny National Wildlife Area, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, Philomath STP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds, Monmouth STP = Monmouth sewage treatment ponds

Observers: Marge Alig (MA), Amber Beck (ABk), Don Boucher (DB), Bob Burke (BB), Pam Comeleo (PCo), Randy Comeleo (RCo), Barbara Dolan (BD), Jeff Fleischer (JFl), Andrea Foster (AF), Joel Geier (JG), Julie Gibson (JGb), Paul Hammond (PH), Jeff Harding (JH), Susan Hatlevig (SH), Stephanie Hazen (SHz), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Richard F. Hoyer, Sr. (RFH), Carol Karlen (CK), Lisa Millbank (LM), Pam Otley (PO), Jerry Paul (JP), Tom Penpraze (TP), Paul T. Sullivan (PTS), Ray Temple (RT), Craig Tumer (CT), Brandon Wagner (BW), Will Wright (WW)

15 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at Ankeny 2/25 (PTS, CK), and a flock of about 200 flew over EEW 3/9 (JG). Migrating flocks should be numerous near the end of April. A flock of about 50 **Dusky Canada Geese** were noted among flocks of other Canada subspecies and thousands of **Cackling Geese** at Finley 3/16 (BD). 1 **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Ankeny 2/25 (PTS, CK), 1 was at Finley 3/4 (JH), and another was at the Monmouth STP 3/8 (BW). 3 **Cinnamon Teal** were noted at EEW 3/19 and 3/22 (JG). There were many **Lesser Scaup**, 107 **Bufflehead**, hundreds of **Northern Shovelers** and 77 **Ruddy Ducks** at the Philomath STP 3/15 (WW). 2 female **Common Goldeneyes** were at the Philomath STP 3/15 (WW) and 3 were at a gravel pond on Buena Vista Rd 3/8 (BW). A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** were unusual visitors to a private pond in Lewisburg 3/11 (JGb).

25 **Great Egrets** flew up from bottomlands along McFarland Rd 3/17 (PTS, CK), and 29 were at Ankeny 3/21 (SHz, RT). **Great Blue Herons** were starting to assemble at heronries for the beginning of their nesting season. One group of 7 flew out from a group of trees near the landfill 3/10 (JG).

The tippy but graceful soaring of **Turkey Vultures** became a common sight throughout the area during this period. A pair were seen mating 3/17 (LM, DB). The Tangent **Bald Eagle** roost was still attracting many eagles throughout the period, but fewer birds were reported than in February; 63 were present 3/5 (JFl). 7 immature eagles congregated on Powerline Rd in S Linn Co 3/3 (TP). 14 **Northern Harriers** were found on the S Benton Co raptor survey route 2/25 (WW), and males were performing courtship displays and calling throughout the period. A **Cooper’s Hawk** not yet in adult plumage was calling and displaying its fluffed undertail coverts at Pioneer Park in Corvallis 2/28-2/29 (LM). 1 **Red-shouldered Hawk** was on Buena Vista Rd at Ankeny 2/25 (PTS, CK), and a resident pair were mating in the Highland Dell area of NW Corvallis 3/3 (JP). 42 **Red-tailed Hawks** were counted on the S Benton Co raptor survey route 2/25 (WW), a female was begging for prey carried by the male 3/14 (DB). 4 **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen on the S Benton Co raptor survey route 2/25 (WW), 2 were at Finley 2/25, and 2 were at EEW 3/22 (JG). At least one **Golden Eagle** continued at Finley, with multiple reports throughout the period. A Golden Eagle at Adair Village threatened a trained Harris’s Hawk, but aborted the attack due to the presence of the falconer 3/2 (RFH). 32 **American Kestrels** were counted on the S Benton Co raptor survey route 2/25 (WW). **Merlins** were sighted repeatedly in Albany (DB), there were multiple observations from Finley, and 1 was at EEW 2/24 (JG). A **Gyr Falcon** found off McFarland Rd S of Finley 3/11 (WW) was the feathered celebrity of the period, drawing birders from Portland, central Oregon and beyond, and was seen regularly for about a week. A single **Peregrine Falcon** was found on Linn Co raptor survey route 5 2/25 (JH, BB).

Virginia Rails were calling throughout the period, and were especially numerous at Jackson-Frazier Wetland, where single males and pairs called frequently. A flock of **Sandhill Cranes** were seen flying E of Scio 2/26 (JH) and another flock flew by on 2/27 (ABk); a flock often can be seen at Richardson Gap.

6 **Black-bellied Plovers** (with just 1 beginning to show some breeding plumage) were at Finley 3/14 (PO). 12 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at Finley 3/14 (PO), and should be easy to find over the next couple of months as they pass through on their way north. Numbers of **Dunlin** are increasing as they begin to make their way northward. At least 50 were at Finley 2/24 and at least 200 3/14 (PO). An impressive congregation of more than 80 **Wilson's Snipe** were along Camp Adair Rd 3/21 (JG).

A flock of about 100 **Mew Gulls** were in a field on Powerline Rd in S Linn Co 3/3 (TP).

A lone **Band-tailed Pigeon** visited a feeding station in NW Corvallis 3/1 (SH), but more should be showing up soon.

A pair of **Barn Owls** in a barn near Scio were screeching and clacking their bills 3/3 (JH). A **Western Screech-Owl** called near Scio 3/4 (JH), and another gave his whinny call W of EEW 3/18 (JG). On Robison Rd N of Coffin Butte, 1 **Great Horned Owl** was sitting on a nest 2/25 (PTS, CK), and 3 were on nests at EEW 2/27 (JG). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was calling near Scio 3/3 (JH).

The first report of a **Rufous Hummingbird** was a male in Philomath 3/3 (PH), and one male was in SW Corvallis 3/5 (LM). An interesting hummingbird with a green forehead and back showed up W of EEW 3/20 (JG); he was likely the "green-backed" variation of a Rufous, but there's a small chance he may have been an Allen's Hummingbird. Male **Anna's Hummingbirds** continued to display conspicuously; and the first batches of fledglings may appear at feeders soon.

At least one **Lewis's Woodpecker** continued at Finley throughout the period (PO). **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** began drumming this period, 1 on an old utility pole W of EEW 2/26 (JG); and one was drinking from sap wells in a Corvallis yard on occasion (AF). The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** continued at EEW. He hadn't been reported since February, but was re-found 3/17 (PTS, CK). A Yellow-shafted **Northern Flicker** was at EEW 2/27 (JG). Flickers were calling and beginning to drum in preparation for nesting season.

A **Black Phoebe** was regularly seen at a pond on Riverside Dr in Linn Co (DB) and 1 continued at the Finley headquarters pond (PO).

1 **Northern Shrike** was reported from Finley 3/20 (SHz, RT).

The Bald Hill Park **Blue Jay** continued, but was seldom seen. It turned up in a yard on Oak Creek Dr 3/1 (MA). A **Steller's Jay** sang a "sub-song" or "whisper song" on 3/11; a very quiet, musical song that jays occasionally sing, usually in spring (JG). **Western Scrub-Jays** were courting and tugging on twigs for nesting material by 3/3 (LM, DB).

A **Horned Lark** was in a field at Finley 2/24 (PO).

While only a few showed up in February, **Tree Swallows** showed up all over our area this period. **Violet-green Swallows**

were first spotted at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 3/7 (HH), and soon thereafter became abundant at wetland areas throughout the area.

Bushtits were working on their hanging nest at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 3/18 (LM, DB).

A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were excavating a nest cavity in rotten wood 3/3 (LM, DB).

A pair of **Marsh Wrens** were lining a nest with cattail fluff at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 3/18 (LM, DB).

The singing of male **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** increased through the period, and most will have left our area by the end of the next period.

Western Bluebirds were investigating nest boxes and natural cavities through most of the period. Shy **Hermit Thrushes** often go unnoticed, but 2 were singing in Dunn Forest 3/16 (PCo & RCo). **Varied Thrushes** could be heard singing, often among flocks of **American Robins**.

Only one flock of **American Pipits** was reported this period; they were near the Corvallis Airport 2/24 (PO).

Not many **Cedar Waxwings** were present this period, but 25 showed up W of EEW 2/26 (JG), and a couple dozen were at the Albany train station 3/14 (DB).

1 **Orange-crowned Warbler** was singing in SW Corvallis 3/21 (LM); expect many of these to show up within the next several weeks. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were abundant everywhere, and just beginning to molt into breeding plumage. A **Townsend's Warbler** was still visiting a Corvallis suet feeder daily (AF).

Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen in Albany 3/7 (CT); some cowbirds do overwinter locally most years, but most are migrants and should start showing up in greater numbers during the next period. Male **Red-winged Blackbirds** were busy defending territories in cattail marshes.

A **Fox Sparrow** gave a fragment of song at EEW 2/29 (JG). A Slate-colored **Dark-eyed Junco** was among typical "Oregon Juncos" at EEW 3/15 (JG). 8 **White-throated Sparrows** were visiting grass seed screenings near EEW 2/29 (JG) and 2 were at Ankeny 2/25 (PTS, CK).

Pine Siskins seemed more common in Corvallis than in outlying areas, with many singing together in treetops around feeders. A dozen or more **Evening Grosbeaks** flew over SW Corvallis 3/22 (LM).

House Sparrows seemed to be moving into breeding territories and the males were singing throughout the period.

Please post your reports to midvalleybirding.org, send them to lisaaves@peak.org, or leave a message at 541-753-7689 by 4/26/12.

- Lisa Millbank.



Gyrfalcon photo by Donald Schrouder

Bag Ban Debate Nears Finish Line

After weeks of testimony from local citizens, environmental groups and plastic industry lobbyists, the Corvallis City Council is nearing the decision point to determine if single use plastic bags will be restricted. Only one opportunity remains for local citizens to voice concerns about the proposed bag ban (April 3 at the library).

The single use plastic bag has become a world issue as plastic bags litter every country in the world and many rivers and oceans. It is estimated over 100,000 sea creatures will be killed this year by plastic floating in our oceans. Many sea turtles and birds mistake plastic for jellyfish and fatally consume the substance or feed it to their young. Major bird colonies such as the Laysan Albatross found on Midway Atoll are experiencing large die-offs due to plastic ingestion, and their colonies are not expected to survive unless changes are made soon. Approximately one-fifth of the earth's populace has put in place single use plastic bag restrictions, and now it is time for us to act.

The Corvallis City Council states they are "process oriented" and wish to hear "all sides of the subject." For this reason they invited the American Chemistry Council, ACC, who represent all the large petrochemical corporations, to address the city council. They in turn passed the invitation on to the Hilex Poly Corporation, the plastic industry lobby specialists. The Hilex Poly lobbyists from South Carolina recently addressed the city council and made the following points: Restrictions to plastic bags would: 1) Increase dependence on foreign oil, 2) Increase global greenhouse gas emissions, 3) decrease jobs in Oregon, 4) decrease recycling, 5) have minimal impact on plastic entering the streams. Further, they characterized the Sierra Club and Audubon as "extremists" not to be taken seriously.

Soon the Corvallis Council Administrative Committee is due to bring their recommendation forward for discussion and a vote. Please attend the final public meeting on April 3 at the library. Don't let the South Carolina lobbyists and their deep pockets have their shortsighted way. The albatross, sea turtle, and planet will thank you!

John Gaylord

The Birding & Blues Festival: April 13-15, 2012

Pacific City, Ore. — Registration for the ninth annual Pacific City Birding and Blues Festival is now open at the event's web site, www.birdingandblues.com, or by phone at 503-965-6247. Held April 13-15 in Pacific City, the event features a slate of birding experts including Terry Steele, a photographer whose striking bird images punctuate his passionate approach to the appreciation of nature. His presentation is part of three days of lectures by respected regional birding experts, as well as two live birds of prey exhibitions. Seminars will address topics ranging from bird conservation to the natural history of seabirds, from the

"Characteristics of the Dusky Canada Goose" to "Beginning Birding" and "Gardening for Birds" — and much more. For the outdoor-minded, the festival features 14 birding hikes led by experienced birders to a wide variety of local habitat. Amongst the offerings are trips to Neskutca Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Clay Myers State Natural Area, Camp Winema and Neskowin Marsh. For more information on the 2012 Birding & Blues Festival visit www.birdingandblues.com.

Dawn Grafe

Book Chat

Window decals that help birds see windows and avoid striking the glass will be featured at the Book and Raffle table in April. We'll have four different WindowAlert designs; hummingbird, dragonfly, maple leaf, and snowflake for you to choose from and each packet contains four decals. The decals contain a component which brilliantly reflects ultraviolet sunlight that is invisible to humans, but glows like a spotlight for birds.

The CAS price of these packets is just \$5.00 each, a big saving over their usual \$6.25 retail tag. We thank the WindowAlert Company in Bend for allowing us to offer their decal packets at such a discounted price at our Book and Raffle table. If interested contact Sally Shaw at 541-757-2749.

Sally Shaw

ASC Board Elections

The Board of Directors of the Audubon Society of Corvallis is offering the following slate of candidates for serving in the 2012/2013 term, which begins at the summer board meeting.

President—Jim Fairchild has served ASC in many roles, as a Board member, Conservation Chair, and previously as President. Jim is a self-employed woodworker, forest manager, and a committed forest conservationist. His local interest in the Corvallis City Watershed has led to the installation of over \$750,000 of fish passage and stream improvements in Rock Creek, where Corvallis withdraws some of its clean water.

Vice President—Dave Mellinger has been a member of ASC since 2000, served as ASC Conservation Chair for many years, and is currently ASC's Vice President. Dave is an Associate Professor at OSU, where he studies sounds of whales and other marine and terrestrial species. In particular, he studies ways to detect and locate animals acoustically and estimate their populations, in Corvallis and at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport.

Secretary—Linda Campbell moved back to her home valley after 25 years of living on San Juan Island. She works for Oregon Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and takes frequent long rambles in the woods where she lives, along the Mary's River. Linda was instrumental in securing the completion of the Homer Campbell Trail at Finley Wildlife Refuge, the first year round accessible trail on the refuge. She has served ASC in many capacities over the years.

Treasurer—Fred Ramsey cofounded ASC in 1970, was its first president, and served in this position again in the 1980s. He is currently Treasurer. Fred has led the weekend field trips since 1971, edited the *Chat* and served in many other positions over the years. As a world-traveled and respected ornithologist, his other interests include music, theatre, fishing and baseball. Fred is also Professor Emeritus of Statistics at OSU. His many publications include *Birding Oregon*, one of the first site guides, which was published by ASC in 1978.

Members-at-large:

Gail Nickerson is a native Oregonian who has lived in Corvallis most of her life. Upon retirement from OSU (as a hop chemist) in 2003 she joined the Audubon Society of Corvallis. She volunteered for the refreshment committee because she likes to bake. She has been an at large member of the board for three years.

Tom Penpraze has been an ASC member for many years. The Chair of the Conservation Committee, Tom is also familiar to us as one of the van drivers for Fred's weekend field trips for many of those years. He is director of the Utilities Division for the City of Corvallis and is active with the Friends of the Willamette Valley refuge, the Marys Peak Stewardship Group and other local organizations.

Stacy Moore obtained a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and a Secondary Science Teaching Certificate from Oregon State University. She has an M.S. in Environmental Education from Southern Oregon State University. She has instructed general biology and biological field methods at Oregon State University. In New Zealand, she worked as Community Relations Program Manager for the Department of Conservation, bringing innovative education programs to local schools and the public and participating in ornithological research in the subantarctic. She currently works as Ecological Education Director at Institute for Applied Ecology in Corvallis.

Peter Moore was born in New Zealand and obtained his Wildlife Biology Degree and honors thesis on white-faced herons at Victoria University. He worked 27 years for the Department of Conservation in New Zealand where he specialized in studies on penguins, oystercatchers and albatrosses. He has also worked on predation and habitat restoration on off shore islands. Peter currently works for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as Wildlife Restoration Coordinator managing federal grants for restoration projects.

Will Wright has served as ASC President and is a 3rd/4th grade teacher. He has been a teaching interpretive naturalist at Mt. St. Helens, biology instructor for O.M.S.I., instructor at Camp Hancock, Outdoor School, and staff member for Puffin Project in Maine for National Audubon Society. He spent one year following Spotted Owls with radios; two seasons doing cavity nesting bird surveys; and four seasons doing Marbled Murrelet surveys. He has travel experience for birding and education in Alaska, Canada,

Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Hawaii, Japan, India, Nepal, Kenya, and Europe.

Karan Fairchild is currently a member at large and has been involved with the Audubon Society of Corvallis for over 25 years. She's served in many capacities during that time, including member at large, secretary and fundraising chairperson. She instigated the successful Birdathon fundraisers, and is currently on the bylaws committee, nominations committee, Homer Campbell award committee, Hesthavn committee, and serves in several other functions.

The election will be held at our regular meeting in May, on the 17th. Anyone wishing to nominate another candidate, or who would like to volunteer themselves, please contact Karan Fairchild (alderspr@peak.org) or Tom Penpraze (tmppenpraze@comcast.net).

Karan Fairchild

Board Meeting Summary

ASC March Meeting

1. Anne Schroder, our new *Chat* editor, was introduced to the Board. She takes over from Jim Sumich. Welcome, Anne and thanks so much, Jim!
2. Board elections are coming up in May - ASC could use more At-Large Board members. If you have an interest - please contact Karan Fairchild on the Nominating Committee.

Linda Campbell

Open ACS Board Meetings

ASC Board of Directors meetings are open to all ASC members, and the board encourages you to come and see what we do. Our monthly board meeting is on Thursday one week before the General Meeting. See the calendar on the last page of *The Chat* for meeting location.

Welcome New Members

Martha Clemons & Charlie Miller
John & Teri Enbring
Amy & Steve Hill
Laura Nolan
Judith Rickard and Carlie Trajic.

Suzanne Ortiz

Contributors to the Chat

Dave Mellinger, Bill Proebsting, Fred Ramsey, Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank, Susan Atkisson, Karan Fairchild, John Gaylord, Dawn Grafe, Sally Shaw, Linda Campbell, and Suzanne Ortiz.

Chat Articles

The *Chat* editors welcome monthly articles from all members of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. Please submit articles to the *Chat* editor by the 4th Thursday of the month. Always submit text using Microsoft Word.

Audubon Society of Corvallis
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Interested in volunteering? Please let us know:
volunteerasc@gmail.com

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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

- April 12 at Ann Brodie's house, 3145 Seneca Place, Corvallis
- April 13-15 2012 Birding and Blues Festival, Pacific City, OR
- April 14 Second Saturday Field Trip, 7:30 am**
- April 21 Birdathon, Hesthavn Nature Center
- April 26 Article and Field notes submission deadline for May CHAT
- April 27-29 Klamath Basin Field Trip**
- May 12 Second Saturday Field Trip, 7:30 am
- May 17 General Meeting & Board Elections, 7 pm. 1st Presb. Church
- May 24 Articles & Field Notes deadline for June CHAT
- May 27 Bicycle Birding**

** see page for field trip descriptions



Rufous Hummingbird photo by Matt Lee

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