



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

September 2012

VOL. 42

#1

General Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
8th and Monroe

Travels and Teaching in Kenya

Susan Haig, President of American Ornithologists' Union, OSU Professor of Wildlife Ecology



Our first speaker this season is USGS Wildlife Ecologist and OSU Professor of Wildlife Ecology Susan Haig, who will talk about her recent teaching experiences at the National Museum of Kenya and subsequent travel in East Africa. Dr. Haig visited NMK as a Fulbright Fellow to teach a graduate course about current technologies used to study migratory connectivity of animals throughout the annual cycle. Migratory connectivity is the study of the identification and understanding of links between animal movement at each



stage of the annual cycle and throughout an individual's life cycle. Students included graduate students, faculty, museum staff, and natural resource managers from as far away as Iran. During the graduate course at the National Museum of Kenya and after the course, she

traveled throughout Kenya and Tanzania. Her talk will primarily focus on the birds and mammals she saw while in the bush. Susan Haig is a former ASC President and is the current President of the American Ornithologists' Union. Her work on Migratory Connectivity is summarized in her partnership with Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center Ornithologist Dr. Peter Marra on their Migratory Connectivity Project webpage: www.migratoryconnectivityproject.org/



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.

Directions

The monthly chapter meeting is in Dennis Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 114 SW Eighth Street.

Dave Mellinger

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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 ListServe, 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 Trips

September 8. Baskett Slough NWR

October 13. Finley NWR

Bill Proebsting

Bicycle Birding

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. We'll tour the bike trails in the Fairgrounds and Bald Hill areas first and then visit the Campus Way Covered Bridge after that. We'll get looks at common birds of open country and oak forests and a good look at a couple Acorn Woodpecker colonies.

Don Boucher

President's Message

Welcome all to a new year of Audubon Society of Corvallis, and a huge thank you to the many active volunteers who continue to make all our programs, projects and activities possible. These leaders, and the many participants who join them, help make our lives more enjoyable and instill in us again our connection to the natural world. Beyond *The Chat* newsletter and our website, and beyond evening programs and morning and weekend field trips, we're expanding opportunities for youth education, taking on new conservation initiatives, getting hands-on experience working with Western Bluebird nest monitoring, and increasing accessibility to more of our Hesthavn Nature Center and Sanctuary. In this and coming issues, you'll find out even more, and learn about our field trips, special events planned, and our monthly program meetings. And you can always learn more about what's been seen locally in the Field Notes section of each issue of *The Chat*.

Jim Fairchild

Hesthavn News

It's been a pretty quiet time at Hesthavn, this summer. Volunteers have been keeping up with the usual things needing attention; mowing, weeding, and general maintenance. The Hesthavn Committee has a list for the tasks that need to be done on a year-round basis. If you would like to assist with any of these 'chores' your assistance would be welcome. Please contact volunteerasc@gmail.com if you would like to assist.

Again, I wish to thank those of you who have made donations to our bridges project. We are still in need of your assistance. At this time, we have just over \$19,000 in donations, and are going to be able to go forward with only one bridge. The labor is going to be pretty extensive, given the location of the bridge and the cost of the equipment needed to move the rocks, gravel and lumber from the driveway down to the creek side. The labor for the installation, as well, was underestimated. We are negotiating the final contract, but it's looking like the cost for the one bridge will be \$20,000+.

If you would like to help us meet the final cost for this installation, you may send your tax-deductible donations, made payable to the ASC, to PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339. Thank you.

Susan Atkisson

Hesthavn Volunteers Needed

Hesthavn is a wonderful spot, but we need more help maintaining it. Can you volunteer a few hours to help clean the nature center, plant native plants, remove invasive plants or fill the bird feeders? If you can get more involved, please respond by sending your name, phone and email address to volunteerasc@gmail.com. Let us know what you would like to do. All help is greatly appreciated. Thanks,

Ann Brodie

Hesthavn Nature Center Volunteer Task List

Landscaping

- Mowing done on a regular basis around barn and picnic area
- Keep rock garden weeded and watered with new plantings, as needed, and seed collection when possible.
- Restoration of habitats stations
 - Removing blackberry brambles, teasel, thistle, false brome and other invasive species.
 - Trail maintenance removing weeds.
 - Clearing downed limbs from trails.
 - Completion of Paula's Trail for use by the general public.
 - Maintain driveway – additional gravel, weed control, clearly defined parking areas.

Nature Center Maintenance Tasks

- Maintenance of bird feeders, hummingbird feeders, and birdbath.
- Picking up seed at Denson's Feed Company.
- Cleaning center as needed.
 - Vacuuming, sweeping, and mopping floors when needed.
 - Cleaning all countertops, display cases, and book shelves with disinfectants.
 - Cleaning windows at least once a year.
- Cleaning the solar assisted composted toilet and keeping supplied with toilet paper.
 - Stirring the compost on a monthly basis.
 - Placing the compost in the spring or summer around shrubs.

Please contact volunteerasc@gmail.com for more information about assisting with these yearly tasks.

Hesthavn Education News

The education committee is excited to announce we have received a grant from Toyota and National Audubon Society through their *TogetherGreen* program! This season we will be working with Marys River Watershed Council, Greenbelt Land Trust and Institute for Applied Ecology on a program that reaches five schools in the Corvallis and Philomath area, connecting the students with two wetland properties. We will be growing and planting native plants, monitoring the wildlife and bird use of these sites, removing invasive species, and creating example gardens. This grant is a wonderful opportunity to partner with some amazing community organizations, and we are very thankful!

We will also be running programs for local schools this season. We have two programs - Aquatic Ecology and Bird-in-a-box. Both of these adventures are geared for 3rd-5th grade students and are linked into both the science standards and the science kits used in Corvallis. Details are located on our website. Please pass the info along to teachers you know in the community! They can sign up by emailing corvallis.audubon.schools@gmail.com.

Michelle Shula

Hesthavn Homeschool Programs 2012-2013

These programs are being offered all season. Please choose a topic and a time that works best for you and your group. Each program runs 2 hours and is \$55, and can be geared towards any age group. You can schedule by emailing hesthavneducation@gmail.com or calling (614) 579-1406.

Bird-in-a-box – Explore the adaptations of birds through seven discovery boxes full of hands-on activities and real bird mounts, skulls, bones, feathers, and songs. We will discover what makes a bird a bird, and meet some common birds found in our area. We will also venture out with binoculars to seek some of our new friends!

Habitats – Join us for a program all about three Oregon habitats! Take a closer look at an oak savanna, a riparian habitat, and our Oregon mossy forest and discover who lives there, how to find them, and why that habitat is important. We will get outside and compare and contrast these habitats with games and activities.

Winter survival – Animals have many ways to get through the winter. Learn about migration, overwintering, special adaptations and amazing tricks that help our wild friends survive. Explore through experiments and other science-based inquiries and get outside to seek-and-find some hidden animals.

Hide-and-seek – One of nature's most amazing adaptations is camouflage. Learn all about how animals use deception to blend in, and try your hand at some camouflage games of your own. We will get outside, and down and dirty as we practice our new camouflaging skills and search for each other.

Wonderful Wetlands – Oregon has lots of water – and that makes for some really amazing wetlands. Come and learn all about these unique habitats, and what they do for the environment. We will explore a wetland area and try to catch some critters in the creek. Bring your water shoes!

Wild Cats – Do you know which wild cats live in Oregon? Do you know what you should do if you come across one of these predators while out in the woods? Learn all about these mysterious animals and how to handle yourself around them and other predators that share our beautiful state. A must for those who love to spend time in the woods!

ID that TREE – Have you ever looked up and wondered, “Which tree is that?” Come and find out with us! We will learn ten or twelve common trees, and create a journal to help you remember which trees are which and be able to identify the trees at home. Knowing your trees can help you know the forest better.

Night Hunters – join us for an evening program all about owls! We will discover the common species found in Corvallis, dissect owl pellets, and go on a night hike to hopefully spot these amazing hunters. Program starts at dusk – seasonally dependent.

Wild Edibles – Where did the food come from before there were grocery stores? Learn all about the native uses of plants in our area. We will learn about plant uses, how to identify some common edibles, sample some delicious forest foods and go on a hike to collect some of our own.

Michelle Shula

Save Reusable Tote Bags To Assist Homeless

When the city bag ban was about to be voted on, city councilor Jeanne Raymond asked Audubon Society of Corvallis if it could help provide tote bags for those in Corvallis using the “Food Share” program. It was felt that not having single-use plastic bags in markets might create a hardship to the poor and needy to carry food items home. We responded, “Yes, we would be glad to help out in this way.” Now it is time for us to step up, locate any serviceable tote bags we have around the house and make them available to the Linn-Benton Food share folks. Many ASC members also belong to National Audubon Society, and frequently they send a lovely Audubon tote bag to your home as part of the member services. In any event, finding serviceable tote bags to pass on to the needy is the least we should do. Hopefully we can find at least 158 bags. Please bring any bags to any ASC meeting and pass them on to a board member or conservation person. Thanks to everyone in helping pass the “Bag Ban” and in helping those in need. Best wishes,

John Gaylord

Field Notes

6/28/12 – 8/23/12

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.

Location abbreviations: Finley = William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Ankeny = Ankeny National Wildlife Area, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, Philomath STP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds, LSNA = Luckiamute State Natural Area

Observer abbreviations: Don Boucher (DB), Howard Bruner (HB), Pam Comeleo (PCo), Randy Comeleo (RCo), Jim Fairchild (JFa), Karan Fairchild (KFa), Mary Garrard (MG), Joel Geier (JG), Roy Gerig (RG), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Edmund Hertz (EH), Jeff Harding (JH), Richard Hoyer (RH), Tim Johnson (TJ), Lisa Millbank (LM), Molly Monroe (MM), Pam Otley (PO), Doug Robinson (DR), Steve Seibel (SS), Bill Tice (BT), Rosie Tice (RT), Brandon Wagner (BW)

With most birds finishing up their breeding activities midway through the period, our songbird chorus faded away, and many birds began to look a bit disheveled as they went through their annual molt. However, for those who scrutinized local mudflats, wetlands and sewage treatment ponds, the arrival of shorebirds alleviated the summer “birding doldrums,” as these birds began their leisurely travels south from their Arctic breeding areas.

37 **Wood Ducks** paddled in the brown lagoons of the Philomath STP 8/19 (HH). 2 **Mallard** mothers on the Willamette River successfully defended their ducklings from an attacking Bald Eagle 7/24 (LM, DB). A few **Green-winged Teal** began to show up in early August at Philomath STP (WW), and 25 **Cinnamon Teal** were at Ankeny 8/17 (TJ, RG). 80 **Northern Shovelers** and a few **Northern Pintails** at Philomath STP 8/23 (HH) represented some of the earliest migrating ducks, a small sample of the huge flocks that should arrive over the next few periods. A single **Ring-necked Duck** at Ankeny 8/13 and 8/17 was the only one reported (TJ, RG). At least one male **Greater Scaup** was at Philomath STP starting 8/1; he had 3 scaup pals by 8/15, but whether they were Lessers or Greater was not reported (WW, HH). Philomath STP also had 13 **Hooded Mergansers** on 8/23 (HH). A single **Ruddy Duck** was at Ankeny 8/13 (TJ).

Sooty Grouse were numerous in the early morning along Marys Peak Rd 7/26 (RH), and a **Wild Turkey** was calling from Tampico Ridge w of EEW 7/13 (JG).

There were 20 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Ankeny 8/13 (TJ). 1 **Horned Grebe** showed up 8/11 (WW) and stuck around for more than a week.

1 **American White Pelican** was at Ankeny 8/13 (TJ), and 3 were at Finley 8/19 (DB, LM).

At least 6 **Great Egrets** were at Finley 8/19 (LM, DB), and **Great Blue Heron** and **Green Heron** juveniles were showing up as they set out on their own.

An **Osprey** attacked a **Turkey Vulture** on the shore of the Willamette River near Ankeny 8/19; it was unclear what provoked it (LM, DB). A canoe trip from Harrisburg to Independence yielded about 50 **Bald Eagle** sightings, showing just how robust the population of summer residents has become (BT, RT). Juvenile **Cooper’s Hawks** squealed and chased one another through many neighborhoods. While a few **Red-shouldered Hawks** seem to breed locally, others may be dispersing from other areas. What might have been an adult and a juvenile were at Finley 8/3 (SS), 1 was at Philomath STP 8/19 (HH), and 1 was at Sunset Park in Corvallis 8/23 (LM). There was a very surprising sighting of a **Swainson’s Hawk** E of Harrisburg 8/19 (EH), though it probably just crossed over the Cascades as it began its southbound migration. Newly fledged **Red-tailed Hawks** begged incessantly near EEW 7/7 (JG). One of the first local reports of a **Merlin** came from Philomath STP 8/14 and 8/15 (HH, WW). A **Peregrine Falcon** feasted on a Wood Duck at the Philomath STP 8/6 (WW), and was seen on a few occasions in the following week, while another was at Ankeny 8/17 (TJ, RG) and 8/19 (JH).

American Coots were present around the area, with young birds approaching the size of the parents. A **Virginia Rail** was still calling at Finley 7/7 (WW), though the rails



Willet photos by Douglas Robinson

and **Soras** had generally quieted down after breeding, becoming inconspicuous marsh residents once again. A **Sand-hill Crane** was a rare summer visitor to Finley 7/20 (DR).

Among the omnipresent **Killdeer**, a few **Semipalmated Plovers** (each sporting a single black breast band) showed up southbound migration. 2 were at Ankeny 7/15 (RG), and an unspecified number were at Finley 8/6 (DR).

Good numbers of **Greater Yellowlegs** began to show up in July and increased in August, with 25 at Ankeny 8/13 (RG). And while they are generally less common than their larger cousin, **Lesser Yellowlegs** put in a good showing with 6 at Ankeny 8/17 (RG). A **Solitary Sandpiper** showed up at Sunset Park in Corvallis 8/2 (LM), and there seemed to be one present for a few weeks thereafter (though perhaps not the same bird). Though it is a somewhat uncommon fall migrant, 3 were at Ankeny 8/13 (RG) and singles were found fairly regularly around the area. More than 100 **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen on a Willamette River raft trip starting in Corvallis and ending out of our area; many had adult-sized chicks (LM, DB). Very rare inland, a **Willet** was found at the Philomath STP 7/29 (JFa, KFa). Southbound **Western** and **Least Sandpipers** were reported as early as mid-July, and there were about 85 at Finley 8/7 (HH, PO). **Baird's Sandpipers** were regularly reported in small numbers; the first was a flyby over Philomath STP on 8/3 (DR), and 4 juveniles were there 8/8 (WW). Single **Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported from Ankeny 8/16 (RG) and 8/19 (JH), possibly the same bird. 7 **Long-billed Dowitchers** showed up at Ankeny by 7/14 (RG). A **Wilson's Snipe** observed at Finley 7/7 (WW) may have been one of our uncommon local breeders, and only a few more snipes were found throughout the period. Good numbers of **Red-necked Phalaropes** had showed up by mid-August; there were 24 at Philomath STP 8/19 (HH). And an early juvenile **Wilson's Phalarope** was at Ankeny 7/14 (RG), while 4 were at Philomath STP 8/19 (KFa, JFa).

California Gulls were seen fairly regularly throughout the period, but one was found dead in the Coast Range foothills just SW of Philomath, presumably killed by a Peregrine Falcon (JFa). A **Ring-billed Gull** visited Philomath

STP 7/29 (HH), and more were there 8/4 (WW).

Band-tailed Pigeons feasted on Black Hawthorn and other late summer fruits, and will soon be scarfing down Blue Elderberry fruits before most of them leave our area in October.

Owl reports were scarce this period, but a **Barn Owl** shrieked as it flew over the Willamette River about 5 miles NE of Corvallis 8/17 (LM, DB). A **Great Horned Owl** was perched on a low branch at LSNA 8/15 (BW, BT), and another was mobbed by crows in Sunset Park in Corvallis 7/23 (DB).

Common Nighthawks were seen at Independence 7/18 (BW), and up to 4 were reported multiple times from LSNA in August; they may have nested on nearby gravel bars, or may have been using them as post-breeding roosting areas. **Vaux's Swifts** began their southbound travels by the end of the period, when about 410 went down the Whiteside Theater chimney in Corvallis 8/23 (MG).

An immature **Archilochus sp. hummingbird** that was probably a Black-chinned Hummingbird was on Marys Peak 8/7 (DR). Adult male **Rufous Hummingbirds** were more scarce in the lowlands by the middle of the period, but adult females and immatures were still staking out feeders and flowers (and defending them from **Anna's Hummingbirds**).

Most **Belted Kingfishers** were still on their breeding territories near steep riverbanks by the end of the period, but some were beginning to show up along smaller streams.

A curious juvenile **Red-breasted Sapsucker** inspected a **Pileated Woodpecker** by shyly peeking around a tree trunk on which they were both climbing 8/12, in the hills W of Corvallis (PCo, RCo).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was still on his breeding territory (a brushy, sparsely-treed hillside) W of EEW 8/6 (JG). The quintessential summer sounds of **Western Wood-Pewees** continued into the hottest afternoons. A **Willow Flycatcher** was calling near Brandis Park in NW Corvallis 6/28 (MG). 8 **Black Phoebes** were found at Ankeny 8/17 (TJ, RG). An **Eastern Kingbird** at the Finley prairie was a very uncommon surprise 7/2, and it was accompanied by 2 **Western Kingbirds**, which are reliably found there (TJ).

A single **Warbling Vireo** was at Ankeny 8/13 (TJ); they should become easier to find as they move back through the valley on their way south over the next period. **Hutton's Vireos** were present but inconspicuous in the lowlands, only singing early in the morning. A **Cassin's Vireo** was still singing W of EEW 8/14 (JG). And a singing **Red-eyed Vireo** was at LSNA 8/14 (JG), and evidence that he may have had a family there was found the next

day (BW, BT). He may have been detected as early as 7/2 (HB), but the observer was not certain at the time.

A hungry family of 6 **Gray Jays** helped themselves to suet in the hills W of Corvallis (near Fitton Green) 8/5 (PCo, RCo), and continued to visit and cache food through the end of the period, in an unusually low elevation forest. Both **Steller's Jays** and **Western Scrub-Jays** eagerly harvested immature Beaked Hazel nuts that the squirrels hadn't already clipped off the trees. **American Crows** are cooperative breeders, and last year's young crows could be seen shepherding around this year's fledglings.

Horned Larks of our rare "Streaked" subspecies were in fields on the S part of Finley 7/7 (WW).

4 **Purple Martins** were at Finley HQ 8/14 (WW). By mid-August, families of **Barn Swallows** could be seen lining wire fences and power lines, as the fledglings begged. **Cliff Swallows** finished up with nesting and many had already started their long journey S (as far as Argentina and Venezuela) by mid-August.

Large flocks of dozens of **Bushtits** were re-established by the middle of this period, as multiple family groups began to travel together, sometimes loosely associating with **Black-capped Chickadees**.

Young male **Bewick's Wrens** practiced the songs they'd learned from nearby adult males, sounding a bit unsteady, but full of enthusiasm. **House Wrens** and **Marsh Wrens** were quiet enough to be fairly inconspicuous, in contrast to their nonstop springtime singing.

Swainson's Thrushes abruptly stopped singing after July, but continued to give themselves away with their *whit!* calls. A **Wrentit** paid a visit to a S Corvallis neighborhood 7/23 (MM). **Cedar Waxwings** were abundant, gorging on fruit and flycatching.

Wilson's Warblers were moving freely into non-breeding areas by the middle of the period, and **Black-throated Gray** and **Orange-crowned Warblers** seemed to be wandering away from typical breeding habitats also. 60 **Hermit Warblers** were counted on Marys Peak 8/7, as they fed on abundant summer insects at the higher elevation (DR). A **MacGillivray's Warbler** turned up along the Willamette River a few miles NE of Corvallis 8/13 (DB, LM). **Common Yellowthroats** were still in family groups. A possible Tennessee Warbler was at LSNA 8/14 (JG), but not identified with certainty. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was singing near Brandis Park in NW Corvallis 6/28 (MG).

Western Tanagers were showing up in neighborhoods, with at least one adult male beginning to lose his red head plumage by 8/6 (JG).

8 **Chipping Sparrows** were hanging around with a rare visitor—a single **Brewer's Sparrow** at the Philomath STP 8/19 (HH). Young male **Song Sparrows** were testing out their singing voices with varying degrees of success, as were young male **White-crowned Sparrows**. 78 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were counted on Marys Peak 8/7 (DR).

Black-headed Grosbeak and **Lazuli Bunting** males had largely left our area by the middle of the period, but many juveniles and adult females persisted through the end of the period.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen at the Philomath STP 8/14 (WW). A young **Brown-headed Cowbird** was begging from its Song Sparrow foster parents early in the period (LM). Close to Brandis and Chip Ross Parks in Corvallis, a **Bullock's Oriole** pair had a successful nest 7/1 (MG).

This year has been exceptional for **Red Crossbills** visiting the valley floor, and while they were never abundant this period, they could often be heard flying high over downtown Corvallis. A **Pine Siskin** appeared to be eating algae from a pond at Sunset Park in Corvallis in early August (LM). While **Lesser Goldfinches** were wrapping up breeding activities for the year, **American Goldfinches** were just getting started in July. An **Evening Grosbeak** was feeding her fledgling near Harlan 7/26 (RH).

Please post your reports to midvalleybirding.org, send them to lisaaves@peak.org, or leave a message at 541-753-7689 by 9/27/12.

-Lisa Millbank

Conservation Report

"KittyCam" Reveals Wildlife Being Killed by Outdoor Cats

A new study of house cats allowed to roam outdoors (www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/120806.html) finds that nearly one-third succeeded in capturing and killing animals. The cats, which wore special video cameras around their necks that recorded their outdoor activities, killed an average of 2.1 animals every week they were outside, but brought less than one of every four of their kills home.

Steve Holmer

Fall Migratory Bird Count

The 2012 Fall Migratory Bird Count for Benton County is scheduled for Saturday, September 15th. The North American Migration Count (NAMC) is like the Christmas Bird Count, but with a few twists. The area is not a 15-mile diameter circle but an entire county. The big twist is the timing: unlike Christmas Bird Counts, which are spread over several weeks, this count is done in Oregon over a single weekend.

Among the goals of the NAMC are:

- To have fun.
- To obtain a “snapshot” of the process of Spring and Fall Migration.
- To obtain information on the abundance and distribution of each species.

In Oregon, the East Cascades Audubon Society coordinates the event and there is no fee to participate. The count has been designed so that it is outside everyone’s house, and not limited to defined circles. After all, migratory birds are everywhere and should be of concern to everyone. But you should remember to count all the birds (not just migrants). Participation by ALL birders, irrespective of skill or style, is encouraged. So whether you just count the birds in your yard, visit a favorite spot for an hour or two or spend the entire day birding, I would appreciate a report from you. Please provide a count for each bird seen listed by location (this way, I can amalgamate counts from the same location such as Cabell Marsh, Philomath Sewage Pond, etc.). Also provide the amount of time spent birding and mileage broken down by method of transportation (i.e. foot, car, bicycle, etc.).

If possible, please let me know ahead of time if you plan to participate. Also feel free to ask me any questions. I can be contacted at marciafcutler@comcast.net or 541-752-4313.

Marcia F. Cutler

Kids Day for Conservation

Once again ASC will have a booth at Kids Day for Conservation, which will be held at the Benton County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 29, 2012 from 10 am until 4 pm.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of this annual event, which is free, fun, and focused on hands-on natural resources education designed to help kids make a difference for conservation in their community. More than 20 natural resources-connected organizations and businesses will be on hand to present a wide variety of activities suitable for children of all ages.

The event will be held under cover, rain or shine. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

ASC’s booth will be about attracting birds to your backyard. We will have a game with common birds found in Corvallis, as well as birdfeeders to make for the kids. If you are interested in helping out at the booth for a few hours, please contact Marcia Cutler marciafcutler@comcast.net or 541-752-4313

Marcia F. Cutler

Vaux’s Swifts

In late August, Vaux’s swifts begin to migrate from their northern nesting grounds to their southern wintering grounds. This spectacular natural event shows nightly at a theater near you—the chimney at the Whiteside in downtown Corvallis. Near sunset, they gather in the vicinity, chirping their high-pitched song as they swirl, eventually dropping into the chimney in a vortex, to spend the night. They are also known to roost in other

chimneys in Corvallis, Wiegand Hall at 30th and Campus Way, and a chimney in the fraternity house at 13th & Monroe, sometimes changing venues mid-migration, other times sticking to one. Past counts at the Whiteside chimney and others have topped 1200-1300 swifts.

On Saturday September 9, there will be a swift watching and counting event at sunset. This is expected to be at the Whiteside, but could change at the last minute. Watch the *Mid-valley Birding List-serve* (<http://midvalleybirding.org/mailman/listinfo/birding>) where I’ll post updates as the time gets closer. Meanwhile, if you have a free evening, the best place to watch the Whiteside chimney is on 4th between Madison & Monroe. Stand on the west side of the street and look east to the chimney. Binoculars aren’t necessary, but nice to have for a closer look. There’s also good viewing from the alley between 3rd & 4th but you’ll be looking into the sunset.

For more information on the migration of these interesting birds, see the *Vaux’s Happening* website (http://vauxhappening.org/Vauxs_Happening_Home.html) where you’ll find count numbers from past migrations, videos, live web-cams, and more!

Please contact me at marygarrard@yahoo.com if you’re interested in helping with counting swifts this fall.

Mary Garrard

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
Jeremiah Psiropoulos
Kenneth Baldwin & Heather Boright
Suzanne Ortiz

Contributors to the Chat

Dave Mellinger, Bill Proebsting, Jim Fairchild, Susan Atkisson, Ann Brodie, Michelle Shula, John Gaylord, Steve Holmer, Marcia F. Cutler, Mary Garrard, Lisa Millbank and Suzanne Ortiz.

Chat Articles

The Chat editor welcomes 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.

Anne Schroder, Chat Editor

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Please let us know: volunteerasc@gmail.com



Killdeer 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 student; \$15 for Chat only subscriptions (email delivery only); \$50 for Supporting Level; \$100 for Patron Level; and \$200 for Benefactor Level.

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the **CHAT**

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

Calendar

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| Sept 8 | Second Saturday Field Trip, Baskett Slough NWR |
| Sept 13 | Board Meeting at Hesthavn Nature Center, 7-8:30 pm |
| Sept 15 | Fall Migratory Bird Count |
| Sept 20 | General Meeting, 7 pm., 1st Presbyterian Church, Corvallis |
| Sept 23 | Bicycle Birding, Fairgrounds, Bald Hill Park |
| Sept 27 | Articles & Field Notes deadline for CHAT |
| Sept 29 | Kids Day for Conservation, 10-4 pm, Benton County Fairgrounds |

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