



THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

SUMMER 2015

VOL. 44 #10

ASC GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPT 17, 7:00-8:30 PM

AT NEW LOCATION:

Chintimini Senior Center,
2601 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis

NEW HOME FOR ASC MONTHLY MEETINGS

After 40-odd years meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, ASC will move to a new meeting site starting with the September 17 general members meeting. This move was prompted by large rent increases at the church, quadrupling over the past two years. After evaluating several alternatives, we selected the multi-purpose room at Chintimini Senior Center, located at 27th and Tyler. This move will cut our expenses dramatically. Part of the economy requires that we set up and take down chairs for the meeting, so we are looking for volunteers to help us out from 6:15 to 6:30 pm. Aside from that, however, we should be able to recover our routine and settle in to our new home.

I-5 FREEWAY BIRDER AND AUTHOR HARRY FULLER

Hope to see you September 17, 2015, for our first program of the 2015-16 general membership program series.

Our speaker at that meeting will be author and avid birder Harry Fuller, currently of Ashland, soon to reside in McMinnville. He has recently completed a book on Great Gray Owls and will be speaking to us about it. He guided ASC birders to an occupied Great Gray Owl nest as a highlight of our Rogue River Field Trip this spring. Harry is also the author of the popular *Freeway Birding, San Francisco to Seattle*.

So, after our team effort setting up chairs at 6:15, the meeting begins with social time at 6:30, followed by the business meeting at 7:00, and introduction of the speaker at about 7:30.

*Bill Proebsting, Vice President
and Program Chair; and
Chris Mathews, President*

SUMMER BOARD MEETING

The ASC Board of Directors meets only once during the busy summer months, and combines installation of new board members and officers with regular business and a potluck dinner. This Summer's Board meeting will be held at ASC's Hesthavn Nature Center on Thursday, July 30, between 5 and 8 pm. The second half of that time is reserved for the Board meeting.

As is the case with every ASC Board meeting, all ASC members are welcome to attend. For the summer meeting only, everyone is asked to bring food for the potluck, as well as your own plate, cutlery, beverage and glass.

*Chris Mathews
President*

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE

REMAINING 2015 WEEKEND FIELD TRIPS

August 13-16: Steens Mountain.
September 11-13: The North Coast:
Tillamook to Astoria.

Transportation on these trips is in 12-person and/or 15-person vans. Expenses are shared. Participants will be provided with tour information a month prior

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to departure. Bird, mammal, herp, butterfly, and odonate checklists are provided.

To sign up, email Fred Ramsey at framsey5@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

SECOND SATURDAY HALF-DAY FIELD TRIP

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of each month 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 or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley ListServ 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.

COMING SECOND SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS:

Sept 12 Ankeny NWR
Oct 10 Finley NWR

Bill Proebsting

BICYCLE BIRDING 2015

THERE'S SPACE FOR THIS SUMMER'S REMAINING BICYCLE BIRDING.

You must register to participate. It's free. Contact Don Boucher, donaboucher@gmail.com (email preferred). I'll send you the details. You may also call for questions, 541-753-7689.

July 26: Downtown Corvallis to Sunset Park and back
Aug 30: Albany Bike Trails and Talking Water Gardens
Sept. 27: Benton County Fairgrounds, Bald Hill Park and Campus Way Covered Bridge—Corvallis

Don Boucher

FIELD NOTES

4/29/15-6/25/15

The general dry, warm trend continued with temperatures above creeping close to 100° F by the end of the period, and a very early fire closure season in the mountains. Many bird species seemed to be running ahead of schedule in terms of migration and nesting activity.

Locations: ANWR = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), BHF = Bald Hill Farm, BMF = Beazell Memorial Forest, DF = Dunn Forest, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, FNWR = William L. Finley NWR, HQ = headquarters, JFW = Jackson-Frazier Wetland, LSNA = Luckiamute State Natural Area, MDF = McDonald Forest, PSTP = Philomath STP, TCP = Teloh-Calapooia Park in Albany, TWG = Talking Water Gardens in Albany. Stewart Lake is a pond on Hewlett-Packard (HP) campus in Corvallis. Bruce Rd. (mitigation) wetland, Cabell (Marsh), McFadden (Marsh), North Prairie (Overlook), and Ray Bentley (Savannah) Overlook are locations at FNWR.

Observers: ABk: Amber Beck, AFo: Andrea Foster, AHk: Adrian Hinkle, ALi: Aaron Liston, APt: Andrew Pratt, BA: Bob Altman, BCo: Barbara Combs, BPr: Bill Proebsting, BPt: Bruce Pratt, BTi: Bill Tice, BW: Brandon Wagner, ChA: Chris Adlam, CHi: Carol Hiler, CHk: Christopher Hinkle, CO: Catherine Otto, DBe: Douglas Beall, DBi: Doug Bilsland, DBo: Don Boucher, DEm: Deanna Emig, DM: Dave Mellinger, DRo: Doug Robinson, EPt: Eric Pratt, Frk: Frank Kolwicz, HB: Howard Bruner, HH: Hendrik Herlyn, JBo: Jamie Boulton, JDS: Jim Smith, JGe: Joel Geier, JGi: Julie Gibson, JH: Jeff Harding, JiF: Jim Fairchild, JJ: Jarod Jebousek, JKO: Jim Kopitzke, JLe: Jim Leonard, JLi: Judy List, JMs: Jenny Meisel, JRo: Jessica Rondema, JrP: Jerry Paul, JSi: Jamie Simmons, JuP: Judith Paul, KCh: Ken Chamberlain, KnF: Karan Fairchild, LM: Lisa Millbank, LSc: Larry Schwitters, MAI: Marge Alig, MAu: Mahogany Aulenbach, MB: Mark Baldwin, MC: Marcia F. Cutler, MdO: Maddy Otto, MG: Mary Garrard, MGe: Martha Geier, MLi: Mike Lippsmeyer, MMo: Molly Monroe, MSt: Margaret Stephens, NBa: Nancy Baumeister, NCl: Nancy Clarke, OH: Oscar Harper, PCo: Pam Comeleo, PGr: Peter Greenberg, PLi: Peter List, PO: Pam Otley, PRz: Paul Rentz, PWA: Pat Waldron, RCo: Randy Comeleo, RFo: Rana Foster, RG: Roy Gerig, RMo: Randy Moore, SGu: Sue Guss, SHg: Susan Hatlevig, SLi: Sara Liston, TGu: Tom Guss, THy: Tristen Hynes, TJn: Tim Johnson, VSt: Virginia Stanton, WW: Will Wright.

Greater White-fronted Goose migrant flocks were seen thru 5 May; late loners were on a pond s. of Monmouth 19 May (MLi) and at PSTP 12-20 Jun (HH). A **Canada Goose** pair at PSTP had goslings 21 May (BPt, EPt, APt). A late **swan** flew n. over Monmouth 8 May (BW). Ducklings included a **Wood Duck** brood at John Neal Memorial Park in Lyons 23 May (JRo), and **Mallards** at PSTP 21 May (BPt, EPt, APt). Up to five **Gadwall** were at Philomath STP 13 May & 2 Jun (HH); a pair copulated at Finley 26 May (SHg). Lingered **American Wigeons** on 13 May included 7 at Cabell and 8 at PSTP (HH). Three **Blue-winged Teal** drakes were at PSTP 1 Jun (JiF; PO); four were there 2 Jun (HH) with at least one staying thru 9 Jun; a pair were at the Bruce Rd. wetland 10 Jun (HH). Nine young **Cinnamon Teal** were at PSTP 19 Jun (HH). A **Green-winged Teal** pair courted at Cabell 13 May (HH); up to three continued at PSTP thru 3 Jun (BPt, EPt, APt; HH). **Northern Shovelers** nested at PSTP with two broods out by mid-June (HH). A **Northern Pintail** lingered at Cabell 13 May (HH). A pair of **Redheads** were at Philomath STP 3 May; a female remained 12-13 May (HH). A **Ring-necked Duck** pair were at PSTP thru 6 Jun; a female continued thru the period, sometimes with a male **Lesser Scaup** (HH). **Hooded Merganser** ducklings were at PSTP 16-21 May (WW; BPt) and continued thru the period (PPO; HH). A male **Common Merganser** was

there Jun 20 (HH). A **Ruddy Duck** was at PSTP thru 20 Jun (BPT; HH; PO).

A **Ruffed Grouse** drummed near Lacombe 2 May (JH). A **Sooty Grouse** hen with still-downy but flight-capable chicks was in the Crabtree Cr. drainage 20 Jun (MGe; JGe); **Wild Turkey** broods were out at BHF by 14 Jun. **Mountain Quail** included one calling in MLK Park May 26 (HH), and three along the 110 Rd in DF 4 Jun (PCo, RCo).

Pied-billed Grebe chicks rode on their mother's back at FNWR 23 May (JLe). A **Horned Grebe** continued at PSTP 2 May (PO); the last **Eared Grebe** reported there was 11 May (HH). Two **Western Grebes** visited Cabell 2 Jun (HH).

A **Double-crested Cormorant** lingered in Lyons thru 23 May (JRo). **American White Pelicans** frequented Cabell starting with two on 13 May, three on 25 May (SHg), and eight on 12 Jun (HH). Five were at BSNWR 23 Jun (JGe).

American Bitterns were seen regularly at the Bruce Rd. wetland from 29 Apr (BPT) on with a high count of four 22 May (MMo). One flew toward JFW 3 May (DBo, LM). A male displayed for a female on a restoration site s. of Monmouth 8 May (MLi). **Great Blue Herons** were nesting on a Kings Valley property 13 Jun (BPr). A **Great Egret** continued at rice ponds s. of Brownsville 13 May (JH, KCh); up to seven turned up at BSNWR by 11 Jun (FrK). **Green Herons** were spotted in Albany at Waverly Lake 8 May (PGr), at Bryant Park 25 May (JBo), at TWG 22 May (AFo), and in Corvallis near Willamette Park during May (MMo), and near JFW 24 May (AFo). 1-2 that were regularly seen at Stewart Lake thru 29 Apr disappeared, until two turned up 23 Jun (JSi). Possible sightings of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** included two flying and calling near McFadden 25 May (PCo, RCo), one flying near JFW 9 Jun (JGe) and two medium-sized herons flying over Philomath Blvd 15 Jun (KnF).

At EEW 29 Apr a **Turkey Vulture** picked up a large dead snake and carried it with eight others in slow pursuit, until the first vulture lost its grip and dropped the snake into a wetland (JGe).

Near TCP on a female **Northern Harrier** eyed an **Eastern Gray Squirrel** near TCP 20 May, and a young **Bald Eagle** was driven off by a feisty **Cooper's Hawk** 7 Jun (JDS). A young **Sharp-shinned** or **Cooper's Hawk** nabbed a wren from a feeder in NW Corvallis 2 Jun, then proceeded to dine (TGU, SGU). An adult **Northern Goshawk** was at BMF 20 Jun (JGe).

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** called in the Highland Dell area 1 May (JuP, JrP), not far from Timberhill Natural Area where on 11 Jun one handed off a snake to its mate (LM). A territorial pair chased away two **Red-tailed Hawks** over the BHF trail 10 Jun (JGe). **Virginia Rails** and **Soras** were heard calling thru early May at wetland sites including FNWR, EEW, and Diamond Hill Rd. Two **Virginia Rails** with black fuzzy chicks were in John Neal Memorial Park in Lyons 23 May (JRo). An adult **American Coot** fed a chick at FNWR 23 May (JLe). A **Sandhill Crane** continued to be seen and heard intermittently at FNWR thru 4 Jun, seemingly moving back and forth between the North Prairie and Cabell (BPT; HH; BPr).

Numbers of **Black-necked Stilts** at BSNWR reached 13 by early Jun with three pairs nesting in view of Coville Rd; at least two nests were still occupied 9 Jun (FrK). Two



American White Pelican photo by Matt Lee

Black-bellied Plovers were there 22 May (BW). Migrant **Semipalmated Plovers** included singles at Evergreen Mitigation Bank 3 May and at PSTP Jun 3 (HH). A **Killdeer** pair were found nesting in the median strip of the parking lot at Crescent Valley H.S. 13 May (MdO); after school staff cordoned off a few parking spaces to protect the nest the female was still incubating 17 May (MdO, CO).

Spotted Sandpiper numbers at PSTP peaked at 22 on 3 May (HH); four were still there 1 Jun (PO). At least one pair nested successfully near the campground at LSNA. A late migrant **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Cabell 13 May (HH). Northbound **Greater Yellowlegs** were noted thru 29 May when eight were at PSTP (HH). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** turned up at Finley Rd. conservation wetland 3 May (HH). Several spectacular large shorebird sightings came from a conservation wetland along Duckflat Rd. w. of Stayton on 29 May, including a **Whimbrel** (HH), a **Long-billed Curlew** (RG; JKO), and a **Hudsonian Godwit** which stayed thru 31 May (JKO; RG; m.obs.).

A male **Ruddy Turnstone** in breeding plumage was at PSTP 17 May (ALi, SLi; m.obs.). 20 **Dunlin** were at PSTP 2 May (PO); ten were at Cabell 13 May (HH). The last migrant **Least Sandpiper** reported was one at PSTP Jun 5 (HH). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** in breeding plumage was at PSTP 30 May (HH; PO, WW). After passage of northbound **Western Sandpipers** waned in late May, one at PSTP Jun 20 (HH) might represent the first south-bound migrant. A calling **Short-billed Dowitcher** was with a flock of 56 **Long-billed Dowitchers** at Cabell 3 May (HH). A **Wilson's Snipe** at the rice ponds s. of Brownsville 13 May (JH, KCh) suggests nesting at this site. **Wilson's Phalaropes** were at FNWR and BSNWR where they regularly nest, and occasionally at PSTP thru the period; copulation was noted at Duckflat Rd. 14 May (RG). High counts of migrant **Red-necked Phalaropes** were ten at Cabell 13 May and seven at PSTP 17 May (HH); a late bird was at PSTP 2 Jun (HH).

Bonaparte's Gulls visiting PSTP include two on May (MB; HH). 3-5 immatures on 1 Jun (JiF; PO), and one on 6 Jun (HH). A **Ring-billed Gull** stopped by 12 May (HH). Four **California Gulls** dropped in 1 Jun (PO), followed by a **Forster's Tern** 5 Jun (HH) and a **Black Tern** 7 Jun (HB; HH).

30 **Band-tailed Pigeons** were in the Highland Dell area 1

May (JuP, JrP). Two still-fuzzy **Great Horned Owl** fledglings were near an adult at Lupine Meadows in sw Corvallis 21 May (JGe). Two **Northern Pygmy-Owls** called s. of Lacombe 2 May (JH). A **Barred Owl** called on Witham Hill 10 Jun (JGi). Just after midnight on 21 Jun I heard a **Spotted Owl** call briefly at an old-growth site e. of Lacombe, but before dawn two **Barred Owls** were contesting the same territory., showing how this invading species has penetrated even the some of the best remaining Spotted Owl habitat.

Common Nighthawks arrived with one 6 mi sw. of Philomath 2 Jun (KnF), two over the DF 200 Road gate 3 Jun (HH), and one over the DF 110 Road 4 Jun (PCo, RCo). 50 **Vaux's Swifts** sw of Philomath 2 May were near old-growth forest with potential natural roosting sites (KnF, JiF). 130 roosted in the Albany fire station chimney 27 Apr (MG); numbers swelled to 1200 on 2 & 3 May (LSc). In downtown Corvallis, hundreds roosted in a chimney near 1st and Van Buren 2 May (DM); 640 went into this chimney 5 May (CO).

Along with the more common **Anna's Hummingbirds** and **Rufous Hummingbirds**, there were several sightings of migrant **Calliope Hummingbirds** including females in N. Albany 2 May (JBo), in n. Corvallis 3 May (DBo, LM), and feeding on fringe-cups near TCP 5 May (JDS); a male was in s. Corvallis 3-4 May (MMo). One or more Calliopes were visiting feeders in the Quartzville area as of 20 Jun, per a Linn Co. sheriff's deputy. A very large, long-tailed female hummingbird with rusty flanks near EEW 5 May (JGe) just might have been a **Broad-tailed Hummingbird**, but didn't come back for a better look.

Acorn Woodpeckers were heard in oaks on Ward Butte 13 May (JH, KCh). Several on the NW side of Bald Hill Park, using dead snags in a beaver-flooded area and drumming 10 Jun, seem to have moved in gradually from nearby established colonies in the past eight years. **Red-breasted Sapsucker** nestlings were heard in TCP 8 Jun (JDS); fledglings were begging in MDF 11 Jun (LM). An adult **Downy Woodpecker** fed a fledgling at suet feeder near TCP 10 Jun (JDS). Juvenile **Hairy Woodpeckers** foraged independently at BSNWR 17 Jun (JGe). Single **Pileated Woodpeckers** turned up at Stewart Lake 28 Apr (JSi) and in Highland Dell 1 May (JuP, JrP).



Bobcat photo by Matt Lee

A **Peregrine Falcon** (probably immature) soared over the Cheldelin neighborhood 9 Jun (LM, DBo).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted at EEW and FNWR 3 May (DEm; HH), in MDF 25 May (DBo, LM), in Starker Arts Park 7 Jun (JGi) and in Timberhill Natural Area 11 Jun (LM). **Western Wood-Pewees** arrived in several mid-valley locations by 5 May. (BA; JGe). **Willow Flycatchers** turned up at MDF 25 May (DBo, LM) and at FNWR HQ 27 May (WW). **Hammond's Flycatchers** sang in likely nesting habitat in the upper part of McDowell Creek Park 13 May (HB). **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** are more often seen than heard, usually high in the canopy of riparian forests, but one foraged in low shrubs in Corvallis yard 16 May (HB); one sang on the OSU campus 27 May (DBo).

A pair of **Western Kingbirds** were seen regularly at the North Prairie, copulating in view of an OSU Master Naturalist class 22 May, and carrying insects to a presumed nest 16 Jun (JGe). Single kingbirds were s. of Monmouth 8 May (MLi), along Belts Dr. s. of Brownsville 13 May (JH, KCh), at BHF 1 Jun (RCo), and near Finley HQ 24 Jun (JJ, MMo).

Cassin's Vireos sang at Bald Hill Park 8 May (HB) and at Chip Ross Park 17 May (JSi). A **Hutton's Vireo** fledgling begged in MDF 11 Jun (LM). **Warbling Vireos** sang throughout the period in riparian habitat.

A **Red-eyed Vireo** sang from an ash grove on the e. side of Evergreen Creek wetland 30 May (JGe); one singing later the same day in trees s. PSTP (HH) may have been the same bird moving through; one sang in more typical nesting habitat at LSNA 18 Jun (WW).

A family of **Gray Jay** called in the upper part of BMF 20 Jun (JGe), provoking a raucous response from **Steller's Jays**. A juvenile **Western Scrub-Jay** turned up in a nw Corvallis yard 13 Jun (JSi). Two **American Crows** chased a **gray squirrel** near the Benton County courthouse 19 May (MC). **Common Raven** fledglings begged in MDF 11 Jun (LM).

A **Streaked Horned Lark** bathed in dust s. of Bruce Rd. 3 May (HH). With the grass-seed harvest running early this year, nesting success may be impacted.

Two pairs of **Purple Martins** investigated snags near Roaring River Fish Hatchery 7 May (JH). 22 foraged over Cabell Marsh 13 May (HH). Several 25 May at MDF including one male poking his head out of a hole in a snag and singing 25 May (DBo, LM). Several pairs were active around nesting gourds in DF 3 Jun (HH). **Barn Swallows**, **Cliff Swallows**, **Tree Swallows** and **Violet-green Swallows** were nesting thru the period. **Violet-green Swallow** fledglings emerged near TCP by 19 Jun (JDS). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were noted in Lyons 23 May (JRo). A **Bank Swallow** flew over PSTP 30 May (HH; PO, WW).

Two pairs of **Black-capped Chickadees** nested successfully in nest boxes at CoHo in s. Corvallis as of 13 Jun (NBa). A **Chestnut-backed Chickadee** flew in and out of a cavity in oak woodland on Baskett Butte 14 May, surprising habitat for this species (ChA); six of seven eggs in a nest box in N. Albany hatched by 21 May (CHi). A pair of **Brown Creepers** fed nestlings at McDowell Creek Park 13 May (HB). **Bewick's Wren** nestlings in n. Corvallis fledged 24-25 Apr (Marcia Cutler). Two pairs of **House Wrens** nested successfully (one in a nest box, one in a natural cavity) at CoHo in s. Corvallis



as of 13 Jun (NBa).

American Dippers appeared to be nesting at the Alsea highway bridge over Rock Creek 4 May (RFo). Nestlings were seen on Skunk Creek in w. Benton Co. 28 May (MAu). Two nestlings were visible at Alsea Falls by 18 Jun (RFo).

Western Bluebirds fledged in n. Corvallis 1-2 May (Marcia Cutler). Five nestlings were fed by an adult pair in NE Corvallis 9 May (DBo, LM). A pair fed nestlings in a box at BHF 11 Jun (CO).

Swainson's Thrushes arrived with single birds in MDF 29 Apr (PCo), at Bald Hill Park and FNWR 3 May (BPr; HH). One sang in MLK Park 15 May (CO). Flight calls of nocturnal migrant flocks were heard in several places during the night of 20-21 May (JGe; RMo; HH), suggesting that more northerly Alaskan/Yukon nesters were still passing through. A **Hermit Thrush** singing at MDF 25 May (DBo, LM) was surprising for the time of year and low elevation. Two sang at 1500 ft elevation in BMF 30 May (JGe). A male **American Robin** tended nestlings at MDF 25 May (DBo, LM).

Two **Wrentits** sang along Keel Mtn Rd. south of Lacombe 2 May (JH). Three were near the Woodpecker Loop trailhead at FNWR 22 Jun (PLi, JLi), a good place to look for them. A possible **Gray Catbird** was glimpsed in flight across Walnut Blvd in nw Corvallis 25 May (DRo) but was not relocated. A **Brown Thrasher** was photographed 6 mi SW of Philomath 18 May (KnF; JiF).

The **White Wagtail** (ssp. *ocularis*) at BSNWR mentioned in last month's field notes was seen late in the day on 29 Apr (JSi), but there were no reports from subsequent days. A late **American Pipit** was near Peoria 13 May (MC).

Cedar Waxwings flocks returned to n. Corvallis 3 May (MC). Flocks totaling over 200 were in a Corvallis neighborhood 14 May (HH).

An **unusual warbler** with a thin bill, vibrant blue on its head and wings, a white throat and white markings on its wings and tail found its way into a house s. of Alpine 19 May. After using a piece of paper to help guide the bird out of the window, MAu looked it up and determined that it was a **Cerulean Warbler**. He has photographed other warblers, including in the eastern states, but was more focused on helping the bird out of his house than on documenting a rare bird.

Another rare warbler for our region was a singing male **Ovenbird** that was found along the Mulkey Ridge Trail between Bald Hill Farm and Fitton Green 21 May (BPr); fortunately this bird stayed put long enough for other observers to hear and see it.

Among more common warblers, **Orange-crowned Warbler** fledglings begged in MDF 11 Jun (LM). *One correction to last month's notes: The Nashville Warbler at Sunset Park (seen by HH, OH, Thy) was seen on 25 Apr, not 25 Mar.* Another **Nashville Warbler** was at Fitton Green 3 May (JSi). Several **Yellow Warblers** sang at EEW 29 Apr (JGe); one sang on the OSU campus 27 May (DBo). **Black-throated Gray Warblers** were heard in oak and big-leaf maple habitats thru the period. A **Hermit Warbler** sang s. of Lacombe 4 May (RG); many sang in the upper part of BMF 30 May (JGe); two were in Chip Ross Park 11 Jun (LM). **MacGillivray's Warblers** sang s. of Lacombe 2-4 May (JH; RG). One sang in good view along



Common Yellowthroat photo by Matt Lee

the Homestead Trail in MDF 31 May (CO). **Common Yellowthroats** were abundant at EEW by 29 Apr.

Passage of migrant **Wilson's Warblers** was still strong 5 May; a locally nesting pair carried green caterpillars to a nest s. of Alpine 2 Jun (MAu).

Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** sang s. of Lacombe 2 May (JH). Five sang at EEW and one at MDF 25 May (DBo, LM). Chats seemed to be absent from some of the usual spots in DF in early Jun (PCo, RCo; HH). However one at LSNA 12 Jun (DBe) was in a new location. Migrant **Western Tanagers** were noticeable in Corvallis 14 May (HH). A pair collected nesting material near s. of Alpine 27 May (MAu).

A **charcoal-gray, sparrow-sized bird** with a large white wing panel feeding at roadside near the Ray Bentley oak savanna overlook at FNWR 2 Jun was likely a **Lark Bunting**, but flew uphill into tall grasses and disappeared (HH). A male **Lapland Longspur** photographed along Livermore Rd. n. of BSNWR 1 May (DBe) was transitioning into breeding plumage.

Spotted Towhees fledglings were begging in MDF 11 Jun (LM). **Vesper Sparrow** detections included a pair at OSU's Soap Creek Ranch along Tampico Rd. 28 Apr (BPr), singing along Belts Dr. s. of Brownsville (another traditional location) 13 May (JH, KCh), and at BHF thru the period. **Vesper Sparrows** and **Savannah Sparrows** sang at BHF 11 Jun (CO). Both species produced fledglings there by 10 Jun (BA, JGe).

A male **Grasshopper Sparrow** sang at BHF 3 May (JGe) but then moved on. One sang at a traditional location along Belts Dr. s. of Brownsville 13 May (JH, KCh). One sang at the Kingston Prairie preserve s. of Stayton 18 May (ChA). One sang at Baskett Butte, moving back and forth between two restoration fields, 20 May thru late Jun (BA, JGe) apparently without finding a mate. One singing NW of the North Prairie overlook 16 Jun thru the end of the period (JGe; m.obs.) seemed to be more successful.

A fledgling **Song Sparrow** was attended by two adults in SW Corvallis 21 May (JGe). The last reported **White-throated Sparrow** was in the Highland Dell area 1 May (JuP, JrP). A **White-crowned Sparrow** sang in the middle of the night near Scio by 3 May (PWA); fledglings were begging in MDF 11 Jun (LM).

Golden-crowned Sparrows lingered longer than usual

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Cheryl Gaston
Clairmonde & Larry Harris

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 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

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

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

MAY 2015 ASC BOARD MEETING

The meeting was held at Hesthavn with Chris Mathews acting as president pro-tem. Various conservation issues were discussed. David Mellinger will prepare letters for signatures at the May general meeting. Jim and Karan Fairchild reported on a meeting about Lake Abert and water problems. The next

with one still s. of Philomath 12 May (VSt), two at Pine Grove church south of Peoria 13 May (BCo), and a boldly plumaged, frequently singing bird near Monmouth 25 May (BA) when two were also near Dallas (NCI). **Dark-eyed Junco** fledglings begged in MDF 11 Jun (LM).

Black-headed Grosbeaks, continued to show up with a noticeable movement in Corvallis 14 May (HH). **Lazuli Buntings** continued to fill in, with many along Belts Dr. s. of Brownsville 13 May (JH, KCh) and a dozen or more singing in Timberhill Natural Area 11 Jun (LM). A good place to see these vivid birds at FNWR is between Woodpecker Loop and the Ray Bentley Overlook at FNWR (PRz).

Western Meadowlarks sang thru the period on the North Prairie where they regularly nest. On 31 May one sang near Cheldelin, possibly from a large field along NE Conser St in Corvallis (LM, DBo); however it did not seem to stick around when MG checked that spot a few days later. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were seen regularly at FNWR; a female visited at PSTP 11 May (HH) and a male sang from Diamond Hill wetlands 13 May (JH).

Bullock's Orioles continued to arrive with one at BHF 3 May (BPr) and three at PSTP 3 May (HH). Pairs were building nests near FNWR HQ 22 May (MMo).

Well over 100 **Red Crossbills** were on the OSU campus 14 May, with many continuing thru 27 May but gone by 11 Jun (DBo). **Evening Grosbeaks** seemingly disappeared from OSU campus earlier, by 27 May (DBo).

A Black-tailed Deer doe licked a shiny newborn fawn and another doe was close to giving birth near Fitton Green 5 Jun (RCo, PCo). A young Bobcat casually hunting along the edge of the tall grass at FNWR HQ 22 May was a highlight for an OSU Master Naturalist class, watching through the sliding glass doors. A Black-tailed Jackrabbit was near the intersection of Bruce Rd. and Bellfountain Rd. 29 Apr (BPt).

Monarch butterflies made a stronger than usual showing, perhaps due to drought conditions south of us. Three were in separate locations 7 Jun (HB; LM); one was near Chintimini Park 8 Jun (DBo); a pair mating on milkweed at EEW 15 Jun (MSt). Six were in various places in n. Benton Co. as of 23 Jun (DBi), and at least 5 turned up at Corvallis Airport by 25 Jun (RMO).

The next Chat will be in September. Watch for more fledglings and post-breeding wanderers as well as southbound shorebirds. Please post your reports to the Mid-Valley birding list at midvalleybirding.org, e-mail them to me at joel.geier@peak.org, or call (541) 745-5821 by 25 Aug.

2015 BIRDATHON RESULTS

The 15th Annual Birdathon was successful as always, with nine teams participating. Together we covered Corvallis and surrounding areas, the coast and the Rogue Valley and raised about \$4000, bringing total earnings over the years to nearly \$68,000. These funds go directly to Hesthavn Nature Center, and will be used for routine maintenance, as well as future larger projects, such as roof replacement.

We again this year had group pledges specifically for motorless birdathons, from Joel Geier, Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank- we appreciate their generosity! Bill Proebsting on his bicycle and Ann Brodie's team on foot responded to this challenge. Bill bicycled on two days, covering Finley and nearby parks, and detected 105 species. Ann and her team detected 42 species in a neighborhood walk in Timberhill. The weather, in this unusually dry and sunny spring was not a deterrent, for once!

We also had a general group sponsor for all the teams, with Elsie Eltzroth continuing the 15 year family tradition. Thank you so much, Elsie! Several other people contributed to numerous teams.

The other teams this year were Dodie and John Wilson and Mary Van Brocklin; Jamie Simmons; Hendrik Herlyn and Oscar Harper; Jim Philipson; the ASC Rogue Valley field trip, led by Fred Ramsey; Pam and Randy Comeleo; and Karan and Jim Fairchild.

And finally, of course, we heartily thank everyone who sponsored a team. Hesthavn is a thriving nature center and native plant and wildlife sanctuary largely because of your generosity!

Karan Fairchild,



ASC TEAMS WITH CHINTIMINI WILDLIFE CENTER

On May 1, 2015, ASC hosted its second annual fun day for adults with disabilities. This event was held at Chintimini Wildlife center, which was having an Open House as part of Natural Areas Week, complete with live animal displays. The Chintimini wildlife program made for a special day for the group from Homelife, a Corvallis based nonprofit that operates eight group homes for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

ASC volunteers and Chintimini specialists escorted the happy group to view eagles, falcons and owls. Demonstrations of falcons flying were especially fascinating. The program was complemented by refreshments served by Pam Wald and Jody Gaylord. The final event was the planting of a local tree, to commemorate the occasion. Outing organizer John Gaylord stated, "It was a pleasure working with executive director Jeff Picton and the staff at Chintimini." We appreciate the volunteer time of ASC members Suzanne Ortiz, Pam Wald, Peter and Stacy Moore, John and Jody Gaylord.

John Gaylord

Photos by Peter Moore



board meeting will be July 30, following a potluck dinner at 5 pm at ASC's Hesthavn Nature Center.

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.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CHAT

Chris Matthews, Fred Ramsey, Bill Proebsting, Joel Geier, Karan Fairchild, John Gaylord, Gail Nickerson Suzanne Ortiz, Teri Engbring

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. Please submit text using Microsoft Word to: chateditors@gmail.com

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF
CORVALLIS

CALENDAR

July 30	ASC Board Meeting, 5 pm at Hesthavn
Aug 25	Sept. CHAT Field Notes submissions due
Aug 27	Sept. CHAT submissions due
Sept 12	Ankeny NWR Half-Day field trip
Sept 17	ASC General Meeting at Chin-timini Senior Center, 2601 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis

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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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