



# THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

MARCH 2015

VOL. 44 #7

## ASC GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAR. 19, 7:00-8:30 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH;  
9TH AND MONROE, CORVALLIS

## BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Our February 19 program had two speakers giving a single program (Dragonflies and Damselflies). Come on March 19 and hear one speaker present two programs. Paul Rentz has a longstanding interest in photography, which intensified during the 23 years that he co-owned and owned Rush Hour Photo (NW Third and Harrison for those who remember). After selling the business in 2008, he met several friends who hooked him on birds, at the same time that his photographic skills were continuing to develop. The first part of Paul's program will be a photographic and video tour of Northwestern wildlife refuges, and in the second part—tips on bird photography from an expert. As usual, coffee and cookies at 6:30, chapter business meeting at 7:00, program begins at around 7:30.

Questions can be directed to me at [mathewsc2@comcast.net](mailto:mathewsc2@comcast.net).

*Chris Mathews,  
Vice Pres. & Program Chair*

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

## FUTURE MEMBER PROGRAMS

Only two monthly General Member Meeting programs are left before our

summer break:

**April 19** - Ram Papish - Bird photography

**May 21** - Bridget Callahan, The Wilderness Society/Fiftieth Anniversary of Wilderness Act

## FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE

### 2015 WEEKEND FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

At least one of the weekend field trips is already full, and others have limited openings, so sign up soon if you are interested.

**March 27-29:** Bandon to Port Orford. Currently filled, if you are interested in going, you may sign up on a waiting list.

**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. One seat available.

**May 14-17:** Malheur NWR. Our signature 4-day tour. Nine seats available.

**June 26-28:** Summer Lake to Crater Lake. Three seats available.

**August 13-16:** Steens Mountain. Six seats available.

**September 11-13:** The North Coast: Tillamook to Astoria. Four seats available.

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 odo-

## ASC GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 19  
7:00-8:30 pm  
First Presbyterian Church  
9th and Monroe

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nate checklists are provided.

Signup sheets for weekend field trips are located at the Field Trip table at ASC general meetings. Or email Fred Ramsey at [flramsey5@comcast.net](mailto: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.

*Fred Ramsey*

#### MONTHLY SECOND SATURDAY HALF DAY FIELD TRIP

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of from September through June at the Benton Center parking area, behind the Cannery Mall, 777 NW 9th St., Corvallis at 7:30 am. This field trip is free and 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](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com) or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley Listserv at [www.midvalleybirding.org/piper-mail/birding/](http://www.midvalleybirding.org/piper-mail/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 SECOND SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS:

**March 14:** EE Wilson (bring parking permits)

**April 11:** Basket Slough NWR

*Bill Proebsting*

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### GET INVOLVED IN GOVERNANCE OF OUR FEDERALLY-OWNED FORESTS: REVISING THE NORTHWEST FOREST PLANS

It's been many years since the Audubon Society of Corvallis and many other conservation groups successfully sued the federal government, insisting the Northern Spotted Owl required Endangered Species Act protections. Another now-listed bird in decline, the Marbled Murrelet, breeds in coastal forests from Northern California into Canada, occurring in its greatest abundance in Oregon in our coastal Siuslaw National Forest. They even breed on our inland side of Marys Peak, much to the surprise of foresters currently directing logging in the Corvallis Watershed, where both the earliest historical breeding was noted and studies of breeding Marbled Murrelets in Oregon began.

The Northwest Forest Plan was born from a very significant scientific study to review and apply the latest peer-reviewed science to our understanding of forest ecosystems generally west of the Cascades. Spotted owl management was only a small component of that effort, which deliberately addressed hundreds of native forest species, both terrestrial and aquatic. The alternative strategy finally adopted, Option 9, was a political hybrid between minimized ecosystem protections, while projecting as much timber volume as could potentially be removed. The latter goal gave industry a false hope—portrayed now as a broken promise—of a guaranteed timber supply.

Now twenty years later, federal land managers are required to revisit their Forest Plans, and both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have embarked on plan revisions. BLM had broad-scale

"listening" meetings last spring, which some of our ASC members attended. USFS is now announcing three similar meetings, the nearest in Portland on March 17th. Here's your chance to once again have an impact. If you can attend, please contact me or any of our ASC Board members for carpooling.

*Jim Fairchild*

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## BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

### DO YOUR PART TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE!

Dear Audubon Members,

We are making a call for volunteers who would like to give a hand and make a difference in our area by volunteering on the board of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. It involves one meeting a month over 9 months. Do you enjoy nature, hiking, walking, birding, or just getting out to sniff the flowers? Would you like to help an organization that supports nature education and bluebird nestboxes? If the answer is yes, then you are our kind of person. Just get in touch with any board member (listed on the back of the CHAT, and indicate your interest. You can make a positive impact on your community as part of a great team!

*Will Wright*

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## FIELD NOTES

**1/28/15-2/24/15**

The warm spell of late January continued thru the period, with both high and low temperatures in Corvallis averaging 7°F above



normal, and no dawns below freezing until 23 & 24 Feb. Even on those days, afternoon temperatures soared to 60° F! **Pacific Chorus-Frogs** continued to sing and many plants seemed to be ahead of schedule. **Menzie's larkspur** and **camas** were putting up leaves by 5 Feb. **Osoberry** was beginning to bloom by 12 Feb, **tall Oregon grape** by 20 Feb, and **red-flowering currant** by 24 Feb. These early nectar sources must have been welcome for early butterflies such as a **comma** near Blodgett 29 Jan (JDo) and a **mourning cloak** at that landed near me at EEW 24 Feb.

As pleasant as these temperatures felt, they didn't help what was already a low-snowpack winter in the Cascades. As one Linn Co. native (RG) noted after visiting Santiam Pass on 15 Feb, there was "exactly no snow" below 4800 ft, and then just small patches in the shade up to 5200 ft; this is the first time in six decades that he's seen no snow at pass level in February.

**Locations:** ANWR = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), AV = Adair Village, Chintimini (Wildlife Center) in Lewisburg north of Corvallis, CVO = Corvallis Airport, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, FNWR = William L. Finley NWR, JFW = Jackson-Frazier Wetland, LSNA = Luckiamute State Natural Area, McFadden (Marsh) at FNWR, PSTP = Philomath STP, Stewart Lake = lake on Hewlett-Packard (HP) campus in Corvallis, TCP = Teloh-Calapooia Park in Albany, TWG = Talking Water Gardens in Albany.

**Observers:** AFo: Andrea Foster, AHk: Adrian Hinkle, ALi: Aaron Liston, BCo: Barbara Combs, BPr: Bill Proebsting, BRo: Betty Robb, CHh: Charlotte Hottmann, CHi: Carol Hiler, CHk: Christopher Hinkle, CO: Catherine Otto, CSm: Cody Smith, DBo: Don Boucher, DEM: Deanna Emig, DNa: Dileep Nageswaran, ESh: Evelyn Sherr, GW: Gary Whitehouse, HB: Howard Bruner, HH: Hendrik Herlyn, JDS: Jim Smith, JGe: Joel Geier, JH: Jeff Harding, JHi: Jim Hiler, JdH: Jordan Hazen, JDo (Jacqueline Dover), JiF: Jim Fairchild, JLi: Judy List, JM: Judy Meredith, JPi: Jeff Picton, JrP: Jerry Paul, JSc: Jake Schas, JSi: Jamie Simmons, JuP: Judith Paul, KDo: Karin Donoyan, KnF: Karan Fairchild, LEg: Lillian Egleston, LHa: Linda Hadfield, LM: Lisa Millbank, LMK: Lori Markoff, LPN: Lars Norgren, LPT: Linda Phelan Thompson, LuF: Luke Ferrenburg, MG: Mary Garrard, MLK: Maureen Leong-Kee, MPo: Marge Popp, NGe: Nikolai Geier, NiM: Nicholas Martens, NNy: Nancy Neary, OA: Olin Allen, OH: Oscar Harper, PCo: Pam Comeleo, PLi: Peter List, PRz: Paul Rentz, RAd: Rich Adney, RCo: Randy Comeleo, RFo: Rana Foster, RG: Roy Gerig, RMo: Randy Moore, RRo: Roger Robb, SHg: Susan Hatlevig, SHi: Sally Hill, SLi: Sara Liston, SMa: Sylvia Maulding, SNa: Sozi Nageswaran, TSq: Theo Squires, VP: Virginia Pear, VS: Virginia Stanton, WW: Will Wright.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** and a **Brant** were along Bruce Rd. 19 Feb (LMk).

A **Ross's Gook** was seen with **Cackling Geese** at FNWR 13 & 23 Feb (LuF; CSm).

Hundreds of **Dusky Canada Geese** were at McFadden 29 Jan (HH, OH).

54 **Trumpeter Swans** in the Airlie-Suver area 28 Jan continued thru the end of the period (JGe; RG; LPT); a flock has wintered regularly in s. Polk Co. for 20 years. A few Trumpeters were also seen at McFadden, with six there 11 Feb (WW; PRz) and two still there 21 Feb (HH).

A "**Bewick's Tundra Swan** (Eurasian subspecies) was again with 145 of the typical N. American "**Whistling Tundra Swans** on McFadden 23 Feb (HH, OH).

Four **Wood Ducks** turned up at PSTP 2 Feb (WW); 20 were in TCP 15 Feb (JDS).

A male **Mallard** at TWG 30 Jan copulated with an odd-looking female, possibly carrying genes of the domesticated "runner duck" form that was bred from this species (ChH).

The ASC field trip to Cheadle Lake in Lebanon 14 Feb saw **Gadwalls** and **American Wigeons**, but missed a **Eurasian Wigeon** that was there 12 Feb (BPr).

A "**Storm Wigeon**" (a rare plumage variant of male American Wigeon with light butterfly color on most of face) was

photographed at McFadden 3 Feb (MLK, NiM).

A lone male **Cinnamon Teal** wintering at PSTP stayed thru 21 Feb (WW; DEM; HB; HH).

Up to four **Canvasbacks** continued thru the period at Stewart Lake (JSi).

A male **Redhead** continued at PSTP thru 22 Feb (DEM; HH).

Diving ducks observed by the ASC field trip to Cheadle Lake 14 Feb included **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, and **Common Merganser** (BPr).

A **Greater Scaup** was at AVSTP 1 Feb (JGe).

Two **Common Goldeneyes** were found in Linn Co. 10 Feb: a male on the Santiam R. near Crabtree and a female on a pond w. of Lacombe (JH).

**Hooded Merganser** pairs with displaying males were being seen regularly at EEW and FNWR by the end of the period.

A few **Common Mergansers** turned up on ponds away from the rivers, including the mitigation pond along Bruce Rd 14 Feb and Starker Arts Park 18 Feb (SHg).

On 28 Jan a male **Ruddy Duck** was found stunned in a courtyard between buildings on the HP campus. After examination at Chintimini showed it to be uninjured, it was released 29 Jan at Stewart Lake where it stayed thru 12 Feb (JSi).

**Ring-necked Pheasant** males were crowing and a hen was also seen w. of Lacombe 10 Feb (JH).

A **Sooty Grouse** standing in the road was a highlight of a drive up Marys Peak 12 Feb (HH, OH, TSq).

18 **Wild Turkeys** were at Bald Hill Farm 14 Feb (VP).

The last **Pied-billed Grebe** sighting this winter at Stewart Lake was on 12 Feb (JSi), as this species began to shift to local nesting sites such as EEW ponds or migrate toward more inland parts of the continent. Five **Eared Grebes** were at PSTP 2 Feb (WW); 3 were still there 21 Feb (HH).

**Double-crested Cormorants** were trying to dry themselves in scant sun at Cabell Marsh 10 Feb (PRz).

Several mid-valley **Great Blue Heron** nesting colonies were active by 13 Feb (p. obs.).

**Great Egrets** were scarce this winter but singles were reported along Bruce Rd. at FNWR 7 Feb (DNa, SNs), w. of the OSU dairy 8 Feb (NNy), and at EEW 13 Feb (JGe).

Sightings of **Turkey Vultures** increased, with singles at Maple Grove and e. of Scio 30 Jan (CHi; JH), over N. Albany 5 Feb (CHi); soaring nw over Stewart Lake and soon after at JFW 12 Feb (JSi; LM), and duos over nw Corvallis 15 Feb (ESh) and near Peavy Arboretum 16 Feb (OA). By the end of the period vultures were being reported almost daily, though still in small numbers.

Two **White-tailed Kites** were along Priem Rd. near Airlie 29 Jan (RG); one was at the Camp Adair Rifle Range 2 Feb (JGe). Counts of **Bald Eagles** roosting w. of Tangent included 46 on 31 Jan (LPT), 54 on 7 Feb (CHi, JHi), 86 on 10 Feb (HB), and at least 10 on 24 Feb (PLi, JLi). 16 were found on a s. Benton Co. raptor survey 17 Feb (WW).

One was on a nest just e. of Albany 22 Feb (CHi, JHi).

A **Northern Harrier** pair whistled to each other at JFW 12 Feb (LM). 17 were found in s. Benton Co. 17 Feb (WW).

An adult **Sharp-shinned Hawk** with white spots on its back visited a Corvallis yard 12 Feb (DNa). An imm. continued to raid feeders near TCP 2 Feb but seemed to cede the territory to an adult **Cooper's Hawk** by 7 Feb (JDS).

An adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** was sneaking around last year's nesting area at EEW 30 Jan (JGe). One frequently heard calling along Riverside Dr. near Truax Island finally showed itself on 1 Feb (GW). An adult nabbed a long-tailed rodent at Bald Hill Farm 9 Feb (RCo). One at JFW 13 Feb (VP) was chased off through cold fog by the male of the **Northern Harrier** pair.

Pairs of **Red-tailed Hawks** continued to be seen in courtship flights including over nw Corvallis 15 Feb (ESh). 53 were found in s. Benton Co. 17 Feb (WW).



**Rough-legged Hawks** were seen regularly along Bruce Rd. at FNWR thru 10 Feb (HH, OH; MLK, NiM; PRz). Five were found in w. Linn Co. 7 Feb (CHi, JHi). 13 were found in s. Benton Co. 17 Feb (WW).

A **Golden Eagle** was along Bruce Rd. 29 Jan (HH, OH) and 3 Feb (MLK; NiM); one was near Griggs 29 Jan (JH).

Two **Virginia Rails** were heard at JFW 30 Jan (JSi). One called from a pond e of Lacombe 10 Feb (JH), and several were vocal at JFW 12 Feb (LM). LPN estimated that up to 20 were in private wetland along Dunawi Creek off 53rd St in Corvallis 14 Feb.

Three **Sandhill Cranes** flew north over Mt. Tom se of Harrisburg 16 Feb (BCo).

**Killdeer** flocks are starting to disperse as nesting season approaches; on 20 Feb a pair turned up at a wetland where they nest in EEW.

**Greater Yellowlegs** were scarce this winter but one was at EEW 28 Jan (HB) and FNWR also yielded a few reports of singles. 40 **Dunlin** rested on a log at Turtle Flats in FNWR 14 Feb (VP).

16 **Wilson's Snipe** flushed from meadow near Chintimini 16 Feb (JrP, JPi).

At least one **Thayer's Gull** and a possible juv. **Glaucous Gull** were with a diverse flock that included **Ring-billed, Mew, California, Glaucous-winged** and **Herring Gulls** along Powerline Rd. se of Harrisburg 2 Feb (JdH).

A **Band-tailed Pigeon** turned up at a feeder w of Alsea 30 Jan (KDo); numbers visiting a feeder sw of Philomath increased steadily to 9 by 20 Feb (KnF).

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** were part of the chorus of singing birds in Corvallis by 20 Feb (DBo).

A **Barn Owl** was heard 10 Feb in nw Corvallis (JSi).

Around the same time that a resident **Western Screech-Owl** left its box in the Highland Dell neighborhood of n Corvallis 30 Jan, a pair of **Great Horned Owls** were busy copulating (JrP, JuP). A **Barred Owl** was heard barking in TCP 15 Feb (JDS). A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was at the w end of Bruce Rd. near FNWR 21 Feb (HH).

A banded **Burrowing Owl** that wintered in the Harrisburg/Halsey area turns out to have been banded as a nestling 9 Jul 2014 in British Columbia (RAD).

By 4 Feb at least six male **Anna's Hummingbirds** were displaying around EEW (BPr; JGe), where this species was rare just 5 years ago. A pair was observed copulating in N. Albany 23 Feb (CHi).

Male **Rufous Hummingbirds** turned up near EEW 14 Feb, near Evergreen Cr. s. of Philomath 19 Feb, and sw of Philomath 24 Feb (JGe; VSt; JiF).

In addition to the long-established colony of **Acorn Woodpeckers** just e of the Benton Co. fairgrounds, another colony was noticed farther s. along 53rd St on 13 Feb (HB).

A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** was photographed at EEW 15 Feb (MPo); one was drumming in Corvallis 20 Feb (DBo).

A **Downy Woodpecker** at EEW seemed to have met its fate in the talons of a raptor, based on feathers that were strewn about on 16 Feb.

**Northern Flickers** were "singing" in Corvallis by 20 Feb (DBo); an intergrade male seen last month in a nw Corvallis yard was last seen 30 Jan (JSi).

Taking advantage of the scant snow in Santiam Pass, RRo & BRo found an **American Three-toed Woodpecker** near Big Lake 17 Feb. A male and female **Pileated Woodpecker** tore into a rotted Douglas-fir stump in Highland Dell 8 Feb (JrP, JuP).

A raptor survey found 28 **American Kestrels** in s. Benton Co. 17 Feb (WW).

A **Merlin** visited JFW 30 Jan (JSi); one perched by EEW HQ 3 Feb (JGe); one from the "black" Pacific subspecies was along Campus Way 14 Feb (LPN).

A **Peregrine Falcon** flew over Bruce Rd. at FNWR 29 Jan (HH,

OH). An imm. cruised over the duck ponds at EEW 1 Feb (JGe), and one was along Cold Springs Rd. in Linn Co. 10 Feb (JH). PSTP was visited by a large adult 6 Feb, then an imm. with a very full crop 13 Feb (HB). Single **Prairie Falcons** were at Camp Adair Rifle Range 2 Feb and e of Monroe 17 Feb (JGe; SHi).

**Black Phoebes** were noted at FNWR HQ 29 Jan – 3 Feb (HH, OH; MLK, NiM), at EEW 16 Feb (JGe), and e of the FNWR Prairie Overlook 20 Feb (HH, OH).

Surprisingly no **Northern Shrikes** were reported in Linn or Benton Co. this month.

A **Hutton's Vireo** cooperated for a photo along the Homer Campbell boardwalk at FNWR 10 Feb (PRz).

A **Steller's Jay** sang its surprising "subsong" near EEW 20 Feb, in a series of tuneful but mellow, querulous tones.

200 **American Crows** flew w to roost near Chip Ross Park 23 Feb (AFo).

**Common Ravens** performed courtship flights over Coffin Butte all month. Two flying se over JFW, then later at Stewart Lake 30 Jan, may have been the same birds (JSi).

62 **Horned Larks** at CVO 17 Feb (RMO) and 1 was e of FNWR 10 Feb (SHi); otherwise lark reports were few.

25 **Tree Swallows** were ANWR 9 Feb (RG); 220 were at the FNWR Prairie Overlook 21 Feb (HH).

Two **Violet-green Swallows** and two **Barn Swallows** were at ANWR 11 Feb (SHi, SMa); another **Violet-green Swallow** was heard at Irish Bend 19 Feb (CHi).

**Black-capped Chickadees** sang in Corvallis 21 Feb (CO).

An albinistic **Chestnut-backed Chickadee** with a pure white back visited a Corvallis yard 4 Feb (LHa).

Two **Brown Creepers** were at Bald Hill Park 14 Feb (VP).

**Bewick's Wrens** and **Pacific Wrens** sang thru the month, joined by **Marsh Wrens** at JFW by 12 Feb (LM).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglets** also began to sing, including one at Cheadle Lake 12 Feb (BPr).

A pair of **Western Bluebirds** investigated a nest box at Bald Hill Farm 14 Feb (VP);

**American Robins** were singing vigorously by then. A **Varied Thrush** in a yard along Riverside Dr. 22 Feb was the first there in 25 years (GW).

A **Wrenit** sang on the s face of Bald Hill 25 Feb (AFo). Several hundred **American Pipits** swarmed the dikes at PSTP 13 Feb (HB). Two

**Cedar Waxwings** were at Bald Hill Park 10 Feb (HH).

Two **Lapland Longspurs** were at CVO 17 Feb (RMO).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was along the Bald Hill bike path 2 Feb (BPr).

A **Townsend's Warbler** visiting a s Corvallis yard 4 Feb was the first there this year, joining many **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (NNY). A **Common Yellowthroat** was at Cheadle Lake 12 & 14 Feb (BPr).

Among the numerous "**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrows** at EEW, a two "**Slate-colored**" **Fox Sparrows** were found: one in the nw part of EEW 28 Jan & 4 Feb (HB; JGe) and one near the s boundary 30 Jan (JGe). Both appeared to be from the **altivagans** subspecies that nests in the Canadian Rockies. **Song Sparrows** sang thru the period; one **Lincoln's Sparrow** at EEW even piped up with a partial song 30 Jan (JGe).

A **Swamp Sparrow** continued in the s end of EEW 1–16 Feb (JGe); one was near Oak Creek in Bald Hill Park 8 Feb (ALi, SLi). One was possibly heard singing at JFW 12 Feb (LM).

**Dark-eyed Juncos** were trilling in nw Corvallis by 11 Feb (SHg). A "**Slate-colored**" **Junco** visited a nw Corvallis yard 28 Jan & 24 Feb, and a **White-throated Sparrow** continued thru the period (JSi).

An albinistic **Red-winged Blackbird** was seen again at FNWR 7 Feb (LEg). **Western Meadowlarks** sang at the FNWR Prairie Overlook 7 & 21 Feb (DNa, SNa; HH) and along Campus Way at



the OSU dairy 9 Feb (RCo). Wintering flocks of **Brown-headed Cowbirds** included 30 e of FNWR 11 Feb (SMA) and 24 at the OSU dairy 24 Feb (CHK, AHK).

Three **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** were still on Marys Peak in bright sunshine above the fog 12 Feb (HH, OH, TSq).

A small flock of **Pine Grosbeaks** along the Pacific Crest Trail at Santiam Pass 14 Feb (JSc) and 17 Feb (RRo, BRo) led to discovery of more than 40 there on 20 Feb (JMe et al.). Even more surprising, six **Pine Grosbeaks** appeared along Cardwell Hill Rd. w of Corvallis just long enough for photos 21 Feb (BPr).

Among our more regular finches, **Purple Finches**, **House Finches**, and **Lesser Goldfinches** were all singing around Corvallis by 20 Feb (LM, DBo). Four **Red Crossbills** were sw of Philomath 20 Feb (KnF).

One to four **Pine Siskins** visited a nw Corvallis yard 28 Jan thru 9 Feb (JSi) and a small flock was at EEW 28 Jan (HB).

Ten **Evening Grosbeaks** turned up at feeder w of Alsea 7 Feb, providing company for a lone, bedraggled female that spent the winter (KDo). A small wintering flock in nw Corvallis began to visit feeders 12 Feb (SHg). Several flocks were around Corvallis by 20 Feb (DBo).

A male **House Sparrow** that turned up in a yard near EEW 16 Feb fell into an underground drainpipe on 24 Feb, apparently after investigating a downspout. He flew out after the downspout was removed to investigate the noise (NGe).

A **Red-legged Frog** turned up in a N. Albany pond 20 Feb, after the pond was drained last fall to rid it of invasive **Bullfrogs** (CHi). A large female **Common Garter Snake** at JFW 12 Feb was attended by several amorous suitors who twined around one another as they competed for her affections (LM).

Bats (either **Yuma Bats** or **Little Brown Myotis**) emerged from hibernation to foraging over the Alsea River just w of the Benton Co. line 16 Feb (KDo).

**For next month**, please post your reports to [midvalleybirding.org](mailto:midvalleybirding.org), e-mail them to me at [joel.geier@peak.org](mailto:joel.geier@peak.org), or call (541) 745-5821 by 24 Mar 2015.

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## ATOP THE NESTBOX

After an unusual winter, the bluebirds are returning to their nesting territories. Please be sure your nestboxes are free of cracks, wasps, mice and old nest material. I'm sure you don't want the bluebirds to pass you by!

In lieu of our annual spring bluebird workshop, we will be the guests of Salem Audubon Society on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:15 – 8:15 pm. Their meetings are open to the public and are held in the Louck Auditorium at the Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St SE, Salem. Nestboxes will be available there for \$15 each. If you wish to attend but don't want to drive, please check with me or another trail volunteer for carpooling options. Don't miss out on this wonderful networking opportunity!

Raylene Gordin

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## ASC EDUCATION NEWS

### WINTER WILDLIFE FIELD DAY – FINAL CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS AND PARTICIPANTS!

ASC's first **Winter Wildlife Outdoor Field Day from 9 am to 1 pm at Finley NWR on March 7** should be a great

time in Nature and learning!

A few **volunteers are still needed** to help us guide area youth groups and families. Special thanks to Friends of Willamette Refuges, and **Chintimini Wildlife Center** for helping bring this fun day in Nature to school age kids and families in the Corvallis area.

This Winter Wildlife exploration will help kids and teens become more familiar with winter habitats and wildlife here. Thanks also to Finley National Wildlife Refuge, where all activities will take place, and whose staff have welcomed us warmly. This is a fun opportunity to get into nature, explore a protected refuge, gain a better understanding of the world around us, and earn a Nature explorer badge!

Hands-on activity stations feature guided nature walks and discovery, plus a **live bird demo** by Chintimini Wildlife Center, always a treat! Other stations include: bluebird nest box building, Learning about Birds, Bird parts and Drawing, and a special Young Birders Intro.

Thanks to Parr Lumber in Albany for donating wood and nails to make bluebird nestboxes.

Please contact OSU student volunteer Jeremy Felty at [feltyj@onid.oregonstate.edu](mailto:feltyj@onid.oregonstate.edu); or ASC Education Chair Jessica Brothers (contact info on back page of this CHAT) if you can help March 7, or to sign up group or individual participants! Finley NWR is just a short drive south of Corvallis off Highway 99W (onto Finley Rd) or enter from Bellfountain Rd.

Teri Engbring

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## BINOCULARS NEEDED FOR ASC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The ASC Education program frequently uses binoculars for school programs and guided hikes such as the ones we will have March 7 at our Winter Wildlife Outdoor Field Day. Sadly, the few pair of binoculars we do have are starting to wear out or break and we need replacements! If you have any used, but still usable, binoculars you would like to donate to ASC, they would take on a new and important life helping us teach the next generation of birders. If you can help us out, please contact Board member and Ed volunteer Teri Engbring at [engbring@hotmail.com](mailto:engbring@hotmail.com).

Teri Engbring

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## HISTORICAL RECORD OF ASC ED

1985 to 2003 was a special time in the history of the ASC education program. Thanks to Education Committee members George and Dorothy Burt, and Angie Cromack, 6 different different programs were shown to K-5 stu-

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Peter Kappes

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew your membership online go to the ASC website ([www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml](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 listserve. After you sign up, you'll receive up-to-date email notifications about ASC events, fieldtrip locations, volunteer work parties and weather-related cancellations. Send an email to our listserve administrator, Karan Fairchild, and request to be added to the listserve: [alderspr@peak.org](mailto: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](mailto:ortizsv@gmail.com).

*Suzanne Ortiz*

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CHAT

Chris Matthews, Fred Ramsey, Bill Proebsting, Jim Fairchild, Joel Geier, Raylene Gordon, Teri Engbring, Will Wright, Zach Heesch, Carol Savonen, Gail Nickerson, Suzanne Ortiz

dents in our area. Each program consisted of one carousel of photographic slides and a script. The carousels of slides need a new and we wonder if any ASC member would like to take the material and either digitize the slides or move them into loose-leaf binders for storage at Hesthavn? If so, please contact Kate at 541-754-1172. We hope to keep this material with Audubon, but will offer it to the Benton County Historical Museum if no ASC member offers.

*Kate Mathews*

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### SUSTAINABILITY FAIR-MAR.12

Everyone is invited to attend the 7th Annual Sustainability Fair and Town Hall, March 12, 2015 at OSU's CH2MHill Alumni Center; 725 SW 26th St, Corvallis, on the OSU Campus. The Sustainability Fair runs from 5-7pm and the Town Hall meeting runs from 7-9pm. ASC is a partner organization and we will have an interactive booth there staffed by our excellent volunteers. Stop by to say hi! Teri Engbring

### WILLAMETTE VALLEY BIRD SYMPOSIUM

Want to see more about the Willamette Valley Birding Symposium that happened this winter? You can see it on the ASC Facebook page or go to: <http://youtu.be/Tfy6TQxPXo0> Tom Haigs' youtube video combines a summary about the first ever Willamette Valley Birding Symposium and shots featuring the ASC and Bird Nerds. That pint-sized owl's raspy Hey!! at the end of the credits was priceless.

*Suzanne Ortiz*

### KEEP THE 'WILD' IN OREGON'S WILDLIFE

If you love all things wild, you can help support Oregon's wildlife when you fill out your 2014 state tax return. Donate to the Nongame Wildlife Fund, Charitable Code 19, in the charitable check-off donation on your 2014 Oregon State tax return. Funds support 88 percent of the state's wildlife that are not hunted or fished such as native frogs, turtles, songbirds and bats.

"The donations we receive from the Nongame Wildlife Fund help us protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations," said Andrea Hanson, Conservation Strategy Coordinator. For more information on the Nongame Wildlife Fund, visit the ODFW website [www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/diversity/tax\\_checkoff/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/diversity/tax_checkoff/).

### NEW WINDOW INTO BIRDS

Explore the world of birds with Audubon's completely re-imagined website at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org). You'll find the stunning photographs that you've come to expect from Audubon magazine along with a wealth of web-exclusive material. Or go directly to the link below: [www.audubonaction.org/site/MessageViewer?em\\_id=51561.0](http://www.audubonaction.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=51561.0)

### CHINTIMINI RAPTOR PROGRAM

In the past year, ASC's frequent partner in education and conservation, Chintimini Wildlife Center, developed a new Raptor Conservation Program (RCP) Beginning May 2, 2015, it will feature several free-flying raptor species, conservation-themed talks, activities for children, and the opportunity to learn about raptors up close and personal.

The RCP aims to demonstrate the value of raptors to the ecosystems they live in and the world around us, from the agriculture community as rodent control, to airports and vineyards as bird control, and as indicator species in an unhealthy ecosystem. By visiting



classrooms and hosting fun programs in our education center, Chintimini's Raptor Conservation Program educates all ages on the importance of protecting the natural world around us.

For more information on scheduling a program, getting involved, donating, or adopting a raptor ambassador, please visit the web page at: [www.chintiminiwildlife.org](http://www.chintiminiwildlife.org)

*Zach Heesch*

## **ANTICOAGULANT RODENT BAITS-BIG IMPACTS ON RAPTORS AND OTHER PREDATORS**

I have a terrible rodent problem in my garden. In the winter, voles girdle my shrubs, eat my carrots. Rats and mice raid my chicken coop. Pocket gophers eat my flower bulbs. I have occasionally resorted to the use of anticoagulant baits (rodenticides) such as d-CON in my garden, thinking these were benign, as they were anticoagulants that didn't get passed down the food chain.

It turns out, I'm wrong. My information about the harmlessness of these baits is completely wrong and outdated. Here's what I have learned.

Anticoagulant rodenticides such as old formula d-CON used to contain warfarin, the same chemical that people take as blood thinners. A rat or mouse would have to visit a bait station multiple times before it would get a high enough dose to be lethal. These baits are known as "multiple dose" anticoagulants.

In other words, the baits are now much more powerful and get passed down the food chain. Biologists estimate that large numbers of raptors and other predators get killed by catching and eating rodents that have ingested these pesticides.

All 12 of the products being taken off the market are sold loose, that is without a protective bait station to surround the poison pellets. Bait stations are required for consumer products to protect children and pets from contact with bait pellets. Bait station products are not being taken off the market.

In addition, 8 of the 12 of these loose products contain second generation anti-coagulant pesticides that have proven to pose unacceptable risks to "non-target" wildlife, including pets, cats, hawks, eagles, coyotes, foxes, cougars and snakes and other things that might feed on rodents or rodent carcasses.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) veterinarians have warned home and land owners that these single dose poison baits used to control mice and rats can sicken or kill owls, hawks, foxes, bobcats and other species. I know I will no longer choose to use these products. Here are some non-chemical strategies to discourage rodents around the yard, garden and out buildings:

- Remove yard debris, such as piles of slash, garden clippings on your property. Clean up dropped fruit.
- Keep pet food indoors.
- Keep bird feed in rodent-proof containers and sweep up below the feeders. Do not feed other wildlife.
- Seal potential openings in structures by stuffing steel wool in spaces and cracks.
- Consider using old fashioned traps, such as a snap-trap baited with peanut butter or cheese.

For more information: Anticoagulant Rodenticide Fact Sheet, [www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/health\\_program/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/health_program/index.asp)

*Carol Savonen, naturalist, science & garden writer*

## **BOARD MEETING SUMMARY**

### **FEBRUARY 2105 ASC BOARD MEETING**

The board approved supporting 'A North American Wolf Vision' statement from the Endangered Species Coalition. Nominations for officers and board members can be submitted to the Nominating Committee (David Mellinger, Jim Fairchild, Karan Fairchild and Teri Engbring). The board approved spending up to \$400 for two students to attend an OSU Extension course on Grant Writing. The next board meeting will be at 7 pm on March 12 at the Market of Choice community meeting room (upstairs).

*Gail Nickerson, Secretary*

## **OPEN 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.

## **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 final Thursday of the month. Always submit text using Microsoft Word.

**AUDUBON SOCIETY OF  
CORVALLIS**



## CALENDAR

Mar 7	Winter Wildlife Field Day at Finley Refuge, 9am-1 pm
Mar 12	Sustainability Fair & Town Hall, 5-9 pm at OSU Alum Ctr
Mar 12	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Market of Choice
Mar 14	Field trip to EE Wilson, 7:30 am
Mar 19	ASC General Meeting, 7 pm
Mar 24	Field Notes submissions due
Mar 26	Apr 2015 Chat submissions due

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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[www.audubon.corvallis.or.us](http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us)

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Interested in volunteering?  
Please let us know: [volunteerasc@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerasc@gmail.com)

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

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