



# THE CHAT

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS

MAY 2017

VOL. 46 #9

## ASC GENERAL MEETING

### THIRD THURSDAYS AT CHINTIMINI SENIOR CTR:

2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis  
Next Meeting: Thurs., May 18, 7-8:30 pm

### MAY 2017 PROGRAM:

#### JOHN LAUNDRE: 'PREDATORS AND FEAR: AIDING SURVIVAL OF GROUND-NESTING BIRDS'

John Laundre has studied large mammal predator-prey ecology for over 30 years in the western U.S. and northern Mexico; including working with cougars, wolves, coyotes, bobcats, deer, elk, bison, and bighorn sheep. His study of cougar ecology and behavior is one of the longest to date, 17 years.

He originated the concept of the landscape of fear, proposing that fear of prey for their predators drives many, if not all ecological processes. The one important aspect of this concept is that predators become instrumental in maintaining the balance between prey species and their habitat, not so much by killing their prey but affecting how they use the landscape.

He is author of the book *Phantoms of the Prairie: The Return of Cougars to the Midwest*, that looks at the phenomenon of cougars actually returning to the Great Plains region of the U.S.

John is a native of Wisconsin and received his Bachelors and Masters degrees there, going on for his PhD at Idaho State University in 1979. He currently lives in western Oregon where he is "semi-retired" and teaching part-time at Western Oregon University. He is the Vice President of the Cougar Rewilding Foundation whose goal is the eventual re-establishment of viable cougar populations in the Eastern U.S.

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

#### FUTURE SPEAKERS:

**September 14:** Regular ASC Chapter meeting (speaker TBD). Note: It's one week earlier than usual, see President's Corner on page 66

**September 20:** Noah Strycker speaking on his Global Big Year, at OSU's LaSells Stewart Center

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



*John Laundre with cougar cubs*

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

### LOCAL MONTHLY SECOND SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS

Our Saturday morning local field trips meet at 7:30 am the second Saturday of the month from September through June, at the Benton Center parking area, behind the Cannery Mall, 777 NW 9th St., Corvallis. 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 for updates a couple of days before the field trip on the ASC Facebook page, the Willamette Valley ListServ, <http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OR5>. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Return to Benton Center by noon.

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No meetings in Summer and then again in September

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## NEXT LOCAL FIELD TRIPS:

**May 13, Finley NWR.** We will bird our way across the refuge starting at the Prairie Overlook. Looking for recent arrivals and wildflowers.

**June 10, Bezell Forest and Cardwell Hill Rd.**

*Bill Proebsting*

## 2017 ASC WEEKEND FIELD TRIPS:

The May 18 Chapter meeting is the last chance, except for email, to sign up for the 2017 summer weekend field trips. These are:

**Malheur, June 1-4:** a 4-day journey to one of America's wildlife paradises. Herons, egrets, eagles, stilts, avocets, pelicans, ... the list is huge. And we explore hot spots in the mountains and the high desert in transits.

**Summer Lake, June 16-18:** If Common Poorwill, Snowy Plover and Yellow Rail do not raise your interest, there is still much more to this trip to a state wildlife area.

**Wallows, July 19-23:** Five days of gorgeous Oregon territory. Want to try for American Redstart, Gray Catbird, or Great Gray Owl? Try this one.

**Steens Mountain, August 10-13:** Our search for Black Rosy-Finch includes outstanding butterfly opportunities. And we swim in a hot-springs pool.

**South Coast, August 25-27:** This should correspond to the southward migration of large numbers of shorebirds.

Look for the Field Trip table at the May 18 general meeting. Or email Fred at [flramsey5@comcast.net](mailto:flramsey5@comcast.net) for more information or to sign up.

*Fred Ramsey*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### ASC TO HOST NOAH STRYCKER 9-20-17

Noah Strycker is currently the best-known birder in the U.S., possibly in the world. This is based on his 2015 Big Year, during which he traveled the planet and saw 6042 species of birds, more than half the world's known total. And he is coming to Corvallis to tell us about it this September 20 at OSU.

Noah, OSU Class of 2008, gave a memorable program at ASC in October 2014, shortly before starting his odyssey. We told him then that we hoped for an ASC repeat as soon as possible after his completion of the adventure. ASAP turned out to be September, 2017. He has been preoccupied with writing a book about the experience—*Birding Without Borders*, to be published this November. Information about his adventure is at: [audubon.org/Noah](http://audubon.org/Noah).

We require an extra-large venue for this event, so we reserved the LaSells Stewart Center on the OSU campus. Our preferred date was September 21, the third Thursday of the month. Unfortunately, the venue was booked, so we settled for Wednesday, September 20. The ASC Board decided to also have a regular chapter meeting as well. But because the Senior Center was already booked for our usual third Thursday of the month, we will hold the chapter meeting a week earlier, on September 14. Mark your calendars for two special events—Noah Strycker on September 20 at LaSells Stewart at OSU and the first 2017-18 ASC chapter meeting on September 14 at the Chintimini Senior Center. Further information to follow later.

*Chris Mathews, ASC President*

## ASC BOARD ELECTIONS

The Board of Directors of the Audubon Society of Corvallis offers the following slate of candidates to serve in the 2017/2018 term, which begins at the summer board meeting:

### OFFICERS:

**President- Chris Mathews** has served as ASC president since 2015. He served previously as president from 2005 to 2008, and has served as vice president during three previous intervals. He retired from the OSU faculty in 2002 and has continued to serve OSU as professor emeritus of biochemistry. Chris and Kate moved to Corvallis in 1978 from Tucson, where both had worked at the University of Arizona.

**Vice President- Bill Proebsting** is a retired professor of horticulture at OSU and longtime bird watcher. He previously 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- 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.

**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 the vice president of the OSU Bird Nerds, and will graduate this spring from the Fisheries and Wildlife Department at OSU. Jesse works as a research assistant at OSU. He is an active birder and enjoys sharing his love of watchable wildlife with the community, colleagues, and family.

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

**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 and helps with outreach for ASC. 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 1990s 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.

**Mamo Waiianuhe** is the Community Outreach Chair for the OSU Bird Nerds. Mamo grew up between West Linn, OR and Honomū, HI. She is currently in her third year as an undergraduate at OSU, majoring in Biology and minoring in Fisheries and Wildlife. She hopes to be a conservation biologist one day and conduct research that helps mitigate avian conservation issues. She is especially interested in avian diseases, evolution and genetics, outdoor education/outreach, and increasing diversity in the wildlife sciences. Mamo has been a technician for the Tachycineta Swallow Research Program (Dr. Jim Rivers, OSU), and a predator control intern for the 'Alalā Project and Mauna Kea Forest Restoration Project. She helped with the 2017 Willamette Valley Bird Symposium and had a key role in the 2017 Winter Wildlife Field Day. This summer, she hopes to be a USFWS Directorate Fellows Program intern, or a volunteer in the Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, OR. Mamo became excited about birds in high school, but wanted to explore other topics at OSU. After working in a coral symbiosis lab for a year and a half, she happily returned to her focus on birds. Mamo is eager to continue learning about birds and improve her birding skills. She enjoys sharing her passion for birds and conservation with family, friends, and the public.

**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 from managing the museum collection at Hesthavn to a key planner and station leader for WWFD. He has also been an active participant in the Oregon 2020 project and ASC field trips.

*Karan Fairchild, Nominating Committee*

## CONSERVATION UPDATE

At the national level, the Trump administration is clearly demonstrating a stronger disdain for conserving and protecting natural resources than many of us could have imagined. Whether denying climate change, dismembering the Environmental Protection Agency, cutting budgets and staff for Agriculture, Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or revoking previous executive orders with his own, the Trump Administration attacks natural resource conservation with a quiet but potent fervor and resolve.

The ecological consequences of despoiling our only home can no longer be ignored. Please resolve to speak up weekly -- to your friends, your U.S. Representative and Senators, and your relatives and colleagues. We need to learn to communicate across perceived divides to find common interests.

The state legislature is moving many bills, and must tackle a huge looming budget deficit. In the category of potentially disastrous bills, Rep. John Huffman introduced HB 3047, which would amend the prohibition on the use of armed unmanned aerial vehicles in Oregon to allow anyone with FAA approval and a permit such use. Wolf protection advocates worry these would be used by agencies or their permittees to gun down predators.

Closer to home, house-passed legislation would replace the Western Meadowlark as the Oregon State Bird with the Osprey. Unless we involve ourselves in the legislative and budget process, this unfortunate action will negate the choice we gave Oregon children many years ago.

The Elliot State Forest may remain in public hands due to tremendous public outcry, and a change of heart by State Treasurer and Land Board member Tobias Read. That Board will likely decide the Elliott's fate May 9th in Salem. Senator Arnie Roblin of District 5 (Coos Bay) has moved SB847 forward to make possible the transfer from Common School Fund lands. So, hard work of citizens might just work!

Speaking of which, I'd like to thank Randy and Pam Comeleo and their colleagues for convincing Benton County Commissioners that livestock owners should have access to non-lethal measures to deter predation. That money appears to be in the budget, and the final public hearing will be May 17th, as noted in Linda Campbell's note below.

*Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair*

## CONSERVATION ADDED NOTE

Audubon members Randy & Pam Comeleo have worked for a number of years now to encourage Benton County & OSU to discontinue use of lethal predator trapping through the misleadingly named Wildlife Services branch of the United States Department of Agriculture - Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (US-DA-APHIS). These traps frequently kill & injure non-target species, and do very little to curb predation losses of farm animals or grain fields.

On April 10th, Randy proposed the pilot project they developed for non-lethal control of predators to the Benton County Commission's Budget Committee that is currently hammering out details of the 2017-19 budget. Comeleo's "Benton County Agriculture & Wildlife Protection Program," would offer grants to area farmers who want to try deterrence methods that have worked successfully in other areas to reduce or eliminate farm stock losses from predators. Such methods include guard dogs, electric fencing, flashing lights & random noise generators.

Jeff Picton, Chintimini Wildlife Center and Cassandra Robertson, Energize Corvallis, Corvallis Environmental Center both spoke in favor of the plan.

Another Public Hearing on any aspect of the proposed County budget takes place at 6 pm on Wednesday, May 17th in the Sunset Room at the Sunset Building, 4077 SW Research Way. If you feel moved to support the Benton County Agriculture & Wildlife Protection Plan, please come say so!

*Linda Campbell*

## SPECIAL EVENT ALERT

**Save the date: September 20, 2017**

## FOR BIRDING WITHOUT BORDERS: AN EPIC WORLD BIG YEAR WITH NOAH STRYCKER AT OSU

In 2015, bird nerd and Oregon native Noah Strycker became the first human to see more than half of the planet's bird species in a single, year-long, round-the-world birding trip. Anything could have happened, and a lot did. He was scourged by blood-sucking leeches, suffered fevers and sleep deprivation, survived airline snafus and car breakdowns, mudslides and torrential floods, skirted war zones, and had the time of his life. Birding on seven continents and carrying only a pack on his back, Strycker enlisted the enthu-

stastic support of local birders to tick off more than 6,000 species, including Adélie Penguins in Antarctica, a Harpy Eagle in Brazil, a Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Thailand, and a Green-breasted Pitta in Uganda. He shared the adventure in real time on his daily blog ([audubon.org/noah](http://audubon.org/noah)), and now he reveals the inside story. Join ASC on September 20, 2017, for Strycker's humorous and inspiring presentation about his epic World Big Year. He will leave you with a new appreciation for the birds and birders of the world.

Noah Strycker is Associate Editor of *Birding* magazine, the author of two well-regarded books about birds, and a regular contributor of photography and articles to all major bird magazines, as well as other media. He blogs regularly for the American Birding Association. Strycker set a world Big Year record in 2015, and his book about the experience, *Birding Without Borders*, will be released in November 2017. Strycker has studied birds on six continents with field seasons in Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Australia, Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands, and the Farallon Islands. He also works as a naturalist guide on expedition cruises to Antarctica and Norway's Svalbard archipelago, literally spreading the inspiration of birds from pole to pole. His first book, *Among Penguins*, chronicles a field season working with Adélie Penguins in Antarctica (Oregon State University Press, 2011) and his second, *The Thing with Feathers*, celebrates the fascinating behaviors of birds and human parallels (Riverhead Books, 2014). Strycker is also a competitive tennis player, has run five marathons, and hiked the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada. He is based in Oregon, where his backyard has hosted more than 100 species of birds. Visit his website at: [www.noahstrycker.com](http://www.noahstrycker.com)

Mark your calendar now, so you don't miss this special ASC event: 7:00 pm on Wednesday Sept. 20, at LaSells Stewart Center, OSU. Reception to follow. You can read more about Noah Strycker's record-breaking 2015 worldwide Big Year at [audubon.org/noah](http://audubon.org/noah).

Naomi Weidner

## EDUCATION NEWS

### AQUATIC ECOLOGY PROGRAM UNDERWAY

Aquatic Ecology is underway, and in April we welcomed 110 Corvallis school district kids out to Hesthavn Nature Center. So far, the kids have concluded that our run of Oak Creek is healthy based on their macroinvertebrate findings, water quality testing, and riparian area observations. We will continue the program through mid-June. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jessica Brothers at [educationaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:educationaudubon@gmail.com) for dates.

Jessica Brothers, Aquatic Ecology Coordinator

## HESTHAVN NEWS

There are two work parties scheduled in May at Hesthavn. Note that though most of my recent work parties have been on Sundays these are on Saturdays.

**Saturday May 20, 10 am to 2 pm.** This is my barn and yard work party for this month, but with a slightly different twist. I think I would like to go through the tool-shed, reorganize, throw some things away, make note of tools that need repairs, etc. I am picturing pulling everything out and reorganizing from scratch. Of course it still will be May, so we will have to expend some time doing things like mowing the grass, but the tool shed will be the main focus. If the day is nice it should be a fun work party.

**Saturday May 27 10 am to 2 pm.** So much to do! Thistle, teasel, false brome, yellow archangel. We will have some new plantings of Camas and Milkweeds that perhaps will need some attention. I think we will give the blackberries a rest for this one month.

**Note: Two work parties a month will continue through the summer. All work parties are from 10 am to 2 pm. Dates are:**

Sunday June 18: Barn and Yard  
Saturday June 24: Restoration / Weeds  
Saturday July 8: Barn and Yard  
Sunday July 16: Restoration / Weeds  
Saturday Aug 12: Barn and Yard  
Saturday Aug 26: Restoration / Weeds  
Saturday Sept 16: Barn and Yard  
Sunday Sept 24: Restoration / Weeds

Questions? Email: [raydrapek@gmail.com](mailto:raydrapek@gmail.com)

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

## NEW ASC TOTE BAGS ARRIVED

The Book and Raffle table has just received a new order of 100 green and white ASC tote bags. These are sturdy, stand-alone bags with handy side pockets for notes or lists. We are very happy this new supply is available. The cost for each bag is \$4.00. If you would like one prior to the May 18th chapter meeting, call or write Sally Shaw, at 541-757-2749 or [shaws@peak.org](mailto:shaws@peak.org) to arrange to pick one up. Or, come to the May 18th meeting prepared to buy a few for yourself or as gifts for friends and relatives you visit this summer.

Sally Shaw, Raffle Table and Book Sales

## FIELD NOTES

### FIELD NOTES DATES

03/22/17-04/25/17

The spring weather continued to be mostly cool and wet. The morning of 3 Apr brought a light frost in the Camp Adair neighborhood, but afterward temperatures stayed above freezing on the valley floor. **Oregon iris, snow queen, and Menzie's larkspur** were blooming on Coffin Butte 26 Mar (Rana Foster). Wildflowers at Bald Hill Park and Avery Park 28 Mar included **western spring beauty, fawn lily, yellow stream violet, and western trillium** (Catherine Otto; Don Boucher). By then **bigleaf maple** was also in bloom, drawing concentrations of insects which in turn attracted early migrant insectivores such as **Orange-crowned Warblers**.

**Abbreviations and locations:** NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds. 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

Flocks of migrant **Greater White-fronted Geese** were noted over Corvallis from 4 Apr onward. 320 flew over Stewart Lake on 19 Apr (Jamie Simmons). Several hundred stopped to rest on Baskett Slough NWR 23 Apr (Erik Knight). A **Brant** was still along Bruce Rd. along with at least 4500 **Cackling Geese** at Finley NWR 25 Mar (Jeff Harding, Isaac Denzer, Kai Frueh).

Six **Cinnamon Teal** were at McFadden Marsh 25 Mar (Isaac Denzer, Kai Frueh). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at the Philomath STP 12 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). Duck species in the marsh in the nw corner of EE Wilson Wildlife Area 31 Mar included **Ring-necked Duck, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Mallard, Wood Duck, and American Wigeon** (Paul Adamus). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was



with a flock of **American Wigeon** on a wetland at the Cold Creek Hunting Club off Robison Rd. in s. Polk County 11 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn).

On 1 Apr a pair of **Hooded Mergansers** courted on what remains of the Canal Pond at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, after the dike breached this winter (Luckiamute Watershed Council field trip). A male **Greater Scaup** swam with a flock of **Lesser Scaup** on the Philomath STP 12 Apr (Vickie Buck, Sally Hill).

**California Quail** visited ASC's Hesthavn Sanctuary in late March (Julie Gibson). Several **Mountain Quail** called on the Camp Adair Rifle Range 11 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). **Wild Turkeys** in courtship displays were conspicuous around Bald Hill Farm and in Soap Creek Valley through the period. Turkeys are not native to Oregon but were introduced as a game bird. Numbers seem to have increased significantly in recent years, especially in oak savanna habitats.

Two **Western Grebes** and a breeding-plumage **Horned Grebe** were at Foster Reservoir 19 Apr (Jeff Harding). Two **Western Grebes** were at Cabell Marsh 25 Mar (Isaac Denzer, Kai Frueh). A **Horned Grebe** molting into breeding plumage was at the Philomath STP 12 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn).

Flocks of **Band-tailed Pigeons** mobbed feeders in nw Corvallis by 21 Apr (Susan Hatlevig). A flock visited a filbert orchard s. of Independence, taking advantage of the food source provided by this burgeoning crop (Mike Lippsmeyer).

A early **Vaux's Swift** was spotted over the OSU campus 2 Apr (Adrian Hinkle). Several were near Lebanon 18 Apr (Steve Seibel) as the main wave of migrants began to arrive. By late April a few flocks over Albany showed some interest in the new swift tower in Swanson Park, but none were seen to enter it.

**Rufous Hummingbirds** visited feeders through the period, jousting for position with each other and with the resident **Anna's Hummingbirds**. **Calliope Hummingbirds** are rare as spring migrants through our area. A very early migrant male visited a red-flowering currant in Lisa Millbank and Don Boucher's yard near Cheldelin middle school 28-29 Mar. Another was at Luckiamute SNA 10 Apr (Kaplan Yalcin). One visited a feeder in the Teloh-Calapooia neighborhood 25 Apr (Jim Smith).

**Virginia Rails** and **Soras** were heard and occasionally seen in local marshes.

Eight **Black-necked Stilts** were at Baskett Slough NWR 23 Apr (Erik Knight). Shorebirds at Herbert Farm Open Space 2 Apr included a **Black-bellied Plover**, 23 **Greater Yellowlegs** and 46 **Least Sandpipers** (Isaac Denzer). A **Semipalmated Plover** turned up there 16 Apr (Kai Frueh). A **Long-billed Curlew** stopped by a field near the Philomath STP 12 Apr (Tyler Hallman; Hendrik Herlyn).

Six **Dunlin** at the Philomath STP 7 Apr were in breeding plumage (Hendrik Herlyn). On 18 Apr a **Solitary Sandpiper**, 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and 35 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at Herbert Farm Open Space along with 139 **Least Sandpipers** and 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, the last identified by voice as they flew off (Hendrik Herlyn).

70 **Red-necked Phalaropes**, an adult **Sabine's Gull** and a **Bonaparte's Gull** were among birds more normally found offshore in this season, which wound up at Philomath STP following a storm on 7 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn).

Two **Common Loons** at Foster Reservoir 19 Apr were in full breeding plumage (Jeff Harding).

Four **American White Pelicans** flew south over Corvallis 12 Apr. From photos all appeared to be adults showing a "horn" on their bills that pelicans develop during breeding season (Lisa Millbank). Pelicans have become a more common sight in the Willamette Valley within recent decades, thanks to extensive wetland restorations, but so far there are no known nesting sites.

An **American Bittern** showed up on Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's wetland restoration s. of Independence 17 Apr. A **Great Blue Heron** nesting colony on Beaver Creek near the S. Santiam River was active with birds sitting on nests by 27 Mar (Jeff Harding). A colony

in four big Douglas-firs along SE Chester in s. Corvallis was active by 1 Apr (Kris Downing). **Green Herons** were noted at Stewart Lake 12 Apr (Jamie Simmons), in Willamette Park 19 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn), over the recycling center in the Lawndale neighborhood in n. Corvallis around 17 Apr (Olin Allen), and over the Cheldelin neighborhood 23 Apr (Don Boucher).

An **Osprey** was along Buena Vista Rd. s. of Independence 23 Mar (Deanna Emig). One was on the nest next to the Harrison Avenue bridge in Corvallis 30 Mar (Karin Lamberson). **Ospreys** fished from the angling pond at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area 1 Apr despite that a **Bald Eagle** pair was nesting just north of the pond, with the female brooding while the male perched in a nearby cottonwood.

At least 80 **Bald Eagles** were still roosting sw. of Tangent 26 Mar, by which date counting was difficult due to increasing foliage in the cottonwoods (Steve Seibel). A downy eagle nestling poked its neck, head and shoulders up into view from a nest near there 12 Apr (Barbara DiMattio).

At E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area 9 Apr, a male **Northern Harrier** gave chattering calls while doing a half-hearted version of his "roller-coaster" display flight, perhaps near a female already on a nest. A male **Northern Harrier** at Baskett Slough NWR 9 Apr caught a **Green-winged Teal** and held it under water at the edge of a pond until the teal stopped struggling, then dragged it toward nearby marsh foliage to feed (Frank Kolwicz).

A late **Rough-legged Hawk** was over Willamette Park 2 Apr (Isaac Denzer). A nesting pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** continued to be heard and seen on the nw side of Bald Hill Park through the period.

As of 9 Apr, Jim and Karan Fairchild were hearing **Great Horned Owls**, **Western Screech-Owls**, **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, and **Northern Pygmy-Owl** nightly at their place sw. of Philomath. Another **Northern Pygmy-Owl** called regularly along Tampico Ridge n. of Adair Village during the first half of April.

**Acorn Woodpeckers** called 26 Mar on Coffin Butte (Rana Foster), where a new colony seems to have sprouted up, perhaps populated by offspring from another young colony in the main part of E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area. Jim and Karan Fairchild enjoyed five species of woodpeckers at their place sw of Philomath in early Apr, included two pairs of **Pileated Woodpeckers** plus **Hairy Woodpecker**, **Downy Woodpecker**, **Northern Flicker**, and **Red-breasted Sapsucker**.

A **Merlin** ("black" form) visited Stewart Lake 4 Apr (Jamie Simmons). A very colorful **American Kestrel** (likely a male) frequented ASC's Hesthavn Sanctuary in late March (Julie Gibson). On 1 Apr a male kestrel kept watch beside a nest box in E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area where its mate was likely brooding (Luckiamute Watershed Council field trip).

A silent **Western Wood-Pewee** was seen and photographed at Stewart Lake 25 Apr (Jamie Simmons, Tom Gilg, Todd Thompson). A **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** showed up in Willamette Park 19 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). A migrant **Dusky Flycatcher** was heard and briefly seen at Bald Hill Park 23 Apr (Isaac Denzer).

On 25 Mar a **Black Phoebe** was at the Corvallis water treatment plant (Rana Foster), which has become a regular site for this species in recent years. A pair was there 19 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). A pair continued in the south part of E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, where courtship was observed last month.

An adult **Northern Shrike** was just s. of Independence 7 Apr (Mike Lippsmeyer). An early migrant **Cassin's Vireo** turned up near Goss Stadium 30 Mar; Don Boucher watched it carefully for several minutes to be sure of the identification. One sang near Corvallis High School 11 Apr (Don Boucher). The first migrant **Warbling Vireo** reported was near Alpine 20 Apr (Mahogany Aulenbach); another was in the Lewisburg area 21 Apr (Paul Adamus).

Three **Horned Larks** turned up on Mike and Karen Lippsmeyer's farm s. of Independence 24 Apr.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Steve Adams  
Jo and Scott Hersh  
Damien Miller and Claudia Modesto & family  
Laura Morrison  
M.W. Victor  
Kaplan and Rebecca Yalcin

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew your membership online, go to the ASC website (<http://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 listserve 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 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 or mail address, please send your new contact information to Suzanne Ortiz at [ortizsv@gmail.com](mailto:ortizsv@gmail.com).

*Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Membership Chair*

### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS CHAT

Bill Proebsting, Fred Ramsey, Chris Mathews, Karan Fairchild, Jim Fairchild, Suzanne Ortiz, Ray Drake, Joel Geier, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Gail Nickerson, Linda Campbell, Jessica Brothers, Sally Shaw, and Don Boucher

A **Purple Martin** was near Blodgett 9 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). Two turned up sw. of Philomath the same day (Jim & Karan Fairchild). Three perched on a snag near artificial nesting "gourds" along the 131 Rd. in Dunn Forest 12 Apr (Pam & Randy Comeleo). Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** visited the Philomath STP 30 Mar (Isaac Denzer); on the same day two more were at Luckiamute SNA where this species nests annually in caved sections of river banks.

A **Barn Swallow** at Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's farm s. of Independence 1 Apr seemed to be one of the ones that nests there annually, as it knew all of the sort cuts through the barns. Nesting **Cliff Swallows** returned to the same site 15 Apr. On 18 Apr Hendrik Herlyn spotted a lone **Bank Swallow** at Herbert Farm Open Space.

A pair of **Black-capped Chickadees** investigated tree cavities near Goss Stadium 30 Mar (Don Boucher).

The songs of **Pacific Wrens** were heard in forested areas through the period. A **House Wren** investigated a nest box sw. of Philomath 10 Apr (Jim Fairchild); two sang in a clearcut on the Camp Adair Rifle Range 11 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). **Marsh Wrens** sang in the nw part of EE Wilson Wildlife Area 31 Mar (Paul Adamus).

A **Western Bluebird** pair using one of Elsie Eltzroth's nest boxes built a full 3-inch cup nest by the last week of March, but still had no eggs as of 31 Mar, likely due to the cool weather. A female bluebird that carried nesting material into two different nest box in the Cheldelin neighborhood in early April finally decided on one box and laid her first egg 10 Apr (Lisa Millbank, Don Boucher).

A **Hermit Thrush** sang near Cheldelin Middle School 9 Apr (Don Boucher). On 23 Apr Pam Otley heard the distinctive liquid "whit" call of a **Swainson's Thrush** at Cabell Marsh.

A wayward female **Phainopepla** visited E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area 9 Apr, skulking in a willow thicket. A female **Violet-green Swallow** found dead in a nest box in the Teloh-Calapooia neighborhood 14 Apr was apparently a victim of **House Sparrows** (Jim Smith).

A flock of 70 **American Pipits** perched briefly in an oak at Bald Hill Farm 3 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). This alpine/arctic-nesting species is normally found in treeless habitats, but migrant flocks will sometimes perch in trees.

**Purple Finches** and **House Finches** could be heard singing throughout the period. Two small, streaked birds with red crowns in s. Albany 6 Apr may have been **Common Redpolls** (Jim Smith). **American Goldfinches** began to take up territories and calling by 25 Mar.

A small flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** flew over NE Corvallis 31 Mar (Lisa Millbank). Larger flocks showed up on the OSU campus by the end of the period (Don Boucher).

**Orange-crowned Warblers** continued to show up in the last week of March, and migrants were seen in good numbers throughout April. Two migrant **Nashville Warblers** were s. of Philomath 16 Apr (Isaac Denzer). Several sang at Avery Park 16 Apr (Louise & Larry Barden), and one was in Lewis Creek Park in Sweet Home 19 Apr (Jeff Harding).

A **Common Yellowthroat** that sang near Junction City 27 Mar (Barbara Combs) was one of the first to be noted in our area. By late April the "witchity-witch" song of these masked warblers could be heard in brushy habitats throughout the area. A **MacGillivray's Warbler** was in Bald Hill Park 23 Apr (Isaac Denzer).

Bright male **Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warblers** sang near Griggs 27 Mar (Jeff Harding). An early **Yellow Warbler** was near the Benton County Fairgrounds 10 Apr (Julie Gibson). A **Wilson's Warbler** turned up in the Lewisburg area 16 Apr (Paul Adamus).

Jacob Mathison heard a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** singing south of Corvallis 4 Apr. One was photographed at Stewart Lake 6 Apr (Jamie Simmons). Both **Black-throated Gray Warblers** and a lingering **Townsend's Warbler** were in Avery Park 16 Apr (Louise & Larry Barden). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** visited Naomi Weidner's North Albany yard 16-19 Apr. A **Hermit Warbler** sang sw. of Philomath 21 Apr (Karan Fairchild).

A **Chipping Sparrow** turned up in the Cheldelin neighborhood 28 Mar (Lisa Millbank). Another visited Jamie Simmons' nw Corvallis yard 5 Apr. A flock of 8 were at OSU's Soap Creek Ranch 7 Apr. Chipping Sparrows were formerly a common nesting bird in towns throughout the Willamette Valley, but now are mainly limited to oak savanna remnants and Christmas tree farms around the edges of the valley.

An even more imperiled type of sparrow is the "**Oregon Vesper Sparrow**" (the subspecies endemic to western Oregon, western Washington, and formerly nw California). Bald Hill Farm (a Greenbelt Land Trust property north and west of Bald Hill Park) is one of the best remaining places to see them near Corvallis. A male that was color-banded at Bald Hill Farm last year returned to nearly the same nesting territory that it used last year by 31 Mar (Bob Altman). Three were singing in the Cardwell Hill area 5 Apr. By 12 Apr three more males had also returned to the same Bald Hill Farm territories that they used last year.

Most **Lincoln's Sparrows** migrated out by mid-Apr but one visited a Teloh-Calapooia yard 21 Apr (Jim Smith).

A few **White-throated Sparrows** continued into April. One visited a yard near Airlie 18 Apr (Olin Allen). Up to 2 frequented a nw Corvallis yard for most of the period, and were last seen 22 Apr (Jamie



Simmons). Migrant flocks of **Golden-crowned Sparrows** fed on cherry blossoms at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area in the first week of April, and a few continued through the period. A migrant "**Gambel's**" **White-crowned Sparrow** turned up at the Philomath STP 14 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). A female "**Oregon**" (**Dark-eyed Junco**) tended a nest with three eggs in a planter on a porch in Corvallis as of 12 Apr (fide Julie Gibson).

A bright male **Western Tanager** called on Witham Hill 21 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). A male **Black-headed Grosbeak** visited a sw Albany feeder 19 Apr (Kaplan Yalcin). One was nearby in the Teloh-Calapooia neighborhood 23 Apr (Jim Smith). A finch-sized bird, deep blue overall including on the underparts, was observed at Stoneybrook Lodge 2 Apr (Joanne Lattin); from the description it may have been a vagrant **Indigo Bunting**.

A **Western Meadowlark** sang along Coville Rd. at Baskett Slough NWR 4 Apr (Virginia Stanton). Four sang on the Camp Adair Rifle Range 11 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). Two singing meadowlarks lingered at Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's place through mid-Apr, then seemed to disappear for a week, but were heard again, singing sporadically at the end of the period.

**Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were reported from Baskett Slough NWR by 27 Mar (m. obs.), and from Finley NWR by 2 Apr (m. obs.). Arrival dates for **Brown-headed Cowbirds** have become difficult to define as wintering birds have become more common in recent decades, but by the end of the period it was clear that numbers were increasing.

A **Red Fox** called at Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's place s. of Independence on the night of 31 Mar, the first one they've heard or seen there in at least 15 years.

**Next month:** Look and listen for our later neotropical migrants including **Hammond's Flycatchers**, **Western Kingbirds**, **Yellow-breasted Chats** and **Lazuli Buntings**. By the next issue of *The Chat*, many songbirds will have finished nesting, and some shorebirds will already be passing back through on their way south. Please post your observations by June 20 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.

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

**ON THE ROAD WITH FINLEY & BOHLMAN:** Finding Their Wildlife Muses, an Oregon Historical Society Series - **May 12th and 13th**

The William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge was named for the famous conservationist and photographer. Join USFWS staff and volunteers on an evening discovery outing while looking for the very species Finley and Herman Bohlman captured and described in their photographs, writings and talks. We'll finish just in time for you to enjoy a picnic meal at the Tye Winery bonfire event that night, just down the road. And the walk will set the stage for a Saturday evening event discussing the fascinating history and legacy of Finley and Bohlman, conservation leaders without whom we might not have this special wildlife refuge right out our backdoor.

### MAY 12TH A FINLEY REFUGE OUTING

4-5:30 pm Cabell Lodge Parking Lot, Finley National Wildlife Refuge, presented by USFWS staff and volunteers

### MAY 13TH LECTURE AND SLIDE PRESENTATION

6-7:30 pm Willamette Room, OSU Valley Library, presented by Laura Croy and Bob Sallinger

*Jim Fairchild*

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MARBLED MURRELET CITIZEN SCIENCE SURVEY

Volunteers are needed for the 12th Annual Marbled Murrelet "Citizen Science" Survey on the OR coast near Cape Perpetua. Training will be provided, so no prior experience is needed. There are 2 separate weekend training and survey sessions on July 13-14 and July 19-20. You can join one or both.

OSU ornithologist and Marbled Murrelet expert Kim Nelson and Naturalist Abigail DeYoung will lead the surveys with Paul Engelmeyer of Portland Audubon Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary. The team will survey for these endangered birds in the Yachats area that includes the 100,000 acre "Globally Significant" Murrelet Important Bird Area.

Day 1 is Survey training that starts at 6:30 pm at the Yachats Common. Day 2 is the Morning Survey in upland sites that starts before sunrise and ends 2 hours later, and near shore surveys at 6 coastal sites between 9 and 10 am.

If you can help, or have questions please contact Paul at 541-547-4227 or pengelmeyer@peak.org.

*Teri Engbring*

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

### APRIL 13, 2017 ASC BOARD MEETING

The ASC board met at Natural Grocers 1035 NW 10th St. The internship at Willamette NWR will not be filled this year due to late approval from USFWS and lack of qualified candidates. The board approved funding of a Blue-bird Trail pamphlet. Chintimini Senior Center will be the general meeting site for next year. Forest Green was chosen as the color for the new Hesthavn metal roof. The next board meeting will be at Natural Grocers May 11th at 7 pm.

*Gail Nickerson, Secretary*

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## 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.

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## CHAT ARTICLES

The Chat editors, Teri Engbring and Naomi Weidner, 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

May 11	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm, Natural Grocers
May 13	Field Trip to Finley NWR
May 18	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini Sr Ctr
May 20	Work Party at Hesthavn, 10 am-2 pm
May 27	Work Party at Hesthavn, 10 am-2 pm
June 10	Field Trip to Beazell Forest & Cardwell Hill
June 20	Field Notes submissions due
June 22	Summer CHAT stories due (no June issue)
Sept 14	First Fall ASC General Meeting at Sr Ctr
Sept 20	ASC Hosts Noah Strycker at OSU

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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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