



THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

NOVEMBER 2015

VOL. 45 #3

NOVEMBER PROGRAM:

GARDENING FOR BIODIVERSITY

OSU PROFESSOR GAIL LANGELLOTTA



A 2014 study out of the University of Illinois, Chicago, found that bee biodiversity actually increases as human population density increases. This is the first instance where humans are known to have a positive impact on biodiversity, and it is all because of gardeners. More people = more gardens = more flowers = more bees. In this talk, Prof Langellotto will explore what we know, from published research, about the capacity of home and community gardens to conserve biodiversity of organisms such as birds, bees and other beneficial insects. She will offer specific recommendations, based upon this research, on what gardeners can do to conserve biodiversity.

Gail Langellotto is an Associate Professor of Horticulture and the Statewide Coordinator of the Extension Master Gardener Program at Oregon State University. An entomologist by training, she has spent many years studying how spiders' and insects' behaviors either promote or inhibit natural pest control. However, when she started feeling bad about forcing spiders to eat each other or wasps to duel to the death, she switched to the less ghastly subject of bees and pollination. Because of her love of insects, she maintains a keen interest in understanding how insecticides impact non-target, beneficial insects, and does her best to pass this

knowledge along to the general public via Oregon's 4,100+ Master Gardener volunteers.

Social hour begins at 6:30, with the chapter meeting starting at 7:00 and the program starting at about 7:30 pm.

Bill Proebsting, Vice Pres. & Program Chair,
proebstw@gmail.com

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM:
December 17: Member slide night

2015 ANNUAL APPEAL

The end of the calendar year is at hand and it's time to kick off the 2015 ASC Annual Appeal! This is a great opportunity to show your support for ASC and its committed group of volunteers.

Your donation can go to the **ASC General Fund** or you can designate a specific committee.

Education is an important focus for ASC. Our Education Team is already preparing for the second annual Winter Wildlife Field Day at Finley National Wildlife Refuge in March. They also have filled every class next spring in a collaborative project with OSU that will bring middle school classes to Hesthavn to study the stream ecology and hydrology of Oak Creek. Busloads of local students will enjoy hands on learning at our Nature Center.

The **Hesthavn Nature Center Committee** volunteers work hard to maintain trails, plantings and buildings on our site for hundreds of visitors (human and wildlife) throughout the year.

Our **Conservation Committee** works on a variety of projects & collaborative efforts that help to conserve & protect habitat and wildlife and work to stem the impact of climate change. Audubon Society of Corvallis works on sustainability issues & is a partner organization of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.

Our **Bluebird Trail Committee**, in existence since 1976, has an active group of volunteers who continue to play an important role in the conservation of the Western Bluebird.

ASC GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Nov 19
7:00-8:30 pm

At New Location:
Chintimini Senior Center,
2601 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis
Thank you to everyone who has helped set up chairs at 6:15 and take them down afterwards.

In This Issue

- President's Corner 18
- Field Trips..... 18
- Conservation Corner 18
- ASC Education News..... 18-19
- Hesthavn News 19
- Field Notes 19-22
- Community Notes 22
- Board Meeting Summary 22
- Community Notes 22
- Climate Change & Birds... 22-23
- Olympic Birdfest 23
- Corvallis CBC 23
- Membership Corner 23
- Contributors to this CHAT 23
- Calendar..... 24

This November, every ASC member will receive a hard copy of our newsletter with an envelope insert. The envelopes serve multiple purposes. You can use them to make a donation, purchase a gift membership for family and friends, and for your membership renewals. You can also go the ASC website and use Paypal to donate or renew: www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

With your continued support, and the considerable efforts of our team of volunteers, 2016 will be another successful year for ASC!

Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Membership Chair

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BIRD EVOLUTION

The December 12, 2014, issue of Science contained ten massive articles, with a total of more than one hundred authors that described the application of molecular biological analysis to the classification of birds. The author whose name appeared on most of the papers was Erich D. Jarvis, a professor of neurology at Duke University Medical Center. Why, you might ask, would a neurobiologist be interested in bird evolution? Well, some of the most interesting papers in that issue of Science described investigations of the evolutionary route by which birds acquired the ability to sing.

Now, in the October 5 issue of Current Biology, Jarvis has teamed with two coauthors to blend the genomic analysis with classical evolutionary biology and properties of recently discovered fossils, to summarize our current understanding of bird evolution in nine pages plus 114 references (S. L. Brusatte, J. K. O'Connor, and E. D. Jarvis, "The Origin and Diversification of Birds" (2015) Current Biology 25, R888–R898). The authors state definitively that birds evolved from dinosaurs during the Jurassic period more than 150 million years ago and developed their body plan over tens of millions of years. Capability of flight and metabolic adaptation progressed during the Jurassic and Cretaceous. Like all other organisms, including dinosaurs, birds suffered mass extinction during the end-Cretaceous period (see E. Kolbert, The Sixth Extinction). Explosive diversification occurred thereafter, leading to the approximately 10,000 bird species alive today, from the 2-gram tiny bee hummingbird to the 140,000-gram ostrich.

This article is easily read by nonscientists. The article was published with an Open Access feature, which means that I can send a pdf to any Auduboner who requests a copy by e-mail.

Chris Mathews, ASC President

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

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 <http://www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/>, a couple of days before the field trip for up-

dates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Return to Benton Center by noon.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Nov 14 Finley NWR and Philomath Sewage Treatment Ponds
We will focus on the Prairie Overlook and Cabell Marsh (via Homer Campbell Trail) and finish at PSTP.

Bill Proebsting

CONSERVATION CORNER

CORVALLIS AUDUBON CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

We enjoy accomplishing our goals, short or longer term. The key is setting attainable goals using achievable actions. Just like a daily task list, successful conservation efforts rely on this as well, but they also require long-term effort in concert with others.

Nationally, Audubon is rebuilding its conservation network—through Chapters, State and regional alliances, along with National Audubon Society and its many conservation partners. Beside our Chapter's local concerns in Benton and Linn counties, Oregon Audubon Chapters meet every fall to prioritize state-level conservation priorities for the year. And they have a chance to discuss those priorities in the context of the Pacific Flyway region of Audubon activities, outside monthly nationwide Audubon conference calls.

Over the coming months, we'll be focusing our energy on our goals listed below, where we can help make a difference in the coming year. Along with newsletter articles, we'll be letting you know when and what actions you can take that will really make a difference on these issues important to our Audubon Chapter.

- Willamette Valley Grassland Birds in Serious Decline: Streaked Horned Lark & Oregon Vesper Sparrow
- Marbled Murrelet Habitat: Local Ocean and Forest Protections for a Seabird
- Lead Ammunition: How Poisoning Raptors and Their Relatives is Unnecessary
- Clean Water Act Implementation: Oregon Forest Practices Act Reform Badly Needed
- Lake Abert and Klamath Refuges: Water for Wildlife, plus Local Benefits
- Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Reform: Towards Recognizing its Larger Constituency

Besides these issues, our daily actions impact our climate, energy consumption here and abroad, and the living world around us.

Thank you for your actions towards conservation issues you care about, and also for joining the efforts of ASC and the Audubon conservation network.

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair

ASC EDUCATION NEWS

WINTER WILDLIFE FIELD DAY

Last March our super team of volunteers put together a fun, interactive educational event at the Finley National Wildlife Refuge called Winter Wildlife Field Day (WWFD). Over 300 young



participants and 20 volunteers joined us to build nest boxes, hike, observe wildlife, learn and explore Nature.

The event was the brainchild of OSU Forestry student Jeremy Felty, who returns as event coordinator, for a new March 12, 2016 program. Jeremy and ASC Ed team members, Jessica Brothers and Teri Engbring, and the new Visitor Service Manager at Finley, Samantha Bartling, form the 2016 WWFD steering committee.

Preparations start now for the 2016 WWFD. All potential event volunteers are invited to a kick-off meeting on Friday, Nov 6, from noon to 1:30, at the Market of Choice (Ninth and Circle) in their upstairs meeting room. We hope to collectively outline the program with 6-8 activity stations, and put together small groups to flush out each activity. Help is needed both in planning and/or on event day, so you will be appreciated and supported in whatever role you choose. Market of Choice allows no outside food or drinks, but there are lots of lunch options available downstairs if you wish to bring it into the meeting.

Please help us get the ball rolling on Nov 6 or feel free to share your ideas with one of the steering committee members. Contact information is on the back page of the CHAT for Jessica and Teri, and Samantha below.

INTRODUCING SAMANTHA BARTLING

Finley, Ankeny and Basket Slough are your local National Wildlife Refuges. My job as the Visitor Services Manager, is to introduce people to the refuge, and give them the opportunity to give us their time and talents. I'm a facilitator, too, of environmental education, interpretation, trail and facility maintenance, learning opportunities, and outreach for events, and programs. I want to inspire wonder, care and love of these refuge lands. I'll be pouring my heart, passion and energy into rebuilding the visitor services program over the coming months. I can be reached via email at samantha_bartling@fws.gov, or by phone at 541-757-7236, ext 214. I am so looking forward to working with everyone!

-Samantha

MICHELLE SHULA LEAVES ASC ED

Michelle Shula, who has been an integral part of the ASC education team for over 4 years, has resigned from the ASC Education program. In her official resignation letter she noted that "I have decided to focus solely on my family and will no longer be doing education with Audubon." We appreciate her many contributions to our program and wish her well. Please contact continuing team members Jessica Brothers or Teri Engbring if you have questions about ASC Ed programs or would like to volunteer.

Teri Engbring

HESTHAVN NEWS

Blackberry grubbing is not for the faint of heart. It is hard work and fraught with perils. Those thorns are sharp! I have had OSU students from Steve Cook's GEO 300 class come out and work on many previous work parties, but I had been hesitant to sic them on the blackberries. It seemed like too much to ask. Then came the email from Steve: "I can't help but notice that the Hesthavn fence along the road is seriously overgrown with blackberries". He suggested that I have some GEO 300 students come work on them! With that encouragement from the man

himself, I submitted a blackberry grubbing work party proposal and (no surprise) it got accepted.

So on Sunday, Oct 18, the troops gathered and we set out to destroy the enemy. The gang was up to the task and there were no complaints despite the hard work and many scratches. Well... maybe a couple of complaints, but generally they were up to the task and we cleared about half the length of the road-side. Many thanks to Cody Lavorico, Dylan Kidd, Thomas Mason, Kayla Davis, and Alex Leahy for their hard work and good humor.

Ray Drapek

FIELD NOTES

9/23/15-10/27/15

Late September and early October brought further but still slight relief from the summer drought, with a total of about an inch and a quarter of rain in Corvallis. In between showers, the weather continued to be warmer than normal, with six days above 80° F up to 15 Oct when the thermometer reached 82° F.

Nighttime temperatures finally dipping in the last week of the period, with a low of 37° F but still no frost on 23 Oct. By the end of the period, those native oaks, cottonwoods and maples that stayed green despite the summer drought were showing fall colors and dropping leaves. A heavy cone crop was reported for western hemlocks on Marys Peak (LPN), though many Douglas-firs were lacking in cones.

Locations: ANWR = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), BHF: Bald Hill Farm, BSNWR = Baskett Slough NWR, DF = Dunn Forest, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, Eicher pond (informal name) is a flooded former gravel quarry off of Eicher Rd east of Albany, FNWR = William L. Finley NWR, LSNA = Luckiamute State Natural Area, MDF = McDonald Forest, PSTP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds, TCP = Teloh-Calapooia Park in Albany, TWG = Talking Water Gardens in Albany. Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at FNWR.

Observers: AFo: Andrea Foster, BPe: Becky Peterson, BPr: Bill Proebsting, BTi: Bill Tice, BW: Brandon Wagner, CCE: Caleb Centanni, CHI: Carol Hiler, DBo: Don Boucher, DEM: Deanna Emig, DFx: Darrel Faxon, DI: Dave Irons, DRo: Doug Robinson, ECe: Evan Centanni, EKn: Erik Knight, EsE: Elsie Eltzroth, EPr: Eric Pratt, FrK: Frank Kolwicz, HB: Howard Bruner, HH: Hendrik Herlyn, IDz: Isaac Denzer, JCe: Jim Centanni, JDS: Jim Smith, JF: Jeff Fleischer, JGe: Joel Geier, JGEMS: Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School students, JGi: Julie Gibson, JH: Jeff Harding, JHi: Jim Hiler, JJ: Jarod Jebousek, JLi: Judy List, JLy: Jesse Laney, JMa: John Matthews, JPh: Jim Philipson, JrP: Jerry Paul, JSc: Jake Schas, JSi: Jamie Simmons, JTh: John Thomas, JuP: Judith Paul, KMa: Kerry Mammone, LFi: Linda Fink, LHa: Linda Hadfield, LM: Lisa Millbank, LPN: Lars Norgren, MAu: Mahogany Aulenbach, MB: Mark Baldwin, MC: Marcia F. Cutler, MLe: Matt Lee, MLI: Mike Lippsmeyer, MLK: Maureen Leong-Kee, MMC: Monica McCrady, MMo: Molly Monroe, MRa: Mitch Ratzlaff, NBa: Nancy Baumeister, OH: Oscar Harper, PBr: Pete Brandstetter, PCo: Pam Comeleo, PLi: Peter List, PO: Pam Otley, PRE: Pam Reid, PRz: Paul Rentz, PTS: Paul Sullivan, RAd: Rich Adney, RCa: Randy Campbell, RCo: Randy Comeleo, RFo: Rana Foster, RHu: Robert Hunter, RMo: Randy Moore, RSy: Rita Snyder, SHg: Susan Hatlevig, SuB: Susan Brown, TrB: Trent Bray, VSt: Virginia Stanton, WW: Will Wright.

Other abbreviations: (e) = reports found in eBird database;

e.o.p. = end of period; juv. = juvenile, imm. = immature, m. obs. = many observers, R. = river.

Following the main passage of **Greater White-fronted Geese** 20-22 Sep, smaller flocks were reported including at 10 BSNWR 28 Sep (MLK) and a few at Foster Res. 7 Oct (BTi). 13 **Snow Geese** dropped in on the PSTP 26 Sep (DRo); singles were at BSNWR 28 Sep thru 1 Oct (MLK, m. obs.) and on Foster Res. 7 Oct (BTi).

Cackling Goose flocks at the mid-valley NWRs swelled to hundreds by 27 Sep (EKn; MLK).

A **Wood Duck** was on Marys River at Herbert Natural Area 21 Oct (RFo). Five **Gadwall** were on Foster Res. 24 Oct (Chuck Gates). Wintering flocks of **American Wigeon** grew with 40 at BSNWR 27 Sep, along with 160 **Mallards** (EKn).

Two **Cinnamon Teal** were still at TWG 7 Oct (BTi, JF). Wintering flocks of **Northern Shovelers**, **Northern Pintails**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **Ring-necked Ducks** continued to build in numbers wherever they could find water (m. obs.).

On 25 Sep, Big Lake in the Santiam Pass area held two **Greater Scaup**, three **Lesser Scaup**, a **Surf Scoter**, five **Ruddy Ducks**, and a few **Common Mergansers** and **Barrow's Goldeneyes** (JH). At lower elevations, most reports of diving ducks came from artificial lakes and ponds. A **Canvasback** swam on Eicher pond 7 Oct (BTi, JF). A **Greater Scaup** was at Philomath STP 2 Oct (BTi). A female **Surf Scoter** and a young female **Long-tailed Duck** turned up there 27 Oct (MB, WW, m. obs.). Ten **Buffleheads** were on Philomath STP 17-18 Oct and numbers had doubled by 24 Oct (LPN). Several **Ruddy Ducks** were on Eicher pond 7 Oct (BTi, JF).

Migrant **Common Loons** included three on Foster Res. 23 Sep (DI), two there 7 Oct (BTi), and one calling as it circled around Philomath STP 25 Oct, then flew on toward the east (PO). Four species of grebes were on Big Lake 25 Sep: a **Pied-billed Grebe**, a **Horned Grebe**, three **Eared Grebes**, and three **Western Grebes** (JH). Foster Res. had two **Horned**, one **Eared**, and 25 **Western Grebes** on 7 Oct (BTi, JF). The count of **Eared Grebes** at PSTP swelled from five on 2 Oct (BTi) to 25 on 11 Oct and 50 on 24 Oct (LPN).

One **American White Pelican** lingered at Cabell Marsh 29 Sep (WW). A late **American Bittern** and a **Green Heron** were still at TWG 11 Oct (RHu). 60 **Great Egrets** roosted along with 10 **Great Blue Herons** near BSNWR 29 Sep (FrK).

87 migrant **Turkey Vultures** soared across the Willamette in Albany 28 Sep (DEm). Stragglers included one over Corvallis 23 Oct and four over FNWR 24 Oct (KMa). A late **Osprey** was at BSNWR 27 Sep (EKn). Up to three **White-tailed Kites** (two adults and one imm.) were at Finley, 24 Sep thru e.o.p., mainly at the prairie overlook (WW, m. obs.) but one was at Cabell Marsh 18 Oct (CHi, JHi). An imm. **Northern Goshawk** was at FNWR 2 Oct (BTi).

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** that buzzed feeders near TCP 24 Sep passed right by a **Downy Woodpecker** that froze in plain sight on a suet feeder. On 25 Oct possibly the same hawk landed in a tree, oblivious to a female Downy just two feet down. After the woodpecker drilled on the branch and a brief standoff ensued, the sharpie dove down but was dodged by the woodpecker (JDS).

Red-shouldered Hawks continue to show up in new places, including one in Cascadia 4 Oct (TrB) and one along Peoria Rd. 25 Oct (PBr). Two continuing at BHF were a highlight of a Naturalist Adventure 18 Oct (fide DB). A **Ferruginous Hawk** perched briefly along the Willamette R. at Peoria 27 Sep (RCa). Good



Downy Woodpecker photo by Matt Lee

numbers of **Rough-legged Hawks** arrived including one s. of Philomath 6 Oct (LPN), a dark morph se. of Albany 7 Oct (BTi, JF), seven along Airport Rd. s. of Corvallis 18 Oct (LPN), and one hovering as it hunted over a grass field along the Polk/Benton Co. line near the Camp Adair Rifle Range 23 Oct (MC).

Three **Virginia Rails** and a **Sora** were at TWG 11 Oct (RHu). A **Sora** was still there 21 Oct (AFo); two more were seen in Brooklane 24 Oct (EPr). Southbound **Sandhill Crane** flocks passed over Silverton 14-22 Oct (JTh, PRe).

A **Spotted Sandpiper** was still along the Santiam R. at House Rock in mid-Sep (RFo). **Greater Yellowlegs** continued to be seen on area wetlands thru e.o.p. Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** napped at Cabell Marsh 27 Sep (PTS). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Lost Lake 25 Sep (JH) was rare for the Cascades; another plus two **Western Sandpipers** were at PSTP 4 Oct (WW). **Long-billed Dowitcher** flocks continued at Finley thru e.o.p.; a possible **Short-billed Dowitcher** was also reported there 20 Oct but with scant details (e).

With most wetlands still dry, a few arriving **Wilson's Snipe** turned to lawns as relatively moist places to forage, in the Witham Hill area 8 Oct (LHa) and in Stonybrook Village 16 Oct where one called softly as it walked through the rhododendrons (RSy, EsE).

Twelve **Bonaparte's Gull** were at PSTP 25 Oct (HH); a **Ring-billed Gull** was there 26 Sep (DRo). A flock of 20 **large gulls** flew s. from Coffin Butte landfill 27 Sep (JGe). A remarkable count of 51 **Caspian Terns** were at PSTP early on 26 Sep (DRo) but just 4 stayed into the afternoon (MB).

A **Barn Owl** tended at least three fledglings 7 Oct under the railroad overpass in n. Corvallis, where nestlings were heard begging since late Aug (LM, DBo). Another called in NW Corvallis 11 & 24 Oct (JSi). **Western Screech-Owls** sang at Hesthavn 30 Sep and 7 Oct (JGi) and in TCP 26 Oct (JDS).

Great Horned Owls were heard more often as the early stages of winter courtship began (m. obs.). **Northern Pygmy-Owls** called in Witham Hill Natural Area in Corvallis 28 Sep (HH), at Hesthavn several times in Oct and near Lewisburg Saddle 23 Oct (JGi). **Burrowing Owls** turned up on private land near FNWR 8 Oct (JJ) and in w. Linn Co. 12 Oct (RAD). A pair of **Barred Owls** called frequently thru Oct on Witham Hill (JGi).

170 **Vaux's Swifts** roosted in a chimney at 30th and Jefferson in Corvallis 26 Sep (NBa). Two **Anna's Hummingbirds** harassed

a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** soaring high above Tampico Ridge, until it left the area (JGe). A male Anna's displayed regularly in nw Corvallis thru 20 Oct (AFo). A **Belted Kingfisher** caught a crayfish along the Luckiamute River at LSNA 16 Oct (BTi).

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** was recorded at the Finley prairie overlook 16 Oct (e). A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** tended sap wells in NW Corvallis 19 Oct (AFo); another sallied after a flying insect near TCP 25 Oct (JDS). **Hairy Woodpeckers** and **Downy Woodpeckers** both patronized an English walnut tree near EEW in early Oct, pecking out the contents – nuts or grubs? Two "Red-shafted" x "Yellow-shafted" **intergrade Northern Flickers** were near Samaritan Hospital 21 Oct (ECe).

After being struck hard by a **Pileated Woodpecker** that attacked his bright red cap 20 Oct, a man picking grapes from a friend's arbor s. of Philomath decided that he didn't need any more grapes (fide VSt).

A **Merlin** zoomed through a n. Corvallis yard 23 Sep, scaring starlings and flickers (DB, LM). One plucked a small songbird atop an oak snag in Highland Dell 6 Oct (JuP, JrP). A pale "**prairie**" **Merlin** was photographed 26 Oct at Stewart Lake (JSi). Another **Merlin** chased a **Peregrine Falcon** across the sky over Sunset Park 18 Oct (DB, LM).

Lingering flycatchers found by BPr included a **Western Wood-Pewee** and a **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** at LSNA 29 Sep, another **Pacific-slope** and an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in Dunn Forest 1 Oct, and a probable **Hammond's Flycatcher** in Dunn Forest 3 Oct. A **Black Phoebe** was at Finley 18 Oct (MAu). A vocal **Great Crested Flycatcher** found along Thornton Creek in the Lincoln Co. coast range 26-28 Oct (DFx, m. obs.) was the first of this species to be documented in Oregon.

A **Northern Shrike** was at FNWR 24 Oct (RHu); two called as they interacted n. of McFadden Marsh 27 Oct (BPr, MLe).

A **Hutton's Vireo** and **Brown Creepers** were along the Mulkey Ridge Trail 18 Oct (Naturalist Adventure fide DB). A late **Warbling Vireo** visited Peoria 24 Sep (RCa). Five **Clark's Nutcrackers** were on the west side of Three Fingers Jack 19 Oct (JSc).

Migrant swallows included 140 **Barn Swallows** at BSNWR 27 Sep and 15 at ANWR 11 Oct (EKn), 40 **Tree Swallows** in Peoria 2 Oct (RCa) and five at Cabell Marsh 3 Oct (IDz), and seven **Violet-green Swallows** at PSTP 4 Oct (WW).

Mountain Chickadees – normally an interior species – spilled into the Willamette Valley in mid- Oct. Local sightings included one that was probably heard several days before it was seen on Witham Hill 21 Oct (HH), plus reports from downtown Corvallis 17 Oct, Cabell Marsh & barn 21-22 Oct, and on the OSU campus 23 Oct (e). Two visited a feeder w. of Monmouth 24 Oct thru e.o.p. (CCe, ECe, JCe). **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** also showed up in some unaccustomed places around Corvallis, though not so far out of range (DBo; PRz). A **White-breasted Nuthatch** along the Pacific Crest Trail near Three Fingers Jack 19 Oct (JSc) was unusual for that elevation.

A late **House Wren** was seen and heard in Willamette Park 15 Oct (JLy), near where one was seen a few days earlier (MMo). **Pacific Wrens** showed up in Corvallis and Peoria by 7-8 Oct. A **Marsh Wren** called at TWG 11 Oct (RHu).

A nearly torpid **Golden-crowned Kinglet** clung to a plastic fenced near Chip Ross Park on the morning of 28 Sep, but had warmed up enough to fly away within an hour (DEm). **Ru-by-crowned Kinglets** were widespread by e.o.p.

Western Bluebirds visited a building site west of Philomath in mid-Oct (ESe). Some were at BHF 18 Oct (fide DB). A male **Mountain Bluebird** was photographed sw of Philomath 29 Sep

(fide SuB). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was seen again on the West Ridge of Marys Peak 24 Sep (LPN).

Swainson's Thrushes were heard daily in nw. Corvallis thru 29 Sep when one was found dead alongside a **Band-tailed Pigeon** at a feeder 29 Sep, both possibly frightened by an accipiter (SHg). One was on Marys Peak 6 Oct (LPN); another was near BSNWR 11 Oct (FrK). A few nocturnal migrants were heard thru 18 Oct near Dallas (MRa). Meanwhile **Hermit Thrushes** began to show up with four at Witham Hill 29 Sep (HH). A **Varied Thrush** sang on Witham Hill 28 Sep (HH); a male and female visited Stonybrook 16 Oct (ESe, RSY). A **Northern Mockingbird** was seen briefly at the Finley prairie 22 Oct (BPr).

Four **American Pipits** were at Herbert Natural Area 29 Sep (JGe). 250 were se of Albany 7 Oct (BTi, JF) and more were at Finley 18 Oct (MAu). More than 200 were along De Armond Rd in s. Polk Co. 17-23 Oct, often perching up on wires (JGe; MC).

Many **Cedar Waxwings** including juvs. were near TCP 22 Sep (JDS). Many fed on both insects and cherries in the College Hill neighborhood 22 Sep (LPN). Hundreds feasted on Portuguese laurels in nw Corvallis 29 Sep (SHg). Large flocks continued at EEW thru e.o.p.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** and a **Yellow Warbler** were on the West Ridge of Marys Peak 24 Sep (LPN). The last **Yellow Warbler** report of the season was a hatch-year female photographed near Lewisburg 18 Oct (KMa). A late **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was at PSTP 5 Oct (LPN).

"**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warblers** continued to arrive with one near TCP 24 Sep (JDS) and many in the LSNA south unit 2 Oct (JGEMS). "**Myrtle**" **Warblers** were also showing up by e.o.p. A **Common Yellowthroat** was still at Herbert Natural Area 29 Sep (JGe). A late migrant **Yellow-breasted Chat** struck a window near Corvallis Airport 2 Oct (MMc).

Several **Chipping Sparrows** were in TCP 26 Sep. **Savannah Sparrow** were noted in migrant situations including one at TWG 11 Oct (RHu). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was photographed 30 Sep at PSTP (MB).

"**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrows** continued to arrive in wintering habitat, with some continuing south as migrants. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at PSTP 28 Sep (LPN); many were in EEW by e.o.p. A **Swamp Sparrow** called sw of Corvallis 15 Oct (BPr).

Wintering flocks of **Golden-crowned Sparrows** continued to arrive, with noticeably increasing in numbers in Highland Dell thru 10 Oct (JuP, JrP). A **White-throated Sparrow** was at PSTP 27-28 Sep (WW; LPN). Another was at Witham Hill 29 Sep (HH), one was in Peoria 30 Sep (RCa), and several were at EEW 6 Oct (BPr, JPh). One gleaned seeds under blackberry bushes in Highland Dell 10 Oct (JuP, JrP). Three were at LSNA 27 Oct (JGe).

A "**Slate-colored**" **Dark-eyed Junco** was at PSTP 7 Oct (LPN). A **Lapland Longspur** was recorded along with a flock of 28 **Horned Larks** at Corvallis Airport 23 Oct (RMO). A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was photographed in south Salem 1 Oct (JMa), raising hopes that one might find its way to the Corvallis-Albany area as has happened during fall in some previous years..

Western Meadowlarks were seen in more places as wintering flocks began to arrive from inland areas.

Purple Finches began to show up in neighborhoods where they were absent in the nesting season, including two pairs in Highland Dell 6 Oct (JuP, JrP) and two turned in the Skyline West neighborhood of Corvallis 7 Oct (PLi, JLi).

40 **Red Crossbills** fed on western hemlock cones on Marys Peak 6 Oct (LPN). A **Pine Siskin** called as it flew over S. Corvallis 23 Sep (LM). More were heard at Witham Hill 29 Sep (HH). Two

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

OCTOBER 8, 2015 ASC BOARD MEETING

The October ASC board meeting was held at Fred Ramsey's house. The Aquatic Ecology program will continue next spring at Hesthavn. The budget for 2015-2016 was approved. The Christmas Bird Count will be December 15th at a location to be announced later. The next board meeting will be November 12th at Chris Mathews' house.

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.



*Rough-legged Hawk
photo by Matt Lee*

visited a feeder near TCP 12 Oct and over twenty were there by 20 Oct (JDS). Hundreds of **American Goldfinches** flocked to feeders in NW Corvallis as of 29 Sep (SHg).

Dozens of **Red-spotted Garter Snakes** swimming and hunting for **bullfrog** pollywogs in drying-up pond s. of Monmouth 22 Sep reminded MLI of a scene from an Indiana Jones movie.

A very dark **Western Fence Lizard** blended well with the basalt rocks of Pigeon Butte at FNWR 7 Oct (HB).

Five or six **Dusky-footed Woodrats** discovered that the compost bins at the EPA office in Corvallis were full of tasty things to eat by 21 Oct (PCo, RCo). An **Elk** herd running through fields into the bottomlands at Finley 18 Oct was a spectacular sight (MAu).

Black Bears visited apple and pear trees along the edge of the Polk Co. coast range 3 Oct (LFI). Smaller omnivores, **Raccoons**, seem to be very abundant on Witham Hill this fall, often bickering and squalling in the night (JGi).

On 2 Oct four **River Otters** played in a pond in the south unit of LSNA, where **Coyote** scat showed that sweet corn was also on the menu for omnivores (JGEMS bioblitz).

November should bring more wintering waterfowl including swans to our area, along with more raptors and sparrows. So long as the unusually mild fall weather continues, it could be interesting to watch to see if swallows and other insectivore songbirds linger longer than usual.

Please post your observations 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 24 Nov.

COMMUNITY NOTES

KEN HILTON, 1948-2015

Ken Hilton, a long-time supporter of ASC died October 5 after a two-year battle with cancer. Ken was born in Chicago and, after serving in the Air Force in Vietnam, earned three degrees from Oregon State. He worked as a forest surveyor and as an engineer and manager for ODOT. Prior to retiring, he bought the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Corvallis and began birding as well. It was via his ownership of WBU that Ken supported ASC and other bird-related projects. WBU remains owned and managed by Ken's widow, Norma Taylor, and their son, Brian.

Bill Proebsting

CHECK OUT WILD GOOSE NATURE STORE

The Friends group at Finley National Wildlife Refuge operates a gem of a nature store in their headquarters building every Friday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. ASC shares many of the Wild Goose volunteers who operate the shop. It features a wide selection of field guides and fun education tools, children's books and toys, jewelry, nature themed housewares and clothing. Help the refuge and find unique nature-themed gifts for the holidays at Wild Goose at 26210 Finley Refuge Rd, Corvallis, 97333.

Lena Proebsting

CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS BIRDS, BUT YOU CAN HELP STOP IT

We've all heard the warnings, becoming more dire every year. What is new is the emergence of viable solutions. Today, in Corvallis and around the world, people are joining together to combat climate change. I'd like to invite you to help, on behalf of birds and other living things.

The National Audubon Society's 2014 Report on Birds and Climate Change <http://climate.audubon.org> states that climate change is the single greatest threat to North American birds. According to this assessment, 314 North American bird species could lose more than half their current ranges by 2080 due to rising temperatures. Yet the Audubon report is not simply another grim warning. It is also an urgent call to action to prevent a major bird extinction crisis. Along with working to protect individual bird populations and species, Audubon asks members to work to slow the pace of warming by pushing for solutions from elected officials. I'm writing to tell you about one such solution you may not know about.

Solutions at the individual level are vital, but they are not enough. If we are to stabilize the climate soon enough to keep natural systems relatively intact, we need to build political will to pass legislation that will quickly shift us off fossil fuels. To do this, we need a solution that is simple, effective, equitable, popular, nonpartisan, and will boost the economy.

Luckily, we now have such a solution, and a growing number of conservatives and liberals support it, including former Secretary of State (under President Ronald Reagan) George Schultz, and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). Rep. Peter DeFazio believes this proposal is a good one.



THIS SOLUTION IS A CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LAW. HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- A fee is placed on carbon-based fuels at the source (well, mine, port of entry).
 - This fee starts at \$15 per ton of CO2 emitted and increases steadily each year by \$10 so that clean energy is cheaper than fossil fuels within a decade.
 - ALL revenues are distributed to American households on an equal basis to offset higher energy costs.
 - Under this plan about 2/3 of all households would break even or receive more in their dividend checks than they would pay in higher prices due to the fee, thereby protecting the poor and middle class.
 - According to a study by Regional Economic Models Inc., this strategy would cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 33% in 10 years while creating 2 million jobs.
- FMI: <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/carbon-fee-and-dividend/>

Right now, the group I've been volunteering with, Citizens' Climate Lobby, has 250 chapters across the United States working to build political will for a livable world. We are educating and lobbying to pass a national carbon fee and dividend law. A similar law in British Columbia has been both effective and popular. If you would like to support this work, learn more, or join Citizens' Climate Lobby, go to <http://citizensclimatelobby.org>. Thank you!

Carla Wise, co-leader, Corvallis Citizens' Climate Lobby

OLYMPIC BIRDFEST 2016

The Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society asked us to mention their Olympic Birdfest, which will be in Sequim, WA, April 15-17, 2016. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. The featured speaker will be noted artist Tony Angell, on "Revealing the Secret Lives of Owls". Join their festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 12-14, 2016. Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon. Extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 17-19, 2016: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. BirdFest registration is at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Bob Hutchison, Olympic Peninsula Audubon

CORVALLIS CBC ON 12- 15-15

This year the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count will be held on Tuesday, December 15th, 2015. Everybody is invited to join us—and remember—participation in the count is now free.

The Christmas Bird Count is an organized, continent-wide survey which documents every bird seen on a given day from sunrise to sunset. Since the turn of the 20th century, the Christmas Bird Count has contributed to the knowledge base of wintering birds in North America.

The 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 anyone with feeders in the count circle who can spare at least one hour to watch their yard to participate. Some counts, particularly in Canada are mostly made up of feeder watchers. Even Eugene has about 30 feeder watchers compared to the 4-6 Corvallis usually gets, so there is room to grow in this area. Winter feeder watching can be rewarding as birds try to expend the least amount of energy to get the most amount of food.

The Corvallis count circle is a 7.5 mile radius centered near the Corvallis airport and is usually divided into 13 sections, with a team of 3-6 individuals assigned to each section. A link to a map of the count circle is posted on ASC's website under bird counts. Team leaders for each section will make arrangements with the rest of their group for a meeting place and time (usually between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m.) the morning of the count. Participants should bring cold-and wet-weather gear, binoculars, a scope, if you have one, and snacks for the day. A notepad and pencil or electronic recording devices, field guides, camera and a thermos with something hot are always good ideas as well.

There will be a countdown potluck held after the count, coordinated by ASC Board member Marie Martin. Information on the countdown potluck will be given to all participants and an announcement will be in the December Chat.

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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 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

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS CHAT

Bill Proebsting, Chris Mathews, Joel Geier, Jim Fairchild, Ray Drapek, Teri Engbring, Carla Wise, Bob Hutchison, Gail Nickerson, Marcia Cutler, Suzanne Ortiz, Lena Proebsting

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

| | |
|--------|---|
| Nov 6 | Winter Wildlife Field Day Planning meeting at noon at Mkt of Choice |
| Nov 12 | ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Chris Mathews house |
| Nov 14 | Half Day Field Trip to Finley & Philomath Sewage Treatment Ponds |
| Nov 19 | ASC General Meeting at Chintimini Senior Center, 2601 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis |
| Nov 24 | Field Notes submissions due |
| Nov 26 | Dec Issue CHAT submissions due |

The Chat is published 10 times a year by the Audubon Society of Corvallis, PO Box 148, Corvallis OR 97339. Annual ASC memberships are \$25 for an individual; \$35 for a family; \$15 for student; \$15 for Chat only subscriptions (email delivery only); \$50 for Supporting Level; \$100 for Patron Level; and \$200 for Benefactor Level.

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

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

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