



THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

DECEMBER 2016

VOL. 46 #4

DECEMBER 2016 PROGRAM:

ANNUAL MEMBER SLIDES NIGHT

Chintimini Senior Ctr:
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis
Thurs., Dec.15, 7-8:30 pm

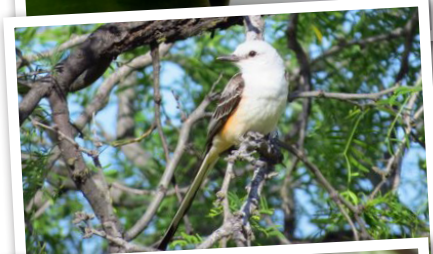
ASC MEMBERS: SHOW OFF YOUR PHOTOS!

December's ASC meeting is Member Slide Night. Select your best nature photos to share with the group at the Dec. 15 meeting. Photos should be nature-themed, i.e. any interesting, beautiful or fun photo(s) of birds, other animals, plants, nature scenes, etc. are welcome. Bring about 20 of your favorites, along with accompanying stories. Plan your presentation to be about 5 minutes long. Bring your slides to the meeting on a flash drive. (Small files can be emailed in advance, if you wish.) Plan to arrive around 6:30 pm so that we can load your files on our laptop. From past experience, presentations work best if the photos are incorporated into PowerPoint. It is simple to set up and works better at the meeting. If you have physical (film) slides, please bring your own projector.

Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and visiting. The chapter meeting commences at 7:00 pm, with member slides beginning at 7:30 or soon after. Questions can be directed to me at proebstw@gmail.com. We hope to see you there.

Bill Proebsting, Vice Pres. & Program Chair

And big thanks to Bill Proebsting for coming to the rescue Nov 17, when our scheduled speaker had to cancel at the last minute. Bill delivered a wonderful program with amazing photos, "Here Be Dragons-Birding the Edge of North America". Great job!



ASC GENERAL MEETINGS

THIRD THURSDAYS AT CHINTIMINI SENIOR CTR:
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis
Next Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016, 7-8:30 pm

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FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

LOCAL MONTHLY SECOND SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS

Our Saturday morning local field trips meet the second Saturday 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 if you have questions. Check the Willamette Valley ListServ, <http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OR5>, a couple of days before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Return to Benton Center by noon.

NEXT LOCAL FIELD TRIPS:

December 10. Newport area. We will start at Boiler Bay to see if we can spot some birds off the coast. We will then work our way south to the Newport jetties via Depoe Bay, Moolack Beach, Yaquina Head, etc. Bring lunch, liquids, snacks and rain gear. Return mid-to-late-afternoon.

January 14. Cheadle Lake, Lebanon

Bill Proebsting

TENTATIVE 2017 ASC WEEKEND FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE:

Bandon/ Port Orford.....	March 3-5
Klamath Basin.....	March 31 - April 2
Rogue Valley	April 28-30
Malheur NWR	June 1-4
Summer Lake.....	June 23-25
Wallowas.....	July 20-23
Steens.....	August 10-13
South Coast.....	August 25-27

On these trips, we travel in rental vans, stay in motel-style accommodations, and eat meals wherever we can get them. We share all expenses. There will be signup sheets at the Field Trip table at the ASC general meetings starting in December of this year.

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

OAK SAVANNAH RESTORATION AT CHIP ROSS PARK

Those of you who read the Gazette-Times on Sunday, October 30, saw a front-page article, "Project completed and a new forest emerges." The story described a forest restructuring program in Chip Ross Park designed to restore disappearing and important oak savannah habitat. The project, under the

direction of Jonathan Pywell, involved removal of many Douglas fir trees that were crowding out native oaks. Jonathan is an urban forester and certified arborist with the Corvallis Parks and Recreation department.

What the article didn't point out was that Jonathan was in close contact with Corvallis Audubon as the project was designed and executed. He realized that logging the area in spring and early summer would interfere with nesting bird activities. When he contacted us in late April, he asked for our help in minimizing the effects on nesting birds. Jim Fairchild and Don Boucher pointed out that all logging should be delayed until after the nesting season. Even though a contract had been signed and the logging company was about to begin work, Jonathan was able to delay the start of logging until after July 15.

The G-T article noted that, even though spectacular views of the mountains can now be seen from the site, the remaining slash piles and trash fires make the area unsightly. Some time will be needed for complete restoration. Nevertheless, wildlife viewing has already improved, including bluebird sightings. Raylene Gordin, ASC Bluebird Trail director, is planning to install bluebird boxes before winter, so that they will be available not only for nesting next spring but for needed winter shelter.

The City of Corvallis, through the leadership of Jon Pywell, has set a great example for the kind of partnerships that can be established between land management agencies and conservation-oriented organizations like ASC.

Chris Mathews, ASC President

THE 2016 ANNUAL APPEAL

Our 2016 ASC Annual Appeal campaign is underway. Thanks to all of our members who have made donations, purchased gifts or renewed their memberships. Envelopes were mailed in the November CHAT, but unfortunately delayed more than 2 weeks by our printer. We are sorry for the inconvenience, which was clearly beyond our control.

Please take the time to donate to our programs, purchase a gift membership for family and friends, or renew your ASC membership. You can also use the link on the ASC website via Paypal to donate or renew: www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

Our success in 2017 rests on the contributions you give and the valuable time that our members donate to our many programs!

Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Membership Chair

CONSERVATION CORNER

TIME TO STOP SCAPEGOATING BIRDS AND FIX THE DAMS!

This winter, the public can send a message to federal agencies that have been scapegoating Double-crested Cormorants for the decline of salmon on the Columbia and Snake Rivers; even as these same agencies refuse to address the primary

cause of salmon declines - the Columbia River Hydropower System. Federal Agencies responsible for managing the Federal Hydropower System have been ordered by a Federal Court in Oregon to develop a new plan to recover federally listed salmon in the Columbia River System and will accept public comment through January 17, 2017. The Court ordered the agencies to complete a new plan by March 1, 2018. This comment period is a critical step to tell the agencies to stop killing wild birds and fix the dams!

For nearly twenty years, federal agencies have ignored federal courts and failed to execute a plan to adequately protect federally listed salmon on the Columbia River. During that time period, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Reclamation and National Marine Fisheries Service have been sued and lost an astounding five consecutive times in Federal Court over their ongoing failure.

The most recent loss came in the spring of 2016 when Judge Michael Simon of the Oregon District

wrote that "For more than 20 years... federal agencies have ignored the admonishments (of federal courts) and continued to focus essentially on the same approach... These efforts have already cost billions of dollars, yet they are failing. Many populations of the listed species continue to be in a perilous state." He further wrote that the agency's approach "cries out for a major overhaul" and urged the agencies to consider much more aggressive strategies including breaching of four dams on the Lower Snake River.

However, even as the agencies were losing in federal court, they continued killing Double-crested Cormorants on East Sand Island at the mouth of the Columbia River. The agency's goal is to kill upwards of 15% of the population of Double-crested Cormorant west of the Rocky Mountains over the course of four years. Now two years into this slaughter, they have killed 5,328 cormorants and destroyed 6,181 active cormorant nests. Shortly after the agencies initiated their killing activities in 2016, 16,000 Double-crested Cormorants on East Sand Island abandoned their active nests which were quickly predated by gulls and other animals. The scale and speed of the colony collapse was unprecedented.

In late summer, the same federal judge who ruled that the agencies plan to protect salmon "cries out for a major overhaul" also ruled on another case brought by Portland Audubon and other groups. He said the agencies also violated federal law by failing to consider other alternatives when they adopted their cormorant killing plan. Despite finding that the plan violated the law, however, the judge ruled that the agencies could continue to kill birds while they developed a new plan. It was a confusing ruling that seemed to suggest that in the absence of a legitimate and legal plan to protect salmon, perhaps wanton killing of wild birds was better than nothing. The ruling sadly paves the way for the Corps to continue this slaughter for another two years, killing upwards of 10,000 cormorants and destroying 26,000 nests.

Audubon will continue to fight cormorant slaughter on East

Sand Island. But we also need you to send a strong message to the agencies to stop scapegoating wild birds and develop a plan that truly protects listed salmon, including breaching the obsolete Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor Dams on the Snake River; and adjusting flows over dams on the Columbia River. The four Snake River Dams provide less than 5% of the Northwest's power but are devastating to salmon. Federal agencies need a real plan in place to protect salmon on the Columbia and Snake River Systems and leave the birds alone.

Please attend a hearing on Wednesday, December 7, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Portland, Oregon,

Or submit a comment to The US Army Corps of Engineers: <http://bit.ly/2gzG74D>

For more information on how to get involved contact Audubon Field Organizer, Steph Taylor at taylor@audubonportland.org

*Written by Bob Sallinger,
submitted by Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair*

XMAS BIRD COUNT 12-20-16

There's still time to sign up for this year's Corvallis Christmas Bird Count. The 2016 CBC will be held on Tuesday, December 20th. Everybody is invited to join us - and participation is free.

I still have room for additional volunteers. Feeder counters and neighborhood walkers are always welcome. If you are interested in participating or would like further information, I am happy to hear from you. My e-mail address is marciafcutler@comcast.net or you can phone me at 541-752-4313

The potluck and wrap-up for CBC volunteers will be held from 4:30 to 7 pm in the Community Meeting Room at the First Alternative Natural Foods Coop at 1007 SE 3rd St, (HWY 99). That room is in a separate building just behind the Purple Moon coffee shop and east of the main building.

Marcia F. Cutler, CBC Corvallis Coordinator

EDUCATION NEWS

We still need a few volunteers to help at the third annual **Winter Wildlife Field Day** at Finley National Wildlife Refuge on **March 18, 2017**. This popular family event, for kids of all ages, needs volunteers for a variety of fun learning and activity stations. Help guests explore Nature with live birds, art, animal pelts and skulls, owl pellet dissection, and guided bird walks. Learn about water critters, pollinators and their importance in our daily lives, and more.

If you can help with planning or on March 18 for shifts from 2-6 hours, please contact Teri Engbring at chateditors@gmail.com or at ASC General Member Meetings in coming months.

Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team

HESTHAVN NEWS

Please consider joining our volunteer work parties, which are noted on the ASC website, between 10 am and 2 pm. Next one scheduled is Dec 19. It's a great way to get outside and help preserve a special place in Nature. Hope to see you there. Thanks.

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

FIELD NOTES

10/26/16-11/22/16

This month's weather continued to be remarkably mild for the season. October's rains gave way to a sunny stretch in early November, with temperatures approaching 70 F on 9 Nov before wet weather returned. Windy conditions on the coast as rains moved in 11-14 Nov pushed remarkable numbers of **Red Phalaropes** into the Willamette Valley.

Autumn continued to be frost-free, with low temperatures generally above 40 F, except for the morning of 18 Nov when a low of 39 F was recorded at Corvallis airport. Most deciduous trees shed their remaining leaves, though a few **black cottonwoods** still held yellow and even a few green leaves into late Nov. **Willamette Valley gumweed** continued to bloom through the end of the period, providing nectar for late-flying butterflies and other pollinators.

Abbreviations and locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds. "Eicher Rd. ponds" refers to ponds formed in pit left by gravel quarrying off Eicher Rd. southeast of Albany. Luckiamute State Natural Area (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. Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR.

OBSERVATIONS

On 31 Oct a dozen or so dead **Canada/Cackling Geese** were in the water at Cabell Marsh (Paul Rentz). Refuge staff confirmed that this was caused by "aspergillosis", likely the result of eating grain that had molded due to early rain and warm temperatures.

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** were with a flock of 5000 **Cackling Geese** at Finley NWR 26 Oct (Caleb & Evan Centanni). **Six Snow Geese** were on the Eicher Rd. ponds 29 Oct (Jeff Fleischer). Tens of thousands of **Cackling Geese** settled onto McFadden Marsh at dusk 31 Oct, with a single **Snow Goose** in their midst. Pam & Randy Comeleo captured this in a video that you can view at this link:

<https://youtu.be/KGogF74L498>

Ten **Snow Geese** and a single **Greater White-fronted Goose** were there 22 Nov (Howard Bruner).

Ducks found by an ASC field trip to Baskett Slough NWR 12 Nov included **American Wigeon, Gadwall, Green-winged**

Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, and Hooded Merganser (Bill Proebsting). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Finley NWR 12 Nov (Isaac Denzer).

A **Common Goldeneye** and "a bunch" of **Greater Scaup** were at Philomath STP 26 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn, C. & E. Centanni). Many **Ruddy Ducks** and a few **Buffleheads** were on the Eicher Rd. ponds 29 Oct (J. Fleischer). A few **Surf Scoters** continued to be seen inland through 5 Nov when Isaac Denzer found one along the Philomath STP, along with a male **Redhead** and 40 **Canvasbacks**. 140 **Buffleheads** were there 20 Nov (Wayne Weber).

Tundra Swans began to arrive with 12 near Halsey 1 Nov (Delores Porch), and some at Baskett Slough NWR 12 Nov (B. Proebsting). 134 **Tundra Swans** were on Cabell Marsh 19 Nov (Janet & Bill Smoker). Four **Trumpeter Swans** (all adults) were seen in the Airlie-Suver area from 16 Nov through the end of the period.

A female **Anna's Hummingbird** sipped rainwater from bird-pecked cavities in apples that were still hanging on a tree in McDonald Forest 18 Nov (Linda Campbell). The **Anna's Hummingbirds** visiting Jim Smith's feeders near Teloh-Calapooia Park 16 Nov were unusually tolerant of each other, perhaps due to the stress of rainy weather.

A lone **Sandhill Crane** was seen regularly in fields along Hwy 99E at the south end of Tangent 12-22 Nov (Alan Contreras; D. Porch).

A flock of about 14 **Black-Bellied Plovers** continued in the wet fields east of McFadden Marsh through 26 Oct (C. & E. Centanni). A **Golden-Plover sp.** (most likely a **Pacific Golden-Plover**) was seen with them 31 Oct (Will Wright) and 6 Nov (Cody Smith). 250 **Dunlin** were at the Tangent STP 16 Nov (Roy Gerig). **Long-billed Dowitchers** were found by the ASC field trip to Baskett Slough NWR 12 Nov. A **Spotted Sandpiper** flew low over the river at Peoria 8 Nov (Greg Metcalfe).

Two **Wilson's Snipe** flushed from a grassy clearing in the Coast Range near Alsea Falls 2 Nov (Oscar Harper, H. Herlyn). Another was in a forest clearing in McDonald Forest 17 Nov (Paul Adamus, Grant Hoyt). Eight were at Finley NWR 6 Nov (Rana Foster).



Red Phalarope photo by Matt Lee

A late **Red-necked Phalarope** was reported from McFadden Marsh 6 Nov (Erik Knight), though without details. A **Red Phalarope** was photographed at Philomath STP the same day (Pam Otley), as the vanguard of the remarkable influx that followed.

On 12 Nov a **Red Phalarope** landed on a wet driveway at Yewwood Nursery east of Alsea, poked around in a puddle, then flew on (Karin Lamberson). Two more were at Finley NWR that afternoon (Chas Stock). On 15 Nov at least 132 were in the Philomath area (H. Herlyn). Three were at Baskett Slough NWR and eight wound up even further inland at Ankeny NWR (Frank Kolwicz; Jim Leonard). On 16 Nov 23 were at the Tangent STP and 19 more were in a field east of Albany (R. Gerig). 40 were still at the Philomath STP 17 Nov (H. Bruner). A few continued to be seen around Finley NWR through the end of the period.

The somewhat weak flying ability that makes **Red Phalaropes** susceptible to storms also makes them vulnerable to predation when they end up stranded inland. A dozen on a small pond at Herbert Farm Open Space south of Corvallis 19 Nov were chased off by a hawk. When Rana Foster investigated she found white and gray feathers beside the pond.

An even more rare seabird to see inland was a well-described light-morph adult **Parasitic Jaeger** that circled over the Philomath STP 26 Oct (H. Herlyn, C. Centanni, Bill Tice). Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at the Philomath STP 15 Nov (H. Herlyn). Flocks of **California Gulls**, **Ring-billed Gulls**, **Herring Gulls**, and a few **Glaucous-winged Gulls** and **Thayer's Gulls** were also being seen in soggy fields by 20 Nov.

A **Clark's Grebe**, a **Western Grebe**, and 12 **Eared Grebes** were on the Philomath STP 26 Oct (H. Herlyn). Several **Western Grebes** were on the Eicher Rd. ponds 29 Oct (J. Fleischer).

Double-crested Cormorants were seen at Stewart Lake most days during the period, with a high count of six on 22 Nov (Jamie Simmons). **Great Blue Herons** and a few **Great Egrets** could be seen stalking prey in fields around the area.

Turkey Vultures continued to be seen occasionally through the period; one flew over the bike path west of OSU 16 Nov (Christopher Hinkle). A **White-tailed Kite** continued at the North Prairie overlook through 12 Nov (C. & E. Centanni; I. Denzer).

Jeff Fleischer and Jerry Baker found several **Bald Eagles** and one immature **Golden Eagle** in a drive around SW Linn County 29 Oct. An imm. **Golden Eagle** was again seen 21 Nov, just west of Ward Butte (Carol & Jim Hiler).

Numbers of wintering **Bald Eagles** began to increase around 14 Nov when Delores Porch saw seven sw. of Tangent, including four at the traditional winter roosting site near McLagan Rd. and Seward Dr. By then two adults were being seen regularly in a tree overlooking the Philomath STP (Virginia Stanton). Karin Lamberson noted normal to high numbers on a raptor route in the Alsea area.

Patrols by a pair of adult **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, a juvenile **Cooper's Hawk**, and a **Merlin** caused most of the finches visiting Jim Smith's feeder near Teloh-Calapooia Park to clear out by 16 Nov. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Central High School in

Independence 17 Nov (Mike Lippsmeyer).

Numbers of mid-sized raptors in SW Linn Co. were notably low for the season, perhaps due to a shift away from perennial grasses in favor of annual crops which host fewer rodents. On their 29 Oct survey, Jeff Fleischer and Jerry Baker found no **Northern Harriers**, unusually low numbers of **Red-tailed Hawks** and no **Rough-legged Hawks**. On a similar drive 29 Oct. Carol and Jim Hiler found a single **Northern Harrier** and just two **Red-tailed Hawks**.

By 12 Nov, four **Rough-legged Hawks** (two of them dark morphs) had shown up at the North Prairie (I. Denzer), where the native prairie sustains a healthy vole population. One of the dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawks** there 22 Nov had distinctive white patches matching a bird that was also seen there in 2013 and 2014 (H. Bruner).

Owls heard in McDonald Forest after dark on 12 Nov included two **Western Screech-Owls**, two **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, two or three **Great Horned Owls**, and a possible hybrid **Barred x Spotted ("Spurred") Owl** (Lisa Millbank, Don Boucher).

A **Short-eared Owl** flew over the North Prairie and landed on an ant mound 4 Nov (Jon Hazen). No **Burrowing Owls** were found at traditional wintering sites in SW Linn County as of 29 Oct (J. Fleischer; Mark Nikas).

Acorn Woodpeckers called in the recent oak savanna restoration area at Chip Ross Park 28 Oct (Jonathan Pywell). More were at Finley NWR headquarters 6 Nov (R. Foster). The recently established **Acorn Woodpecker** colony in Teloh-Calapooia Park numbered five by 10 Nov (J. Smith).

A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** visited a Witham Hill yard 10 Nov (H. Herlyn).

Jeff Fleischer and Jerry Baker found good numbers of **American Kestrels** in SW Linn County 29 Oct. Carol and Jim Hiler counted 28 kestrels in the same general area 21 Nov.

At a dairy farm near Buena Vista on 27 Oct, a **Merlin** captured what appeared to be a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in mid-air, then struggled to carry off this bird that likely outweighed its captor. **Peregrine Falcons** were seen regularly around Finley NWR and other locations with concentrations of ducks. A **Prairie Falcon** flew over the North Prairie overlook 12 Nov (I. Denzer). Another was at Baskett Slough NWR 20 Nov (E. Knight).

A **Say's Phoebe** sallied after flying insects along Sauerkraut rd. near Airlie 26 Oct (C. & E. Centanni). One along De Armond Rd. on 22 Nov might have been the same bird. Another was at Finley NWR headquarters 9 Nov (Nate Richardson). A **Black Phoebe** visited Mike & Karan Lippsmeyer's farm s. of Independence 30 Oct and 1 Nov. One continued at Finley NWR headquarters 6 Nov (R. Foster).

A hatch-year **Northern Shrike** was along Livermore Rd. just north of Baskett Slough NWR 5 Nov (R. Gerig). One was near there on Smithfield Rd. 8 Nov (J. Hazen). One was along the new Betty Griffiths trail in the Timberhill open space 20 Nov (H. Herlyn).

A **Hutton's Vireo** joined a mixed feeding flock of kinglets, nuthatches, and chickadees that passed through a Witham Hill

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

NOV 10, 2016 ASC BOARD MEETING

President Chris Mathews chaired the meeting at his house Nov 10th. Teri Engbring reported on Winter Wildlife Field Day planning. Ray Drapek told about Hesthavn work parties scheduled for Nov. and Dec. Jim Fairchild reported on activities for the Oregon Audubon Council meeting. Jesse Laney said the OSU Bird Needs are concentrating on fund raising. The SEC board voted to contribute \$300 to the Willamette Valley Bird Symposium for a table display to be manned by the Bird Nerds. The next board meeting will be at Jim Philipson's house 3053 SE Summerfield Drive on Dec. 8, 2016.

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.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew your membership online go to: 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,

yard 10 Nov (H. Herlyn). Seven **Gray Jays** were in McDonald Forest 17 Nov (P. Adamus, G. Hoyt).

Reports of **Horned Larks** continued to be sparse, aside from 29 at Corvallis Airport 1 Nov (Randy Moore) and 16 along Smith Rd. north of Halsey 29 Oct (M. Nikas).

A mixed feeding flock of **Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers,** and **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** foraged in oak woodland habitat on Coffin Butte 18 Nov.

Wrentits sang through the period at E.E. Wilson and Finley NWR. One called just 30 ft from the Willamette River at Luckiamute SNA 29 Oct.

A **Western Bluebird** was in the oak savanna restoration area at Chip Ross Park 28 Oct (J. Pywell). More were at Finley NWR headquarters 6 Nov and 12 were along Willamette St. in Corvallis 18 Nov (R. Foster).

Two reports suggested that a few **Swainson's Thrushes** might have lingered longer than usual. An apparent late Swainson's Thrush appeared briefly under plants near Teloh-Calapooia Park 25 Oct (Jim Smith). A series of calls consistent with Swainson's Thrush were heard at Willamette Park 6 Nov (Kai Frueh). Meanwhile **Hermit Thrushes** continued to turn up including one in E.E. Wilson WA 21 Nov.

Flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** mostly departed by 3 Nov when a few were still at Stewart Lake (J. Simmons). 160 **American Pipits** were along Blueberry Rd e. of Peoria 29 Oct (M. Nikas). About 40 were along Glaser Dr. west of Lebanon 8 Nov.

Two well-described **Cassin's Finches** were with a flock of **Purple Finches** near the summit of Marys Peak 3 Nov (Chris Chappell). Reports of **Lesser Goldfinches** were sparse, but one was in NW Corvallis 13 Nov (J. Simmons). A flock of 10 to 15 **American Goldfinches** munched on coast redwood seeds at Stewart Lake 17 & 22 Nov (J. Simmons).

Six **Evening Grosbeaks** called as they flew over Luckiamute SNA 28 Oct. One was in McDonald Forest 17 Nov (P. Adamus, G. Hoyt).

A late **Common Yellowthroat** was at Philomath STP 29 Oct (I. Denzer). second look. A **Townsend's Warbler** passed through a Witham Hill yard 10 Nov (H. Herlyn). A first-winter **Hermit Warbler** sallied after flying insects from the top of oaks on Coffin Butte 18 Nov.

A puzzling, drab **warbler sp.** with a distinct eye ring and wing bars fed alongside **Yellow-rumped Warblers** near Teloh-Calapooia park 18 Nov (Jim Smith) the features observed suggested a possible **Pine Warbler**, which would be very rare for Oregon, but the bird didn't return for a

The ASC field trip to Baskett Slough NWR found a good sampling of the regular wintering towhee and sparrow species, including **Spotted Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow,** and **Dark-eyed Junco.**

Among more uncommon sparrows, a first-winter **Swamp Sparrow** was nw. of E.E. Wilson headquarters 2 Nov (R. Gerig); another **Swamp Sparrow** was at the Philomath STP 5 Nov (I. Denzer). Single **White-throated Sparrows** turned up on Witham Hill and in NW Corvallis 10 Nov (H. Herlyn; J. Simmons). At least four were in the south end of E.E. Wilson WA 21 Nov. A "**Slate-colored**" (**Dark-eyed**) **Junco** turned up in Peoria 27 Oct (G. Metcalfe). Another was at the North Prairie overlook 12 Nov (I. Denzer) and one was along the bike path west of OSU 16 Nov (Christopher Hinkle).

Western Meadowlark flocks were seen more frequently as wintering flocks continued to show up in the valley. A flock of about 50 **Brewer's Blackbirds** at Luckiamute SNA 14 Nov included a calling male **Rusty Blackbird**. A lingering **Brown-headed Cowbird** was at Baskett Slough NWR 6 Nov (C. Centanni).

Many flying insects continued to be seen as the mild temperatures continued. Dragonfly sightings included **Paddle-tailed or Shadow Darners** (*Aeshna* sp.) at Luckiamute SNA 29 Oct and 1 Nov and an **Autumn Meadowhawk** (*Sympetrum vicinum*) was at Jackson-Frazier Wetlands 29 Oct (Bill Gerth). A **Red Admiral** butterfly was at LSNA 20 Nov.

In McDonald Forest on 12 Nov Lisa Millbank and Don Boucher found a female **Douglas-Fir Glowworm** (*Pterotus obscuripennis*) feeding on a slug that was much larger than she was.

A Neighborhood Naturalist field trip to Avery Park 20 Nov found a small **Northwestern Garter Snake** with reddish coloration; afterward an **Ensatina** salamander was found under rotting wood



(D. Boucher, L. Millbank).

As another sign of the mild fall conditions, a small **bat** foraged for insects near EE Wilson early on the morning of 28 Oct. The field trip to Avery Park 20 Nov enjoyed close looks at a **Douglas Squirrel** and more distant looks at a **Western Gray Squirrel** in the distance (D. Boucher, L. Millbank). A herd of 40 **Elk** at Finley NWR 6 Nov were mostly males (R. Foster). Orange scat containing pumpkin seeds near Finley 22 Nov indicated that the local **Black Bears** were taking advantage of Thanksgiving fare in a nearby field (H. Bruner).

Next month: We can look forward to more wintering birds and Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs), including the Corvallis CBC on 20 Dec. For a complete schedule of CBCs in Oregon, see www.orbirds.org/cbc.html. Meanwhile please post your observations to the Mid-Valley birding list at midvalleybirding.org, e-mail them to me at joel.geier@peak.org, send by post to 38566 Hwy 99W Corvallis 97330, or call (541) 745-5821 by 27 Dec.

COMMUNITY NOTES

NATURE THEME SHOW AT ARTS CENTER

A show at The Arts Center may be of interest to ASC members. See great nature artworks by 12 local artists, including bird photographs by Frank Kolwitz. "With Wings and Tails" is up through December 16, Hours: Tues-Sat 12-5 pm. 700 SW Madison. Corvallis. For more info, go to: <https://theartscenter.net/with-wings-and-tails/>

OLYMPIC BIRDFEST COMING IN APRIL

The Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society invites ASC members to attend their Olympic Birdfest, April 7-9, 2017. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker is noted nature photographer Bonnie Block.

Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 4-6, 2017. Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon.

Extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 9-11, 2017: two days exploring north-west coastal Washington. BirdFest registration at: www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Bob Hutchison

WILLAMETTE VALLEY BIRD SYMPOSIUM

Reminder: The 3rd annual Willamette Valley Bird Symposium will be held Saturday, January 21, 2017, at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center on the OSU campus from 9 am to 4 pm.

ASC sponsors this day-long event bringing together students, professional, and amateur birders from the Willamette Valley to celebrate birds. For more information, go to the website: www.willamettevalleybirds.org

VISIT WILD GOOSE SHOP AT FINLEY NWR

Please visit the Finley National Wildlife Refuge just south of Corvallis to see the impressive gathering of winter waterfowl from swans and pintails to dusky Canada geese and mergansers. And while there, check out the wide selection of Nature themed gifts at the Wild Goose Nature Store at refuge headquarters. It's open 10 am to 4 pm, Friday through Sunday.

Sales help support education programs that include ASC's annual Winter Wildlife Field Day, which will be March 18, 2017.

Teri Engbring

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, ASC Membership Chair

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS CHAT

Bill Proebsting, Chris Mathews, Jim Fairchild, Suzanne Ortiz, Marcia Cutler, Teri Engbring, Joel Geier, Gail Nickerson, Bob Hutchison

CHAT ARTICLES

Sorry for the delay in delivery of our November issue due to circumstances beyond our control.

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

We are also looking for help with editing and writing future editions of the ASC newsletter, the Chat. Please contact this email if you would like to use your skills in support of a great local group.

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS

CALENDAR

Dec 8	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm, at 3053 SE Summerfield Drive, Corvallis
Nov 12	Half Day Field Trip to the Newport area
Dec 15	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini Sr Ctr
Dec 20	Christmas Bird Count in Corvallis
Dec 20	Field Notes submission sdue
Dec 22	December 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; \$150 for Patron Level; and \$250 for Benefactor Level.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

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