



# Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

April 2013

VOL. 42

#8

## General Meeting

April 18 Thursday, 7:00-8:30 pm  
First Presbyterian Church  
8th and Monroe

### Slugs and Snails—What’s in your backyard?

*Tiffany Young, US Forest Service*

What lives in your yard and garden? Tiffany Young of the US Forest Service will present a show on mollusks, including a brief discussion of mollusk morphology, their importance in the ecosystem, and ways to deal with exotics. In addition, species accounts will be presented to help you identify what mollusks may be lurking in your back yard. Live specimens will be available for viewing.



Tiffany Young of the US Forest Service is the District Wildlife Biologist at the Sweet Home Ranger District, where she is responsible for management and monitoring of threatened, endangered and sensitive species. She is a specialist in taxonomy, specifically birds, fungi and vascular plants. She is also a regional taxonomy expert for terrestrial mollusks in Oregon and Washington.



### See you there!

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@oregon-state.edu](mailto:David.Mellinger@oregon-state.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 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](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com) or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley ListServ, [www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/](http://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.

*Continued on next page*

### In this issue:

Weekend Field Trips	58
President’s Corner	58
Birdathon Time	58-59
Natural Areas Celebration Week	59
Homer Campbell Environmental Award	59
Hesthavn News	59
Hesthavn Education News	59
Atop the Nestbox	59-60
Bird Butts	60
Field Notes	60-63
Book Chat	63
Board Meeting Summary	63
Open ASC Board Meetings	63
Membership	65

### Half Day Field Trips

- April 13. Willamette Park. We will park at the Willamette Boat Landing at the end of SE Fischer Lane.  
May 11. Finley NWR

*Bill Proebsting*

### Weekend Field Trips

#### Klamath Basin, April 19-21

A couple of openings have appeared. Grab your binos and join the fun. Four open slots. (See the February CHAT for details.)

#### Rogue Valley, May 3-5

Birds, flowers, Shakespeare Festival, and beautiful country. Three openings remain. (See the March CHAT.)

#### Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, May 23-26

ASC's signature trip to one of America's greatest birding destinations. This is a four-day adventure that begins by sampling a variety of habitats as we cross the valley, climb over the Cascades, explore the narrow Ponderosa pine belt, stop for lunch at the spectacular Smith Rocks State Park (White-throated Swift, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon), follow the Crooked River east through the high desert, then cross over the Snow Mountain section of the Ochoco Range to descend into Burns and the Malheur area.

Malheur NWR headquarters at this time of year is an oasis in the desert - a major stopover in the migration of songbirds. The Memorial Day weekend is situated in the latter stages of the migration when vagrant warblers from the eastern US show up. We spend two full days on and around the refuge before making the trip back through the high desert country and over the mountains ... again with good birding all the way. There are only two openings available for this trip, so get on the list soon!

#### Summer and Crater Lakes, June 28-30

Currently the trip is full, but we can put you on a waiting list.

#### Wallowas, July 11-14

Spectacular mountain experience. Three spaces still available.

#### Steens Mountain, August 8-11

Only three spaces left, and the number of birders is strictly limited.

#### Bandon return, September 6-8

Shorebirds! Only two slots left.

To secure spaces on any of these trips, contact Fred Ramsey at [fr Ramsey5@comcast.net](mailto:fr Ramsey5@comcast.net) or 541-753-3677.

*Fred Ramsey*

## President's Corner

### Spring Brings a New Year's Search for Audubon Leadership

Do you find yourself looking for the next migratory bird to show up at your feeder or to your favorite birding spot? Or maybe you've been searching for your first native fawn lily or fairy slipper orchid of the season? Perhaps spring mushrooms, morels, and truffles are beckoning?

Spring also brings our search to extend the talents of our Corvallis chapter leadership and Board of Directors towards our annual election in May. Audubon Society of Corvallis is fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers that help determine priority efforts for our Chapter, and share in helping with the various tasks at hand. And we really benefit from people willing to lead the efforts of our volunteers. Our Field trips, Education, and Bluebird Trail programs are so successful as much for their leadership as for the many participants that join in each of these activities.

With deep appreciation for the efforts of Dave Melinger serving as Vice-President and Programs Chair, Will Wright as Conservation Chair, and Susan Atkisson and more recently Ray Drapek as Hesthavn Chair, our search committee would like to find people willing to fill their shoes. This will help ASC continue to provide monthly public presentations throughout the school year, forums for advocacy and action on conservation issues, and will also help maintain and enhance our Hesthavn Sanctuary and the Nature Education Center experiences we offer there.

Maybe you are also looking for another way you can contribute to the local community, our wildlife and its habitat? There is great reward in volunteering some of your time to help direct the efforts of ASC. Please consider contacting me, Will Wright, Karan Fairchild or ShyAnne Woods with any nominations we should consider—our contact information is on the back page of the Chat.

*Jim Fairchild*

## Birdathon Time!

Birdathon 2013 is set for the weekend of April 27 and 28. This is our yearly fundraiser for the Hesthavn Nature Center. In past years we've raised thousands of dollars for projects and improvements for this wonderful local Audubon sanctuary.

**How it works:** Put together a team (or go solo). Ask people to sponsor you at so many cents a bird, or for a flat rate. Then go birding the weekend of April 27 and 28 and see how many species you can get! (Another weekend in that time frame is fine too, if you have a birding trip planned or a scheduling conflict.) Bird anywhere – your backyard, the coast, the Rio Grande... the sky's the limit (literally). If you feel shy about asking people to sponsor you, get creative. For example, you can pledge to your own team, perhaps in honor of a nature-loving relative. Just drop me an email to let me know you are planning to participate. Sponsor forms and report forms will be on the ASC website under Birdathon. Results will be announced

at the May meeting and in the summer Chat.

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

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

AND Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank will again be sponsoring motorized teams at 10 cents per species and motorLESS teams at 50 cents per species! Also Joel Geier will again be offering 25 cents per species for motorless teams. So this means that motorless teams now have an effortless \$1.10 per species (though we hope you get more pledges on your own!)! The criteria for going motorless are:

- No driving at all during the Birdathon. The motorless trip has to start from and end at your home.
- Any human-powered method is acceptable
- Any public transit is acceptable
- Motorized wheelchairs and other mobility devices acceptable

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

*Karan Fairchild*  
*Interim Birdathon Coordinator*

## Natural Areas Celebration Week May 4-12

This week is a celebration of the incredible natural resources in our community. Come and join us for a hike, walk, workshop, or lecture! From a Birding Workshop to a Tree Identification Tour, there is bound to be something for everyone. Every event is family-friendly, free and open to the public, so come and spend some time exploring the natural world around us. Find out more on the website:

<http://sustainablecorvallis.org/action-teams/natural-areas/>

### Among the dozens of events, the ASC conducting three that week:

Sun, May 5 Beginning Birding Workshop (8am-10am)  
Reservation required, see website

Sun, May 5 Birding Field Trip, Avery Park (10am-12pm).

Sat, May 11 Audubon Society of Corvallis Birding Field Trip (7:30am-12pm). See page 58

*Don Boucher*

## Homer Campbell Environmental Award 2013

The Homer Campbell ASC Environmental Award, established in 2005, recognizes a local (Linn, Benton, Lincoln & Polk counties) individual or organization that has made significant contributions in the areas of environmental stewardship, awareness, and outreach. Contributions worthy of recognition might include but are not limited to:

- promotion of environmentally sustainable practices
- leadership on local environmental issues
- classroom education of environmental stewardship
- habitat restoration or preservation.

This year, Joel Geier of Corvallis has been selected for this award. He will be presented with a personal plaque at the April 2013 General Meeting on April 18th. A more in-depth article on Joel's accomplishments will appear in the May Chat. Congratulations, Joel! And thank you for your tireless work on behalf of Willamette Valley bird & wildlife habitat restoration, conservation education & leadership!

*Linda Campbell*

## Hesthavn News Hesthavn Work Parties

Please attend the Hesthavn work party on Saturday April 20 from 9am to 1pm. Projects we may work on include: weeding around some of our caged native plants, yard and barn maintenance, control of blackberries and other invasive weeds, or work on the trails. As always you are welcome to come for whatever portion of the work party fits your schedule. A splendid time is guaranteed for all.

*Raymond Drapek*

## Hesthavn Education News

This month in Education, we are gearing up for Spring and Summer programs. Hesthavn will be open and staffed most Mondays and Wednesdays from 11-3 pm, so stop in and visit us! There are new educational displays and we will have activities for kids to check out on occasion, so bring the little ones out for a short hike as the weather warms up.

The Education team would like to thank Audubon Society for providing us with a workspace and the necessary tools to get things done. We are very excited for this year, and are attending many outreach events, including Natural Areas week, National Get Outdoors Day, The Wildlife Stewards Summit and many more. Look for us at various community events through out the spring and summer season!

*Michelle Shula*  
*Education Chair*

## Atop The Nestbox

Our spring workshop was well-attended and we sold lots of nest boxes and baffles. Two new volunteers were recruited. As the nesting season gets underway, it is time to make

*Continued on next page*

sure your nest boxes are mounted, in good repair, and free of intruders such as wasps and mice. If your property is graced by bluebirds this year, please try to get a look at their legs and let us know if they are banded.

Thank you, and happy spring birding!

*Raylene Gordin*

## Bird Butts

An interesting (an amusing) article in the February Scientific American relates a study by researchers at the Autonomous University of Tlaxcala, Mexico. Having discovered that some starling, house sparrow, and house finch nests were lined with the fluffy plastic from cigarette butts, the researchers suspected that the birds selected the butts because they contain insecticide that can reduce parasites in the nest. They set up heat traps to attract parasites to 55 nests around Mexico City. Some were lined with filter fluff from smoked cigarettes, where the insecticide (and other noxious stuff) in the tobacco would be present, and some were lined with filter fluff from un-smoked cigarettes, where there would be no insecticide or nasty stuff present. The nests lined with the smoked cigarette filter fluff had fewer parasites! The study did not, however, conclude there were any smoked-vs.-un-smoked filter differences in benefit to the chicks. It is also unclear if nicotine or another chemical found in cigarettes-such as hydrogen cyanide, arsenic or ammonia- may have discourages the parasites from entering the smoked nests. Nevertheless, do you really want to pick up and trash the next used cigarette butt you find?

*Fred Ramsey*



*Camas photo by Sue Powell*

## Field Notes

3/1/13-3/28/13

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

Birders welcomed the first Rufous Hummingbirds, Violet-green Swallows and Orange-crowned Warblers, as the first trilliums brightened late winter woodlands. Restless populations of waterfowl and the first notable movements of shorebirds signaled the approach of the peak of spring migration in April and early May. Although there were plenty of clear, sunny days, temperatures were still near seasonal averages.

Location abbreviations: Ankeny = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, Finley = William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Philomath STP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds, Stewart Lake = pond on Hewlett-Packard campus in Corvallis, TWG/SP = Talking Water Gardens and Simpson Park in Albany

Observer abbreviations: Suzanne Austin (SA), Pete B. (PB), Don Boucher (DB), Randy Campbell (RCa), Jim Fairchild (JFa), Preston Filbert (PF), Jeff Fleischer (JF1), Joel Geier (JG), Julie Gibson (JGb), Burke Hales (BH), Tyler Hallman (THa), Oscar Harper (OH), Jon Hazen (JHz), Phil Henderson (PH), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Carol Hiler (CH), Ken Hilton (KH), Wayne Hoffman (WH), Jed Irvine (JI), Karin Lamberson (KL), Janet Lamberson (JL), Mary Luke (ML), Lisa Millbank (LM), Molly Monroe (MM), Sandy P. (SP) Bill Proebsting (BP), Madeline Rae (MR), Doug Robinson (DR), Steve Seibel (SS), Jamie Simmons (JS), Jean Thompson (JT), John Tietjen (JT1), Bill Tice (BT), Brandon Wagner (BW), Will Wright (WW)

30 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found E of Albany 3/7 (JF1), a flock of 23 were at Ankeny 3/9 (JH) and there were 80 at Finley 3/18 (MM); these were mixed with Dusky **Canada Geese**. 500 **Cackling Geese** were packed into a pond off Riverside Dr in Linn Co 3/7 (JF1); cacklers will be gradually departing over the next month. A rarity inland, 1 **Brant** was at Ankeny 3/8 (MM). At least 12 **Trumpeter Swans**, including a family group with 2 youngsters, continued at Suver/Airlie Rd 3/5 (JG), and at least some were still there 3/12 (JHz). An impressive flock of about 650 **Tundra Swans** were near Halsey 3/7 (JF1). Numbers of ducks were generally lower than last period. One **Gadwall** was at the pond S of Pigeon Butte at Finley 3/21 (WW), and

others were found at TWG/SP and near Brownsville 3/7 (JFI). Among flocks of **American Wigeons**, **Eurasian Wigeons** were reported frequently, but as usual, Grand Prairie Park in Albany had the highest numbers, with 8 on 3/8 (WH). One had unusual coloration, including a bit of green around the eyes. **Mallard** drakes were busy chasing hens throughout the period. Some early migrant or overwintering **Cinnamon Teal** were seen at McFadden Marsh at Finley 3/13 (WW) and 3/18 (MM), and a pair continued at TWG/SP 3/7 (JFI). A **Green-winged Teal** of the Eurasian subspecies (“Common Teal”) continued at Finley 3/1 (HH, OH, PH). 80-100 **Northern Shovelers** were at Ankeny 3/23 (MR). A flock of beautiful **Northern Pintails** near Tangent was a happy surprise for one birder (ML). **Canvasbacks** turned up in a pond E of Albany 3/7 (JFI), and continued at Stewart Lake throughout the period, with a high of 10 on 3/9 (SA, TH). 6 **Redheads**, hard to find in Linn Co, were at a gravel pit pond E of Albany 3/7 (JFI). A male **Greater Scaup** hanging around TWG/SP with some **Lesser Scaup** made for an easy comparison 3/7 (JFI). 9 **Common Mergansers** were fishing near the Marys/Willamette confluence 3/12 (LM). **Ruddy Ducks** were most common at Ankeny, but a few were noted at several Linn Co sewage and gravel ponds 3/7 (JFI).

A **Wild Turkey** hen was an unexpected visitor to a North Albany yard 3/1 (CH). **California Quail** were reported in Peoria this period (RCa).

10 **Western Grebes** were on rice ponds S of Brownsville 3/7 (JFI), and 3 **Eared Grebes** showed up at Philomath STP 3/11 (DR).

**Double-crested Cormorants** were sporting their wispy little “crests” this period.

2 **Great Egrets** were mousing in fields along Riverside Dr 3/15 (DB), but numbers are lower this period as egrets migrate to breeding areas. **Great Blue Herons** continue nest construction and courtship in their heronries.

Just about every birder got to see multiple **Turkey Vultures** this period, but only a few caught sight of **Ospreys** as they began to arrive. Bryant Park in Albany had a pair on 3/26 (PB), and over the next few days, they were reported from Independence and Monmouth. Surprising numbers of **White-tailed Kites** were seen; one was SW of Monmouth 3/8 (BW, BT) and 3/12 (JH), 1 was at Finley 3/8 (WW), 3 were in the Alsea area 3/11 (KL, JL) and 1 was at EEW 3/26 (JG). A pair of **Bald Eagles** clasped talons and whirled down in a spinning courtship dive near OSU 3/26 (JI), and 99 eagles were still using the roost near Tangent 3/25 (SS). A female **Northern Harrier** appeared to be driving a White-

tailed Kite away from her nest site at EEW 3/27 (JG). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** killed a Dark-eyed Junco at Finley headquarters 3/23 (JHz). **Cooper’s Hawks** were calling repeatedly as courtship was getting started. A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** were beginning construction on a nest at Sunset Park in Corvallis (LM, DB). The S Benton Co raptor survey turned up only 29 **Red-tailed Hawks** 3/17 (WW); many are moving out of our area. **Rough-legged Hawks** were still seen in regular locations such as Finley, but should become more scarce next period. A subadult **Golden Eagle** was seen by a group at Ankeny 3/9 (JHz), and a group of 6 eagles near Corvallis may have included 1 or more Golden (BH).

At least 4 **Virginia Rails** called at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 3/26 (HH). **American Coot** numbers appear to be decreasing as some birds leave our area to breed on large marshes east of the Cascades and elsewhere.

A **Killdeer** nest in Independence contained 1 egg on 3/1 (BW).

Good numbers of **Greater Yellowlegs** arrived at local wetlands this period, with 32 at McFadden Marsh at Finley 3/17 (WW). One **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at Finley 3/28 (BP). **Spotted Sandpipers** were observed along the Willamette River in Corvallis 3/12 (LM) and Peoria (RCa) this period; likely representing overwintering birds. About 200 **peeps**, Western or Least Sandpipers, were in some wetlands along Riverside Dr. late in the period (DB). Large flocks of **Dunlin** began to appear; 300 were at the rice ponds S of Brownsville 3/7 (JFI). 35 **Long-billed Dowitchers** were at Finley 3/1 (HH, OH, PH), and 33 were there 3/4 (WW). 4 **Wilson’s Snipes** were flushed by a female Northern Harrier at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 3/26 (HH).

Not many gulls lingered in our part of the valley this period, but 1 **Western Gull** was in S Corvallis 3/1 (LM).

**Band-tailed Pigeons** were beginning to show up in more locations this period, building up to at least 30 at a feeding station SW of Dallas 3/23 (JT), but one SW of Philomath was killed by an unknown predator 3/27 (JFa). The remains of a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** were found in Philomath 3/25 (PF).

A **Barn Owl** was heard in Peoria early in the period (RCa) and one was found on a raptor survey near Alsea 3/11 (KL, JL). In Peoria, a **Western Screech-Owl** continued to roost in a Wood Duck box. **Great Horned Owls** called to one another at Witham Hill throughout the period (JGb). One **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was calling SW of Dallas 3/16 (JT).

An **Anna's Hummingbird** was adding spiderweb to her nest in Avery Park in Corvallis 3/17 (LM, DB), but a precocious fledgling with tufts of down was already out of the nest and visiting a Corvallis feeder 3/20 (BP). A **Rufous Hummingbird** was reported from Independence 3/7 (BW), and another the same day in Corvallis (HH). It didn't take long for them to show up at many feeders throughout the area.

The **Lewis's Woodpecker** at Finley was spotted 3/1 (HH, OH, PH). Woodpeckers were performing a lot of territorial drumming this period. **Northern Flickers** were particularly vocal and, in Bowman Park in Albany, one hammered on a light fixture cover 3/10 (PF). 2 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** were also rapping at that location, and a particularly brightly colored individual was at Hesthavn 3/14 (JG). **Pileated Woodpeckers** and **Downy Woodpeckers** called and drummed in S Corvallis at the BMX track throughout the period (LM).

18 **American Kestrels** were found along the S Benton Co raptor survey route 3/17 (WW). Only 1 **Merlin** was reported in our area this period, at Finley 3/1 (HH, OH, PH). **Peregrine Falcons** were reported from Finley a few times as expected, but one was also seen at TWG/SP 3/13 (PB), and another was at Stewart Lake 3/18 (JS).

At least 5 **Black Phoebes** had seemingly taken up residence along the 6-mile length of Riverside Dr in Linn Co (DB), and several of these were singing throughout the period.

There was 1 **Northern Shrike** along Wildwood Rd NW of Kings Valley (BW). **Hutton's Vireos** were singing throughout the period.

**Gray Jays** were reported from a surprisingly low-elevation at the NW part of Finley 3/2 (TH), 3/3 (SP) and 3/4 (WW). **Steller's Jays** were giving their musical "sub-song" or "whisper song" 3/23 (JG). **Western Scrub-Jays** were still collecting nesting material, and males would occasionally offer a tidbit to their mates. An **American Crow** carried a long stick to its nest 3/27 (LM), and **Common Ravens** could be seen in synchronized flight with their mates.

1 singing **Horned Lark** was at Bruce Rd at Finley 3/1 (HH, OH, PH), and 7 were near Independence 3/14.

While **Tree Swallows** were fairly widespread at the beginning of the period, **Violet-green Swallows** began to show up at Finley 3/6 (WW). 2 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at TWG/SP 3/26 (BP, KH), the only ones reported this period. **Barn Swallows** arrived at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 3/25 (HH).

4 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** passed through a parking lot and visited a pine tree in S Corvallis before continuing on their way 3/27, likely moving out of their winter quarters (LM). A **Bushtit** nest was under construction at Jackson-Frazier Wetland by 3/11 (JHz). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were investigating woodpecker cavities in Pioneer Park in Corvallis in the middle of the period (LM). A **White-breasted Nuthatch** may have been assessing potential new territories in young oaks at EEW 3/8 (JG).

**Pacific Wrens** seemed to be moving out of their lowland wintering areas, as their singing seemed to taper off early this period. At least 12 **Marsh Wrens** were singing and calling at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 3/26 (HH).

**Golden-crowned Kinglets** were singing in Pioneer Park in Corvallis by 3/25 (LM), and male **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were singing as much as they could by the middle of the period.

A pair of **Western Bluebirds** had already claimed nest boxes W of EEW by 3/7, and had to defend their box from a pair of Violet-green Swallows by 3/14 (JG). A **Hermit Thrush** sang quietly from the shrubs on the OSU campus 3/19 (DB). A leucistic **American Robin** visited a yard on Pettibone Rd 3/12; its plumage was more than 80% white, with some areas of dark and orange pigmentation (JTi). **Varied Thrushes** sang throughout most of the period, but seemed to be moving away from residential areas by the end of the period.

A **European Starling** was collecting bits of dead grass and straw for nest material 3/25 (LM). A flock of **American Pipits** were near Independence 3/14 (BW), the only ones reported this period. While **Cedar Waxwings** were scarce and local through the winter, by the end of the period, flocks were more widespread.

**Yellow-rumped Warblers** were singing in S Corvallis by 3/12 (LM). **Townsend's Warblers** seemed to have deserted most feeders and were much less common than they were in December, but migrating **Orange-crowned Warblers** began to show up near the end of the period, in addition to a few overwintering ones.

**Savannah Sparrows** were proudly singing their buzzy little songs at the Finley prairie 3/18. In one brushy thicket in Sunset Park 3/27, **Golden-crowned, Fox, Song, and White-throated Sparrows** were all singing at once, accompanied by a **Spotted Towhee** (LM). 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at the Sunset Park boardwalk 3/2 (HH).

**Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds** were on the Finley prairie with many singing **Western Meadowlarks** 3/18 (DB, LM).

A young, brown male **Purple Finch** gave an unusual song consisting of imitations of other species in S Corvallis 3/15 (LM). Flocks of **Red Crossbills** continue to pass over Corvallis daily. Though they've been present in low numbers all winter, **Evening Grosbeaks** are beginning their annual influx into Corvallis, and hordes of them will gather on the OSU campus in late April-May. A breeding-plumaged male **American Goldfinch** sang along the bike path in SW Corvallis 3/13 (LM, DB); only a few were reported this period, and they've been less common than **Lesser Goldfinches**. **Pine Siskins** have been very common in Corvallis this period, often chattering and singing together in large flocks.

Please post your reports to [midvalleybirding.org](http://midvalleybirding.org), send them to [lisaaves@peak.org](mailto:lisaaves@peak.org), or leave a message at 541-753-7689 by 4/25/13.

- Lisa Millbank

## Book Chat

We've had a few minutes to sit down with *Freeway Birding: San Francisco to Seattle* by Harry G. Fuller and are pleased that it's not simply about birds and good birding locations, but includes fine descriptions of the natural areas also to be found within reasonable proximity to I-5. For instance, when describing I-5 exit 649 near Red Bluff, California, Fuller includes descriptions of fish viewing platforms, the woodland and riparian habitats, and tells about a 2-acre demonstration garden of drought resistant plants. In our area, E.E. Wilson and the Luckiamute State Natural Area are nicely described. Loops off of I-5 are identified as well as adventures to be found at many I-5 rest stops. If you're taking a break anyway, you might as well stretch your legs and do some birding before getting back into the car. The seasons' residents are mentioned so you'll know what to look for. The maps and driving directions to locations are excellent so you need not fear finding your way back to the interstate. We ordered just three copies, gave one away at our raffle last month, so have two available at the Book and Raffle table. They're priced at \$19.00. And, don't forget to pick up one of our ASC tote bags. We're finding that market checkers really appreciate our bag's ability to sit squarely on the counter for easier packing. At only \$3.00 each, they make nice gifts too.

*Sally Shaw*

## Board Meeting Summary

### ASC Meeting

1. The Homer Campbell Environmental Award Committee recommended Joel Geier for this year's award. The motion to do so passed unanimously.
2. The yearly donation of \$100 to Kids' Day for Conservation was unanimously made a budget item.

*Linda Campbell*

## Open ASC 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.

## Membership

Is it time to renew your ASC membership? Mail your renewal check to: ASC PO Box 148, Corvallis OR 97339. If there are no changes in your contact information, you can also renew your membership by going to the ASC website and renewing through Paypal:

<http://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](mailto:ortizsv@gmail.com).

*Suzanne Ortiz*

## Contributors to the Chat

Dave Mellinger, Bill Proebsting, Fred Ramsey, Jim Fairchild, Karan Fairchild, Don Boucher, Ray Drapek, Michelle Shula, Raylene Gordin, Brian Rutledge, Sally Shaw, Linda Campbell, Lisa Millbank and Suzanne Ortiz

## Chat Articles

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

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

**President:** Jim Fairchild, [alderspring@peak.org](mailto:alderspring@peak.org), 541-929-4049  
**Vice President and Program Chair:** Dave Mellinger,  
[David.Mellinger@oregonstate.edu](mailto:David.Mellinger@oregonstate.edu), 541-757-7953  
**Secretary:** Linda Campbell, [lcampbell@peak.org](mailto:lcampbell@peak.org), 541-929-9420  
**Treasurer:** Fred Ramsey, [flramsey5@comcast.net](mailto:flramsey5@comcast.net),  
541-753-3677

**Board Members:**

**Gail Nickerson,** [gbnickerson@comcast.net](mailto:gbnickerson@comcast.net), 541-754-0406  
**Stacy Moore,** [peterandstacy@peak.org](mailto:peterandstacy@peak.org), 541-929-2063  
**Peter Moore,** [peterandstacy@peak.org](mailto:peterandstacy@peak.org), 541-929-2063  
**Karan Fairchild,** [alderspr@peak.org](mailto:alderspr@peak.org), 541-929-4049  
**Will Wright,** [willwright26@q.com](mailto:willwright26@q.com)  
**ShyAnne Woods,** [woodssh@onid.orst.edu](mailto:woodssh@onid.orst.edu), 541-232-4706  
**Past President:** Ann Brodie, [annbrodie143@comcast.net](mailto:annbrodie143@comcast.net),  
541-757-1728

**Committees and Coordinators:**

**Education Chair:** Michelle Shula,  
[hesthavneducation@gmail.com](mailto:hesthavneducation@gmail.com), 614-579-1406  
**Conservation Chair:** Will Wright: [willwright26@q.com](mailto:willwright26@q.com)  
**Bluebird Trail Chair:** Raylene Gordin, [gordin@centurytel.net](mailto:gordin@centurytel.net),  
541-258-6625  
**Christmas Bird Count Compiler & Historian:** Marcia Cutler,  
[marciafcutler@comcast.net](mailto:marciafcutler@comcast.net), 541-752-4313  
**Hesthavn Chair:** Raymond Drapek, [raydrapek@gmail.com](mailto:raydrapek@gmail.com),  
541-754-7364  
**Interim Publicity Chair:** Don Boucher, [bouchdon@peak.org](mailto:bouchdon@peak.org),  
541-753-7689  
**Webmaster:** Tom Haig, [tomhaig@hotmail.com](mailto:tomhaig@hotmail.com), 503-231-6583  
**Interim Birdathon Coordinator:** Karan Fairchild, see above  
**Membership Chair:** Suzanne Ortiz, [ortizsv@gmail.com](mailto:ortizsv@gmail.com),  
541-207-3835  
**Field Trip Chair:** Bill Proebsting, [proebstw@gmail.com](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com),  
541-752-0108  
**Sales Table team:** Sally Shaw, [shaws@peak.org](mailto:shaws@peak.org), 541-757-2749  
Bev Clark, [clark.bev9@gmail.com](mailto:clark.bev9@gmail.com), 541-753-4456  
**Refreshment Chair:** Gail Nickerson, see above  
**Field Notes Compiler:** Lisa Millbank, [lisaaves@peak.org](mailto:lisaaves@peak.org),  
541-753-7689  
**Newsletter Editor:** Anne Schroder, [chateditors@gmail.com](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com),  
541-738-0724

**Interested in volunteering?**

Please let us know: [volunteerasc@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerasc@gmail.com)

Audubon Society of Corvallis  
P.O. Box 148  
Corvallis, OR 97339

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*Audubon Society of Corvallis*

*the* **CHAT**

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

## Calendar

- Apr 3 OSU Bird Nerds, Nash Hall, room 204, 5 pm
- Apr 11 ASC Board Meeting, Fred Ramsey's, Fred Ramsey's, 3550 NW Glen Ridge Place, Corvallis, 7:00 pm
- Apr 13 Field Trip: Willamette Park, 7:30 am
- Apr 18 General Meeting: First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis, 7 pm
- Apr 19-21 Field Trip: Klamath Basin
- Apr 20 Hesthavn Work Party, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Apr 25 Articles & Field Notes deadline for CHAT
- Apr 27-28 ASC Birdathon
- May 3-5 Field Trip: Rogue Valley
- May 5 Birding Workshops & Field Trip, Avery Park



*Turkey Vulture 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.

**Printed on Recycled Paper**