



THE CHAT

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS

MARCH 2017

VOL. 46 #7

MARCH 2017 PROGRAM: OR COAST PEREGRINE FALCONS

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 7-8:30 PM

CHINTIMINI SENIOR CENTER, 2601 NW TYLER AVE (& 27TH) IN CORVALLIS

A pair of Peregrine Falcons began nesting at Yaquina Head in 2012. This is the most accessible site in a naturalistic setting for observation and photography in the western United States. Wayne and other local photographers and birders have been documenting these birds ever since. Wayne will describe the Peregrine nesting cycle, from courtship to fledgling independence, including incubation, chick feeding behavior, prey selection, and nest defense. He will also illustrate social dynamics, including infidelity, mate replacement, and responses to visitors.

Wayne Hoffman is a native Oregonian who graduated from Newport High School in 1969, then obtained Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Zoology from Oregon State University, and a Ph. D in Biology from the University of South Florida. After a post-doc with the Kansas Biological Survey, he worked for 11 years for the National Audubon Society, conducting research on bird populations and habitat needs. He then returned to Newport, and has worked for the MidCoast Watersheds Council since 1999, currently as Policy Director.

Social hour begins at 6:30, with the chapter meeting starting at 7:00 and the program starting about 7:30. Questions can be directed to: proebstw@gmail.com

Bill Proebsting, Vice Pres. & Program Chair

NEXT GENERAL MEETING APRIL 20

Cordi Atkinson, 'The Opportunity of a Lifetime - Training Philippine Eagles and Helping the Cause to Save Them from Extinction'



Peregrine Falcon photo by Wayne Hoffman

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

ASC GENERAL MEETINGS

THIRD THURSDAYS AT CHINTIMINI SENIOR CTR: 2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis
Next Meeting: Thursday, March 16, 7-8:30 pm

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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:

March 11- Luckiamute State Natural Area. Bottom land habitat near the Willamette River. Easy walking for a variety of passerine species. Could be some muddy spots. We will check both units.

April 8 - E.E. Wilson Wildlife Management Area.

Bill Proebsting

2017 ASC WEEKEND FIELD TRIPS:

The three National Wildlife Refuges of the Klamath Basin in south central Oregon play host to a large migration of swans, geese, and ducks every year. Upper Klamath (Klamath Marsh) NWR is a marsh expanse on the upper Williamson River. There our field trip encounters Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, and diving ducks. Lower Klamath NWR is next, where the host of waterfowl are complemented by migrating shorebirds. Then Tule Lake NWR adds White Pelicans and five species of Grebe. The drought that has plagued the basin in past years has been broken this year, so we should have a spectacular visit.

Included in the Klamath trip are visits to Upper Klamath Lake, where we again find grebes and often see their delightful mating dances. Moore Park at the south end of the lake will likely have a few early songbirds in migration. Petroglyph Cliff sports Prairie Falcon, Barn Owl, and White-throated Swift. Adding Miller Island and Lake Ewauna sets us up for a very birdy weekend: March 31-April 2.

To sign up for a weekend field trip, see us at the Field Trip table at our general meeting or contact me at framsey5@comcast.net or 541-753-3677.

THE 2017 SCHEDULE:

Bandon/ Port Orford, March 10-12

Klamath Basin, March 31 - April 2

Rogue Valley, April 28-30 (Full)

Malheur NWR, June 1-4

Summer Lake, June 16-18

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 January.

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

I recently had an experience that I would like to share with readers of the Chat. The professional ornithologists on campus have an informal seminar series called AVES. A member of that group became aware that my grandfather was Robert Cushman Murphy, one of the most renowned ornithologists of the twentieth century. Grandpa has three birds, two mountains, a school, a spider, and a louse named for him. So I was asked to speak at AVES about Grandpa's life and career, and my relationship to him. It was great fun rereading his books and papers in preparation for the talk. But it left me feeling regretful at not sharing his intellectual breadth and curiosity about all things natural. Grandpa used to say, before his death in 1973, that he was glad to have lived when he did and could avoid the continued degradation of our Earth that was destined to occur after he was gone. How many readers of the Chat feel the same way today?

Chris Mathews, ASC President

CONSERVATION UPDATE

U.S. citizens are seeing wide scale political disruption unlike any they have known. A wise person once told me democracy is not a gift but a duty.

The Supreme Court Citizens United decision allows more money to be aimed at U.S. politics. Now a proposal (HR 8300) before Congress would revoke the 1954 Johnson Amendment to the IRS code. It would allow tax-exempt charities to campaign for candidates. ASC retains its charitable tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status by agreeing not to advocate for or fund political candidates. However, churches are exempt from fiscal reporting required of other 501(c)(3) organizations, so HR 8300 creates another limitless funding stream to join Super PACs and 501(c)(4)s to support political candidates.

More efforts at the federal level target our most important and effective environmental laws, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. The Clean Air Act will surely come under attack soon, all led by science-denying Cabinet member/industry lobbyists. In the mid-Willamette Valley we are fortunate to have Congressional members who respect the

efforts of the federal government to provide balance between our economic, environmental, and social needs. At town halls and in their offices, more than ever, they and their staffs need to hear from us - their actual constituents.

At the local level, I am reminded that not everyone understands what forests do for us, or what we owe in return. First, in a suit claiming overprotection of state forest lands, Benton County Commissioners joined neighboring Linn County's lawsuit against the state. Linn County is claiming unrealized gains under a decade old state forest management plan does not maximize their revenues. Yet that plan was publicly vetted and negotiated to meet all state-required mandates, including maximum revenue production. Thanks to County Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo, who participated in that negotiation and recommended opting out of the suit.

Second is the proposed Elliot State Forest sale. Governor Kate Brown likewise deserves thanks for her willingness to seek other solutions to the proposed sale of the Elliot State Forest to a sole private entity bidding for the value of the timber there. Sale revenue won't cure even a short-term education budget deficit. But public land once sold will never again be public, and this sale would be a great educational loss to Oregon children and families, especially those of southwest Oregon.

LOCAL FAUNA TO WATCH AS POTENTIAL ENDANGERED SPECIES:

- Marbled Murrelet state listing status review—information sought before April 17th.
- Wolves—first reports of presence west of I-5 in southern Oregon.
- Pacific Marten—documented presence now in Benton County and, in spite of or in response to degradation of habitat by private, public, and federal logging on Marys Peak and elsewhere.

For more details, news, and how you can support ASC Conservation efforts, contact me at alderspring@peak.org

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Committee Chair

EDUCATION NEWS

WINTER WILDLIFE FIELD DAY IS MAR.18

Everyone is invited to a fun, free event at the nearby Finley National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, **March 18 from 10 am to 2 pm**. Nine activity stations at the refuge headquarters and a guided wildlife trek on the Homer Campbell Trail await anyone wishing to explore the many sides of our natural world.

See live birds from the Chintimini Wildlife Rescue Center, touch wild animal fur and bones, dissect owl pellets, learn about pollinators that are critical to our lives and how you can help them, explore forest and marsh, get acquainted with critters in the pond and the soil in the forest, and let your creative side fly. Visit several stations and earn a Wildlife Explorer patch. It's all free, family friendly and fun! Questions? Call our friends

at Finley National Wildlife Refuge, 541-757-7236 and ask for Beatrice or Laila.

Teri Engring, ASC Education

AQUATIC ECOLOGY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As we mentioned in more detail in last month's CHAT, volunteers guide this popular hands-on, interactive scientific exploration for elementary school classes at our Hesthavn Nature Center on Oak Creek near McDonald Forest.

Field days will be Friday mornings including three stations (macroinvertebrate collection, water quality testing, and a riparian plant walk along Oak Creek.

Time commitments are from 8:30 am-1 pm. on these dates:

April 7th, 21st, and 28th

May 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th, and June 2nd and 9th.

If you are interested in signing up as a volunteer for one, several or all of our field days, please respond to Jessica Brothers at educationaudubon@gmail.com

Jessica Brothers, Aquatic Ecology Coordinator

HESTHAVN NEWS

HESTHAVN WORK PARTIES SCHEDULE

Please join our volunteer work parties at ASC's nature center on Oak Creek from 10 am to 2 pm, Sunday, March 19 and 26. There is no need to bring anything. All tools will be provided. Dress for the weather. It may be cold and wet.

March 19 will be typical barn and yard work. March 26 we'll focus on removing Yellow Archangel, a pretty but invasive plant with multi-colored leaves and bright yellow flowers. We attack an aggressive patch on the far side of the creek.

Anyone who would like to help out at Hesthavn, but can't make my work parties, please contact me. There are lots of things you can do on your own in this special, peaceful place in Nature.

Many thanks to Karl Hartzell who is working to obtain bids to replace the roof at Hesthavn from the current moss roof to a metal one. This should last for a long time and will produce less gritty water for our rain-water collection system

IT WEREN'T A FIT DAY OUT FOR MAN NOR BEAST!

As I got out of my car at Hesthavn on February 5, I could hear the roar of a cataract. I thought I had accidentally been transported to Niagara Falls, but it turns out that it was Oak Creek. We weren't at flood stage, but so much rain had come down in such a small amount of time that water was pouring down the hillsides. The ditch we had previously dug to divert water around the barn was completely overwhelmed, a sheet of water was flowing through the native plant gardens and a small lake was forming next to the barn.

Fortunately, reinforcements arrived about then in the form of six GEOG 300 students. We set to work deepening the ditch and soon we had a nice flow going around the barn instead

of through it. Then we all set to work on a patch of blackberries in the southeast corner of the property. We were working directly below a culvert which crosses Oak Creek Drive and the ground was like quick-sand at times. While we were working, the portion of Oak Creek Drive which crosses Skunk Creek got washed away so we had to wait until the county was able to send a crew to open up a lane. All-in-all it was a great introduction for the GEOG 300 students to the joys of volunteer work.



OSU GEOG 300 students volunteer at Hesthavn

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair (raydrapek@gmail.com)

FIELD NOTES

01/25/17-02/22/17

This month was mostly cool and wet. Temperatures stayed above freezing most nights, but only reached 60 F once, on 9 Mar when a warm front also brought heavy rains that produced flooding on Muddy Creek, Marys River, Luckiamute River, and other tributaries of the Willamette.

One of our first native plants to bloom, Snow Queen (*Synthyris reniformis*) began to put out flowers sw. of Philomath by the end of January, and in Corvallis by 14 Feb (Lisa Millbank) when Osoberry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*, also known as Indian-plum) was also putting out flower buds near Dimple Hill 14 Feb (Catherine Otto).

A Neighborhood Naturalist field trip to McDonald Forest

20 Feb noted that California Beaked Hazel (*Corylus cornuta*) had many male catkins and also a few of tiny, red female flowers beginning to appear. (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank) Red-flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), a favored plant for early migrant Rufous Hummingbirds, was putting out leaves but still not blooming by the end of the period.

Abbreviations and locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds. E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area (WA) is 10 miles north of Corvallis on the north side of Adair Village. Jackson-Frazier Wetlands is in north Corvallis near Cheldelin Middle School. 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, Talking Water Gardens is in NE Albany. Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR.

OBSERVATIONS

A lone **Brant**, a **Greater White-fronted Goose**, and at least 68 **Snow Geese** were mixed in with 12,000 **Cackling Geese** and several hundred **Canada Goose** (including many "**Dusky**" **Canada Geese** at McFadden Marsh 11 Feb (Hendrik Herlyn). A **Ross's Goose** continued to be seen at Baskett Slough NWR through 14 Feb (Jon Hazen).

Wood Ducks at Teloh-Calapooia Park were paired up by 1 Feb (Jim Smith). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was at the Philomath STP 7 Feb (Tim Johnson, Roy Gerig). At least four more were with **American Wigeons** at Grand Prairie Park in Albany 10 Feb (Paul Murtaugh).

Forty **Canvasbacks** were on the Diamond Hill Rd. wetlands south of Brownsville 18 Feb (Joshua Little). A male **Redhead** swam and dove with more typical wintering ducks on Philomath STP 1 Feb (Hendrik Herlyn). A **Redhead** was still there 7 Feb (Tim Johnson, Roy Gerig).

A **Tufted Duck** and a few **Ring-necked Ducks** visited the pond at Stoneybrook Village in SW Corvallis 2 Feb (Bud Helpenstell, Tom Nelson fide Julie Gibson). **Tufted Ducks**, the Eurasian counterpart of **Ring-necked Ducks**, are rare as winter visitors to the mid-Willamette Valley.

A surprisingly large flock of 35 **goldeneyes** (mostly **Barrow's Goldeneyes** but about 2 in 5 were **Common Goldeneyes**) were on the North Santiam River at Fishermens Bend State Park near Mill City 1 Feb. Another reliable place to see **Barrow's Goldeneyes** in winter is at the base of Foster Dam in Sweet Home. A group of 15 swans north of Airlie 5 Feb included several **Trumpeter Swans** (one a juvenile). However no Trumpeter Swan flocks of more than 8 or 9 birds were confirmed in the this winter in the Airlie area, where flocks of 40 or more were seen regularly in this area in the late 1990s and first decade of the 2000s. Two adults and two juvenile **Trumpeter Swans** were with 140 **Tundra Swans** near Halsey 10 Feb (Sylvia Maulding). Two **Trumpeters** joined a dozen **Tundra Swans** on McFadden Marsh 11Feb (Hendrik Herlyn).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** visiting Stoneybrook pond 30 Jan was unusual considering the very small size of the pond (Tom Nelson fide Julie Gibson). Two **Horned Grebes** and four **Western Grebes** were on Foster Reservoir 13 Feb (Jacob Mathison).

Two migrant **Band-tailed Pigeons** showed up alongside wintering **Mourning Doves** at a feeder 6 miles sw. of Philomath 6 Feb (Jim Fairchild). 50 **Mourning Doves** visited a platform feeder near Teloh-Calapooia Park 10 Feb (Jim Smith).

An early migrant male **Rufous Hummingbird** visited a feeder near Reser Stadium 10 Feb (fide Jamie Simmons). Another was spotted in Philomath 14 Feb (Isaac Denzer). These birds were at least two weeks ahead of schedule for this species, which usually arrives around the beginning of March.

Several **Virginia Rails** called along the Bob Frenkel Boardwalk at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 11 Feb (Nancy Stotz). A lone **Sandhill Crane** continued along Balm Drive near Crabtree through 9 Feb (Jeff Harding).

Wintering flocks of **Killdeer** and **Dunlin** continued in agricultural fields. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen along the river in Willamette Park 12 Feb (Isaac Denzer). In winter plumage this species lacks its characteristic spots, so perhaps one should say, "an unspotted Spotted Sandpiper was spotted along the river."

On the evening 6 Feb Karin Lamberson found an injured or exhausted **Black-legged Kittiwake** alongside Hwy 34 between Alsea and Marys Peak. Unfortunately the bird died in the night before Karin was able to take it to the Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

An **American Bittern** flushed from a ditch along Finley Refuge Rd. 4 Feb (Trent Bray). A **Great Egret** hunted on the OSU dairy pasture along Harrison Blvd 31 Jan (Julie Gibson).

Turkey Vultures began to be seen more frequently. Two circled lazily over NW Corvallis 10 Feb (Pam & Randy Comeleo), and one was over the Willamette Park area that same afternoon (Molly Monroe). One was again over Willamette Park 12 Feb (Isaac Denzer). Another was north of Independence 19 Feb (Mike Lippsmeyer).

A **White-tailed Kite** continued to be seen regularly at the Finley NWR North Prairie through the period. A pair were east of Blodgett 28 Jan (Adrian & Chris Hinkle; Jamie Simmons) and at least one continued there through 13 Feb. A pair of **Northern Harriers** interacted at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 11 Feb (Nancy Stotz). Two were hunting at the Owens Farm Open Space 15 Feb (Olin Allen).

78 **Bald Eagles** roosted in trees east of McLagan & Seward Rds. near Tangent 30 Jan (Viviane & Dale Simon-Brown). Numerous eagles continued to be seen in the Tangent area through the period, often around carcasses of sheep or placentas left from lambing.

A **Cooper's Hawk** flying just ahead of a bus along Buchanan St. in Corvallis 13 Feb may have been using the bus as a way to mask its movement from possible prey (Don Boucher). A **Northern Goshawk** flew over Philomath 17 Feb (John Sullivan, Joshua Little).

A **Rough-legged Hawk** perched on slender twigs of a small tree along a fenceline near Maple Grove in s. Polk Co. 5 Feb. The tendency of these arctic-nesting hawks to perch on relatively delicate perches is one way to pick them out at a distance, among the more common **Red-tailed Hawks**. They also have more petite ceres (bills), reflecting their diet which consists mainly of lemmings on their Arctic nesting grounds, and voles when they visit our region in winter. Three **Rough-legged Hawks** including a dark-phase bird were on the North Prairie 11 Feb (Hendrik Herlyn).

A resident pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** copulated in the Highland Dell neighborhood 21 Jan (Judith & Jerry Paul). One was hunting regularly near Mountain View Elementary in early Feb (Jay Faulconer). A pair of **Red-tailed Hawks** copulated atop a power pole near Airlie 15 Feb (Olin Allen).

A juvenile **Golden Eagle** dined on a goose as five **Bald Eagles** watched at Finley NWR 12 Feb (Molly Monroe, Jarod Jebousek).

A **Western Screech-Owl** sang its "bouncing ball" song north of E.E. Wilson headquarters 30 Jan (Pam & Randy Comeleo). One roosted in a flicker-sized nest box in the Highland Dell neighborhood throughout the latter 3 weeks of January (Judith & Jerry Paul).

Two **Great Horned Owls** were out hunting on E.E. Wilson in twilight 5 Feb (Martha Geier). One occupied a former **Great Blue Heron** nest in an ash swale near Crabtree 8 Feb, fending off several **Common Ravens** (Jeff Harding). **Great Horned Owls** start nesting in late winter. If you scan old hawk nests, sometimes you can see the feather "horns" of a brooding female owl sticking up above the rim.

A **Barred Owl** called on the west side of Finley NWR 17 Feb; other owl species heard there in the same week included **Western Screech-Owl**, **Northern Pygmy-Owl**, and **Northern Saw-whet Owl** (Jacob Mathison). Another **Northern Pygmy-Owl** hunting near Alsea 29 Jan caused a commotion among the local **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** and **kinglets** when it dove into a bush (Karin Lamberson).

A **Red-naped Sapsucker** found in NW Corvallis near the west end of Lincoln Ave. last month was still there 18 Feb (Aaron & Sara Liston) and 21 Feb (Jacob Mathison, Kai & Ben Frueh). A male & female pair of **Downy Woodpeckers** visited a sw. Corvallis feeder 12 Feb (Delores Porch).

A **Merlin** was near Griggs in Linn Co. 14 Feb (Jeff Harding).

Both a **Prairie Falcon** and a **Peregrine Falcon** were in the Courtney Creek area southeast of Brownsville 18 Feb (Joshua Little).

Two **Black Phoebes** interacted in apparent courtship at E.E. Wilson WA 13 Feb, with one pestering the other by flying close over its head, then singing as it flew in a fluttering flight to another tree and back. Another **Black Phoebe** was at F St. Park in Independence 15 Feb (Mike Lippsmeyer). A **Say's Phoebe** perched on a fence along Franklin Rd. in n. Lane Co. 30 Jan (Deanna Emig). One visited Willamette Park briefly 12 Feb (Isaac Denzer, Kai Frueh).

Two **Gray Jays** visited a suet feeder east of Fitton Green 20 Feb (Randy & Pam Comeleo).

A bird that appeared to be a **Horned Lark** briefly showed up on a lawn under streetlights in a residential area of south Albany, before dawn on a blustery morning in late January (Ryan Emig fide Deanna Emig). Four "**Streaked**" **Horned Larks** were along Creek Dr. near Peoria 10 Feb (Deanna Emig).

Early reports of migrant swallows included six **Tree Swallows** over the old Clemens mill pond in Philomath 31 Jan (Isaac Denzer), and two **Tree Swallows** plus four **Violet-green Swallows** at Talking Water Gardens 13 Feb (Nancy Stotz).

A pair of **White-breasted Nuthatches** near Teloh-Calapooia Park carried nuts from a feeder back into the forest as of 13 Feb (Jim Smith), possibly caching them in anticipation of nesting season.

Marsh Wrens, **Pacific Wrens**, and **Bewick's Wrens** called along the boardwalk in Jackson-Frazier Wetland 11 Feb (Nancy Stotz). Two **Pacific Wrens** sang in McDonald Forest 20 Feb (Don Boucher).

Four **Western Bluebirds** were on the OSU campus 13 Feb (Don Boucher). **Varied Thrush** reports continued to be sparse but single birds were seen regularly in the Timberhill neighborhood through early Feb (Chris Miller; Susan Hatlevig). Three **Cedar Waxwings** in E.E. Wilson WA 13 Feb seem to have been the largest group noted in our area during the period.

Six **American Pipits** perched in a tree at the Philomath STP 7 Feb (Tim Johnson, Roy Gerig).

No **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** have been reported from Marys Peak this winter.

House Finches, a **Purple Finch**, and two **Lesser Goldfinches** sang in the Cheldelin neighborhood 28 Jan (Don Boucher). **Pine Siskins** continued to be scarce, but four turned up sw. of Philomath 1 Feb (Jim & Karan Fairchild). **Red Crossbills** in that neighborhood were singing in late Jan but quiet as of 1 Feb, so possibly nesting. Ten were near Detroit 1 Feb (Roy Gerig).

Numbers of **American** and **Lesser Goldfinches** in the Teloh-Cal-

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 location.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Robert Wisseman

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew your membership online, go to the ASC website (www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml) and renew via Paypal, or you can mail a check to ASC at PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING WEATHER CONDITIONS

We encourage members to contact Karan Fairchild to get on the ASC listserv in order to receive emergency email notifications about meeting cancellations related to weather conditions (as was the case for our December meeting), updated information about ASC events, fieldtrip locations and volunteer work parties. Send an email to our listserv administrator, Karan Fairchild, and request to be added to the listserv: alderspr@peak.org

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

If you have moved or changed your email or mail address, please send your new contact information to Suzanne Ortiz at ortizsv@gmail.com.

Suzanne Ortiz, ASC
Membership Chair

apooia neighborhood continued to be low compared with past years, possibly due to locally low supplies of weed seeds (Jim Smith). Some feeder watchers in Corvallis also noted low numbers this winter. However dozens of goldfinches wintered at E.E. Wilson WA and Luckiamute SNA, feeding from plants that still held seeds on the stem.

A **Townsend's Warbler** and several **Yellow-rumped Warblers** visited Chris Miller's NW Corvallis yard in the last days of Jan. As new residents of Corvallis, Louise and Larry Barden have enjoyed having a male **Townsend's Warbler** visit their feeder in the Timberhill neighborhood almost daily from December through 4 Feb. Two more fed along with **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** and **Gold-crowned Kinglets** in Douglas-firs near Alpine 22 Feb (Mahogany Aulenbach). Despite these and other reports, wintering **Townsend's Warblers** seemed to be sparser than usual, with record low numbers on the Airlie-Albany CBC.

A **Spotted Towhee** sang in south Corvallis 10 Feb (Molly Monroe). More were singing elsewhere around Corvallis by 13 Feb (Don Boucher). A "**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrow** sang near E.E. Wilson WA 28 Jan.

At Jackson-Frazier Wetland 11 Feb, a seemingly amorous male **Song Sparrow** hopped right alongside a presumed female, singing while it hopped along next to the boardwalk. Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were also in bushes near the start of the trail.

A few **White-throated Sparrows** continued to be seen through the period, usually with wintering flocks of **Golden-crowned Sparrows**. A "**Slate-colored**" **Dark-eyed Junco** visited feeders at Finley NWR headquarters 19 Feb (Erik Knight).

Two **Western Meadowlarks** sang at the alpaca pasture along the Campus Way bike trail 17 Feb (Bill Gerth).

Pacific Chorus-Frogs "sang" in a flooded field along Conser St. during mild wet weather on the night of 9 Feb (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). **Rough-skinned Newts** were mating in a pond along Davies Rd. in McDonald Forest 19 Feb (Don Boucher).

Next month: Look for more migrant Rufous Hummingbirds, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Violet-green Swallows in early March, then Ospreys and Orange-crowned Warblers and other swallow species later in the month. Wintering waterfowl will be staging for migration at mid-valley refuges. 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 21 Mar.

COMMUNITY NOTES

BIRDING BY EAR

Sponsored by the Audubon Society of Corvallis and the Avery House Nature Center. Lisa Millbank and Don Boucher will instruct this class.

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

You should already be familiar with common local birds to take this class.

3-week class

Wednesday, May 17, classroom session, 7pm - 9pm

Saturday, May 20, field trip, 9am - noon

Wednesday, May 24, classroom session, 7pm - 9pm

Saturday, May 27, field trip, 9am - noon

Wednesday, May 31, classroom session, 7pm - 9pm

Saturday, June 3, field trip, 9am - noon

Register online at <http://bit.ly/2lAD9ui>, call 541-758-6198, or email averyprograms@corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org

If you have questions about course content, you can contact donaboucher@gmail.com, 541-753-7689.

Don Boucher



CORVALLIS SUSTAINABILITY FAIR & TOWN HALL

Reminder: the Corvallis Sustainability Fair & Town Hall will be on Thursday, March 9, 2017 from 5-7 (Fair) & 7-9 (Town Hall) at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center on the OSU campus.

Fair & Town Hall are free and open to the public, but registration is required for the Town Hall. Further details are posted at www.sustainablecorvallis.org.

Suzanne Ortiz, ASC representative to CSC

PACIFIC CITY BIRDING & BLUES FESTIVAL

The 13th Annual Pacific City Birding & Blues Festival is April 21-23, 2017. The keynote presentation is Paul Bannick discussing his new book OWL: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls. Other activities include nature presentations, birding field trips, live show about birds of prey, and live blues music. Additional information is available at www.birdingandblues.org.

Naomi Weidner

OSU BIRD NERDS

Saturdays at 10 am Bilingual Nature Walks: Join us on four family-friendly, bilingual (Spanish and English) nature walks at local refuges. Volunteers still needed to help point out and identify birds for the group during the walk, but do not necessarily need to speak Spanish. Join us for a morning of birds and outdoor education! Walks are on Saturdays at 10 am:

March 25: William L. Finley NWR—Homer Campbell boardwalk (meet at trailhead parking lot)

April 8: Ankeny NWR—auto tour with stops at Eagle Marsh and/or Rail Trail/Marsh Boardwalk (meet at Ankeny Hill Outlook)

April 15: Baskett Slough NWR—Rich Guadagno Memorial Loop Trail (meet at trailhead parking lot)

Please email Mamo at waiianuhl@oregonstate.edu if you are interested in helping or have questions.

Mamo Waiianuhea

ATOP THE NESTBOX

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

Our volunteer group has lost several monitors during the last year or so. If you would like to help out by monitoring a trail segment, please let us know. Even checking the nestboxes you pass routinely on your way to work or school could be of significant help. We typically check nests once per week from April through August to count eggs and nestlings. Record keeping is easy and can be submitted digitally or on paper at the end of the nesting season.

Raylene Gordin

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

FEB 9, 2017 ASC BOARD MEETING

The February ASC board meeting was held at Natural Grocers 1235 NW 10th. President Chris Mathews presided. Participation of the ASC in the Sustainability Coalition was discussed with Suzanne Ortiz who is acting as liaison with Coalition. Plans for the Winter Wildlife Field Day are nearly complete. Karl Hatzell is getting bids for replacing barn roof at Hesthavn with metal roof. Conservation chair Jim Fairchild asked for member participation in writing governor and legislators about conservation issues. The next board meeting is March 2nd at Natural Grocers. This is one week earlier than the usual meeting date so that ASC board members can participate in Sustainability Coalition events.

Gail Nickerson, Secretary

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS CHAT

Bill Proebsting, Chris Mathews, Jim Fairchild, Suzanne Ortiz, Ray Drapek, Joel Geier, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Jessica Brothers, Gail Nickerson, Don Boucher, Mamo Waiianuhea, Raylene Gordin

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 fourth Thursday of the month. Submit text using Microsoft Word and photos to: chateditors@gmail.com

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS

CALENDAR

Mar 2	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm, Natural Grocers
Mar 9	Sustainability Fair & Town Hall
Mar 11	Field trip to Luckiamute State Natural Area
Mar 16	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini Sr Ctr
Mar 19	Work Party at Hesthavn, 10 am-2 pm
Mar 21	Field Notes submissions due
Mar 23	April CHAT submissions due
Mar 25	Bird Nerds nature walk at Finley NWR
Mar 26	Weed Pull at Hesthavn, 10 am-2 pm

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

Interested in volunteering? Please let us know:
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