



# THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

MAY 2016

VOL. 45 #9

## MAY PROGRAM

Thursday, May 19, 7:00-8:30 pm  
At Chintimini Senior Center:  
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th), Corvallis

## BIRDING TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BY FRED RAMSEY

Any birder who has not visited the neotropical regions of South America - but who wishes to do so - should think about how to get started. How do you prepare for a two-week jaunt through a country that boasts over 200 species of tyrant flycatcher alone and has numerous families of species you have never encountered before? A good answer is to visit Trinidad and Tobago - two islands lying a short hop off the coast of Venezuela. Stay at the world-famous Asa Wright Nature Center on Trinidad, and venture out on day trips to forests, swamps, and plains. Fred and his brother, Lee, did so on a 9-day trip to Trinidad and Tobago in April of 2015. This ASC program is an account of their adventures, illustrating many of the brilliant birds and butterflies of this wonderful spot on the earth.

A founding member of ASC, Fred Ramsey has served the club long and well. Fred is an Emeritus Professor of Statistics at OSU. He has been leading weekend field trips for many years and is currently planning his fourth month-long field trip to Australia. In addition, he is the current ASC treasurer.

Fred agreed to step in on short notice when our previously scheduled speaker developed a conflict.

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

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

**THIS CONCLUDES THE SEASON'S ASC PROGRAMS. SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER.**

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

### SECOND SATURDAY 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](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com) or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley ListServ at [www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/](http://www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/), a couple of days before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Return to Benton Center after noon.



## ASC GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, May 19  
7:00-8:30 pm  
At Chintimini Senior Center:  
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th),  
Corvallis

Thank you to everyone who helps us set up chairs at 6:15 and take them down afterwards, and to Becky Garrett for coordinating our beverages and treats.

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### NEXT HALF DAY FIELD TRIP:

**May 14. Finley NWR.** We will proceed directly to the Finley Prairie Overlook and progress across the refuge on Finley Road, visiting Cabell Marsh, Woodpecker Loop, and the HQ area. *In conjunction with Natural Areas Celebration Week, the refuge will be hosting an open house that day from 10-3. On past field trips, persons wishing to bird first and attend the open house later have driven independently.*

Bill Proebsting

### WEEKEND FIELD TRIPS FOR 2016

Our Rogue and Malheur trips - which have been Friday to Sunday and Thursday to Sunday in past years - are now Saturday to Monday and Friday to Monday respectively. Both are in May.

The Rogue Valley highlights wildflowers, spring migrants, and maybe even a Great Gray Owl. It includes a play at Ashland's Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and this will be the first time we will see a play that was actually written by Shakespeare - the delightful comedy *Twelfth Night*. There are only a few slots open on these trips, so grab them soon.

**May 7-9 Rogue Valley**

**May 20-23 Malheur NWR**

**June 10-12 Summer Lake**

**August 11-14 Steens**

**September 9-11 South Coast**

These are group affairs, where we travel in rental vans from

Enterprise, lodge at interesting facilities, and share expenses. Signup sheets are available at all ASC general meetings. You can also sign up by email to [framsey5@comcast.net](mailto:framsey5@comcast.net).

If there are parts of Oregon you want to add to the schedule, please consider organizing a tour. Assistance in the planning and execution is available.

Fred Ramsey

### BICYCLE BIRDING

Bicycle birding is a great way to cover more ground than you can on foot. You can bird by ear while you're riding, instead of missing them while driving a car. Get a little exercise and make your birding less fossil fuel-dependent!

These field trips are usually less than 10 miles and last about 3 hours. We ride slowly, listen for birds and stop frequently.

**June 26, Sunday:** E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area (Parking a car at E.E. Wilson requires a permit)

**July 24 Sunday:** Willamette Park/Kendall Natural Area

**August 28, Sunday:** Albany Bike Trails and Talking Water Gardens

**Registration is required** and space is limited. Please contact Don Boucher, [donaboucher@gmail.com](mailto:donaboucher@gmail.com) (email preferred), or call 541-753-7689. You'll receive a reminder and directions to the site a few days prior to each event for which you're registered.

Don Boucher

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### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

On Saturday, April 23, Jim Fairchild and I attended the semiannual conference of the Oregon Audubon Council (OAC) in Bandon, hosted by the Cape Arago Audubon Society. OAC Secretary Meg Ruby presided. Nine of the twelve Audubon Society chapters in Oregon were represented. We discussed progress on the conservation priorities from last fall's OAC meeting. Concern was expressed about the continuing slaughter of double-crested cormorants at the mouth of the Columbia River, ostensibly to save migrating salmon. Wildlife experts agree that this is not an effective strategy, and most of us consider the practice unnecessary and cruel. It's difficult to identify the responsible agency to apply pressure to end the practice.

Chapters were asked to describe current education activities, so I briefly described the aquatic ecology program, now being presented by our education team. Considerable interest was expressed, and Paul Engelmeyer, manager of the Audubon Ten-Mile Creek Sanctuary, asked for copies of our program materials so that he could adapt the program for educational activities there. Salem Audubon received a \$1.35 million gift to develop a nature center at a site on Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge. A bit more upscale than our Hesthavn, but there is much to be said for having our center on our own property and under our control.

Chris Mathews, ASC President

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### ASC BOARD ELECTIONS

The Board of Directors of the Audubon Society of Corvallis offers the following slate of candidates to serve in the 2016/2017 term, which begins at the summer board meeting:

**President- Chris Mathews** is currently serving ASC as President, after a two-year term as Vice President. Chris moved to Corvallis in 1978 with Kate, to assume the chairmanship of the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at OSU, after previous service on the faculties of Yale University and the University of Arizona. He retired from OSU in 2002, but continues with part-time teaching, writing, and reviewing. He served as President of ASC from 2005 to 2008. He recently retired from the board of the Great Basin Society; a nonprofit corporation that oversees Malheur Field Station.

**Vice President- Bill Proebsting** is a retired professor of horticulture at OSU and longtime bird watcher. He served on the ASC board in 2003-05 and presently leads local field trips for the chapter and serves as Program Chair. He particularly enjoys birding Benton County, but he and Lena travel periodically around the U.S. and to Latin America. He also birds by bicycle for a motorless birdathon for Hesthavn.



**Secretary- Gail Nickerson** is a native Oregonian who has lived in Corvallis for most of her life. She joined ASC after retirement to learn more about backyard birds. She has served as Refreshment Chair, board member at large and secretary.

**Treasurer- Fred Ramsey** co-founded ASC in 1970, was its first president, and served in this position again in the 1980s. He is our current Treasurer. Fred has led weekend field trips since 1971, edited the Chat and served in many other positions. As a world-traveled and respected ornithologist, his other interests include music, theatre, fishing and baseball. Fred is also Professor Emeritus of Statistics at OSU. His many publications include *Birding Oregon*, one of the first site guides, published by ASC in 1978.

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

**Jesse Laney** is the Birding Activity Chair of the OSU Bird Nerds. Jesse has lived in Oregon for 10 years, having moved to Corvallis in the summer of 2015 with his wife and son. He worked as a wildlife technician with the Port of Portland where he surveyed, trapped and relocated raptors and other avian species at PDX International Airport. He has participated in Greater Sage-Grouse monitoring at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, been a teaching assistant at Mt. Hood Community College for the Field Ornithology course, volunteered on a number of habitat restoration and Wilderness advocacy projects with the Oregon Natural Desert Association, and helped with the Winter Raptor Survey Project in the Willamette Valley. Jesse is currently a student in the Fisheries and Wildlife Dept. at OSU, continuing his education in wildlife science and the study of ornithology. He currently works as a data technician on the Oregon 2020 Project and will be working at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge this summer as an avian point count intern with Friends of Malheur. He is an active birder and enjoys sharing his love of watchable wildlife with the community, colleagues, and family.

**Mark Baldwin** has lived in Corvallis most of the time since 1981. He grew up in southeastern Washington as a frustrated upland game bird hunter. Once he decided to leave his gun at home the outings became even more enjoyable. A recreational birder for forty years, since his 2013 retirement from the Corvallis School District (Applied Tech-woodworking to engineering & robotics) he has been birding almost daily. A camera has proven to be a much more satisfying tool for "shooting" birds. He has been on the ASC Board for one year and has enjoyed working with the other volunteers on many education and conservation related projects. He has also been an active participant in the Oregon 2020 project and ASC field trips.

**Linda Campbell** moved from San Juan Island, WA, back to her native Willamette Valley in 2004. She has been active in ASC since then, primarily in the effort to get the Homer Campbell Memorial Trail boardwalk built at Finley Wildlife Refuge, and as Board secretary and Member-at-Large. Linda works at OR Department of Fish & Wildlife.

**Marie Martin** is currently serving as a Member-at-large, has been an active participant in numerous ASC field outings, fills in at the book and raffle table, and is rarely found without binoculars in hand. Recently retired as a pharmacist (you might have met her when she worked downtown at the old

Albright and Raw Pharmacy), Marie applies the same detailed attention to birding and her hobby as a fledgling wildlife artist. Formerly of Santa Cruz, CA, in 1992 she attended Pharmacy School at OSU so she could explore the natural beauty of Oregon. She is pleased to be nominated again as an at-large board member of ASC.

**Jim Parr Philipson** has been active in ASC since 2011, participating in the monthly field trips, bird-a-thon and trips to Malheur. Birding became a passion for Jim when he moved to Corvallis in 2010, with guidance from friends Bill Proebsting and Ken Hilton. He and his wife, Bonnie, recently retired as United Methodist clergy. He is active in homeless issues in Corvallis. Jim is currently serving as a member at large.

**Dave Mellinger** has served ASC in different roles for many years, acting as Conservation Chair, Vice President, board member, and member-at-large. He's interested in birding and other wildlife watching, conservation, and other outdoor recreation including camping, hiking, mountain biking, and rock climbing. He has a professional interest in marine conservation, working since the early 1990's in marine bioacoustics – studying and protecting whales using the sounds they make. He's a professor at a joint NOAA/Oregon State University laboratory in Newport.

Elections will be held at our May 19 general meeting.

*Karan Fairchild*

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## CONSERVATION CORNER

### SHEEP AND SCISSOR TAILS: IMPROVING AGRICULTURE AND BENEFITING WILDLIFE

If I were to mention that you could quadruple production from your sheep ranch, while permanently setting aside 25% of your land for salmon, wildlife and snowy plover conservation, you'd wonder how you've missed such an opportunity. Doesn't American agriculture use the most cost-effective and productive management systems in the world? If I add that you could greatly reduce livestock predation losses and eliminate the use of herbicides and fungicides, you'd simply ask where to sign-up! Successful farmers, after all, are very practical business people.

At the latest meeting of Oregon Audubon Chapters, the Oregon Audubon Council discussed how and what we all do, what's been successful, and what education resources are available. For some Chapters, conservation projects steer the education focus, while others focus on curriculum gaps in our underfunded schools. All Chapters serve as community educators. We saw an amazing integration of agriculture and wildlife conservation at a ranch on the south Oregon coast.

It takes a total commitment to keep any farm afloat through tough economic times, low commodity prices, and government as willing to restrict activities as it is to assist. Then put your fourth-generation family farm in tax-forsorn Curry County, where eight families own the ten ranches on the coast between Bandon and Port Orford: Oregon's 'dark coast'. What we saw there was inspiring, and on course for the fifth generation ranchers.

Modeling grazing practices from ungulate response to certain predation pressure, consolidated flocks are shifted daily

within movable electric fences so they must feed non-preferentially, like a lawn mower. The grazed plants maintain strong reserves from the short-duration grazing and trampling, and regrow rapidly. Even gorse, an insidious non-native, can't regain a foothold. Even without guard animals, the flocks experience almost no predation—particularly compared to neighbors losing magnitudes more.

Wildlife could coexist here mostly because marginally productive lands are allowed to do what they do best. Wetland and riparian buffers become fish hotels as well as water filters. Shallow soil slopes are sanctuaries for sparrows and ground-nesting birds feeding on an abundance of insects, forested edges are windbreaks, shade and lookouts for insectivorous birds and raptors.

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and 269 other bird species are another measure of success here, where diversity builds on itself, and sustainability is recognized by improvement.

*Jim Fairchild, Conservation Committee Chair*

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## ASC EDUCATION NEWS

Our wonderful education volunteers are busy this spring in a wide variety of roles from weekly classes at Hesthavn to scout camps and open houses. Most programs are now fully staffed, but we do need a little more help.

On May 14, for the Finley NWR Open House, we need 5-6 Volunteers, in 2 hour shifts between 10 am and 2 pm, stationed strategically along the Homer Campbell Trail, to help visitors see, identify and observe wildlife. If you can help, please email Teri at [chateditors@gmail.com](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com).

*Teri Engring, ASC Ed Team*

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## HESTHAVN NEWS

### PLEASE JOIN OUR MAY & JUNE WORK PARTIES

#### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED:

**Sunday May 15**, from 12 to 4 pm at our Hesthavn Nature Center - when we will be pulling false-brome (probably our last shot at it before it starts to form seeds, as once it forms seeds then we stay out of it, since we will likely do more harm than good by spreading the seeds); and

**Sunday May 22**, from 12 to 4 pm for a spring cleaning at the barn. GEO 300 students will be there to help out, so it will be a lively crowd. This will be the big cleaning before the open house, which will be on June 18. It's almost a month away, so we will be back in June for some final cleaning before the open house. And don't forget to join us between 10 am and 2 pm that day for lots of fun and special learning opportunities

*Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Committee Chair*

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## FIELD NOTES

### 03/25/16-04/26/16

Cloudy, mild spring weather alternated with summer-like periods, as warm as 87°F on 7 Apr and 89°F on 18 Apr, followed by a thunderstorm on 21 Apr. In the Camp Adair area, **Oregon**

**white oaks** put out leaves by 4 Apr, and **Oregon ash** followed suit by 7 Apr. In the Philomath area, **Douglas-firs** bloomed and put out clouds of pollen by 4 Apr. Native wildflowers in bloom by late Apr included **giant camas**, **common camas**, **red columbine**, **Columbian larkspur**, and **western geranium**.

**Abbreviations and locations:** NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, SNA = State Natural Area, STP = sewage treatment ponds, WA = Wildlife Area. E.E. Wilson WA is north of Adair Village. Jackson-Frazier Wetland is in north Corvallis near Cheldelin Middle School. Luckiamute SNA is along the Willamette River northwest of Albany. Philomath STP is south of Philomath and requires access permission. Teloh-Calapooia Park is in south Albany near Linn-Benton Community College, Talking Water Gardens is in NE Albany. Bruce Rd., Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** migration was noted as a flock of 300 flew north high over Airlie 18 Apr (Olin Allen), and 70 flew over Corvallis 21 Apr (Mark Baldwin). **Canada Goose** goslings began to appear by 21 Apr. 800 **Cackling Geese** staged at Finley NWR 10 Apr (Erik Knight).

Migrant **Cinnamon Teal** continued to show up in early April. **Wood Ducks** and **Hooded Mergansers** were seen occasionally on wooded ponds. **Gadwall** and **American Wigeons** were at Talking Water Gardens 1 Apr (Andrea & Greg Foster). Other continuing ducks included **Mallards**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintails**, and **Green-winged Teal**. The last reported **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Stewart Lake 30 Mar (Jamie Simmons). Diving ducks at Philomath STP 24 Apr included **Buffleheads**, **Lesser Scaup**, and **Ring-necked Ducks** (Lars Norgren).

A **Mountain Quail** called in Dunn Forest 27 Mar and a **Sooty Grouse** hooted on Marys Peak 1 Apr (Pam & Randy Comeleo). A **Ruffed Grouse** also drummed there 7 Apr (Russ Namitz). New broods of **Wild Turkeys** were near Alpine 21 Apr (Rana Foster).

Three **Common Loons**, three **Western Grebes**, and a **Horned Grebe** were on Foster Reservoir 12 Apr (Jeff Harding). 23 **American White Pelicans** circled over Bald Hill 6 Apr (Adrian Hinkle); six visited Cabell Marsh the next day (Hendrik Herlyn).

An **American Bittern** and a lingering **Great Egret** were along Bruce Rd. 16 Apr (Virginia Stanton); a bittern called there on 26 Apr (Linda Hadfield). A **Green Heron** visited Stewart Lake 21 Apr (M. Baldwin).

A **Turkey Vulture** pair near E.E. Wilson WA attempted copulation 27 Apr. Four **Ospreys** were at a nest near Irish Bend 25 Mar (Carol Hiler). One returned to the downtown Corvallis nest 28 Mar (H. Herlyn). From 15 Apr onward, an **Osprey** fishing near Peoria frequently carried fish off to the NW – perhaps to a mate on a nest, or perhaps just to eat in peace without harassment by the local **Bald Eagles** (Greg Metcalfe). On 30 Mar Paul Rentz photographed a subadult **Golden Eagle** continuing at Finley NWR.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** nabbed a **Spotted Towhee** out of a garden bed in Corvallis 7 Apr (John Tietjen, Pat Cummins). An immature **Northern Goshawk** soared over the west side of Finley NWR 17 Apr (H. Herlyn, Oscar Harper, A. Hinkle). An adult flew south over Lewisburg 21 Apr (Isaac Denzer).

A **Rough-legged Hawk** lingering at the Finley North Prairie vocalized on 1 Apr – a rare sound to hear in the Willamette Valley. 1-2 were still there 5-7 Apr (Bill Proebsting; H. Herlyn). **Red-tailed Hawks** flew in courtship flights during mid-Apr. Elsie Elzroth and Rita Snyder saw a probable **Red-shouldered Hawk** along Llewellyn Rd. w. of Muddy Creek 10 Apr.

A **Sora** and a **Virginia Rail** sang at Baskett Slough NWR 6 Apr (Frank Kolwicz). A **Virginia Rail** calling in a wetland in the s. end of E.E. Wilson WA 6 Apr seemed to be a recent arrival for that spot.

On 3 Apr two **Black-necked Stilts** turned up at Baskett Slough



NWR (Don Coggswell), where the species has nested in recent years. Seven **Black-bellied Plovers** – several of them in breeding plumage – stopped by the Philomath STP 26 Mar (H. Herlyn); three were there 5 Apr (Howard Bruner). Three were at McFadden Marsh 16 Apr (V. Stanton). A **Semipalmated Plover** was near McFadden Marsh 14 Apr (Jesse Laney). On 27 May a **Killdeer** and smaller shorebird chased a **Northern Harrier** away from a gravel bar along the Willamette R. in Luckiamute SNA (R. Foster); **Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpipers** often nest at this site.

**Greater Yellowlegs** were seen throughout the period. A **Solitary Sandpiper** foraged in a flooded pasture s. of Monroe 24 Apr (Alan Contreras). Two storm-blown **Whimbrels** were at the Philomath STP 14 Apr (Doug Robinson; M. Baldwin). Two were w. of Lebanon 24 Apr (J. Harding). A **Western Sandpiper** joined a **Dunlin** flock at Baskett Slough NWR 16 Apr (Caleb Centanni). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was with two **Long-billed Dowitchers** at McFadden Marsh 11 Apr (m.obs.).

A **Wilson's Snipe** winnowed over a wet pasture near Griggs 31 Mar (J. Harding); several were in a wet field in s. Corvallis 21 Apr (R. Foster).

A juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was near Shedd on 26 Mar (Gloria Beerman). Otherwise gull reports were sparse.

A **Barn Owl** was killed by a car near E.E. Wilson WA 25 Mar. A **Short-eared Owl** flushed from its roost in an ash tree on the North Prairie 5 Apr, then was chased by a **Merlin** (B. Proebsting). Two **Northern Pygmy-Owls** sang on Marys Peak 2 Apr (H. Herlyn, O. Harper).

**Vaux's Swifts** were detected over OSU and Witham Hill 7 Apr (A. Hinkle; H. Herlyn). One was over Alpine 17 Apr (R. Foster). Mary Garrard found a total of just six around six roost sites in Corvallis 18 Apr, but then saw two dozen zooming around over downtown Corvallis. 200 were there Corvallis 21 Apr (Karin Lamberson). 200 to 300 flew down into the Whiteside chimney on the evening 24 Apr, before a **Peregrine Falcon** landed on the rim and scared off 30 more (Peter & Judy List).

A **Rufous Hummingbird** fed on red-flowering currants at LENA 27 Mar (R. Foster); a male nectared on Columbia larkspur at Hesthaven 24 Apr (Julie Gibson).

While hiking along the Calloway Creek Trail in McDonald Forest 6 Apr, John Tietjen and Pat Cummins encountered a vocal pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** that may be nesting in that area. **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** continued to be conspicuous at Luckiamute SNA's north trailhead.

A pair of **American Kestrels** were using a nest box near Baskett Slough NWR by 30 Mar (F. Kolwicz). A possible **Crested Caracara** was reported along I-5 north of Albany on 23 Apr (Karen Saxton).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** perched atop a snag on Witham Hill 24 Apr (H. Herlyn). An early **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** sang at Luckiamute SNA 4 Apr; two sang at Finley NWR 15 Apr (B. Proebsting). A **Say's Phoebe** along McFarland Rd. was last noted 27 Mar (Robert Hunter). As of 7 Apr two **Black Phoebes** were regular along Bruce Rd. (Paul Rentz).

A lingering **Northern Shrike** was s. of Independence 21 Mar (Mike Lippsmeyer). A **Cassin's Vireo** sang at Luckiamute SNA 7 Apr. A **Warbling Vireo** foraged at Bald Hill Park 13 Apr (M. Baldwin); one sang there 18 Apr (B. Proebsting).

On 26 Mar about 20 **Common Ravens** soared above Coffin Butte, two of them in a courtship flight.

Twelve **Horned Larks** were along Creek Dr. in w. Linn Co. 25 Mar (Deanna Emig). A few pairs were along Bond Butte Rd. and Glaser Rd. in w. Linn Co. 1 Apr. Nine were at Mike & Karan Lippsmeyer's farm s. of Independence 18 Apr.

**Cliff Swallows** arrived in Peoria 29 Mar (G. Metcalfe). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at Luckiamute SNA 31 Mar, and two flew into a presumed nest burrow in a cut bank during a field trip 16 Apr. A **Barn Swallow** visited a nesting site s. of Independence

31 Mar (M. Lippsmeyer) and a pair checked out a nesting site at Crescent Valley High School 6 Apr (fide Martha Geier). Seven were using Bob Altman's barn near Lewisburg 7 Apr. **Violet-green Swallows** near Teloh-Calapooia Park caught feathers as if to line their nests on 4 Apr, but as of 26 Apr there were no further signs of nesting or nest-building (Jim Smith). Two **Purple Martins** were sw. of Philomath 7 Apr and five had settled in by 27 Apr (Karan Fairchild; R. Foster). Six were along the 110 Road in Dunn Forest 8 Apr (R. & P. Comeleo).

A pair of **Black-capped Chickadees** at Peoria returned on 30 Mar to resume excavating a nest after a 3-week hiatus (G. Metcalfe). A **Mountain Chickadee** sang on Marys Peak 7 Apr (R. Namitz). On 17 Apr friends of Mary Garrard pointed out an active **Bush-tit** nest along the first part of the boardwalk at Jackson-Frazier Wetland. A **White-breasted Nuthatch** and **Brown Creepers** foraged in the tall cottonwoods along the Willamette River at Luckiamute SNA 27 May (R. Foster). Two **House Wrens** sang at Finley NWR 5 Apr (B. Proebsting). One sang near the covered bridge along the Campus Way bike path 6 Apr (A. Hinkle). A pair of **Bewick's Wrens** copulated at E.E. Wilson WA 24 Apr.

**American Dippers** tended a nest at Alsea Falls 8 Apr (R. Foster).

Movement of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** was noticeable with many singing 26 Mar, but numbers diminished noticeably by 31 Mar. One was still at Finley NWR 10 Apr (E. Knight); one sang on Vineyard Mtn 24 Apr (Paul Adamus).

Three pairs of **Western Bluebirds** occupied nest boxes n. of Baskett Slough NWR by 30 Mar (F. Kolwicz). A female in n. Corvallis laid her first egg 11 Apr after ten days building a nest out of weeds, fine grass, and dead leaves (Lisa Millbank). A pair of **Mountain Bluebirds** and a **Townsend's Solitaire** were on Marys Peak 1-8 Apr (P. & R. Comeleo; M. Baldwin; H. Herlyn; Kai & Ben Frueh). A lingering or migrant **Hermit Thrush** was at Finley NWR 19 Apr (M. Baldwin). A **Varied Thrush** lingering at low elevation near E.E. Wilson WA sang 12 Apr. Forty **American Pipits** were in a field at Finley NWR 10 Apr (E. Knight).

**Orange-crowned Warblers** continued to arrive in late Mar. One sang near Alpine 31 Apr, flicking its tail each time it sang (Mahogany Aulenbach). A probable **Nashville Warbler** called in E.E. Wilson WA 12 Apr. One was seen at Willamette Park 16 Apr (Bob Altman); two visited Peoria 17 Apr (G. Metcalfe). **MacGillivray's Warblers** arrived with two in the Alder Cr. tract of Starker Forests on 16 Apr (B. Proebsting). A **Common Yellowthroat** was on Witham Hill 28 Mar (H. Herlyn); at least six were at Luckiamute SNA by 4 Apr.

A **Yellow Warbler** sang in Willamette Park 24 Apr (H. Herlyn). Many **Yellow-rumped Warblers** sang on Marys Peak 1 Apr (P. & R. Comeleo); many migrants passed through Finley NWR 5 Apr (B. Proebsting). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** sang at Bald Hill Park 3 Apr (H. Herlyn). At least three were in the Camp Adair area 4 Apr, and one was at Finley NWR 5 Apr (B. Proebsting). A singing **Hermit Warbler** was identified by comparison to two nearby **Townsend's Warblers** in McDonald Forest 19 Apr (B. Proebsting). A **Wilson's Warbler** sang in the Oak Creek area of McDonald Forest 9 Apr (Catherine Otto). Two were at Finley NWR 10 Apr (E. Knight) and another was on Vineyard Mtn. 13 Apr (P. Adamus).

A single **Grasshopper Sparrow** continued to sing at the Finley North Prairie thru the period, with no signs of a second bird. An early **Chipping Sparrow** reported in Monmouth last month turned out to be an immature **White-crowned Sparrow** based on photos. However a **Chipping Sparrow** stopped by Luckiamute SNA and two were in Peoria 31 Mar; 7 were along Campus Way 6 Apr (A. Hinkle) and two were at Fitton Green 7 Apr (HH). **Savannah Sparrows** were singing in many grass fields by 31 Mar.

A **Vesper Sparrow** continued at Bald Hill Farm 6-7 Apr where one was reported last month. On 12 Apr a migrant stopped by a prairie remnant at E.E. Wilson WA, and another was in the Airlie area where a few still

## 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.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Sandra & Daniel Nelson  
Steve & Carolyn Suckow  
Julia Waters

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew your membership online go to:

[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,  
ASC Membership Chair*

nest in Christmas tree farms (O. Allen).

A lingering **Swamp Sparrow** called from a wetland in E.E. Wilson WA 14 Apr, when two Lincoln's Sparrows and two "**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrows** were also still in the area. A **Slate-colored (Dark-eyed) Junco** foraged high in a tree by the Philomath STP 26 Mar (H. Herlyn). **White-crowned Sparrows** sang in nesting habitat throughout the period. Lingered **White-throated Sparrows** sang on Witham Hill 29 Mar (H. Herlyn), along Conser Blvd 30 Mar (Don Boucher), and at Bald Hill Park 3 Apr (H. Herlyn). Two were still at E.E. Wilson WA 14 Apr. Migrant **Golden-crowned Sparrows** were noticeable in mid-Apr, with a few staying through the end of Apr.

An early **Western Tanager** called on Witham Hill 10 Apr (H. Herlyn). Two called in Beazell Memorial Forest 18 Apr (M. Garrard). An early migrant **Black-headed Grosbeak** stopped by Teloh-Calapooia Park 18 Apr (J. Smith); one sang on Vineyard Mtn 24 Apr (P. Adamus).

**Red-winged Blackbird** flocks began to spread out to nest in wetlands by early Apr. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** turned up in the mitigation wetland along Bruce Rd. 8 Apr (L. Hadfield). **Western Meadowlarks** continued to sing on the North Prairie where they nest. A **Brown-headed Cowbird** sang at Baskett Slough NWR 9 Apr (C. Centanni). One sang on Witham Hill 10 Apr (H. Herlyn).

Two migrant **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** turned up on Marys Peak 8 Apr (K. & B. Frueh). Two male **Purple Finches** turned up in s. Albany 4 Apr (J. Smith).

**Pine Siskins** were still numerous at feeders in Peoria and south Albany through 4 Apr but gone from the latter site by 8 Apr (G. Metcalfe; J. Smith). Numbers on the OSU campus increased from hundreds to thousands in the first week of April (D. Boucher). **American Goldfinch** numbers increased around the area during mid-April, with 20 at Teloh-Calapooia Park by 18 Apr.

**Evening Grosbeak** numbers continued to build with 21 were in Peoria by 28 Mar (G. Metcalfe). As of 5 Apr some were present on the OSU campus but not in high numbers yet (D. Boucher), but numbers were swelling noticeably by 7 Apr (A. Hinkle).

On 7 Apr two **Red Admiral** butterflies paused to sip nectar in Lisa Millbank's n. Corvallis yard; later a **Mourning Cloak** flew by.

**Next months:** More migrants songbirds including **Yellow-breasted Chats** and **Lazuli Buntings** were arriving as we went to press. **Swainson's Thrushes** and **Western Wood-Pewees** should also arrive soon. By the next issue, many songbirds will have finished nesting, and some shorebirds will already be heading south. Please let me know of your observations by 26 Jul (by post: 38566 Hwy 99W Corvallis 97330, by e-mail: [joel.geier@peak.org](mailto:joel.geier@peak.org), or call 541 745-5821).

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### NATURAL AREAS CELEBRATION WEEK

May is an exciting month for nature lovers! Natural Areas Celebration Week will take place from May 7-15, 2016. You can access the calendar for NACW at the following site to see the list of scheduled events.

<http://sustainablecorvallis.org/action-teams/natural-areas/natural-areas-celebration-week/>

### OPEN HOUSE AT FINLEY

The Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex is hosting 2 events during the Natural Areas Celebration Week. The address there is 26208 Finley Refuge Rd., Corvallis, OR97333

First is the Open House at William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge: Prairies in Bloom! It will be hosted by Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex and USFWS on Saturday, May 14, from 10 am – 2 pm. ASC volunteers will be stationed along the Homer Campbell Trail from 10 am to 2 pm during the Open House to assist visitors in identifying birds and finding other natural treasures.

The winter sanctuary period is over, trails are open for hiking and exploring, and the prairies are teeming with native wildflowers and pollinators. Join us for guided walks and tours to sneak a peek at parts of your local wildlife refuge that you haven't seen yet! Some migratory birds will still be in town, along with the popular residents such as the acorn woodpeckers and the young bobcats that seem way too comfortable around humans. If you like history and culture, Benton County's oldest building, the Fiechter House, will be open for tours, along with its red barn full of farm implements and resident barn owls. Come to explore, experience and connect with your William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge! Don't forget to visit the many tables and booths for crafts, critters, fun take-home projects, hands-on activities, and resources.

Second is Words through the Woods, a hike on the Woodpecker Loop trail at Finley NWR with local naturalists and artists, sharing wildlife tidbits and poetry snippets, hosted by USFWS on Wednesday, May 11, from 9-11 am.



Meet at the Woodpecker Loop Trailhead at William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge at 9 am! We'll walk through some of the Willamette Valley's rarest habitat types, stopping along the way to take note of what we see growing, crawling and flying around us. The trail passes by a favorite red-legged frog breeding pond. We'll also stop a few times to share poetry (known and unknown, local and from long ago). Care to share with us? Nature Inspired and Inspired Nature.

There's also a mom and baby hike on Monday morning, May 9.

For additional information on these and other programs at the Willamette Valley Refuge Complex, contact: Samantha Bartling, Visitor Services Manager at 541-760-3036, or at [Samantha\\_bartling@fws.gov](mailto:Samantha_bartling@fws.gov)

*Samantha Bartling*

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## WOODPECKER FESTIVAL IN SISTERS

The Dean Hale Woodpecker Festival will be held June 2 -5, 2016 centered in Sisters, Oregon and sponsored by the East Cascades Audubon society. On-line registration will open on April 1st on the [ecaudubon.org](http://ecaudubon.org) website. Several new trips have been added and the Saturday Social will feature local author and birder Steve Shunk whose long-awaited book, Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America, will be available on May 1st. Contact Sherrie Pierce at [DHWF16@gmail.com](mailto:DHWF16@gmail.com) for more information.

*Sherrie Pierce, East Cascades Audubon*

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## BIRDING BY EAR CLASS

Lisa Millbank and Don Boucher are offering a Birding By Ear class, sponsored by the Avery House Nature Center.

This class will take your birding ability to the next level, especially in forested areas where birds are difficult to see. During the classroom sessions, we don't try to memorize lists of bird sounds; instead, we learn methods to help remember bird sounds, and get a basic understanding of the ways in which birds use sound to communicate. It's intended to be fun and interesting.

Classroom sessions will feature many videos and sound clips. During the field trips, there will be listening exercises and opportunities to practice the techniques learned in class. You'll be amazed by how many birds you'll find just by listening.

You should already be familiar with common local birds to take this class. The field trips will focus on habitats: wetland (Jackson-Frazier Wetland), grassland & savanna (Finley NWR), and forest (McDonald Forest & Hesthavn Nature Center). We'll enjoy the spring bird sounds at their peak. Class schedule:

**Classroom sessions:** Wednesdays, May 18 & 25, & June 1, 7-9 pm

Field trips: Saturdays, May 21 & 28, & June 4, 9am - noon

Register through Avery House Nature Center at

[www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org/averyhouse/](http://www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org/averyhouse/)

Class fee is \$35 (ask about student or low-income discounts). If you have other questions about the course, you can contact us at [donaboucher@gmail.com](mailto:donaboucher@gmail.com), 541-753-7689.

*Don Boucher*

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## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

### APRIL 14, 2016 ASC BOARD MEETING

Vice-President Bill Proebsting presided over the meeting held at Hesthavn. Education committee volunteers will be busy at six events this spring including Hesthavn Open House June 18th. The next board meeting will be at Hesthavn May 12th at 7 pm.

*Gail Nickerson, Secretary*

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## CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS CHAT

Bill Proebsting, Chris Mathews, Fred Ramsey, Joel Geier, Jim Fairchild, Karan Fairchild, Ray Drapek, Teri Engbring, Gail Nickerson, Suzanne Ortiz, Sherrie Pierce, Samantha Bartling, and Don Boucher

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## CHAT ARTICLES

The Chat editors welcome articles from all members of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. Please submit articles to the Chat editor by the final Thursday of the month. Submit text using Microsoft Word and photos to:

[chateditors@gmail.com](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com)

The CHAT and ASC board take a summer break until September, so articles for the Summer 2016 issue are due July 28, and field notes due July 26.

## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS



## CALENDAR

May 12	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm Hesthavn
May 14	Half Day Field Trip to Finley NWR
May 19	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini
June 18	Hesthavn Open House 10 am- 2 pm
July 26	Field Notes Deadline for summer CHAT
July 28	Summer issue CHAT stories due

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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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