



THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

OCTOBER 2014

VOL. 44 #2

ASC GENERAL MEETING

NOAH STRYCKER RETURNS

One of the most popular programs in the history of our chapter occurred a few years ago when Noah Strycker described his experience working on a research program in Antarctica. Now Noah is back with a whole new program: "Bird World: Insights for Humans from the Amazing Lives of Birds," based upon his recently published book, *The Thing with Feathers*.

"Birds aren't people, but just how different are they from us?" asks Noah. They have the same basic requirements we do: food, shelter, reproduction. And they can do some amazing things!

Approaching bird behavior from new and surprising angles, Noah explores the incredible navigation of pigeons, the need for speed in hummingbirds, the smelling power of vultures, particle physics of starling flocks, and other mysteries—revealing why birds do what they do, and how we can relate.

Noah Strycker, 28, is Associate Editor of *Birding* magazine, and is a well-known writer and "birdman." His photography and articles have appeared in all major bird magazines as well as in books and other media; he writes regularly for the American Birding Association blog. Strycker has studied birds on six continents with field seasons in Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Australia, Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands, and the Farallon Islands, and his life list is approaching 2,500 species. He also



works as a naturalist guide on expedition cruises to Antarctica and Norway's Svalbard archipelago, literally spreading the inspiration of birds from pole to pole. His plans include a World Big Year in 2015.

As usual the evening will begin at 6:30 with refreshments and visiting. The chapter business meeting begins at 7:00, and Noah will be introduced at about 7:30 pm.

Questions about the series can be directed to Chris Mathews at 541-754-1172 or matthewssc2@comcast.net.

Chris Mathews

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

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Oct. 16
7:00-8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
9th and Monroe

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FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Full day and longer field trips will be announced after the 1st of the year.

LOCAL MONTHLY SECOND SATURDAY HALF DAY FIELD TRIPS

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of each month through June at the Benton Center parking area, behind the Cannery Mall, 777 NW 9th, Corvallis, at 7:30 am

This field trip is geared towards beginning birders, birders new to Oregon's mid-valley area and persons looking for a pleasant outing. Contact Bill Proebsting at proebstw@gmail.com or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the MidvalleyList-Serv at www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/, a couple of days before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Return to Benton Center by noon.

NEXT HALF DAY FIELD TRIP:

October 11 Cabell Marsh at Finley NWR

Bill Proebsting

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

NEW AUDUBON STUDY ON FUTURE OF BIRD SPECIES FACING CLIMATE CHANGE

On September 9th, National Audubon Society released the results of a seven-year study of 588 bird species in North America. Of those, 314 species—more than half—are at risk from global warming, with 126 species at risk of severe declines by 2050. Numerous extinctions are also possible if global warming continues on its current trajectory.

"The greatest threat our birds face today is global warming," said Audubon Chief Scientist Gary Langham, who led the investigation. "That's our unequivocal conclusion after seven years of painstakingly careful and thorough research. Global warming threatens the basic fabric of life on which birds—and the rest of us—depend, and we have to act quickly and decisively to avoid catastrophe for them and us."

In Oregon, many large shorebird species, from American Avocet to Willet, are at particular risk. Arid and high plateau songbirds, such as a Pygmy Nuthatch, Gray Flycatcher and Mountain Chickadee are also expected to decline with rapid habitat changes. Climate change driven habitat losses will further populations already in perilously low numbers, such as Greater Sage Grouse and Northern Spotted Owl. But even some of our most common birds are projected to decline or disappear in coming years, from Western Screech-Owls and Northern Pygmy-Owls to Tree Swallows and Pine Siskins, Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds, and Wilson's and Hermit Warblers.

To understand the links between where birds live and the climatic conditions that support them, Audubon scientists relied on more than 40 years of North American climate data, and millions of historical bird records from U.S. Geological Survey Breeding Bird Surveys and Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. Understanding those links

then allows scientists to project where birds are likely to be able to survive—and not survive—in the future.

The report also reveals areas that are likely to remain stable for birds even as the climate changes, enabling Audubon to identify "stronghold" areas that birds will need to survive in the future. The results can serve as a roadmap for bird conservation in coming decades in a warming climate. And the report indicates that personal choice can make a difference: conserving energy, community-based climate action plans, and our efforts to protect and expand bird habitats. For more information, visit Audubon.org/Climate.

Jim Fairchild

CONSERVATION CORNER

September 3 marked the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, which allowed federal designation of wilderness areas that are to be protected in perpetuity. It defines wilderness with particularly lyrical language for a congressional bill: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

President Lyndon Johnson, who signed the Wilderness Act into law, also waxed poetic: "If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."

ABOUT THE WILDERNESS ACT:

- A Wilderness area (with a capital W, meaning officially created federal wilderness) can be designated only by an act of Congress. Although this makes Wilderness harder to create, it also makes it much harder to re-



verse; another act of Congress would be required, and to my knowledge this has never been done.

- The Wilderness Act was signed into law after an arduous eight-year fight led by the Wilderness Society, supported by many conservation groups, and assisted by many members of Congress.
- The Wilderness Act designated 9 million acres as Wilderness in 1964; this has since been expanded to 109 million acres, over half of which is in Alaska.
- There are currently 757 designated Wildernesses nationwide, about 5% of the land area of the U.S.
- Despite Oregon's reputation as a "green" state, only about 4% of Oregon is designated Wilderness, compared to 10% in Washington and 15% in California. We can do better!

In Oregon, the group fighting most strongly for more wilderness is Oregon Wild (oregonwild.org). They have a lot of information on existing Wilderness areas, as well as a proposal for 5 million acres of new Wilderness in Oregon.

Dave Mellinger

ASC EDUCATION NEWS

We had a successful run of monthly educational classes this year, from learning all about pollinators to identifying different trees and their leaves. Our Owl Hunters class in September was wildly successful in attendance, and although we didn't see a live owl that evening everyone seemed to enjoy the class!

We are looking forward to the Aquatic Ecology Grant partnership with Oregon State (which you can read more about in our Sept. 2014 newsletter). Jessica and Michelle will be touring the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest the first week in October to learn more about stream hydrology and how to better incorporate OSU's project and findings in our Aquatic Ecology lesson plan.

For more information on ASC education programs, please contact Jessica Brothers, ASC Environmental Ed. Chair, at: educationaudubon@gmail.com

Jessica Brothers

FIELD NOTES

8/22/14-9/20/14

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.

An unusually hot summer came to an end this period. Birders noted major movements of Vaux's Swifts, Swainson's Thrushes, sparrows, shorebirds and waterfowl. Nocturnal migrants could

be seen passing in front of the full moon in early September, and observed via weather radar or by listening for flight calls.

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, Tangent STP = Tangent sewage treatment ponds, TWG/SP = Talking Water Gardens/Simpson Park in Albany

Observer abbreviations: Bob Altman (BA), Aaron Beerman (AB), Greg Bodker (GB), Don Boucher (DB), Vickie Buck (VB), Pam Comeleo (PCo), Randy Comeleo (RCo), Jenna Curtis (JC), Marcia F. Cutler (MFC), Barbara Dolan (BD), Mike Ellis (ME), Jim Fairchild (JFa), Karan Fairchild (KF), Shawneen Finnegan (SF), Joel Geier (JG), Roy Gerig (RG), Jerry Griggs (JGr), Jeff Harding (JH), Oscar Harper (OH), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Carol Hiler (CH), Rich Hoyer (RH), Jim Kopitzke (JK), Maureen Leong-Kee (MLK), Nicholas Martens (NM), Lisa Millbank (LM), Randy Moore (RM), Pam Otley (PO), Eric Pratt (EP), Bill Proebsting (BP), Leighton Reid (LR), Rachel Reid (RR), Doug Robinson (DR), Fabrice Schmitt (FS), Caleb Showalter (CS), Jamie Simmons (JSi), Kathy Slettebak (KS), Jim Smith (JSm), Evan Smouse (ES), John Tietjen (JT), Craig Tumer (CT), Mike Unger (MU), Will Wright (WW)

By the end of the period, only a few **Greater White-fronted Geese** had been seen at Ankeny. A lone, injured **Cackling Goose** at Ankeny spent its summer with **Canada Geese**, and probably welcomed the first arrival of its own species 9/20. Philomath STP attracted large concentrations of migrating **Wood Ducks**, with 105 there 8/24 (HH). 10 **Gadwalls** visited Ankeny 9/14 (KS). Numbers of some migratory ducks jumped this period, especially at the Philomath STP, with 205 **Mallards** 8/24 (HH) and 600 **Northern Shovelers** 9/14 (HH). **American Wigeon**, **Northern Pintail**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Green-winged Teal** and **Hooded Merganser** and **Ruddy Duck** numbers should increase greatly over the next period. **Blue-winged Teal** bred at Ankeny this summer, but a few migrants turned up at Philomath STP, with a high count of 4 on 9/13 (WW). 45 **Cinnamon Teal** were at Philomath STP 8/31 (HH). A very early flock of 3 **Bufflehead** showed up at Philomath STP 8/31, but no others were reported this period.

A covey of 12 **Mountain Quail** was spotted at the edge of a large meadow on Marys Peak 8/26 (RH, FS) and again 9/16 (AB). A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** was heard crowing near Crabtree 9/14 (JH). 2 **Ruffed Grouse** ventured out in the foothills SW of Philomath 9/19 (KFa), and Marys Peak yielded a good count of 4 **Sooty Grouse** 9/5 (GB).

3 stripy young **Pied-billed Grebes** were still being fed by a parent at TWG/SP 8/24 (LM, DB). 1 **Horned Grebe** was present at Philomath STP from 9/5 to 9/9, but on 9/14 a companion had showed up (HH). 1 or 2 **Eared Grebes** were seen frequently at Philomath STP throughout September.

Double-crested Cormorants were relatively scarce this period; at Finley they were outnumbered by **American White Pelicans**. Up to 35 pelicans were at Cabell Marsh throughout September.

American Bitterns were noted very frequently at Ankeny, with 9 counted 9/12 (MLK, NM); Ankeny may be the best breeding habitat in our area. 8 **Great Egrets** were seen at Finley 9/9 (HH, OH), and 4 **Green Herons** were spotted at Ankeny 9/15 (BD).

3 wandering **White-faced Ibis** at Ankeny 9/17 (RG) drew in quite a few birders, and the ibis stuck around through the end of the period

Turkey Vulture migration was a spectacle this period, with large

"kettles" slowly drifting southward, but vultures will be seen into October and a few will probably overwinter locally. **Ospreys** are due to leave the area soon. The first reported **White-tailed Kite** was at Finley 9/20 (MFC); it's likely more will show up this fall. 2 unconfirmed but possible immature Golden Eagles were reported from LSNA 9/1 (CH). A **Northern Harrier** at Ankeny was performing "spiral dives" 9/20 (MU), and 4 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were present. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was being pursued by a brave Barn Swallow at Ankeny 9/15 (MU). Juvenile **Cooper's Hawks** are less secretive than the adults, and could often be seen harassing crows and other birds, seemingly for the fun of it. Numbers of **Bald Eagles** and **Red-tailed Hawks** should increase sharply over the next couple of periods. The first report of **Rough-legged Hawk** came from EEW 9/18 (JG).

Beaver activity has created habitat for **Virginia Rails** on the N end of Bald Hill Park, with 3 there 9/13 (VB). 2 **Sora** were at Ankeny 9/1 (JK); some will overwinter locally. Numbers of **American Coots** have been increasing at Philomath STP; 160 were there 9/14 (HH).

Semipalmated Plovers showed up at a couple of locations this period, with 2 at Philomath STP 8/29 (WW) and 2 at the Eicher Rd quarry in Linn Co 8/17 and 8/28 (DR). Although large numbers haven't shown up yet, **Killdeer** seemed to be moving through this period. 9 **Spotted Sandpipers** were along the Willamette R at Peoria 8/31.

1-2 Solitary Sandpipers were observed at Duckflat Rd in Marion Co 8/22-8/25 (JH, RG) and another was found at Finley 9/13 (PO). Many **Greater Yellowlegs** were moving through, but **Lesser Yellowlegs** were also reported regularly; up to 3 were at Finley and Philomath STP. A very rare visit from an **Upland Sandpiper** was one of the shorebird highlights of the period; it called and landed briefly at Corvallis Airport 8/24 (RM). A **Sanderling** was another unusual shorebird visitor, this one at the Eicher Rd quarry 9/18 (DR). 1 **Baird's Sandpiper** was seen at the Eicher Rd quarry 8/28; another was at Finley 9/5 (GB). Numbers of **Least** and **Western Sandpipers** peaked in late August. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was flying around and calling at EEW 8/29 (JG); it had been frightened by a Northern Harrier. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found at Philomath STP, Duckflat Rd and Beta Dr in Linn Co. A **Long-billed Curlew** was a surprise at Finley 9/8 (ES); it seemed to be eating grasshoppers while being harassed by raptors. Yet another unusual migrant was a **Marbled Godwit** flying over the Eicher Rd quarry 9/1, giving its distinctive flight call (DR). Up to 70 **Long-billed Dowitchers** probed the mud at Pintail Marsh at Ankeny this period. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** visited Philomath STP the first week of this period (HH). A tight flock of 17 **Wilson's Snipe** at Ankeny 9/17 (BD) indicates that overwintering birds are probably beginning to arrive. **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at Philomath STP throughout the period, with a high of 31 9/5 (HH).

1 **Bonaparte's Gull** and an immature **Western Gull** were reported from Cabell Marsh at Finley 8/24 (JGr). Two possible Sabine's Gulls were spotted at the Eicher Rd quarry in Linn Co (CS), but did not stick around to be conclusively identified. A **Ring-billed Gull** was at Philomath STP 8/24 (HH), and a few **California Gulls** were there throughout August. 14 **Common Terns** visited the Eicher Rd quarry 8/30; these are quite rare inland visitors in summer (JSi).

31 **Band-tailed Pigeons** were spotted in the foothills SW of Philomath 9/10 (JFa). A bold **Mourning Dove** seemed to chase a Sharp-shinned Hawk away from a bird feeding station in a SW Albany backyard 8/31 (JSm).

A hike at Fitton Green yielded a "grand slam" of **Western Screech-Owl**, **Great Horned Owl**, **Northern Pygmy-Owl** and **Barred Owl** 9/20 (PCo, RCo). 3 Barred Owls were also calling at Finley early on the morning of 9/20 (WW).

Common Nighthawks were beginning to migrate this period, and 2 were seen in full daylight over LSNA 9/1 (JG). A report of a **Common Poorwill** giving a single call at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 8/28 (LR, RR) was not only unusual because the species is rare locally, but because they typically prefer isolated chaparral hillsides.

Kids and adults on bikes chased down a swirling flock of about 2500 **Vaux's Swifts** near OSU 9/12 (NB), watching until they entered a chimney for the night. Although **Rufous Hummingbird** numbers had been steadily decreasing, they were still being seen through the end of the period. Hardy **Anna's Hummingbirds** will have the feeders to themselves next period.

2 **Lewis's Woodpeckers** visited Owens Farm Natural Area N of Corvallis 9/13 (BA), and 1 was at Finley 9/16 (BP); let's hope at least one sticks around for the winter there. An **Acorn Woodpecker** visited the foothills SW of Philomath 9/14 (KFa, JFa); it was only the second one seen there in decades. A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** and a **Hairy Woodpecker** fed on suet on Mulkey Hill 9/7 (PCo, RCo). Numbers of **Northern Flickers** began to increase with northern/eastern/high elevation birds arriving in the valley.

Numbers of **American Kestrels** are beginning to increase with the arrival of some wintering birds. Ankeny was a reliable site for **Peregrine Falcons**, with 2 being seen frequently, sometimes doing battle with the Northern Harriers. A **Merlin** at EEW 9/1 was the first local report (JG), with a few more noted over the next several weeks.

The last reported **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was one observed in the foothills SW of Philomath 8/22 and 8/23 (KFa). 1 **Western Wood-Pewee** was noted at Ankeny 9/20 (MU); it's possible a few might have persisted beyond that date. A **Willow Flycatcher** was caught and banded at LSNA 8/25 (HH). **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** were still lingering at the end of the period, but most had already headed south. A migrant **Western Kingbird** stopped at Bald Hill Park 9/1 (EP). A **Black Phoebe** visited NE Pettibone Dr 8/22, a location that is far from water (JT).

A **Cassin's Vireo** was still at Bald Hill Park 9/13 (BP), and a **Warbling Vireo** was reported from Peoria 9/18, but some may linger until October.

8 **Gray Jays** gobbled suet at a feeder on Mulkey Hill 9/7, and some continued to show up through the rest of the period (PCo, RCo). **Steller's Jays** harassed Sharp-shinned Hawks, but seemed to ignore Northern Pygmy-Owls in the foothills SW of Philomath this period (JFa). As the fall acorn crop ripened, **Western Scrub-Jays** ferried hundreds of acorns back to their territories for burial. By the middle of the period, **American Crows** could be seen streaming toward distant communal roosts by the hundreds each afternoon.

35 **Horned Larks** were counted at the Corvallis Airport 8/24 (RM).

A late **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was still present at the Eicher Rd quarry 9/20 (DR), and a Purple Martin was also noted the same day at Finley (MFC). **Tree Swallows**, **Violet-green Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** continued through the end of the period, while the last **Cliff Swallows** were reported 9/16 from Finley (AB) and Halsey (CT).

Chestnut-backed Chickadees continued to associate with **Black-capped Chickadee** in neighborhoods, and **Bushtits** often tagged along in these winter-type flocks.

A rather late **House Wren** was in Peoria 9/8; most had left by



mid-August. A **Pacific Wren** was at Bald Hill Park 9/13 (BP), and one was on the OSU campus 9/17 (DB), very likely a downslope migrant. There were 12 **Marsh Wrens** at Pintail Marsh at Ankeny 9/15 (MU).

Ruby-crowned Kinglets began to arrive locally on 9/20, when 5 were found at Jackson-Frazier Wetland (LM, DB) and 2 were near Fitton Green (BP). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** continued to increase in numbers at lower elevations. **Western Bluebirds** will travel in small flocks through the fall and winter. 1 **Townsend's Solitaire** was on Marys Peak 9/14 (JSi), an uncommon migrant in the Coast Range. A major movements of **Swainson's Thrushes** happened on the night of 9/16-9/17, with "whit!" calls every few seconds over most of the area. While **Varied Thrushes** were showing up at lower elevations, **Hermit Thrushes** had yet to appear, and large numbers of **American Robins** hadn't yet arrived.

American Pipits began turning up in September, with a couple on the top of Marys Peak 9/7 (WW, JFa); and becoming more widespread soon thereafter. Some **Cedar Waxwings** still had begging young from second broods at the beginning of the period.

Many birders noted ongoing movements of warblers, such as **Orange-crowned Warblers**, **Common Yellowthroats**, **Black-throated Gray Warblers** and **Wilson's Warblers**, all of which were still being observed through the end of the period. A single **MacGillivray's Warbler** S of Willamette Park was the last one reported (JC, ME). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** started to move into the valley at the end of the period; they were found on 9/20 at Jackson-Frazier Wetland (DB, LM) and at the Eicher Rd quarry in Linn Co (DR). A **Townsend's Warbler** was reported SE of Crabtree 9/14 (JH); expect more to show up over the next period. **Hermit Warblers** seemed scarce, but 3 were on Marys Peak 8/26 (RH, FS). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were last found on 9/18, both in the EEW vicinity (JG, BP).

A young **Spotted Towhee** in SW Albany was still being fed by a parent 8/23 (JSm). Although some will probably overwinter locally, the last report of a **Chipping Sparrow** this period was 9/15 (MU), at Ankeny. A migrant **Brewer's Sparrow** turned up at Ankeny 8/25 (RG), and perhaps the same bird was seen again 8/31 (RG) and 9/1 (JK). A few **Vesper Sparrows** were noted 9/1; 2 were at Bald Hill (EP) and 1 was N or Brownsville (DR). A **Fox Sparrow** arrived near EEW 9/17 (JG), and many were reported over the next week. The first **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported from Ankeny 9/18 (RG). 3 early **Golden-crowned Sparrows** showed up at Philomath STP 9/6 (HH, OH), and later in the period, **White-crowned Sparrows** seemed to be passing through. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were returning to low-elevation yards and parks.

Migrating **Western Tanagers** were being reported through the end of the period, and a few can be expected through October. An adult female **Black-headed Grosbeak** was being reported at Peoria through the end of the period, after most had left our area. A late **Lazuli Bunting** was seen in NW Corvallis 9/3 (ES).

12 **Western Meadowlarks** were found along Finley Rd E of the refuge 9/20 (MFC); meadowlarks will be seen in nonbreeding sites over the fall, winter and early spring. Up to 3 **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were still present at Ankeny 8/28 (SF), among the **Red-winged** and **Brewer's Blackbirds**. 1 **Bullock's Oriole** was spotted at Ankeny 9/1 (JK), a little behind schedule for migration.

A family group of **Purple Finches** were at EEW 8/29 (JG), and **American Goldfinch** parents were still busy with their youngsters for much of the period. Small numbers of **Red Crossbills** were

regularly reported from the Coast Range, although there was a flock of 25 at the W edge of McDonald Forest 9/4 (BP). Small and scattered flocks of **Pine Siskins** may indicate that they will be a regular presence this winter after a long absence. **Evening Grosbeaks** have been reported regularly in Corvallis and the nearby Coast Range.

Are you interested in compiling the Field Notes column for the ASC Chat? Due to other commitments, I need to hand off the task to another volunteer. Please contact me if you'd like more information.

Please post your reports to midvalleybirding.org, send them to lisaaves@peak.org, or leave a message at 541-753-7689 by 10/20/14.

Lisa Millbank

ATOP THE NEST BOX

Below are the bluebird trail nesting data for the 2014 season. There was a definite uptick in the Linn County numbers with a larger downtick in the Benton County numbers, bringing our totals to slightly less than last year (6% fewer fledged). Overall, we started with fewer nesting pairs, but the nests were more productive than usual.

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	204
Failures	22
First broods.....	114
Second broods	59
Third broods	9
Eggs laid	1020
Eggs per attempt	5
Eggs hatched	816
% hatched	80
Fledged.....	748
% fledged	92
Fledged per occ box	6

My heartfelt thanks to the bluebird trail volunteers and to all the landowners and donors who continue to make our efforts successful.

Raylene Gordin

HOMER CAMPBELL TRAIL PROJECT AT FINLEY FINALLY COMPLETED

Seven years ago, the boardwalk trail honoring enthusiastic Auduboner, Homer J. Campbell, opened to the public at William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge south of Corvallis. The project was a partnership between ASC, the Refuge, Greenbelt Land Trust & Friends of Willamette Valley Refuges. Several charitable organizations, includ-

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jessica Brothers

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

To renew your membership online go to the ASC website: www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml & renew via Paypal, or you can mail a check to ASC, PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Please note that you need to opt into the ASC listserv. After you sign up, you'll receive up-to-date email notifications about ASC events, field trip locations, volunteer work parties and weather-related cancellations. Send an email to our listserv administrator, Karan Fairchild, and request to be added to the listserv: alderspr@peak.org

ing the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation granted funds, as did numerous private donors.

This well-conceived and wonderfully constructed (completely ADA compliant) boardwalk takes us through native riparian ash forest out to the camouflaged observation blind overlooking Cabell Marsh. It has become a popular destination for young families, school groups, photographers, folks with walkers or in wheelchairs, and serves as a prime starting place for those trekking to Pigeon Butte or other destinations on the Refuge.



In the original concept of the project, educational panels were planned – they have arrived! A large kiosk (pictured above) stands in the parking lot at the trail head providing a map of the area, an explanation of who Homer Campbell was, and ecological details of this unique area. Just before the boardwalk crosses over the marsh outlet into Muddy Creek, a panel with information on some of the inhabitants you might see in the forested riparian area is mounted to the rail. Out in the observation blind, two more panels explain the “winter highs” and “summer lows” of the marsh, introducing folks to some species commonly viewed in each season.

October will be a fabulous month to see the new additions to the trail and to witness the transitions from summer species to winter residents on Cabell Marsh. And, you'll be able to walk the boardwalk extension from the blind out along the marsh road until November 1st.

I want to extend my personal thanks again to all those who volunteered their time and treasure to make this boardwalk trail happen. My father would be so pleased to know that people from all over the world who visit Finley can have a meaningful experience of the natural world there. It's what he lived for.

Linda Campbell

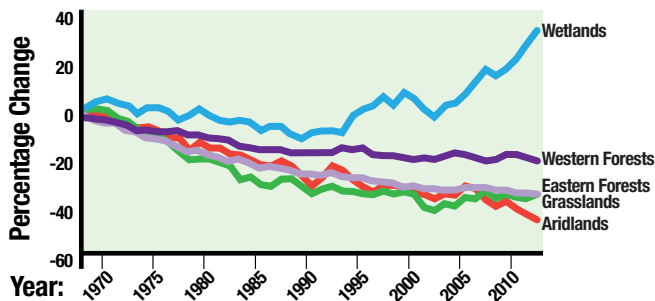
STATE OF THE BIRDS 2014

Bird science and conservation groups, and federal agencies have come together to publish *State of the Birds 2014*—the most comprehensive review of long-term trend data for U.S. birds ever conducted. The full report can be found at stateofthebirds.org



State of the Birds assessed population trends in seven key habitats and finds bird populations declining in arid lands (deserts and sagebrush), grasslands, eastern and western forests. Birds in fragile aridland habitats show the steepest population declines in the nation with a 46 percent loss in the population of these birds since 1968. Habitat loss and fragmentation, energy development, hydrological alteration, overgrazing and conversion to agriculture are key threats.

BIRD POPULATION INDICATORS IN FIVE INLAND HABITATS



Source: The North American Bird Conservation Initiative U.S. Committee

There are some encouraging signs for many species in grasslands, wetlands and other key habitats that have benefited from targeted conservation efforts. In general, development is squeezing shorebirds and their habitat along the coasts. However, among the 49 coastal species examined, there has been a steady rise in populations of 28 percent since 1968. This may be a reflection of the establishment of 160 national coastal wildlife refuges and nearly 600,000 acres of national seashore in ten states.

Included in the new *State of the Birds* report is an updated Watch List of Birds of Conservation Concern available at www.stateofthebirds.org/extinctions/watchlist.pdf.

*Steve Holmer
American Bird Conservancy*

BOARD MEETINGS SUMMARY

AUGUST, 2014 ASC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The summer board meeting was held at Jim and Karan Fairchild's home west of Philomath. At the meeting, the lack of a president was discussed, and it was decided that with help, Jim Fairchild will temporarily act as president until a replacement is selected. New board members and officers were installed. Two letters addressing conservation issues written by Dave Mellinger were approved. Fred Ramsey, Treasurer, requested that budgets be submitted by the next meeting, which was held September 11th.

SEPTEMBER, 2014 ASC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The board amended the Summer meeting minutes to clarify what expenditures need board approval: "Projects of less than \$1,000 from individual accounts do not need board approval. This does not apply to general fund expenditures." The board approved \$1321 for deer fencing at Hesthavn. The next board meeting will be October 9 at Hesthavn Nature Center.

Gail Nickerson, Secretary

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

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

Suzanne Ortiz

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CHAT

Chris Matthews, Bill Proebsting, Jim Fairchild, Dave Mellinger, Jessica Brothers, Raylene Gordin, Linda Campbell, Lisa Millbank, Gail Nickerson, 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

Calendar

Oct 9	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Hesthavn
Oct 11	Cabell Marsh ½ day field trip
Oct 16	ASC General Meeting
Oct 20	Nov Field Notes submissions due
Oct 24	Nov Chat submissions due

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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Interested in volunteering?
Please let us know: volunteerasc@gmail.com

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

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