



THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

DECEMBER 2014

VOL. 44 #4

ANNUAL MEMBER SLIDES

CALLING ALL ASC MEMBERS: SHOW US YOUR PHOTOS!

December's ASC meeting is Member Slide Night. Gather your best nature photos, videos, sound recordings, or whatever, and share them with us the evening of Dec. 18.

Any fun or interesting photo(s) of birds, other animals, plants, nature scenes, etc. are welcome. Plan to bring up to around 20 of your favorites, along with any stories to tell about them. Please let me know if you will have a contribution, and either send me a digital copy of your contribution beforehand or plan to bring your slides to the meeting on a flash drive.

If you have physical (film) slides, please bring your own projector. If you are bringing such slides, please tell me ahead of time how many you have and your general topic (birds, scenery, butterflies, etc.), and then show up at 6:30 PM so we have plenty of time to test your photos.

Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and visiting. The chapter meeting commences at 7:00 pm, with member slides beginning at 7:30 or soon after. Questions can be directed to me at mathewsc2@comcast.net. We hope to see you on December 18.

Chris Mathews



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

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

2015 WEEKEND FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Welcome winter, the time to sit by the fireside and study your field guides. Spring is not far off, when we have six weekend field trips scheduled from the time birds begin arriving from the south, through their breeding season, and when they leave again for warmer climes to the south:

March 27-29: Bandon to Port Orford.

Head to the coast and south for two nights in Bandon by the sea. The timing of this trip hits blossoming manzanita, where we search for Allen's Hummingbirds at the northern edge of the summer range. Other targets are White-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Black Phoebe.

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Dec 18
7:00-8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
9th and Monroe

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April 24-26: Rogue Valley. April's traditional Klamath trip is replaced by our tour of the Rogue Valley and visit to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Klamath is dry, and this is the only weekend performance of the delightful musical *Guys and Dolls*. A hike on TNC's Upper Table Rock trail locates the three birds of the California chaparral - Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, California Towhee, and Oak Titmouse.

May 14-17: Malheur NWR. Our signature 4-day tour to Malheur goes early in May this year. This will catch the end of the shorebird migration and the heart of the songbird migration.

June 26-28: Summer Lake to Crater Lake. We make bird-filled stops at Greenwater Park, Davis Lake, and Fort Rock on the way to the Lodge at Summer Lake. An evening drive up Winter Ridge often finds Common Poorwills in the road. An early morning walk in the marsh seeks American Bittern and the elusive Yellow Rail. After breakfast we tour ODFW's Summer Lake Wildlife Area where we hope to find Snowy Plover among the host of breeding shorebirds and waterfowl. In the afternoon, we move to Chiloquin to hike the Wood River Wetland track. A visit to Crater Lake NP crowns the trip, with its Clark's Nutcrackers, Gray Jays, and possible Gray-crowned Rosy Finches.

August 12-16: Steens Mountain. This 4-day trip hits Chickahominy Reservoir, the Burns area, a taste of Malheur NWR on the first day. The second day is spent exploring the Steens Mtn loop road, where we expect wildflower displays, butterflies, a few birds, and hope for Black Rosy-Finches. Day 3 we cross to Hart Mountain Antelope Reserve and in to Lakeview. Among the day 4 stops is Cabin Lake, where water brings birds of the ponderosa pine forest and the high desert in for close observation.

September 4-6: Tillamook to Astoria. This year we will try the north coast to experience the southbound migration of shorebirds. The possibilities are huge—Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Ruff... along with hordes of the usual peeps.

Transportation on these trips is in 12-person and/or 15-person vans rented from Enterprise. Expenses are shared. Participants will be provided with tour information a month prior to departure. Bird, mammal, herp, butterfly, and odonate checklists are provided.

There will be signup sheets for these trips at the Field Trip table at ASC general meetings starting in January. Or email Fred Ramsey at: flramsey5@comcast.net. Deposits of \$50 per person per tour are requested. Make checks out to ASC and mail them to ASC at PO Box 148 in Corvallis, 97339.

Notice the two gaps in this schedule: mid-May to late June and all of July. We may be able to schedule trips to visit other Oregon locations of your choice.

Fred Ramsey

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 <http://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:

December 13: Snag Boat Bend

January 10: Location TBD

Bill Proebsting

2014 ANNUAL APPEAL

We're in the homestretch of our 2014 Annual Appeal. Please take the time to make a donation to our programs, purchase a gift membership for family and friends, or renew your ASC membership. Members can use the envelopes that were inserted in the November CHAT. You can also go the ASC website and use Paypal to donate or re-

new: www.audubon.corvallis.or.us. We extend a big thank you to all our members and friends who have responded. We appreciate your support in making our Annual Appeal a success! Best wishes to our extended Audubon family for a happy & healthy New Year!

Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Membership Chair

2014 CORVALLIS CBC WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, DEC. 16TH.

The Christmas Bird Count is an all-day event open to anyone wishing to participate. This is an excellent opportunity for novice bird watchers to join with seasoned veterans and learn more about identifying and finding the local birds. Half-day participants and home feeder-watchers are also welcome. I would like to particularly encourage any one with feeders in the count circle who can spare at least one hour to watch their yard to participate. More information can be found at ASC's website under Bird Counts.

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

Marcia F. Cutler

AIRLIE-ALBANY CBC SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2015

Contact Paul Adamus, adamus7@comcast.net, 541-231-3095

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BALD HILL FARM MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT UNTIL DECEMBER 31

Bald Hill Farm, recently acquired by Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT), is a unique and remarkable property, some of it already familiar to us by the maintained public trails that branch from the city's Bald Hill Park. Still actively farmed, it is one of the best remaining local places in support of Oregon Vesper Sparrow nesting, along with dozens of other grassland species. Both fields and nearby forests will be managed according to this Plan.

Many of our members are direct supporters of GLT efforts to conserve all the biological legacies of our mid-Willamette Valley. The Bald Hill Farm property has a complex of grazed and farmed wet and dry grasslands with rare plants and bird communities, oak savanna, oak and mixed-hardwood forests, and riparian areas. It is just a short bike ride from OSU and Corvallis.

Conflicts between conservation and development always begin with resource use. As one example, road and trail location and use will have to be handled carefully to accommodate current and increasing human recreation presence without deterring Vesper Sparrow nesting, yet grassland management techniques could increase or eliminate these nesting sparrow populations. There will also be pressure for the entire property to be at least

self-sustaining, if not income-generating. I encourage you to take time to review one or two parts of the document that interest you, and send in any comments or suggested improvements.

The completed draft plan is available online at <http://greenbeltlandtrust.org/conserving-land/bald-hill-farm/>. Written comments on this draft plan should be submitted by December 31, 2014. Please address comments to Jeff Baker at jeff@greenbeltlandtrust.org or Greenbelt Land Trust, PO Box 1721, Corvallis, OR 97339.

Jim Fairchild

ASC EDUCATION NEWS

Jessica and Michelle hosted an informational meeting for 4th and 5th grade area teachers on Dec. 4th to spotlight the Aquatic Ecology Grant and 2015 field trip opportunities. They provided examples of the curriculum and hands-on activities, information about the OSU grant, and lesson plans and ideas for involving students both before and after the program. If you were unable to make the informational meeting and would like to learn more about this great outdoor classroom opportunity, please contact Jessica at educationaudubon@gmail.com. If you would like to bring your class to Hesthavn for an Aquatic Ecology exploratory field trip or would like information to share with your child's teacher, we'd love to talk with you! We still have one or two available dates in the spring, as well as openings in the fall. Happy holidays!

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

Jessica Brothers

FIELD NOTES

10/22/14-11/22/14

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.

Freezing temperatures, heavy rains and wind stripped most deciduous trees of their leaves by the end of the period, and an ice storm damaged conifers in much of the higher elevations of Benton County. Strong Pacific storms blew in a few unusual coastal birds. Tundra Swans and other late-migrating waterfowl were still arriving through the period.

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, Monmouth STP =

Monmouth sewage treatment ponds, Philomath STP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds, Stewart Lake = lake on HP campus in Corvallis, Tangent STP = Tangent sewage treatment ponds, TWG/SP = Talking Water Gardens/Simpson Park in Albany

Observer abbreviations: Carol Argo (CA), Mark Baldwin (MB), Jimmy Billstine (JB), Don Boucher (DBo), Howard Bruner (HB), Danuta Burris (DBu), Alan Contreras (AC), Barbara Dolan (BD), Lillian Egleston (LE), Deanna Emig (DE), Shawneen Finnegan (SF), Joel Geier (JG), Roy Gerig (RG), Jessica Greer (JGr), Jeff Harding (JH), Oscar Harper (OH), Susan Hatlevig (SHg), Jon Hazen (JHz), Stephanie Hazen (SHz), William Hemstrom (WHe), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Tristen Hynes (TH), Dave Irons (DI), Tim Johnson (TJ), Spencer Mair (SM), Chris Malachowski (CM), Lisa Millbank (LM), Randy Moore (RM), Russ Namitz (RN), Steve Nord (SN), Lars Per Norgren (LPN), Pam Otley (PO), Jerry Paul (JeP), Judith Paul (JuP), Kevin Pfau (KP), Doug Robinson (DR), Jim Scott (JSc), John Shewey (JSh), Jamie Simmons (JSi), Jim Smith (JSm), Virginia Stanton (VS), John Sullivan (JSu), Ray Temple (RT), Edwards Terence (ET), Bill Tice (BT), Fion To (FT), Cheryl Whelchel (CW), Gary Whitehouse (GW), Will Wright (WW)

75 **Greater White-fronted Geese** and 5 **Snow Geese** were at Ankeny 10/23 (RG); a few Snow Geese were also seen frequently at Finley among the **Canada & Cackling Geese**. A **Tundra Swan** had arrived at Ankeny by 10/29 (LE), and by 11/15 there were 113 at Finley (SM). By 11/19, at least 8 **Trumpeter Swans** were back in their traditional site at the Airlie - Maple Grove Rd area of S Polk Co (JG). 11 **Gadwall** were at Finley 11/18 (SN). Some interesting **Eurasian Wigeons** or hybrids were swimming around with the **American Wigeons** at Grand Prairie Park in Albany this period. Some may not have completed their molt, which can complicate identification. **Cinnamon Teal** were scattered throughout suitable sites, like sewage ponds, with 10 at TWG/SP 10/12 (JSc). Some waterfowl numbers were surprisingly high: 2,260 **Northern Shovelers** at Philomath STP 11/17 (HH); 1,850 **Mallards** (SN), 700 **Northern Pintail** (FT) and 2,800 **Green-winged Teal** (SN) at Finley 11/18. An impressive high count of 73 **Canvasbacks** was recorded at Philomath STP 11/11 (HH), and 5 **Redheads** were there 10/28 (OH, HH). Numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** peaked at about 400 at Philomath STP 11/4 (HH). Along with 95 **Bufflehead** and 100 **Lesser Scaup**, there were 3 **Greater Scaup** at Philomath STP 11/13 (DE). A **Surf Scoter** turned up at Philomath STP 10/26 (WW), and one was at Monmouth STP 11/14 (BT). A rarer visitor was a **Long-tailed Duck**, first found 11/3 and seen for several days after (HH, OH). 13 **Common Goldeneye** were at Monmouth STP 11/12 (RN). Up to 15 **Hooded Mergansers** were on Stewart Lake this period (JSi). 150 **Ruddy Ducks** were at the Philomath STP 11/21 (DI, SF).

A male **Sooty Grouse** was on Marys Peak Rd near the campground 10/20 (HH, OH).

All 6 species of grebes found in Oregon showed up in our area this period. **Pied-billed Grebes** were widespread

as usual. 1-2 **Horned Grebes** were present throughout the period at Philomath STP and Monmouth STP, but 11 were found at the Pioneer Villa Ponds near Halsey 11/7 (ET, DBu). A **Red-necked Grebe** at Philomath STP 10/28 was the first Benton Co record since 2003 (DR). Up to 14 **Eared Grebes** (11/14, HH) were present at Philomath STP this period. A **Clark's Grebe** turned up at Philomath STP 11/2 (CM), and another was at the Eicher Rd gravel ponds in Linn Co 11/21 (RN); both were accompanied by **Western Grebes**.

A late **American White Pelican** was at Buena Vista 11/9 (BT). A single **Brown Pelican** made a brief stop at Philomath STP 10/26 after a strong storm (WW); hopefully it was able to orient itself quickly and find its way back to the coast.

9 **Great Blue Herons** hunted voles in a field in S Polk Co 11/17 (SHz), and 18 **Great Egrets** were counted at Finley 11/21 (JSu). 1 **Green Heron** remained at TWG/SP and was seen 11/7 (DBu, ET).

Turkey Vultures were seen occasionally this period, with the latest sighting on 11/2 (JuP, JeP). **White-tailed Kites** haven't been seen at the Finley prairie much this year, but 1 was seen 10/23 (KP) and another on 11/22 (PO). **Golden Eagles** were seen on a few occasions; 1 adult flew over S Corvallis 11/3 (LM), another was at McFadden Marsh at Finley 11/7 (SM), and an immature was seen in the Airlie Rd area of S Polk Co 11/19 (JG). A **Northern Harrier** carrying a vole at Finley was harassed by a Rough-legged Hawk 11/22 (TH, AC). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** made a pass at a Steller's Jay in SW Albany 11/8, the jay seemed to flip over in an evasive maneuver. A **Cooper's Hawk** picked up a Band-tailed Pigeon that had struck a sliding glass door 10/26 (SHg). A raptor survey of S Polk Co turned up 8 **Bald Eagles** 11/17 (SHz); numbers of eagles should keep increasing through the next period. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** flying along a hedgerow at Finley 11/2 was clocked at 36 MPH (LPN). When a **Red-tailed Hawk** carried its prey into the woods at Ankeny 11/11, it was promptly attacked by another Red-tail (BD). A particularly photogenic and distinctive dark-morph female **Rough-legged Hawk** has returned to the Finley prairie, as she has for several years.

Enormous numbers of **American Coots** picked through the brown waters of the Philomath STP earlier in the period, with a high count of 1,690 on 10/28 (JGr, WHe).

About 36 **Sandhill Cranes** passed over the Crabtree area of Linn Co 11/9 (JH); and a single bird was seen in a field near Riverside Dr in Linn Co 11/13 (GW). A pair foraged near 7 Mile Ln in Linn Co 11/18 (RM).

126 **Black-bellied Plovers** were near Halsey 11/12 (DE). Large numbers of **Killdeer** have arrived in local fields, where they'll overwinter. A **Spotted Sandpiper** flushed from the riverbank at Willamette Park 11/5 (LM). 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** visited the mudflats of the mostly-empty angling pond at EEW 10/27 (JG). A huge flock of 1,000 **Dunlin** visited the Hunsaker-Duckflat Rd area in Marion Co 11/19 (RG). **Least Sandpipers** lingered around a few sites in our area, but just 2 **Western Sandpipers** were present at Ankeny 11/4 (TJ). A couple of **Pectoral Sandpipers** stopped at the Philomath STP 10/25 (PO). 20 **Long-billed Dowitchers** were present



at Ankeny 11/11 (BD). A **Wilson's Snipe** flushed from a NW Corvallis yard 11/7 (JSi). A late flock of 10 **Red-necked Phalaropes** turned up at Philomath STP 10/26 (HH).

A Pacific storm brought a **Sabine's Gull** to the Philomath STP briefly on 10/26 (WW), and 2 **Heermann's Gulls** were there as well (HH). Heermann's Gulls showed up at Monmouth STP 11/9 (BT) and again at Philomath STP 11/9 (DR). Also at Philomath STP were 4 **Bonaparte's Gulls** on 11/9 (BT), and 2 were there 11/3 (HH). 50 **Mew Gulls**, a **Herring Gull**, 20 **Glaucous-winged Gulls** and 10 **Western x Glaucous-winged hybrids** visited the Monmouth STP 11/11 (JB, RN). 2 **Herring x Glaucous-winged hybrids** were at the Corvallis Municipal Airport 11/2 (LPN). Small numbers of **Ring-billed Gulls** continued in the area this period.

Nesting **Rock Pigeons** were calling from under the downtown Corvallis overpasses this period (LM); they can nest at any time of year. An immature **Band-tailed Pigeon** lingered W of EEW 11/16 (JG).

2 **Great Horned Owls** were seen at Teloh-Calapooia Park in SW Albany, and a **Barn Owl** screamed as it flew over 11/8 (JSm). A **Burrowing Owl** was found S of Tangent 11/16, at a site where one has been seen in the past (CW). A **Barred Owl** was calling from a Portuguese laurel tree in a yard in NW Corvallis 11/16 (SHg). **Short-eared Owls** were spotted near Shedd 11/13 (MB) and at Finley 11/6 (WW).

An adult male **Anna's Hummingbird** was performing a couple of display dives in the sunshine in early November (LM). A very late female/immature **Rufous Hummingbird** visited a feeder S of Philomath 11/13 (VS).

Acorn Woodpeckers were still picking up and rearranging acorns in their granaries this period, thanks to the bumper crop of Oregon White Oak acorns. A male **Downy Woodpecker** was eating apples at Ankeny 11/17 (BD). 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers** were seen in a large oak tree at Ankeny's Eagle Marsh Overlook 11/10 (BD), and 12 **Northern Flickers** were counted on the same day.

33 **American Kestrels** were counted on a raptor survey of S Polk Co 11/17 (SHz). A **Merlin** flew about 6" over a volleyball court at OSU at nearly full speed 11/12 (DB).

Peregrine Falcons were reported regularly from areas with high numbers of waterfowl. One at Philomath STP 10/24 was extremely dark, with its head almost entirely black (HB). A **Prairie Falcon** flew over Riverside Dr in Linn Co 10/24 (JF), and another was spotted on a power pole along Plainview Dr in Linn Co 11/3 (DE).

3 **Black Phoebes** were in the Willamette Park vicinity 11/5 (LM), with 2 at ponds in the cottonwood forest, and 1 at the water intake plant.

A **Northern Shrike** was seen at Ankeny 11/14 (JSh), and another was at the Corvallis Municipal Airport 11/19 (JHz).

A flock of **Steller's Jays** visited a SW Albany yard (the first ones seen there by the homeowner after 20 years there); they squabbled with the resident **Western Scrub-Jays**. A **Blue Jay** showed up near Millersburg 10/28 (CA); the homeowner thought she had been hearing the calls for about a week before that. At least 300 **American Crows** had gathered near some recently-plowed fields along Buena

Vista Dr 11/2 (JG). **Common Ravens** were seen in downtown Corvallis occasionally this period, sometimes provoking the ire of the crows.

Among about 100 "Streaked" **Horned Larks** at Corvallis Municipal Airport 11/12 were at least 3 birds of one of the tundra-breeding subspecies (RM); another pale bird was seen on Marys Peak 10/27 (JH).

A couple of hardy **Barn Swallows** lingered at the Monmouth STP 11/13-11/14 (BT).

Black-capped Chickadees pulled sunflower seeds from the dried flower heads and cached them in crevices early in the period. A couple of **White-breasted Nuthatches** foraged among the lower limbs of a huge Oregon White Oak at LSNA 11/9 (JG). When a sunbeam illuminated the woods in Willamette Park 11/5, a **Brown Creeper** sang a couple of times before chasing another creeper off his tree trunk. A **Pacific Wren** and a **Bewick's Wren** were also prompted to sing from the nearby blackberry thickets. A **Marsh Wren** peeped out from the tules at TWG/SP long enough to have its photo taken (SHz, RT).

A group of 12 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** foraged in a loose flock at Willamette Park 11/5 (LM), and at least 100 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found in scattered flocks in the park. Roaming flocks of **Western Bluebirds** have been augmented with some birds from east of the Cascades. A **Hermit Thrush** enjoyed the fruits of a Western Poison-Oak at EEW 11/18 (JG); these fruits are favorites of chickadees, Wrentits, Bushtits, and many woodpeckers. Many migrating **American Robins** were still arriving at the beginning of the period. A male **Varied Thrush** was eating native Western Crabapples along the Homer Campbell boardwalk at Finley 11/16 (LM, DBo).

American Pipits were abundant in open fields, often associating with Killdeer and European Starlings. **Cedar Waxwings** were still being noted through the end of the period, although numbers dropped sharply this period. 2 **Lapland Longspurs** and a female **Snow Bunting** were hanging out with the larks at the Corvallis Municipal Airport 11/12 (RM).

A couple of **Orange-crowned Warblers** were noted (presumably overwintering birds); one on campus 11/5 (DR) and one at Peoria 11/20. **Townsend's Warblers** were quite scarce, with just a few reports from NW Corvallis. A lingering **Common Yellowthroat** was found along Bruce Rd 11/23 (TH, AC). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were a common sight, especially around wetlands.

A **Chipping Sparrow** was observed at Teloh-Calapooia Park in SW Albany 11/16 (JSm). 14 **Savannah Sparrows**, 1 **Fox Sparrow**, 16 **Song Sparrows** and 1 **Lincoln's Sparrow** were found at Ankeny 11/11 (BD). A couple of **White-throated Sparrows** were frequent visitors to a NW Corvallis yard this period (JSi); overall, they haven't been reported as frequently as in past years. 54 **White-crowned Sparrows** and 43 **Golden-crowned Sparrows** were counted at Ankeny 11/11 (BD). A female "Slate-colored" **Dark-eyed Junco** was found at EEW 10/24 (JG).

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Walter & Ginger Cornell
Patrick & Karen McDuffie
Carolyn Peterson
Amy Pinkley-Wernz
& Mark Wernz

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew your membership online go to the ASC website (<http://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

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

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

Suzanne Ortiz

A flock of 25-50 **Western Meadowlarks** foraged in a grass field at Buena Vista & Springhill Dr 11/17 (SHz, RT). A possible **Rusty Blackbird** was singing at EEW in early November along with many **Brewer's Blackbirds** (JG); it was never definitively identified although it was heard multiple times and seemed to be frequenting suitable habitat.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches put in an appearance at the summit of Marys Peak, as they do in most years. 4 were there 10/27, including 3 of the "Hepburn's" form and 1 of the "Gray-crowned" form (JH). By 11/18, 44 of these pink-and-brown finches were foraging on the peak (SN). A **Pine Grosbeak** was a rare surprise on Marys Peak 11/18 (DR), and up to 3 were spotted in the following days. Small flocks of **Purple Finches** roamed EEW 11/18, with most of the birds being adult males (JG). There were scattered reports of **Red Crossbills** and **Evening Grosbeaks**, mostly in the Coast Range foothills. **Pine Siskins** seem to have increased in numbers in and around Corvallis this period, with large flocks gathering to eat American Sweetgum seeds. **Lesser & American Goldfinches** were frequent feeder visitors, but also fed on the seeds of weedy evening-primroses and lemon balm.

This is my final column as the field notes compiler for ASC, and I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed reports over the past few years. Many longtime ASC members will remember that Joel Geier served as the field notes compiler from 2000-2007. Joel will step into that role once again, starting with the next issue.

Please post your reports to midvalleybirding.org, e-mail them to joel.geier@peak.org, or call (541) 745-5821 by 12/22/14.

- Lisa Millbank

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2014 ASC BOARD MEETING

The board discussed conservation projects that would be emphasized during the coming year. Included on the list was Klamath NWR, forest protection, ocean marine reserves and forage fish protection, and bird strikes. The board agreed that links on the ASC web site could be used for notices from other organizations. The next meeting will be at Fred Ramsey's house December 11th.

Gail Nickerson, Secretary

BOOK CHAT

GIFTS AVAILABLE AT THE BOOK & RAFFLE TABLE AT DECEMBER MEMBER MEETING

We'll have five copies of the newly published *The Sibley Guide to Birds – Second Edition* available for purchase at the Book and Raffle Table at our General Meeting on December 18th. This long awaited revision of the first edition published in 2000 contains larger images of the birds, making it easier to see details like the dark outer webs on the Common Tern's tail and the proportion of legs to body that differentiate tern species. All the species descriptions have been rewritten for this revised edition with more detail on diagnostic field notes. Other changes to the format have been made to enable the serious birder to make correct identifications. The book retails at \$30.00. Our copies are priced at \$27.00.

Larry Rosenkoetter of Paragons of Nature wildlife photography studio has donated a generous supply of his fine wildlife cards to our Book and Raffle Table. We've packaged the cards into sets of 12 different images and will offer them for just \$5.00 a set. A small selection of individual cards will also be available at \$0.50 each. Thank you, Larry. We deeply appreciate your gift.

Sally Shaw





Winter is a **WONDERFUL** time
to bird in the Klamath Basin

WINTER WINGS FESTIVAL

February 12-15, 2015
Featuring: **RICHARD CROSSLEY**
and **JENNIFER WU**

**NEW BIRDING AND PHOTOGRAPHY
FIELD TRIPS, WORKS SHOPS,
AND MINI SESSIONS**
Many old favorites, too

Registration begins in early December
at WinterWingsFest.org

OSU BIRD NERDS

The Bird Nerds club at Oregon State University is the premier (if only) birding group on campus. Each term we offer our members exciting opportunities to explore the world of birds through guest lectures, workshops, and birding trips. Past excursions include a visit to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, a pelagic trip of the coast of Oregon, and workshop on tree climbing. We are always seeking speakers for our member meetings and new opportunities for field trips.

During the fall of 2014, we offered two workshops in conjunction with Dr. Douglas Robinson, our faculty advisor. The first, in October, was to introduce the point count method used for the Oregon 2020 survey project. The second, in November, was a raptor ID seminar that prepared our members for the raptor surveys we will be conducting this winter. Also planned for the coming year is a visit to a sage grouse lekking ground and another pelagic trip. For more information, please contact us at birdnerds@oregonstate.edu

Ian Souza-Cole

WILD GOOSE NATURE STORE

Rana Foster asked us to encourage members to stop by the Wild Goose Nature Store, located in the Finley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center soon. Run by the Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex, the store is open Friday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm year round, when volunteers are available. This unique store has excellent quality wildlife themed merchandise from jewelry and guidebooks to wine glasses, shirts, hats, toys and more, but may be forced to close without added business and volunteers. You can help by volunteering or shopping for unique holiday and year round gifts. Please call the refuge office between 7 am and 4 pm Mon through Fri at 541-757-7236 to ensure they will be open before you head on out.

Teri Engbring

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.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CHAT

Chris Matthews, Fred Ramsey, Bill Proebsting, Jim Fairchild, Jessica Brothers, Lisa Millbank, Gail Nickerson, Sally Shaw, Ian Souza-Cole, 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

Dec 13	Snag Boat Bend field trip
Dec 11	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Fred Ramsey's
Dec 16	Corvallis CBC
Dec 18	ASC General Meeting
Dec 22	Field Notes submissions due
Dec 28	Jan 2015 Chat submissions due
Jan 3	Airlie-Albany CBC
Jan 10	Field trip; location TBD

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.

Audubon Society of Corvallis
P.O. Box 148
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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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