



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

February 2013

VOL. 42

#6

General Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 7:00-8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
8th and Monroe

The Effect of Lead Ammunition and Fishing Tackle on Bird Mortality

John Schultz, ABC

Our next ASC talk (Thursday February 21) will feature American Bird Conservancy's (ABC) Non-Lead Campaign Manager Dr. John Schulz. John heads up ABC's effort to reduce the mortality threat to birds from lead contamination that occurs from a variety of sources. He is visiting Corvallis to present seminars in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at OSU (Wed. 20 February at 4 p.m. in Nash 204), participate in discussions related to banning lead bullets in Oregon as the precursor to reintroducing California Condors, and discussing related to avian mortality via lead bullets at the AVES graduate seminar (1 p.m. Feb. 21 in Nash 04). Prior to joining ABC, Dr. Schulz worked for 27 years with the Missouri Department of Conservation as a research scientist on migratory shore and upland gamebird harvest management (e.g. Mourning Doves, Northern Bobwhite, Woodcock, Sandhill Cranes); impacts of radio-telemetry and development of surgically implanted transmitters; grassland/grazing evaluations; development of an urban watershed research program; and wildlife impacts of lead poisoning and the integration of science, policy, and politics. He received a BS and MA in biology from Minnesota State University. jschulz@abc.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 Susan Haig or 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.

Susan Haig

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 geared towards beginning 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 ListServ, www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/, the week before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Return to Benton Center by noon (unless otherwise noted).

Half Day Field Trips

February 9 Newport. Special all day trip. Return mid- to late-afternoon. Bring lunch, liquids and rain gear.

March 9 Snagboat Bend

Bill Proebsting

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Weekend Field Trips

Oregon's South Coast—Bandon to Port Orford – March 29-31. (See description in December's CHAT).

A few spots still available.

Klamath Basin – April 19-21. With springtime rolling, this trip catches the end of the migration of ducks and geese and the beginnings of the migration of shorebirds. Visiting three National Wildlife Refuges in the Klamath Basin, we get to view this avian spectacle with birds in their best breeding plumage. Our itinerary (always somewhat tentative, depending on weather and target bird locations): Friday—Dexter Reservoir, Greenwaters Park in Oakridge, Odell Lake, Military Crossing, Klamath Marsh NWR, and Klamath Falls; Saturday—Miller Island, Lower Klamath Lake NWR, Tule Lake NWR, Lava Beds National Monument, Petroglyph Point; back Klamath Falls; Sunday—Lake Ewauna, Putnam's Point (six grebes possible!), Moore Park (early songbirds possible and Juniper Titmouse!), Rocky Point on Upper Klamath Lake, Collier State Park, Corvallis. Expect to log around 150 species.



Transportation is in rental vans, with everyone guaranteed a window seat. Accommodation both nights is at the Quality Inn motel in Klamath Falls, a short walk to Lake Ewauna. We eat at local restaurants: Mexican on Friday and Chinese on Saturday.



Rogue River Valley – May 3-5 (including Oregon Shakespeare Festival performance of *My Fair Lady*)

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge – May 23-26 ... our signature trip.

Summer and Crater Lakes – June 28-30

Wallowas – July 11-14

Steens and Hart Mountains—August 8-11

Return to the South Coast – September 6-8

Persons interested in any of these trips can sign up at ASC's general meetings or by contacting Fred Ramsey at framsey5@comcast.net or 541-753-3677.

President's Corner

Risks to Birds: Kicking the Lead Habit

Recent tragic events such as in Newtown, Connecticut have brought a swift and surprisingly volatile reaction of the recreational gun lobby to political reforms. More surprisingly, Vice President Biden suggested an executive order that could be issued—an EPA ban on the use of lead ammunition due to its known toxicity. I've only heard this mentioned once, so I suspect such a ban will not fly...yet.

We have become used to lead, particularly in outdoor sports—hunting and fishing—for bullets and tackle. Most local stores still carry very few or no alternative products, partly due to higher costs, but also due to social inertia—a resistance to change combined with the belief that individual choices have little cumulative effect. Safer alternative products are available and effective—waterfowl hunters for instance have found steel, tungsten alloy, and other shot materials as good or better than lead.

Large-scale waterfowl deaths precipitated a federal ban of lead shot use on waterfowl in the U.S. Birds, more than mammals, are very susceptible to its toxic effects. Birds ingest lead shot and fishing tackle from underwater foraging (waterbirds), as grit for digestion in their gizzards, particularly at shooting ranges (doves and many other species), and simultaneously with prey items or carrion (raptors). Lead retained in the gizzard will degrade and extend the lead exposure period. Lead bullets and bullet fragments are ingested from any remains of game hunted for food or for sport, and from dead or injured small mammals, shot and

left as vermin. Lead bullets fragment readily on impact, and so increase in dissolvable surface area. Many raptors will regurgitate indigestible matter, particularly wherein bones of mammals accumulate higher levels of lead without symptom. But some birds, like condors, are unable to regurgitate pellets, and so must pass all ingested material.

I won't go into the unpleasant details of death from lead poisoning, for bird or beast. But there is a lot more to learn about lead, its occurrence and effects on reptiles, fish, amphibians, and particularly insects. You can start by looking at the condor and lead information page on our website: www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/condors.shtml My brother lives a cannon shot across the Potomac River from Harpers Ferry, along the road a century and a half ago John Brown followed to liberate the largest federal armory of its munitions, so that slaves could liberate themselves. Recently in a passing conversation, my brother's neighbor said that (although not a rabid hunter) he is not comfortable without having at least 10,000 rounds of ammunition for his guns. I cannot imagine hunting that many deer in a lifetime, including regular target practice! But these two did agree that the National Rifle Association exists less for gun manufacturers than for the ammunition industry. There is inertia, but the road to kicking the lead habit is ready for us to follow.

Jim Fairchild

Corvallis CBC Summary

Corvallis CBC Results

The results for the 2012 Corvallis Christmas Bird Count, held on Tuesday, December 18th are shown in the insert to this month's CHAT. Last month, I reported that the total number of species seen was 128 and listed some of the more unusual bird species seen. I can now also list the species that established new highs for the count (indicated in BOLD on the insert): Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Mew Gull, California Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove (continuing its rapid expansion), Swamp Sparrow, Red Crossbill. Deserving special mention is Townsend's Warbler. With 95 birds seen, this total almost doubles the previous record of 52 set last year.

Major credit goes to the bicycle team of Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank who managed to find a whopping 71 Townsend's Warbler in the southwest side of Corvallis. Don told me that they found at least one under every conifer they checked in one area.

CBC Area Key (see insert)

1A: Oak Creek; NW Corvallis (west of 36th St and Witham Hill Drive, North of Walnut)

1B: NE Corvallis (east of 9th St. and north of Circle)

1C: Central Residential Corvallis, including main OSU campus

2: Orleans (Tangent Dr. to Riverside Dr.)

3: Oakville

4: Peoria

5: SW Corvallis, Neabeack Hill

6: S. Corvallis

7: Airport

8: Greenberry

9: Finley, Eureka Rd.

10: N. Philomath, West Hills

11: S. Philomath, Evergreen

12: Beaver Cr.

F: Feeder counts

*Marcia F. Cutler
Compiler, Corvallis CBC*

Hesthavn News

A Farewell from Susan Atkisson

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you all that I have truly enjoyed my experience as Hesthavn Chair and with working alongside the Hesthavn Committee and ASC Board members

I would also like to thank the ASC membership for your generous support with the funding needed for the new footbridge at the Hesthavn Nature Center. For this project to have taken less than a year from the beginning of the fundraising campaign through the installation and completion of the bridge is a marvel to me. My sincerest thanks and appreciation to James DiNardo, the Project Engineer who designed the footbridge, to Carl and Greg Christianson for the construction of the bridge, and to everyone who volunteered their time and effort for this successful project's completion.

Susan Atkisson

Hesthavn Work Parties

On Saturday, Feb 23, from 10 am to 2 pm we will be having a work party at Hesthavn. All are welcome to come join us! First on the agenda is a planting party. In the last couple of years garden cloths were placed at three locations on the property with the intention of killing off non-native and invasive plants and replacing them with natives.

We are now ready for the second phase of this project which will be to remove the ground cloths, do some site preparation work, and plant either native seeds or native starts. The exact mix of species is yet to be determined, but may include native grasses, forbs, or shrubs. Additionally, we may do some needed maintenance work on Paula's Trail, which is the trail that our new bridge leads to on the other side of Oak Creek. If you are interested or have any questions please feel free to contact me (Ray Drapek) at 541-754-7364 or by email: raydrapek@gmail.com.

Ray Drapek

Atop the Nestbox

Bluebird Workshop:

Saturday, March 2nd from 1:00-3:30 pm at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center, Willamette Building

Bluebirds in the Willamette Valley

Some of you may have seen flocks of bluebirds numbering 20 or more exploring the valley floor for berries and the rare insect. This is a common winter phenomenon that includes migrants from northern states and territories. In some years, my nest boxes are filled with bluebirds seeking warmth and shelter at night, while in others, I see no bluebirds for many weeks, even those that nested in my area. Researchers have used climate data and other historic information to try to explain the patterns of migratory species, but much random appearing behavior occurs. Although I would often like to know why our feathered friends go where they do, I also realize that mystery can be more fun than knowledge. Let's see what mysteries the 2013 nesting season will bring!

Below are the revised data for the 2012 bluebird nesting season.

Nesting attempts.....	246
Failures.....	57
First broods	116
Second broods	64
Third broods.....	9
Eggs laid.....	1289
Eggs per attempt	5
Eggs hatched	897
% hatched.....	70
Banded	754
Fledged.....	755
% fledged	84
Fledged per occ. box	4.3

Raylene Gordin

Conservation Corner

Wave Energy



The *Corvallis Gazette-Times* (Jan. 26th, 2013) carries an article of interest to those keeping an eye on habitat alteration that may impact fish and wildlife. The article, "4 Oregon areas set for wave projects," by Jeff Barnard (p.

A3), says that the state of Oregon has adopted a plan to site 4 areas for wave energy plants. I know that many of us have no idea what that may entail or what the potential impacts might be. I found a rather watered down version of some possible impacts and would like to share them with you. They come from eHow, written by Eric Novinson:

Wave Energy & Its Impact on Endangered Species

Ocean construction affects endangered species. Wave energy harnesses the power of water current to provide electricity. Wave energy power plants are set up offshore, at the shore or near the shore, and they provide intermittent power, especially when the winds are strong. Like other power plants, wave energy plants have environmental impacts and may harm endangered species, including whales, sharks, sea birds, salmon and sturgeon.

Current Changes

Because the power plant consumes the energy generated by ocean currents, the current is unable to transport the stream of water elsewhere. This could be harmful to endangered species such as salmon that travel along strong ocean currents to save their energy for reproduction. Organisms including plankton, algae and seaweed are transported by ocean currents to the habitats of species that depend on them, such as whales. Some seaweed and algae resist strong waves better than others, so removing the strong waves changes the concentration of each species of plant life in the area, according to the Electric Research Power Institute.

Sound Issues

Noise is a problem with wave energy. The noise from the power plant also travels underwater and disturbs the habitats of sea life. Adding insulation to dampen the sound produced by the power plant can reduce this effect. Some smaller fish species such as the herring and the midshipman are especially sensitive to sound, and these fish are a food source for larger endangered species, including some species of sharks.

Electromagnetic Radiation

Electromagnetic radiation is produced by electronic equipment at the wave power plant. This radiation affects the internal navigation organs of fish and birds. The radiation is especially harmful to species that regularly migrate over long distances, such as salmon and sturgeon, and species that use electromagnetic fields to hunt for food, such as sharks. According to Oregon State University, building a Faraday cage, a metal cage that blocks electromagnetic radiation may reduce this problem.

Building Structure Effects

The structure of the power plant is a hazard. A floating wave energy collector can entangle seabirds, fish and turtles in its power lines. Lights on the power plant make it more attractive to birds and other animals, according to the Wave Energy Center. A power plant located on the ocean floor is a danger to fish, and if it is close to the shore, sea birds may dive underwater to catch fish and crash into the power plant structure.

Water Consistency

A wave power facility changes water consistency. The power plant releases waste heat, which raises the temperature of the surrounding ocean, making it hotter than plants and animals in the area are adapted to. The wave energy plant may leak toxic chemicals if it is damaged. If the plant blocks strong waves from reaching the shore, not as much dirt and plant material is washed back into the sea with the receding waves, lowering the amount of food available to sea plants and animals.

I notice that a January 24 article in *The Newsguard* reports that Pacific City commissioner Tim Josi and even Territorial Sea Plan Advisory Committee member David Yamamoto are voicing strong opposition to the inclusion of a site just south of the mouth of the Nestucca River. Apparently there are reasons for concern. Fisheries are probably foremost in the minds of most. I worry what the impact will be on birds, and the habitat overall.

Will Wright

Field Notes

12/28/12-1/24/13

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.

Rainless, cold and foggy weather prevailed this period, as a strong inversion trapped cold air in the lowlands, while nearby hilltops were sunny and warm. Thick fog. The Airlie-Albany Christmas Bird Count (A-A CBC) was held on January 5, a mostly fog-free day, and tied the previous record of 124 species. This count includes E.E. Wilson and parts of Ankeny, McDonald-Dunn Forest, Luckiamute State Natural Area and Albany; some of the more interesting results from the count are reported here as a counterpart to the Corvallis CBC insert.

Location abbreviations: Ankeny = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, Finley = William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, LSNA = Luckiamute State Natural Area, Philomath STP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds, TWG/SP = Talking Water Gardens and Simpson Park in Albany

Observer abbreviations: Pete B. (PB), Jean Baecher Brown (JBB), Nancy Baumeister (NB), Matt Blakeley-Smith (MBS), Don Boucher (DB), Bob Burke (BB), Pam Comeleo (PCo), Randy Comeleo (RCo), Marcia F. Cutler (MFC), Bruce Dugger (BD), Jim Fairchild (JFa), Karan Fairchild (KFa), Preston Filbert (PF), Jeff Fleischer (JFI), Andrea Foster (AF), Becky Geier (BG), Joel Geier (JG), Martha Geier (MG), Don Alan Hall (DAH), Jeff Harding (JH), Oscar Harper (OH), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Carol Hiler (CH), Richard F. Hoyer Sr. (RFH), Jarod Jebousek (JJ), Tim Johnson (TJ), Frank Kolwicz (FK), Susan Massey (SM), Lisa Millbank (LM), Molly Monroe (MM), Anne Mary Myers (AMM), Gayle Peterson (GP), Bill Proebsting (BP), Nate Richardson (NR), Doug Robinson (DR), Stefan Schlick (SS), Don Schrouder (DS), Jamie Simmons (JS), John Tietjen (JT), Brandon Wagner (BW), Will Wright (WW)

37 **Greater-white Fronted Geese** were found on the Airlie-Albany Christmas Bird Count (A-A CBC) 1/5, and 1 was hanging out with a large flock of 1900 **Cackling Geese** and about 20 Dusky **Canada Geese** near Independence in mid-January. 2 **Snow Geese** were at Ankeny 1/4, and a **Ross's Goose** continued at Finley into early January (MM). A mixed flock of **Tundra** and **Trumpeter Swans** showed up at their usual place at Suver Rd and Hwy 99W 1/24 (FK). 32 **Wood Ducks** and 85 **Gadwall** were found on the A-A CBC 1/5. **Eurasian Wigeons** were found regularly in large **American Wigeon** flocks, but one at Gray Creek Swamp at Finley 1/18 may have been a hybrid of the two species (BP). 1285 **Mallards** and 1582 **Northern Pintails** were found on the A-A CBC 1/5; by contrast, there were just 10 overwintering **Cinnamon Teals**, most reliably seen at TWG/SP. The high count for **Northern Shovelers** this period was 602 at Philomath STP 1/10 (HH). The Salem Audubon field trip to Ankeny found 592 **Green-winged Teals** 1/20 (TJ), and one "Common Teal" (the Eurasian subspecies of Green-winged Teal) was seen at Finley 1/22 (HH, OH, JS); likely the same bird reported last period. Exceptional numbers of **Canvasbacks** continued at Philomath STP through early January; 37 were there 1/1 (HH). 5 **Redheads** were still at Philomath STP 1/10 (HH). 487 **Ring-necked Ducks** and 56 **Lesser Scaup** turned up on the A-A CBC 1/5. Single **Greater Scaups** were found at TWG/SP 1/9 (JBB), Philomath STP 1/10 (HH), and at the Adair Village sewage pond 1/21 (JG). There were 70 **Buffleheads** at Philomath STP 1/10 (HH). Of the 25 **Hooded Mergansers** found on the A-A CBC, 9 were on Cronemiller Lake in McDonald Forest, with the males engaging in courtship displays (LM, DB). Huge numbers of **Ruddy Ducks** were at Philomath STP this period, with 612 on 1/10 (HH).

Just 1 **Ring-necked Pheasant** was found on the A-A CBC 1/5, a sign that this introduced species has become quite uncommon over much of its former range; but 5 **Ruffed Grouse** were found after 2 CBCs with none recorded. On the same count, 36 **California Quail** show that this introduced bird from SW Oregon continues to fare better than the pheasants.

Pied-billed Grebes were the only grebes reported this period, with 28 found on the A-A CBC 1/5.

93 **Double-crested Cormorants** were counted on the A-A CBC 1/5.

A single **Green Heron** was reported at TWG/SP 1/9 (JBB); they occasionally overwinter, especially where the water is a bit warmer, as it is at this site. 55 **Great Blue Herons** and 55 **Great Egrets** were spotted on the A-A CBC 1/5.

At least one hardy **Turkey Vulture** spent the winter near EEW, being spotted on 12/28 and 1/17 (JG, BG). A single **White-tailed Kite** was spotted on the Finley prairie on 12/30 (HH, OH), and again on 1/5 (PB). A midwinter survey of Linn Co turned up an amazing 217 **Bald Eagles** - 121 adults, 96 subadults (JFI). 28 **Northern Harriers** were seen on the A-A CBC 1/5, and 9 **Sharp-shinned** and 15 **Cooper's Hawks** were counted. The A-A CBC on 1/5 recorded 7 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, but only 3 **Rough-legged Hawks**--however, 5 Rough-legs were found on a S Benton Co raptor survey 12/30 (WW). A **Red-tailed Hawk** bearing wing tags marked "2U" was found E of Albany 1/15 (CH); it had been tagged at the Portland airport in September, and was released near Corvallis. 158 Red-tails were counted on the A-A CBC 1/5. A **Golden Eagle** turned up on a S Benton Co raptor survey 12/30 (WW), and 1 may have been scavenging with Common Ravens

near the E end of Finley Rd 1/15 (RFH). (*Editor's note: Falcons have been moved to their new taxonomic position between woodpeckers and passerines.*)

One **Virginia Rail** called in response to a recording at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 1/20 (LM, DB). 619 **American Coots** were counted on the A-A CBC 1/5. 3 **Sandhill Cranes** calling as they flew through foggy skies over Finley 1/22 were an unusual winter sight (MFC, GP).

508 **Killdeer** were counted on the A-A CBC 1/5, and no other plover species were reported this period.

Shorebirds were hard to come by, but a little congregation along McFarland Rd S of Finley had 1 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 6 **Dunlin** and 5 **Least Sandpipers** 1/4 (WW). One **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen on the Willamette R near Peoria twice in the first two weeks of January (RCa). 14 **Long-billed Dowitchers** were along McFarland Rd 12/30 (WW). 117 **Wilson's Snipes** were found during the A-A CBC 1/5; it's interesting to think how many more of these cryptic little fellows went unseen.

The A-A CBC on 1/5 recorded 1 **Ring-billed Gull**, 1 **Thayer's Gull**, 4 **Western Gulls**, 58 **Herring Gulls**, and 275 **Glaucous-winged Gulls** (with some Western hybrids likely among them). 2 **California Gulls** were reported from Ankeny 1/20 (TJ) and 1 was in Albany 1/4 (DB). A **very pale gull** was found at the Coffin Butte landfill 1/5 (DR) but its identity was hard to pin down.

75 **Mourning Doves** were seen at one stop on a S Benton Co raptor survey (WW), and a flock of at least 120 were at LSNA 1/6 (JG, MG). 84 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** and 123 **Rock Pigeons** were found on the A-A CBC 1/5.

One **Barn Owl** in SE Corvallis and another in SW Corvallis were seen flying regular routes throughout the period (LM), and 1 was seen on Bruce Rd 1/4 (WW). A **Western Screech-Owl** occupied a Wood Duck box in Peoria this period (RCa), and a pair responded to an imitation for the A-A CBC 1/5 (LM, DB). The A-A CBC had 11 **Great Horned Owls**, 1 **Northern Pygmy-Owl**, 1 **Barred Owl**, and 1 **Short-eared Owl**. 1 Short-eared flew over the Diamond Hill Wetlands in S Linn Co 1/13 (SS).

At least 1 male and 1 female **Anna's Hummingbird** showed up at the Finley HQ 1/23; they are generally uncommon in rural areas away from towns (MM). Several people reported hummingbirds waiting for defrosted nectar on cold mornings, like those visiting a NW Corvallis yard 1/24 (AF).

There were 17 **Belted Kingfishers** on the A-A CBC 1/5.

1 **Lewis's Woodpecker** was seen at Ankeny 1/20 (TJ), while there were no reports from a regular site at Finley. Some **Acorn Woodpeckers** near the Finley HQ were being harassed by a Red-shouldered Hawk 1/5 (PB). The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** continued at EEW through the period, and managed to get himself counted by two parties on the A-A CBC 1/5. 19 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** were counted the same day, along with 39 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 9 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 8 **Pileated Woodpeckers** and an amazing 239 **Northern Flickers**.

77 **American Kestrels** were found on the A-A CBC 1/5. A **Merlin** put on a display of high-speed aerobatics for a field trip at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 1/20 (LM, DB). A **Gyr Falcon** was found

between Crabtree and Jefferson 1/5 (JH), and another was found near Hwy 20 and Independence Hwy on the A-A CBC--quite possibly the same bird. **Peregrine Falcons** were seen regularly, some sightings included 2 at the Philomath STP 1/10 (HH), 1 perched in the sun far above the foggy inversion in McDonald Forest 1/21 (DAH) and a female flying over McFarland Rd 1/15 (RFH). One **Prairie Falcon** was spotted on a S Benton Co raptor survey 12/30 (WW), and 2 turned up on a Linn Co survey 1/14 (JH, BB).

7 **Black Phoebes** were found on the A-A CBC 1/5; just a decade ago they were quite uncommon.

A **Northern Shrike** was seen at the Finley prairie 1/5 (PB), another one was found along the Campus Way bike path at OSU 1/14 (KF), and was spotted a couple more times during the period, and 2 were found on the A-A CBC 1/5. 5 **Hutton's Vireos** turned up on the A-A CBC 1/5.

The A-A CBC 1/5 counted 115 **Steller's Jays**, 425 **Western Scrub-Jays**, 1224 **American Crows** and 68 **Common Ravens**. 2 **Gray Jays** reappeared at a suet feeder they'd previously visited in the hills NW of Bald Hill 1/1, (PCo, RCo), and several were at the Adair Village access into McDonald Forest 1/15, a particularly low elevation (AMM, SM).

542 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 120 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, 189 **Bushtits**, 170 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and 22 **White-breasted Nuthatches** were found on the A-A CBC 1/5. 26 **Brown Creepers** also turned up, and one turned up in a NW Corvallis yard where they are seldom seen 1/24 (AF).

1 **Sedge Wren** was reported from LSNA 1/5 (BD), near where one was found a few years ago, but it was not refound despite much effort searching for it. Overwintering **Marsh Wrens** were sparsely distributed around area wetlands, with 19 turning up on the A-A CBC 1/5, and common **Bewick's** and **Pacific Wrens** were very well-represented with 111 and 142, respectively.

As expected, the most common birds of the north half of McDonald Forest 1/5 were **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, with 603 (LM, DB). 143 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were also seen on the A-A CBC 1/5.

113 **Western Bluebirds** on the A-A CBC 1/5 prove the effectiveness of local nest box efforts, started in 1976 when the Benton Co bluebird population amounted to just 6 nesting pairs. 3257 **American Robins** took advantage of open fields and the fruit of ornamental shrubs and trees on the A-A CBC 1/5. A **Hermit Thrush** and a male **Varied Thrush** poked around in a Lewisburg backyard, right next to one another 1/12 (JT).

A **Wrentit** was munching part of a fruit and seed ball in a S Corvallis neighborhood 1/22 (NB), and a new high of 59 Wrentits were found on the A-A CBC 1/5.

An estimated 25,240 **European Starlings** were counted on the A-A CBC 1/5, by far the most numerous species.

American Pipits have been scarce this period, but their nomadic nature means numbers vary widely from year to year in a given location, and only 7 were found on the A-A CBC 1/5. **Cedar Waxwings** were uncommon this period as well, with a report of a flock of 15+ at EEW 1/4 (JG), a couple in North Albany 1/20 (PB), and a single flock of 40 birds, again at EEW 1/21 (JG).

An overwintering **Orange-crowned Warbler** visited feeders in an Albany yard throughout the period, often with a **Yellow-rumped & Townsend's Warbler** (PF), and another visited a yard in S Corvallis regularly (NB). The Albany Orange-crowned was one of 3 found on the A-A CBC 1/5.

Numbers of common sparrows found on the A-A CBC 1/5 were impressive, with 397 **Spotted Towhees**, 298 **Fox Sparrows**, 1193 **Song Sparrows**, 837 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, 476 **White-crowned Sparrows**, and 1948 **Dark-eyed Juncos**. The less-common sparrows included 76 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, 34 **White-throated Sparrows**, 17 **Savannah Sparrows**, 4 **Chipping Sparrows**, 1 **Swamp Sparrow**, and 1 **Clay-colored Sparrow** (JJ, NR, MBS, DS). Swamp Sparrows were also reported from EEW 12/31 (JG), Philomath STP 1/1 & 1/10 (HH), EEW 1/12 (JFa), LSNA 1/20 (JG), Finley 1/22 (HH, OH, JS)...so a pretty good month for these marsh skulkers.

1105 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 1276 **Brewer's Blackbirds** were found on the A-A CBC 1/5. 19 overwintering **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were also found, the only report this period. 25 **Western Meadowlarks** were counted on the Finley prairie 1/22 (HH, OH, JS).

61 **Purple Finches**, 75 **Red Crossbills** and 275 **House Finches** were found on the A-A CBC 1/5, but numbers of **American Goldfinches** and **Pine Siskins** have been notably low, with **Lesser Goldfinches** and **Evening Grosbeaks** easier to come by lately.

266 **House Sparrows** were found on the A-A CBC 1/5.

Please post your reports to midvalleybirding.org, send them to lisaaves@peak.org, or leave a message at 541-753-7689 by 2/28/13.

- Lisa Millbank

Book Chat

We thank everyone who makes donations to our Book and Raffle table. Most recently, Georgina Barte called and asked about our interest in her family's collection of bird related memorabilia. A visit to Georgina's home resulted in listening to a remarkable woman's stories about teaching and travel, and our being given many wonderful objects collected over her and her mother's lifetimes. At the January general meeting we featured two of Georgina's donated articles, a lovely hand-woven woolen rug from Poland and a beautiful Blue Jay print. We'll continue to offer choice items from her collection at our monthly raffles.

Another highly valued friend of our Book and Raffle Table is Don Miller. We're indebted to Don for his generous donations of fine books and his lovely hand tooled bowls. One of Don's books, the excellent *Owls of North America*, will be featured at our February raffle. Don also contributed the prized *Elephantine Portfolio of Audubon's Works*.

And, we continue to be grateful to Rana Foster. Rana is always on the lookout for books and items for us. Her latest 'find' is a new copy of *Winged Migration*, "...the most

stunning book ever about the amazing migratory odysseys of birds." This coffee table size volume will excite you if you enjoyed that remarkable movie by the same name. *Winged Migration* will be featured in our March raffle.

And to everyone else who has shown consideration and generosity by contributing books and items to our monthly raffle. We thank you very, very much as you fill a very essential role in our success.

Sally Shaw

Board Meeting Summary

ASC January Meeting

No business requiring a vote was conducted at the 10 January 2013 Board of Directors Meeting in the Market of Choice meeting room. However, the new—and beautiful!—ASC reusable tote bag was unveiled. The limited edition printing of 200 bags was divided between Hesthavn Committee, Education Committee, Conservation Committee and Sales Table Committee. ASC's cost was \$2.84 per bag; a \$5 donation is suggested. Bags are available at General Meetings or from Committee Chairs. The next meeting of the Board will be 14 February 2013, also in the Market of Choice meeting room, 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

Michael Heher
Jim & Carol Hiler
Heather Pedersen

Regarding renewals: If there are no changes in your contact information, you can renew your ASC membership by going to the ASC website & renewing through Paypal: www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml If you have moved or changed your email address, please forward your new contact information to Suzanne Ortiz at ortizsv@gmail.com.

Suzanne Ortiz

Contributors to the Chat

Susan Haig, Bill Proebsting, Fred Ramsey, Jim Fairchild, Marcia F. Cutler, Susan Atkisson, Ray Drapek, Raylene Gordin, Will Wright, Sally Shaw, Linda Campbell, Lisa Millbank, 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.

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www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

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Interested in volunteering?

Please let us know: volunteerasc@gmail.com

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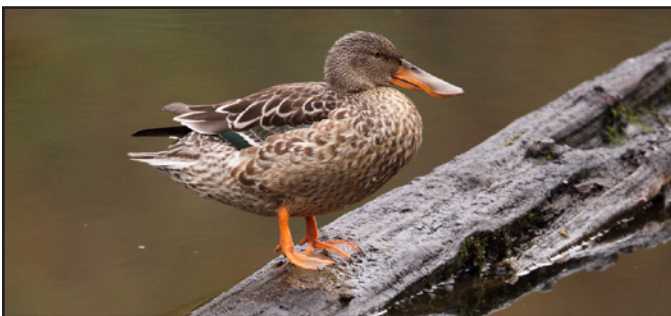
Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

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

Calendar

- Feb 14 Board Meeting: Market of Choice Conference Room, 9th and Circle, 7 pm
- Feb 9 Field Trip: Newport, all day so bring lunch, 7:30 am
- Feb 21 General Meeting: First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis, 7 pm
- Feb 23 Hesthavn Work Party. Saturday, 10am - 2pm
- Feb 28 Articles & Field Notes deadline for CHAT
- Mar 2 Bluebird Workshop, 1 – 3:30 pm, Linn County Fair & Expo Center, Willamette Building
- Mar 9 Field Trip: Snagboat Bend
- Mar 21 Kearney, Nebraska Crane Festival
- Mar 29-31 Weekend Field Trip to Oregon's South Coast
- Apr 19-21 Weekend Field Trip to Klamath Basin
- Jul 12-16 National Audubon Convention, Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA



Northern Shoveler (female) 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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2012 Corvallis Christmas Bird Count Results

Species	1A	1B	1C	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Fdr	Total	Historic High	Counts seen
Gr. White-fronted Goose											54					54	122	30
Canada Goose (lg. form)				24	10	26	40		35 (20Du)		4000		607	500		5207	38623	8
Cackling Goose				310		320	2411		54		21000		416	766		25277	43351	8
Can/Cac Goose, sp.		1						1507		1100						2608	78141	51
Trumpeter Swan		1									1					2	5	7
Tundra Swan		13			6	52	11				109					191	1313	43
Swan, sp.								4								4	6	2
Wood Duck						5			12	2						19	518	48
Gadwall				1					2					4		7	31	40
Eurasian Wigeon											4					4	8	30
American Wigeon		6		104	6	16	18		104		5029		11	14		5308	15630	50
Mallard		9		44	96	57	38	11	28		3336	2		6		3627	40627	50
Northern Shoveler		6		12				6	25		121	1	1140	6		1317	904	47
Northern Pintail					20			11			18250			66		18347	25475	49
Green-winged Teal				4	19	32			35		18069			20	290	18469	21309	50
Eurasian (Common) Teal											1			1		2	1	3
Canvasback														67		67	104	21
Redhead														5		5	4	6
Ring-necked Duck									14		841	11	11	20		897	2743	40
Greater Scaup				1												1	8	11
Lesser Scaup		3							11		4			132		150	488	37
Scaup, sp.														1		1	24	2
Bufflehead		2		13							3	1	30	1		50	206	41
Common Goldeneye						3						1				1	11	20
Hooded Merganser		6					3		4	2	4	2	4	4		29	49	38
Common Merganser		1		4					7			3				15	196	38
Ruddy Duck				2							1			445		448	297	40
Duck, sp.								154								154	442	5
Wild Turkey												6	6	19		31	135	14
California Quail		6						20		19	12	1	5	18	cw	81	560	50
Pied-billed Grebe		1		1		4			28		2	1				37	135	43
Horned Grebe									2							2	2	5
Eared Grebe									1							1	6	15
Western Grebe													cw			cw	4	13
D-c Cormorant				31		6	4		31		5					77	565	30
Great Blue Heron	1	1		1		4	2	1	3	3	17	1		2		36	100	50
Great Egret				5							1					6	18	22
Turkey Vulture				1												1	1	2
Bald Eagle				1	47	5	2	1	3		14	1	5	1		80	87	37
Ad./im.								1/0	2/-			0/1						
Northern Harrier	1	1		2	5	2	2	1	15	3	21		1	2		56	135	50
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		3	1		1	2				1	1	2	3	2	17	22	48
Cooper's Hawk				1		1					1	1		1	1	6	14	47
Accipiter, sp														1		1	3	3
Red-shouldered Hawk							2		1		4			1	1	9	9	8
Red-tailed Hawk	3	3		5	8	15	7	3	4	7	16	5	5	3		84	273	50
- Harlan's									1							1	1	2
Rough-legged Hawk					1						14			1		16	47	46
Hawk, sp.								3								3		1
American Kestrel	5	3		6	11	9	7	3	8	6	5	3		11		77	170	50
Merlin			1				3				1			1	cw	6	10	30
Peregrine Falcon							1		1		2			1		5	6	20
Virginia Rail											5					5	5	12
American Coot									62		205	50	66			383	1924	49
Killdeer	1	5		43	74	124	5		1	1	292			1	2	549	10728	50
Greater Yellowlegs																cw	27	12
Spotted Sandpiper						2										2	13	28
Peeps, sp.				6												6		1
Long-billed Dowitcher											22					22	305	27
Wilson's Snipe							2		3	3	13					21	829	50
Red Phalarope														cw		cw	43	3
Mew Gull						1050										1050	471	16
Ring-billed Gull				130		212								1		343	2145	39
California Gull				130		205										335	136	28
Herring Gull						32										32	210	13
Western Gull		1														1	5	4
Glaucous-winged Gull				130		5										135	188	24
Gull, sp.		1		5		235										241	167	20
Rock Pigeon	60				33	4	5		1			3	4			110	750	38
Mourning Dove		37		8	1	2	19		8	24	2	51	9		11	172	496	50
Eurasian Collared Dove	17	8	2			1	2			15	1	5	6		1	58	47	4
Barn Owl											2			1		3	13	43
W. Screech-Owl	1															1	6	29
Great Horned Owl	1		cw	2		1	2			1	4					11	21	47
Barred Owl											1					1	1	6
Short-eared Owl									2		1					3	29	38
N. Saw-whet Owl	1															1	6	21
Anna's Hummingbird	3	1	11	1		1	5						7		9	38	59	37
Belted Kingfisher		1					1			3	2					7	22	50
Lewis' Woodpecker											1					1	68	26
Acorn Woodpecker	2			4	2	2	13	1	2	7	11	4	5	8		61	112	50
Red-breasted Sapsucker	2		1								1			3	cw	7	29	50
Downy Woodpecker	3	1	cw		1	4	2	4			5	1	2	2	2	27	358	50
Hairy Woodpecker									1		1			1	2	5	16	45

Species	1A	1B	1C	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Fdr	Total	Historic High	Counts seen
Northern Flicker, red-s.	17	6	4	2	5	20	33	4	5	20	22	9	10	23	3	183	427	51
N. Flicker, hybrid		1													1	2	2	4
Pileated Woodpecker	1												1			2	11	43
Black Phoebe				1		2			2					1		9	13	12
Northern Shrike												2				2	11	45
Hutton's Vireo											2					2	19	38
Steller's Jay	21	7	4				17	1	5	39	23	3	19	10	37	186	379	50
Western Scrub-Jay	18	34	72	12	7	30	90	19	17	28	8	18	17	11	30	411	675	50
American Crow	27	44	113	2	4	8	373	160	16		13	32	74		4	870	2491	51
Common Raven	2	3		2		7	17	6	7	2	3	2	14	1		66	158	46
Horned Lark									112		1					113	315	39
Bl.-capped Chickadee	33	16	40	15	21	32	411	4	18	23	21	12	22	23	17	708	879	51
Mountain Chickadee						1										1	3	4
Ch.-backed Chickadee	1		10			1	13		1		1		2	4	6	39	362	49
Bushtit	1	2	91				180	2			46	6			46	374	554	50
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	3	7	2	2	5	11	3	3	13	4	1	9	24	8	101	120	50
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	1		1		3	4		1	3	1	2		1		21	99	51
Brown Creeper	2						5		3		4	1	1			16	50	51
Bewick's Wren	1		cw		4	1	22	1	4	3	4			5		45	153	49
Pacific Wren	13	1							3		9		1	7		34	129	51
Marsh Wren										1	10			2		13	30	40
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14	2	20	1	12	5	365	3	18	16	17			192		665	908	51
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	6	14	1	4	4	24	3		1	9	1	11	8	1	92	346	50
Western Bluebird	8				7	5	7		1	9	8			18		63	440	47
Hermit Thrush									1		1					2	46	41
American Robin	104	41	267	400	14	32	1652	112	28	97	75	265	45	36	12	3180	9386	50
Varied Thrush	35	2		1	2	1	42	4	8	7	10	2	13	114	3	244	356	49
Wrentit	2										2			1		5	30	26
European Starling	225	204	101	2477	1150	1683	750	14	1800	620	986	35	374	1335	2	11756	99683	50
American Pipit					75	6	45			79				3		302	1581	50
Cedar Waxwing			4								1					5	3467	48
Orange-crowned Warbler						1					1					2	7	20
Yellow-rumped Warbler		6				1	109			26		12		3		157	334	49
- Audubon	1		9						8		2				1	21	151	26
- Myrtle	28		1						1		3					33	93	26
Townsend's Warbler		1	12				71	6			1	2			3	96	52	45
Spotted Towhee	16	6	2	1	3	7	53	4	12	14	7	3	25	21	15	189	451	51
Chipping Sparrow									1		1					2	9	13
Savannah Sparrow	3				43	12			145	4	124					331	542	45
Fox Sparrow	2		2	4		15	12	6	7	3	13	2	3	13	8	90	422	50
Song Sparrow	12	9		27	8	73	56	4	22	66	51	12	21	27	5	393	1418	51
Lincoln's Sparrow			2	1		18	7		8		11	3		2		52	71	42
Swamp Sparrow	1										8					9	4	12
White-throated Sparrow	1						1	2			2			1	2	13	30	44
White-crowned Sparrow	4	17		36	17	37	147	26	40	133	38	7	4	9		515	539	50
Golden-crowned Sparrow	15	12	1	36	26	12	213	6	18	62	56	13	147	40	9	666	990	50
Dark-eyed Junco	42	30	132	138	119	85	520	59	268	245	128	130	222	134	127	2379	3518	51
- slate-colored															1	1	9	8
Lapland Longspur									4							4	13	5
Red-winged Blackbird	2	37		100	3	2	84		1171		351	62		8		1820	23111	50
Western Meadowlark	15				17				5		20	8				65	892	51
Brewer's Blackbird	80	2		250	63	7	134		580	20	201	6		11		1354	8735	51
Brown-headed Cowbird									40		1					41	320	40
Purple Finch		10				4	2		3			4	9	1	1	34	104	48
House Finch		8	16	2		34	97	4	5	29	19	16	38	7	7	282	739	48
Red Crossbill		14	37				50		6	2			35	20		164	99	16
Pine Siskin	28	40	87	24		2	240	2	3	8		21	36	55	15	561	2699	40
Lesser Goldfinch		3	13	12		16	9		1						6	60	110	35
American Goldfinch			16	18	7	26	5				1		5		2	80	367	50
Goldfinch, sp.				20												20	-	2
Evening Grosbeak			69				21									90	247	29
House Sparrow	1		15		6	1	57	4		4	2	4	4	6		104	614	50
Total birds	893	686	1179	4619	1959	4637	8558	2189	4954	2702	73926	854	4180	3933	399	115665		
Total Species	51	51	32	57	40	67	64	37	72	45	96	52	55	65	32	128	130	
Scoops	2	1		3		3			3		8	1	2					
Hours Foot	7.5	1	5.25	1	1	?		3	2.1	2	5.5	2		4.5		34.85		
Hours Car	1	7.5		7	7	3.7		5.5	7.9	6	4.5	6	7	4.5		63.1		
Hours Bicycle			1.5				9.5									11		
Hours Kayak						2										2		
Miles Foot	10	0.5	9.3	1	1	?		4	1.1	1	4.2	2.5		4		38.6		
Miles Car	17	35		43	51	?		30.7	16.5	41	24	15	41	39		353.2		
Miles Bicycle			8.8				37									45.8		
Miles Kayak						2										2		
Hours Owling	1.2	0.5					0.75									2.45		
Miles Owling	4	0					4.5									8.5		
Hours Feeder		0.05				1						0.5		12		13.55		
Parties Feeder		1				1						1		7		10		
# Participants	2	5	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	2		34		
# Parties	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1		20		