



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

November 2012

VOL. 42

#3

General Meeting

Thursday, November 15, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
8th and Monroe

Purple Martins in Dunn Forest

Dave Vesely, Oregon Wildlife Institute



The Purple Martin, once widely distributed in western Oregon, is now regularly found only in a few scattered locations across the state. Local birders have been aware of the small Purple Martin colony in OSU's Dunn Forest for at least four or five years. The Dunn Forest martins are special because they are one of fewer than a

dozen colonies on the West Coast known to still be using snag cavities. Across most of North America, purple martins have shifted entirely to using artificial breeding structures. In 2011, Dave Vesely of the Oregon Wildlife Institute (OWI) placed two artificial gourd racks and several individual houses with starling-resistant entrances to boost martin reproduction in the Dunn Forest martin colony. OWI plans to place more gourd racks along the Willamette Valley floor where nest site competition from starlings precludes the use of snags. Hopefully, Purple Martins in the Coast Range will continue to find snags retained in clearcuts to sustain this portion of their population.

Dave Vesely has a



B.A. degree in Psychology from the University of Minnesota, a B.F.A. in Illustration from Oregon State University, and a M.S. in Forest Science, also from OSU. He has been a wildlife ecologist for more than 20 years, specializing in the assessment of the effects of human land use on wildlife populations and their habitats. His interests include restoration planning for wildlife, natural resource inventory and monitoring designs, and modeling approaches to understand land management effects on wildlife habitats. He has conducted research on threatened/endangered species and wildlife communities of the Oregon Coast Range, Oregon Cascades, and the Willamette Valley. He is Executive Co-Director of the Oregon Wildlife Institute.



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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

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, 777 NW 9th St., 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 sound 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

November 10 Luckiamute Landing State Natural Area

December 8 Snagboat Bend NWR

Bill Proebsting

Weekend Field Trips—2013

ASC's 2013 weekend field trips visit a collection of Oregon's birding hotspots. Though they target Oregon's diverse collection of birds, they have additional emphasis on mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and flowers. Most trips are scheduled for Fridays through Sundays. We travel in 12-passenger vans rented from Enterprise. On our Malheur NWR trips, we stay at the Malheur Field Station, and we stay in motels on all other trips. Costs are shared. Participation is open to all, but space is limited on several trips. Sign-up sheets are available at the Field Trip table at all general ASC meetings. Alternatively, you can sign up by emailing Fred Ramsey at framsey5@comcast.net.

29-31 March: Bandon and Port Orford

19-21 April: Klamath Basin

3-5 May: Rogue Valley

23-26 May: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (4 days)

28-30 June: Summer, Agency, and Crater Lakes

6-8 September: Bandon and Port Orford return

If there is considerable interest, we may also schedule a July trip to the Willows.

More detailed information will appear in future Chats.

Fred Ramsey

President's Message

Yes...I Want to Help!

The Audubon Society of Corvallis is in its 42nd year of providing the people of the mid-Willamette Valley (Linn, Benton, and part of Lincoln Counties) with opportunities to enjoy and learn about birds, other wildlife, and the importance of their habitats. The society provides a forum for advocating responsible public policy and personal behavior that respects, conserves, and restores wildlife habitat.

From educational programs for elementary, home school, and outdoor-school students, to a Kids Day for Conservation program, birding and Art & Nature classes at Hesthavn, and other community events, we reach out to a wide spectrum of the local population. Thanks to the help of homeowners and volunteer nest monitors our society has one of the finest Western Bluebird Trails. The Conservation Committee provides both information on issues affecting the environment, and opportunities to affect change locally and nationally. Monthly local birding trips and wider-ranging weekend trips are open to all. Improvements to our Hesthavn Nature Center and six-acre site provide an interactive learning place for students and families. Each year ASC supports the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count with a countdown potluck. From September through May, the society provides excellent nature programs featuring guest speakers, free to its members and the public. The Chat, ten times a year--by email or print--informs members about all these activities, recent bird sightings...and more! And you can always just check our first-rate website.

Isn't it amazing that volunteer members of ASC provide all of this? We are proud to have their wealth of talents to provide informative and well-balanced events for the community. While this labor is freely donated, the society still incurs cost for supplies, mailing services for the Chat, rent for meeting room, insurance cost, and much more.

Your membership dues go far toward meeting expenses of our Chapter, but they do not totally sustain our wide range of activities. ASC needs your support to maintain and improve the quality of service we provide. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. If you would like further information about programs, or would like to help volunteer, please contact any board member listed on the back of the Chat, or at the ASC website www.audubon.corvallis.or.us.

The annual donation envelope is included.

Jim Fairchild

Hesthavn News

The footbridge is almost finished! Enough so, that we held our ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 4th. We were also honoring Chris and Kate Mathews for their generosity and support for the footbridge project and for

being our anonymous donors for the fundraising campaign we ran from December 15, 2011 until March 15, 2012. We needed to raise \$5,000, by March 15th or would have lost out on the matching funds. Fortunately, we were able to accomplish this and have received enough donations to just about meet the total cost of the bridge.

We are still seeking contributions for the final costs for the pathway approaches to the bridge and the associated labor costs. If you wish to help us with these expenses would be very much appreciated as we are in need of staining the Education Center, this fall, as well. Your tax deductible donations may be sent to the ASC, PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

A BIG THANK YOU to all you who have contributed towards our Hesthavn footbridge project, and if you weren't able to attend the ribbon-cutting, please be sure to stop by, sometime in the future, to see our latest addition to the lovely Hesthavn property.

Susan Atkisson

Hesthavn Education News

This month we are working on a number of projects. We will be adding a few new displays to Hesthavn, we are working with the Together Green Grant and IAE, Marys River Watershed Council, and Greenbelt Land Trust to get groups of school children involved with habitat restoration. This month includes our second in-class lesson supported by the Together Green funds, which will be focused on choosing plants for the students' restoration site. Plant choices will be left up to the students, but they will be guided by a list of plants most used by different types of wildlife. Students will be planting their plants come February. Education is also planning for our first season of Summer Camps in August of 2013. Topics will be announced next month, but look for more information in the spring!

We are also in contact and excited to be working with a new group of students at OSU - the Bird Nerds! These driven and bird-friendly students have approached Audubon and want to help with education and field trips. We are thrilled they want to be involved, and look forward to building a stronger connection with Oregon State University students and staff.

An education open house will happen at Hesthavn on Sunday, November 11th from 11-2 pm. Come and explore our new exhibits, speak with the Education staff and bring the kids for a few hands-on activities. We hope to see you there!

*Michelle Shula
Education Chair*

Atop the Nestbox

Below are the bluebird trail nesting data for the 2012 season. We added a number of properties to the trail, so our overall numbers increased. The rates of hatching and fledging were slightly less than last year, perhaps accounting for an unprecedented number of third broods.

For a look at our numbers each year since 1999, go to the "bluebird potpourri" section of our webpage at www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/bluebird_trail.shtml.

Nesting attempts	223
Failures	37
First broods	115
Second broods	63
Third broods	8
Eggs laid	1176
Eggs per attempt	5
Eggs hatched	861
% hatched	73
Banded	754
Fledged	741
% fledged	86
Fledged per occ box	4.8

My thanks to Judy Rickard for tabulating the Benton-Polk data, to Rita Snyder as always for her supervising, banding and data collection, and to all of our monitors and banders, whose enthusiasm and expertise make it a pleasure to be a part of this program.

Raylene Gordin

Reusable Tote Bags Linn Benton Foods Share Accepts Reusable Tote Bags from Audubon Society of Corvallis

Manager Mike Gibson was delighted to receive over 200 reusable tote bags as pledged by Audubon to assist the needy residents of Corvallis. City Councilor Jeanne Raymond (Ward 7) had asked if Audubon would help the needy with reusable bags as it was felt they might not be able to purchase bags when the Corvallis bag ban was put in place. Chapter members responded by donating many of their own bags and some members purchased new ASC bird bags. National Audubon was contacted to see if they could assist our chapter and sent 200 new Audubon bags to



Susan James, Colleen Dyrud, Mike Gibson and Jeanne Raymond

help the project. "This number of bags will cover the local Corvallis needy," stated manager Mike Gibson, "but there are other nearby groups who could use additional help." Lynn Teneffoss from National Audubon Chapter Services was delighted to help our chapter in this worthwhile endeavor. Our thanks to our generous chapter members and to National Audubon for their kind help. Let's keep collecting reusable tote bags for other needy in our area.

John Gaylord

Conservation Corner

The decade ahead, and even in the more immediate future requires that we look at climate change as a serious threat to not only birds, but also all wildlife. The rapid changes being brought about by global warming include habitat changes, changes in the time and locale of seed and fruit production, and weather changes that could severely restrict or eliminate species from previously productive areas.

If we look at the man-made crisis in the Klamath Falls area where water has been denied to the refuges, causing a large-scale calamity with thousands, or even millions of avian fatalities, imagine this on a scale that covers the United States and beyond. Severe weather changes have hit the news, with more tornadoes, drought across much of the USA this last summer, hurricane seasons longer and harsher, and unexpected hot or cold spells that cause plant systems to fail.

Polar bears raiding seabird colonies because they cannot find ice is a symptom of changes to the climate. But can animals adapt in time? For humans, extreme increases in food prices lets some of us know that climate change impacts us, but many do not know that unusually warm winters have increased pine bark beetle numbers causing deforestation on an enormous scale. Drive over Santiam Pass to see the effects.

Fortunately, this is one thing on Ore. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife's view looking forward, and they have started plans to combat the effects on sensitive species in our state. Even now, ODF&W has incorporated current information into their management plans to offset impacts to fish, birds, and other wildlife. Long-term monitoring and rapid assessment and evaluation will be needed to follow the impacts on our most sensitive species.

Please think about how you are living on our planet. Is there anything you can do to reduce greenhouse gases? While many of the major gases are factory produced, a large percentage is from automobiles. If we can reduce energy consumption, especially those which involve the burning of fossil fuels, and reduce transportation fuel consumption, we will be doing our planet a big favor. All life on Earth is dependent on the changes we are making to her. Let's do what we can to stop the global warming menace.

Will Wright

Field Notes

9/28/12-10/25/12

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: Ankeny = Ankeny National Wildlife Area, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, Finley = William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, LSNA = Luckiamute State Natural Area, Monmouth STP = Monmouth sewage treatment ponds, Philomath STP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds, Snagboat Bend = unit of Finley NWR near Peoria, Stewart Lake = lake at Hewlett-Packard campus in Corvallis, TWG = Talking Water Gardens in Albany

Observer abbreviations: Don Boucher (DB), Tony DeFalco (TD), Jeff Harding (JH), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Preston Filbert (PF), Joel Geier (JG), Julie Gibson (JGb), Mike Lippsmeyer (ML), Sylvia Maulding (SM), Lisa Millbank (LM), Pam Otley (PO), Bill Proebsting (BP), Roger Robb (RR), Doug Robinson (DR), Evelyn Sherr (ES), Jamie Simmons (JS), Brandon Wagner (BWA), Ben Wishnek (BWi), Will Wright (WW)

Conditions were bone-dry until mid-October, when a long series of rainstorms quickly refilled area wetlands. While many of our summer breeding birds had already left, overwintering birds like waterfowl, raptors, sparrows and other songbirds continued to arrive.

Greater White-fronted Geese continued to migrate high overhead in the beginning of the period, with only a few stopping to rest. One was hanging out with a flock of 200 **Cackling Geese** at Stewart Lake 10/4 (JS). 7 **Snow Geese** were noted at Ankeny 10/2 (JH). 15 **Tundra Swans** at Ankeny were the first ones reported locally (ES). The largest reported concentration of **American Wigeons** was 150 at Philomath STP during the first half of October (DR). The only report of **Eurasian Wigeon** was an unspecified number at Ankeny 10/27 (ES). Few **Cinnamon Teals** were seen, as almost all of them fly to warmer climates for the winter, but good numbers of tiny **Green-winged Teals** were arriving, with 27 at Philomath STP 9/30. 970 **Northern Shovelers** were happily filtering through the sewage at Philomath STP 10/16. Numbers of **Mallards**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Buffleheads** and **Northern Pintails** were building by the end of the period. A surprising concentration of up to a dozen **Redheads** were noted at Philomath STP from August through mid-October; 6 were there 10/16 (HH). 6 **Canvasbacks** were at Philomath STP 10/5 (WW); Stewart Lake is often a good location to see these uncommon ducks through the winter. 3 **Surf Scoters** at Philomath STP 10/14 were unusual visitors from the coast, but seemed to find the sewage to their liking (PO). On 10/5, a number of **Greater Scaup** visited Philomath STP (WW), and 1 male was there 10/16 (HH). A flock of 16 **Lesser Scaup** had arrived at Philomath STP 10/16 (HH). 37 **Ruddy Ducks** were at Philomath STP 10/16, along with 21 **Hooded Mergansers**.

1 **Sooty Grouse** was seen about 3,500' up Marys Peak 10/25, and 8 **Mountain Quail** were at 2,500' (RR).

4 **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Philomath STP 9/30 (HH), and 2-4 stayed at Stewart Lake throughout the period (JS). 3 **Horned Grebes** were at Stewart Lake 10/5 (JS), and 1-2 were regularly seen at Philomath STP. 5 **Eared Grebes** stopped at Philomath STP 9/30 (HH), an unusually high number, but on 10/16, an even larger flock of 6 were there (HH). A single **Red-necked Grebe** stopped at Ankeny 10/11 (JH) and 10/25 (SM), this is the rarest grebe in our area. There were 3 **Western Grebes** at Philomath STP 10/5 (WW).

Double-crested Cormorants were moving inland to our rivers and lakes from the coast this period.

Great Blue Herons and **Great Egrets** were hunting voles in fields alongside raptors. A **Green Heron** was regularly seen at Stewart Lake until 10/16 (JS), the last reported sighting (although a few may spend the winter here).

One **Turkey Vulture** was still hanging around near Independence 10/15 (BWA), but it wouldn't be surprising if someone spots a few over

the course of the winter. Although **Ospreys** were not reported, it's likely that some were still passing through at the beginning of the period. A **Bald Eagle** frequently harassed the collection of birds at Philomath STP this period (WW). Numbers of **Northern Harriers** and **Red-tailed Hawks** are on the rise; S of Monmouth, a Red-tail of the "Harlan's" subspecies returned to his regular winter territory 10/7 (ML). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at the Finley prairie 10/14 (WW); this is a reliable site for them throughout the winter and early spring. **Merlins** were starting to be seen regularly; quite a few Merlins spend the winter in urban areas, so watch for them around feeders. 1 **Peregrine Falcon** was at Ankeny 10/2 (JH).

A pair of **Virginia Rails** called and scurried through the sedges and rushes at TWG 10/8 (PF). An amazing concentration of 1510 **American Coots** were at Philomath STP 10/16 (HH).

Shorebird numbers were down considerably from last period. 1 **Black-bellied Plover** stopped at Philomath STP 10/15 (DR). A few **Greater Yellowlegs** were still found at many area wetlands. A **Spotted Sandpiper** lingered at Willamette Park in Corvallis 10/7 (LM, DB), but a few could stay through the winter. Just one **Western Sandpiper** was reported this period; it was at Philomath STP 10/15 (DR), and a **Least Sandpiper** was still there 10/15 (HH). A couple of **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at Finley 10/1 (BWi), and 11 **Dunlin** were at Philomath STP 10/15 (DR). **Long-billed Dowitchers** had largely moved on, but 11 were at Philomath STP 10/15 (DR), and several were at Finley 10/24 (ES). **Wilson's Snipes** were showing up everywhere as the rains refilled wetlands.

5 **Red-necked Phalaropes** picked and probed at delicious things in the sewage at Philomath STP 10/15 (DR), but just 1 was there 10/16 (HH).

A few **Mew Gulls** showed up at the Monmouth STP 10/8 (BWa), and **California Gulls** were seen fairly regularly around the area this period. A **Glaucous-winged x Western Gull** hybrid visited SE Corvallis 10/24; these hybrids are very common (LM). An adult **Bonaparte's Gull** was at Philomath STP 10/20 (SM), and 2 were there 10/24 (WW).

Most **Band-tailed Pigeons** were leaving our area early in the period.

In Albany, a **Barn Owl** responded to imitations while a **Great Horned Owl** called nearby 10/18 (PF). A **Barred Owl** was noted at Witham Hill 10/24 (JGb). 2 **Short-eared Owls** visited a wetland in SE Polk Co this period (ML).

Vaux's Swifts were almost entirely gone by the first week of October. A late **Rufous Hummingbird** visited an Albany yard 10/5 (PF). **Anna's Hummingbirds**, like the 1 seen regularly at Stewart Lake (JS), now have feeders to themselves.

At least 2 **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were seen SW of Monmouth 10/8 (BWa) probably the same ones seen there last period, and there was 1 at its regular location near Bald Top at Finley 10/14 (WW). A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** showed up at Stewart Lake 9/27 and 10/1 after being absent since mid-April (JS). **Northern Flicker** numbers increased with overwintering birds from northern and high-elevation areas.

A late **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** was seen at EEW 10/2, where there was also a **Black Phoebe** (BP). Black Phoebe numbers seem to be steadily increasing in our area; the first one of the year visited Stewart Lake 10/4 (JS).

One **Northern Shrike** at Finley 10/24 was swooping and calling as it harassed a Merlin (ES). A **Hutton's Vireo** was foraging with Golden-crowned Kinglets and Chestnut-backed Chickadees along Mulkey Cr 10/21 (LM, DB).

5-10 **Gray Jays** were seen in Beazell Memorial Forest 10/16 (JGb). **Western Scrub-Jays** and **Steller's Jays** devoted their time to collecting and caching acorns throughout most of the period. Large, social flocks of **American Crows** convened at large winter roosts in the late afternoon. An unconfirmed but very probable record of a **Clark's Nutcracker** on Marys Peak was submitted to an online birding site 10/7 (TD).

Horned Larks were noted on Marys Peak 10/9 (PF) and at Finley 10/14 (WW).

An unusually late report of **Tree Swallows** came from Finley 10/1 (BWi). 2 **Barn Swallows** were roosting side-by-side in a barn S of Monmouth during rainy weather 10/23 (ML).

Mixed flocks containing both **Chestnut-backed** and **Black-capped Chickadees** are easily found as additional chickadees move downslope.

Pacific Wrens were easy to find in city parks with forested areas as they moved downslope. A couple of **Marsh Wrens** were still singing at TWG 10/8 (PF).

Ruby-crowned Kinglets were easy to find this period, and a few males gave the occasional fragment of song. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** are common in areas of conifers throughout the area now. Many **Western Bluebirds** were on Marys Peak 10/9 (PF). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was at Snagboat Bend 10/23; this is an uncommon migrant in the valley. By mid-October, the conspicuous nighttime migration of **Swainson's Thrushes** was over. A **Hermit Thrush** called in Pioneer Park in Corvallis 10/22 (LM), and a **Varied Thrush** gave a bit of song at sunrise on Riverside Dr in Linn Co 10/4 (DB); these thrushes are moving down from higher elevations as large numbers of **American Robins** are also arriving.

Flocks of **American Pipits** continue to arrive and forage in open fields. Good numbers of **Cedar Waxwings** continue to collect late-ripening berries, but most will leave the area over the next couple of periods.

Yellow-rumped Warblers were noted in Corvallis 10/2 (HH); **Townsend's Warblers** showed up at Stewart Lake 10/8 and 10/11 (JS). A late **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was foraging in a garden in Corvallis 10/6 (BP). A **Common Yellowthroat** was still at Finley 10/13, but it is not uncommon for them to linger into late October, and a few may overwinter.

22 **Savannah Sparrows** were at Philomath STP 10/16 (HH); many depart for warmer climates, but quite a few will stick around through the winter. 3 **Fox Sparrows** and 3 **Lincoln's Sparrows** skulked in the brush at Monmouth STP 10/8 (BWa). **White-throated Sparrows** were reported from feeders and from EEW 10/18 (BP) and Bald Hill Farm in Corvallis 10/21 (LM, DB). Any given blackberry thicket could produce dozens of **Golden-crowned**, **White-crowned** and **Song Sparrows**. An influx of **Dark-eyed Juncos** has arrived; look for the uncommon "Cassiar" and "Slate-colored" forms among the flocks of our usual "Oregon" type.

With numbers augmented by migrants from the north, **Western Meadowlarks** could be found in nonbreeding areas like LSNA 10/7 and EEW 10/10 (JG), as well as usual breeding areas like the Finley prairie 10/14 (WW). Flocks of thousands of **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Brewer's Blackbirds** and European Starlings can be seen in fields with the occasional overwintering **Brown-headed Cowbird**.

A **Cassin's Finch** visited Marys Peak 10/10 (DR); an uncommon visitor from the Cascades. Large numbers of **Pine Siskins** were conspicuous around Corvallis. Flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** have been surprisingly common this fall over Corvallis.

Please post your reports to midvalleybirding.org, send them to lisaaves@peak.org, or leave a message at 541-753-7689 by 11/23/12.

-Lisa Millbank

Corvallis CBC Is Now Free!

Everybody is invited to join us for the 51st Corvallis Christmas Bird Count (CBC) to be held on Tuesday, December 18th, 2012. The great news is that participation is now free! No longer will you be required to pay a five dollar fee to help out with the count. In a move to cut costs, the *American Birds* Christmas Bird Count magazine will no longer be printed. However results from all the Christmas Bird Counts will be available online.

The Christmas Bird Count is an organized continent-wide, survey which documents every bird seen on a given day from sunrise to sunset. Since the turn of the 20th century, the Christmas Bird Count has contributed to the knowledge base of wintering birds in North America.

The count is an all-day event open to anyone wishing to participate. This is an excellent opportunity for novice bird watchers to join with seasoned veterans and learn more about identifying and finding the local birds. Half-day participants and home feeder-watchers are also welcome. I would like to particularly encourage any one with feeders in the count circle who can spare at least one hour to watch their yard to participate. Some counts, particularly in Canada are mostly made up of feeder watchers. Even Eugene has about 30 feeder watchers compared to the 4-6 Corvallis usually gets, so there is room to grow in this area. Winter feeder watching can be quite rewarding as birds try to expend the least amount of energy to get the most amount of food.

The Corvallis count circle is a 7.5 mile radius centered near the Corvallis airport and is usually divided into 13 sections, with a team of 3-6 individuals assigned to each section. A link to a map of the count circle is posted on ASC's website under bird counts. Team leaders for each section will make arrangements with the rest of their group for a meeting place and time (usually between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m.) the morning of the count. Participants should bring cold-and wet-weather gear, binoculars, a scope, if you have one, and snacks for the day. A notepad and pencil or electronic recording devices, field guides, camera and a thermos with something hot are always good ideas as well.

There will be a countdown potluck after the count at the Community Room at the Corvallis Fire Station on Tunison in south Corvallis. This is the fire station located west of SE 3rd Street (a.k.a. 99W), more or less across from Lincoln School.

If you are interested in participating or would like further information I will be happy to hear from you, my contact information is at the back of the Chat.

Marcia F. Cutler

Analysis of Sleep in Pectoral Sandpipers

As a biochemist, I read *Science* magazine regularly, and occasionally I come across research papers that might be of general interest to Auduboners. Such is an article in the September 28, 2012, issue. A team of German and Swiss scientists collaborated on a study, "Adaptive Sleep Loss in Polygynous Pectoral Sandpipers." The question is whether sleep performs "restorative processes that sustain waking brain performance," or else, "sleep simply enforces adaptive inactivity to conserve energy when activity is unproductive." The authors studied Pectoral Sandpipers, which mate in the Arctic, where darkness does not limit physical activity or promote sleep. The birds are polygy-

nous, meaning that several males compete for the favors of individual females. Competition involves elaborate displays, territorial vigilance, and aerial attacks, as shown in the figure.



The authors used sophisticated telemetry to monitor activity and sleep patterns of individual males. They used "microsatellite markers" (molecular genetic analysis, like forensic DNA analysis) to identify paternity. Their findings, in brief—"Males that slept the least sired the most offspring." So the ability to limit one's need for sleep correlates with superior performance, at least the physical performance needed to compete for females and sire offspring. The data suggest that "animals can evolve the ability to dispense with sleep when ecological demands favor wakefulness." Wisely, the authors said little about extrapolating their findings to sleep patterns, physical ability, or reproductive success in humans.

Chris Mathews

The Treasure Troves

It was a sunny 70 degree day Thursday, October 11, 2012 and the last day of a record dry spell. The sound ahead of us told of woodpeckers. Within 100 meters southeast of the Timberhill water impoundment tank were five Acorn Woodpeckers. Each was busy pecking away or flying to the next oak tree. Before us, next to the trail, were their treasure troves or acorn granaries — branches dead or barely alive chock full of holes, many holes with an acorn neatly tucked in – the woodpecker's private banks ranging

in height 10 to 50 feet above the ground.

Park your car at the very top end of Northwest 29th and start a steep walk up a trail heading north. Stop for a while at the giant tree branch across the trail and you'll see what we saw.

There are somewhat easier places to see Acorn Woodpeckers. Several acorn granaries are about 10 meters directly north of Finley National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. (Finley is 15 miles south of Corvallis). Another place is the small oak grove along the bike path, east across the street from the Benton County Fairgrounds.

Greg and Andrea Foster

Vote on Bylaws at November Meeting

The general membership is asked to review ASC's Constitution and Bylaws. The bylaws were recently revised by a committee of 4 board members and approved by the board at the October 11 meeting. Changes were needed to bring the bylaws into concert with our current practices. Our final step is to get approval by the general membership, at the November 15 meeting.

Please look on the website, www.audubon.corvallis.or.us, to see the Constitution and Bylaws.

Karan Fairchild

Board Meeting Summary

1. The Board voted unanimously to authorize the Donation Envelope Committee to go ahead with re-design and a limited printing.
2. The By-Laws Committee presented to the Board the Revised By-Laws. They were unanimously approved.
3. The ASC 2012-13 Budget was also unanimously approved as presented by the Treasurer.

The next meeting of the Board will be Thursday, November 8th at the home of Marcia Cutler, 991 NW Sequoia at 7pm.

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

Carl & Julie Christianson
Robert & Brooke Johnson
Mary Anne Kirk
Amy Lev
Juliana Masseloux
Esther & Peter McEvoy
Janet & Bill Smoker

All ASC members will be receiving a hard copy of the November CHAT with our annual appeal for donations. If your membership expires in November or December, you can also use the envelopes enclosed in the CHAT to renew.

If you have moved or changed your email address, please forward your new contact information to Suzanne Ortiz at ortizsv@gmail.com.

Suzanne Ortiz

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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.

Correction

Tom Stevens is credited for the loon photo on Page 11 of the October CHAT, not Fred Ramsey.

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Green-winged Teal photo by Matt Lee

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the **CHAT**

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

Calendar

- Nov 8 Board Meeting at Marcia Cutler's 991 NW Sequoia, Corvallis, 7 pm
- Nov 10 Field Trip, Luckiamute Landing State Natural Area
- Nov 11 Education Open House at Hesthavn, 11-2 pm.
- Nov 15 General Meeting, 7 pm., 1st Presbyterian Church, Corvallis
- Nov 23 Articles & Field Notes deadline for CHAT
- Dec 8 Field Trip, Snagboat Bend NWR
- Dec 18 CBC Pot Luck, Tunnison Fire Station, 4-7 pm

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