



THE CHAT

MAY 2018

VOL. 47 #9

ASC General Meeting

Third Thursdays at Chintimini Senior Ctr:

2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis
Next Meeting: Thurs, May 17, 2018, 7-8:30 pm

May Program

Final 2017-18 Program Year Speaker:

May 17: Rich Hoyer, Polyglottal Passerines— Mimicry Is Not Just For Mockingbirds

Rich Hoyer, Wings Birding Tours:



While birding at Finley National Wildlife Refuge in his teens, Rich Hoyer heard the most amazing thing—a Purple Finch incorporating sounds of a California Scrub-Jay in its jumbled song—and thought he had discovered something new, since such behavior wasn't mentioned in any field guide. Since then he's been fascinated and intrigued by mimicry in birds, collecting personal observations and recordings of the phenomenon. In this audio and visual presentation, Rich Hoyer will present examples of mimicry in songbirds from throughout the Americas and share his enthusiasm for this curious and

often entertaining behavior.

Born and raised in Oregon, Rich Hoyer earned Bachelors degrees in German and Zoology at Oregon State University. Following a few years as an itinerant biologist and then as summer guide on Saint Paul Island, Alaska, he moved to Tucson, Arizona and has been working as a professional birding tour leader for WINGS for the past 21 years. He leads tours to such exciting locations as Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico, Belize, and Jamaica, but he also looks forward to his annual tours that explore the beauty and diversity of his home state.

Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and visiting. The chapter meeting commences at 7:00 pm, followed by Rich's presentation at 7:30.

As we take the summer off, our next meeting will be September 18.

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

ASC General Meetings

Third Thursdays at Chintimini Senior Ctr:

September – May
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis

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Field Trip Schedule

Half-Day Birding Trips

Our Saturday morning local field trips meet the second Saturday from September through June at the Benton Center (756 NW Polk) parking area, behind the Samaritan Square Buildings, Corvallis at 7:30 am. This field trip is free and geared towards beginning birders, birders new to Oregon's mid-valley area and persons looking for a pleasant outing. Contact Bill Proebsting at proebstw@gmail.com or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the ASC Facebook page, the Willamette Valley ListServ, <http://birding.aba.org/maillist/ORS>, 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 2 field trips:

May 12 Finley NWR. We will bird our way across the refuge along Finley Rd, from the prairie to HQ. Mostly close to the cars, but short walk to Cabell Marsh, weather permitting.

June 9 McDonald Forest from the Oak Creek entrance.

Bill Proebsting

Weekend Field Trips

There are four more weekend field trips scheduled from May to September, 2018. As always, we will travel together in rented vans and share the relatively low costs of transportation and lodging. We will eat out, but you pay only for your own food and beverages.

For these trips, there will be signup sheets at the May ASC general meeting, or you can sign up by email at: framsey5@comcast.net.

The remaining 2018 weekend trips are:

Malheur NWR, May 22-25 Tue-Fri

Summer Lake, June 15-17 Fri-Sun

Steens Mountain, August 16-19 Thu-Sun

South Coast, September 1-3 Sat-Mon

Fred Ramsey, Weekend Field Trip Chair

ASC Board Nominations

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. This slate will be nominated at the May general meeting and subject to a vote by the membership:

Officers:

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, Program Chair 2015-2018 and presently leads local field trips for the chapter. He particularly enjoys birding Benton County, but he and Lena periodically travel around the U.S. and to Latin America for birding adventures.

Vice President – Mark Baldwin has lived in Corvallis since 1987. He has been an active member of ASC since retiring in 2013, and a Member at-Large of the board for the past three years. An avid birder, he has participated in many ASC field trips and enjoys travel & birding with his wife, Carla. For 25 years he taught Applied Tech (woodworking to pre-engineering) at Crescent Valley High School and was co-founder of the school's FIRST Robotics team. Photographing birds and other wildlife occupies much of his time.

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:

Dave Mellinger has served ASC in different roles for many years, acting as Conservation Chair, Vice President, board member, and Member-at-Large. He is 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 marine mammals using the sounds they make. He's a professor at a joint NOAA/Oregon State University laboratory in Newport.

Karan Fairchild has been involved with the Audubon Society of Corvallis for over 30 years. She's served in many capacities during that time, including Member at Large, Secretary, and fundraising chairperson. She instigated the successful Birdathon fundraisers, and is currently on the bylaws committee, nominations committee, Homer Campbell award committee, Hesthavn committee, and serves in several other functions. Past duties also included bird rehabilitation, bluebird trail, sales table, fair booths and publicity. She and husband Jim have done a local Christmas bird count for over 35 years and a Breeding Bird Survey in the Coast Range for over 25 years.

Gail Nickerson has been a member of ASC for 14 years and is a very sedentary bird watcher. Prior to serving as Member-at-Large on the board, she was secretary and refreshment chair. Gail is famous for providing her delicious homemade cookies and treats for board and general member meetings each month, and for hosting the volunteer break room at the Winter Wildlife Field Day



at Finley.

Valerie Mitchell taught science and literacy to children in Southern California for many years as teacher, mentor and administrator. Her experience with natural science and field trips has really helped ASC the past year. She and her husband, Dale, have over thirty years of active nature study and birding. After retirement, they moved to Oregon for new adventures. Valerie has been active in many ASC education and outreach efforts, including development of family-friendly programs for Hesthavn.

Laura Morrison is a retired biologist with a diverse professional background in environmental regulation, agriculture, research, and education. New to birding and ASC, she's been actively involved in planning for the annual Winter Wildlife Field Day and working with an education committee team developing curriculum materials for ASC volunteers participating in community education events. She has also helped develop key marketing tools for ASC.

Gabe Sandoval, as next year's OSU Bird Nerds President, replaces Mamo Waianuhe, who is graduating. Gabriel is the current Vice-president. He grew up in Los Angeles, CA. He is now in his third year as an undergrad at OSU, majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife. He hopes to pursue a career in avian conservation ecology and management. Gabriel has worked with Dr. Douglas Robinson on comparing the abundance of Yellow-rumped Warbler subspecies in Western OR, and also worked with Dr. Dana Sanchez on roles that frugivorous birds play in seed dispersal of western juniper in sagebrush-steppe restoration landscape. He has helped with bilingual nature walks at Finley National Wildlife Refuge and the Winter Wildlife Field day. This summer, he will work as a U.S Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Directorate Fellowship Assistant at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge, CA. He became interested in birds early, from his grandmother rehabilitating birds. He became a full-fledged birder pursuing a career in ornithology when he joined the Pomona Valley Audubon Society. Besides birding, Gabriel spends his spare time cooking, training for triathlons, and rock climbing.

Teri Engbring

President's Corner

World Scientists' Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice

Bill Ripple, an OSU Distinguished Professor of Forest Ecology, has given several well-received programs at ASC chapter meetings. Last fall Bill headed a group of eight scientists who exercised significant scientific leadership. Bill and his colleagues took note of a 1992 statement by the Union of Concerned Scientists, entitled "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity." That article, which called for "a great change in our stewardship of the Earth," was signed by 1700 scientists, including the majority of living Nobel laureates.

Twenty-five years later Bill and seven colleagues realized that the alarms expressed in 1992 were still valid, and in fact had become louder. Bill and his coauthors wrote "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice," and circulated it by email, inviting scientists to sign on as endorsers and coauthors. The article was published in the December 2017 issue of *Bioscience* with Bill Ripple as lead author and 15,363 coauthors representing 184 countries. I was one of the 15,364 authors.

Additional scientists were invited to add their names to the article, and by this March the article had been endorsed by more than 20,000 scientists. Of course, one need not be a scientist to be aware of the alarm signals from all over the only world we have to live in. Still, it is nice to note the leadership role played by an ASC friend and colleague.

Chris Mathews, Chapter President

Education News

Spring is always a busy time for our ASC education team with so many opportunities for us to participate in community events and programs. This year we are fortunate to have a strong team of capable volunteers to help us inform and inspire our community. These are some of their efforts in the coming weeks:

- 1) OSU Earth Day Community Fair – Valerie & Dale Mitchell, Carolyn Suchow & Laura Morrison.
- 2) Spring Girl Scout Camp – Valerie & Dale, Kendra DelToro, Mateo Garcia & Laura Morrison.
- 3) Summer Girl Scout camp (five days) – Sue, Valerie, Teri, Nancy, Phyllis, Kris, Laura & Vanessa
- 4) Developing a new birding program for seniors with Albany Parks – Teri, Nancy, Laura, Valerie & Dale
- 5) Fun Family Programs on Third Sunday afternoons at Hesthavn (at least through this June) designed & operated by Valerie & Dale Mitchell with help from Beth Boroson, and others.
- 6) Birding Badge field trip with Albany Boy Scout troop sometime early this fall or late summer.

The ASC Board and members appreciate the efforts of all volunteers who donate their time, expertise, and energy to inform and inspire through education and outreach. If you want to join the ASC team, contact us at volunteerasc@gmail.com. Thanks!

Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team

Hesthavn News

Spring at Hesthavn: Joy Blossoms!

Look about you. The long gray claws of Winter are losing their grip. Life is stirring anew; buds are popping; nests are building, newts are taking a hike. Spring, glorious Spring, has come back to us! Experience our newest 'adventure' at Audubon of Corvallis's own Hesthavn Nature Center: **Joy Blossoms: Spring in Corvallis!** Gather with us to celebrate this wondrous season with two new games, *Seed to Seed* and *What's Next?* Plant a native flower on our grounds to visit every year! Also learn how to make a pot and plant a seed for your own backyard! Hike our winding trails to look for signs that Spring is here. In short, wrap yourself in all things *Vernal!* **May 20, 1:00 to 3:00 pm.** Free to all and this is the ideal Sunday family outing for parents and grandparents with kids.

*Dale and Valerie Mitchell,
ASC Education Team members*

Hesthavn Coming work parties:

Saturday, May 5, 10 am to 1 pm. Barn and yard work party.

Weather permitting, we may paint some of the ramps and stain the picnic tables.

Saturday, May 19, 10 am to 1 pm. Restoration work party.

We will be pulling false brome and doing some site preparation work for planting Camas in a special Education program at Hesthavn the next day. All are welcome to participate.

Saturday, June 2, 10 am to 2 pm. Barn and yard work party.

Miscellaneous maintenance activities.

Sunday, June 17, 10 am to 2 pm. Thistle and teasel weed pull.

Monday, July 9, 10 am to 2 pm. Barn and yard work party.

Miscellaneous maintenance activities.

Monday, July 23, 10 am to 2 pm. Thistle and teasel weed pull.

Monday, Aug 6, 10 am to 2 pm. Barn and yard work party.

Miscellaneous maintenance activities.

Monday, Aug 13, 10 am to 2 pm. Cleaning the weeds out from around the caged plants.

Sunday, Sept 9, 10 am to 2 pm. Barn and yard work party.

Miscellaneous maintenance activities.

Saturday, Sept 29, 10 am to 2 pm. Cleaning the weeds out from around the caged plants.

If you would like to help us care for the trails, meadows, trees, bird feeders and homes, and buildings of Audubon's Nature Center, on Oak Creek, please contact Hesthavn Chair, Ray Drapek, at raydrapek@gmail.com, to volunteer.

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

Field Notes

03/23/18-04/26/18

April is the cruelest month, if one seeks to describe all that has happened in the space of a few hundred lines. Weather during the period swung from rain and snow flurries to sunshine, then back to rain, and finally ending with a week of sunshine and temperatures into the low 80s °F.

This was also a busy period for birds, with the departure of wintering flocks, arrival of migrants from the tropics, and a surge in nesting activity. At the beginning of the period, big-leaf maples were just beginning to bloom. By the end, most trees were thick with foliage, and even oaks and Oregon-ash had begun to unfurl their new leaves. Many wildflowers also came into bloom, including calypso orchids along upper Oak Creek by 2 Apr and camas at many locations by the end of the period.

Abbreviations and locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds. Herbert Farm & Natural Area is at the end of Herbert Rd. off Hwy 99W on the s. edge of Corvallis. Jackson-Frazier Wetland is in north Corvallis near Cheldelin Middle School. Luckiamute State Natural Area is along the Willamette River northwest of Albany. Philomath STP is south of Philomath and requires access permission. Stewart Lake is on the Hewlett-Packard campus in Corvallis; access is restricted to HP employees or accompanied guests. 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 **Brant** joined a flock of Cackling Geese near Finley NWR 25 Mar (John Sullivan). Migrant flocks of **Greater White-fronted Geese** were noted from 15 Apr onward (Jamie Simmons; Hendrik Herlyn). Flocks of **Cackling Geese** were still migrating north on the morning of 26 Apr (Don Boucher). Meanwhile the resident "**Western**" **Canada Geese** were busy nesting; a pair at Stewart Lake hatched 6 goslings over the weekend of 21-22 Apr.

Sixty **Northern Pintails** dabbled on field ponds at Herbert Farm 26 Mar (Rana Foster). A pair of **Gadwall** were at the Philomath STP 11 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). A male **Blue-winged Teal** was with the dabbling duck flock there 15 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). A dozen **American Wigeon** were at Starker Arts Pond through 20 Apr but they were gone by 26 Apr (Don Boucher).

Numbers of **Lesser Scaup** at Philomath STP swelled to 220 as stormy weather moved in 23 Mar; with them was a female **Greater Scaup** (Hendrik Herlyn) which continued through the period. A female **Common Goldeneye** continued there through mid Apr and two were present 11 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn).

Ruffed Grouse drummed on the east side of Marys Peak 6-8 Apr (Rana Foster).

A **Clark's Grebe** and a **Red-throated Loon** continued to be noted by many birders at a flooded gravel quarry off Eicher Rd. e. of Albany through 27 Mar and 31 Mar, respectively. Eventually a Linn County sheriff's deputy informed birders that the vantage points being used to view the quarry were on private property, and that neighbors were unhappy about the level of traffic. The owners confirmed that birders continuing to use those vantages would be considered as trespassing. Thanks to Tyler Hallman for following up with the landowners and sharing this information with the local birding community.

A more traditional deep-water birding site in Linn County, with better public access, is Foster Reservoir above Sweet Home. On 15 Apr Jeff Harding found 3 **Horned Grebes** and eight **Common Loons** there; the loons were all in breeding plumage and occasionally "yodeling." The loons and one grebe were still there 16 Apr, along with 19 **Buffleheads** (Tom Gilg).

In mid-April Susan Morton noticed two new visitors in her yard ne. of Lebanon, and identified them as **Eurasian Collared-Doves**. This species has spread rapidly across the continent since being introduced from Europe to the Bahamas, then making the jump to Florida by 1980. Their first recorded appearance in Oregon was in 1999. Since then they've become a regular nesting species in many parts of Oregon, especially towns and rural residential areas.

Three early **Vaux's Swifts** foraged over Bald Hill Farm 30 Mar (Kaplan Yalcin) but there were few other reports until 18 Apr when Mary Garrard and Don Boucher noticed a few over downtown Corvallis. 125 **Vaux's Swifts** formed a loose vortex over Weigand Hall on the OSU campus, until a small **accipiter** appeared and caused most of them to look for another roost (Mary Garrard).

Two baby **Anna's Hummingbirds** fledged on 27 Mar from a nest in Nancy Stotz' nw. Corvallis yard. Nancy noted that the nestlings started practice flights by 25 Mar, gripping the rim of the nest with their feet while they practiced hovering, then making short hovers to change places in the nest. After they left the nest they stayed in the nest tree as their mother fed them regularly, and at one point harassed a **Douglas Squirrel** that came too close. At Stewart Lake on 26 Apr, a female **Anna's Hummingbird** fed two fledglings while a male performed display dives nearby, eager to start on the next batch (Jamie Simmons).

Migrant **Rufous Hummingbirds** continued to arrive, including a male in Louise Barden's NW Corvallis yard 1 Apr. A female visited native red-flowering currant bushes near Teloh-Calapooia Park 22 Mar, but by 3 Apr was showing a preference for Oregon-grape (Jim Smith). A male **Calliope Hummingbird** visited a feeder just n. of Independence 21 Apr (Brandon Wagner); another neared from **Pacific bleeding-heart, tall**



larkspur, and **fringe-cups** in NE Corvallis 22 Apr (Lisa Millbank, Don Boucher).

A **Sora** and a **Virginia Rail** called from a wetland on the north side of Finley NWR 9 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn).

A pair of **Black-necked Stilts** turned up at Baskett Slough NWR 30 Mar and were nesting within view of Coville Rd. by 28 Apr (Nancy Stotz; Frank Kolwicz). The nest is very close to the road so please stay in your vehicle to minimize disturbance if you go there to view them.

A flock of 54 **Black-bellied Plovers** were along Lake Creek Rd. s. of Halsey 29 Mar (Nancy Stotz). A similar-sized flock was with several hundred **Dunlin** a few miles nw. of Halsey 16 Apr; 63 plovers and 45 dunlin were still there 26 Apr (Nancy Stotz).

A storm-blown **Whimbrel** stopped to forage in a field near the Philomath STP 8 Apr, then flew off calling toward the west (Sylvia Maulding). A migrant **Long-billed Curlew** was nw. of Halsey 19 Apr (Tom Gilg).

Four **Long-billed Dowitchers**, twelve **Greater Yellowlegs** and two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were in a private conservation wetland on the north side of Finley NWR 23 Mar (Howard Bruner). Another **Lesser Yellowlegs** was there 9 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn). Up to 100 migrant **Greater Yellowlegs** foraged around the edges of puddles in a grass field at Herbert Farm 26 Mar (Rana Foster).

Shorebirds in a muddy field near the Philomath STP 15 Apr included 450 **Dunlin** and 20 **Western Sandpipers**; a **Solitary Sandpiper** was along McFarland Rd. at Finley NWR 23 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn).

Ten **Wilson's Snipe** flew and called at Sunset Park 3 Apr, and one even sang its song which is rarely heard at our elevation and latitude (Don Boucher). Twenty probed the edges of the remedial wetland at Coffin Butte regional landfill 8 Apr (Paul Adamus).

Migrant **Red-necked Phalaropes** stopped over the Philomath STP 7-8 Apr, with a peak count of 30 on 8 Apr (Jamie Simmons).

Gulls at Philomath STP 23 Mar included two **Mew Gulls**, two **California Gulls**, and eleven **Ring-billed Gulls** (Howard Bruner). A **Sabine's Gull** visited McFadden Marsh on 7 Apr (Pam Otley); two more bobbed on the Philomath STP alongside a migrant **Bonaparte's Gull** 8 Apr (Jesse Laney).

A **Green Heron** was along Dunawi Creek 19 Apr (Julie Gibson).

A pair of **Ospreys** circled high over Cabell Marsh 29 Mar (Hendrik Herlyn). The nest at Luckiamute SNA was occupied by 6 Apr. **Bald Eagles** continued to be seen regularly as several pairs are nesting in the Corvallis-Albany area this year.

On 23 Mar a **White-tailed Kite** and two **Rough-legged Hawks** were on the North Prairie (Howard Bruner). Another **kite** was on the s. side of Finley NWR 27 Mar (Deanna Emig). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was still along Glaser Dr. w. of Lebanon 3 Apr (Mike Unger). Don Boucher heard, then saw one along Dunawi Creek 4 Apr. Another late individual was se. of Independence 15 Apr (John Shewey). Three **Golden Eagles** interacted over Peterson Butte near Lebanon 21 Apr (Rana Foster).

A **Great Horned Owl** nest n. of Baskett Slough NWR had a downy nestling sitting up by 31 Mar (Niles Brinton). An owl flying around Herbert Farm in late afternoon of 26 Mar (Rana Foster) was likely a **Short-eared Owl**; one continued into late April on a private conservation site nearby.

A wintering **Lewis's Woodpecker** continued near the Ray Bentley savanna overlook at Finley NWR through 19 Apr.

Pacific-slope Flycatchers began to arrive with one on Witham Hill 19 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn).

A **Black Phoebe** hunted and sang at Sunset Park in sw. Corvallis 3 Apr (Don Boucher).

A **Western Kingbird** turned up s. of Independence 21 Apr (Mike Lippsmeyer). Another turned up 23 Apr at the Finley NWR North Prairie where this species has nested in past years (Hendrik Herlyn).

A **shrike** on a ranch just n. of Baskett Slough NWR was likely

the same Northern Shrike that patrolled the site earlier in the season, but was too far off to identify for certain (Frank Kolwicz).

A carefully considered **Cassin's Vireo** sang sw. of Airlie 3 Apr (Olin Allen). More **Cassin's Vireos** arrived later in the month, and a few **Warbling Vireos** were noted y 25 Apr.

Twelve **Horned Larks** were near the intersection of Davis & Bell Plain Rds. sw. of Tangent 24 Mar (Jim Leonard).

An early **Cliff Swallow** turned up at Philomath STP 23 Mar (Hendrik Herlyn). **Tree Swallows** and **Violet-green Swallows** began to check out local nest boxes by 30 Mar (Kaplan Yalcin; Jim Smith). **Barn Swallows** began to show up in numbers by 1 Apr, when Jeff Harding also found a small flock of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** investigating drain holes under the Hwy 226 bridge over the South Santiam River near Scio. A couple dozen **Purple Martins** at Finley NWR 17 Apr were likely migrants heading for nesting sites farther north in the Coast Range (Roy Gerig).

A pair of **Black-capped Chickadees** excavated a nest cavity in NW Corvallis 4 Apr, working on a rotted section of a dead tree (Nancy Stotz). A **Bushtit** nest was active throughout the period at Stewart Lake (Jamie Simmons).

A **White-breasted Nuthatch** carried nesting material into a nest box at Bald Hill Farm 7 Apr (Don Boucher).

A **House Wren** turned up in Peoria 19 Apr (Greg Metcalfe).

Migrant **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were noted through the end of the period, still singing on their way out.

Wrentits called on Peterson Butte 21 Apr (Rana Foster).

A pair of **Western Bluebirds** started nesting around 24 Mar when Lisa Millbank and Don Boucher saw the female carry grass into a nest box in their NE Corvallis yard. The female turned out to be one that was banded as a chick last June at Elsie Eltzroth's nest box on the other side of town, at Stoneybrook Assisted Living in SW Corvallis.

A **Townsend's Solitaire** turned up in a clearcut along Bruce Rd. sw. of Finley NWR 14-17 Apr (Pam Otley; Jacob Mathison; Roy Gerig). A lingering **Hermit Thrush** sang at Luckiamute SNA 15 Apr (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). An early **Swainson's Thrush** was heard calling repeatedly near Lewisburg 21 Apr (Paul Adamus).

Varied Thrushes lingering in Corvallis were heard less often after mid-April, but two sang at Pioneer Park 18 Apr (Don Boucher).

A few **American Pipits** called as they flew over Herbert Farm 27 Mar.

At least one **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** was still on Marys Peak 1 Apr (Isaac Denzer). **House Finches** carried nesting material into arborvitae bushes near Teloh-Calapooia Park 19 Apr (Jim Smith).

Pine Siskins continued in high numbers around the OSU campus (Mary Garrard). Over 100 mobbed feeders near Teloh-Calapooia Park 31 Mar, and numbers increased in the following days (Jim Smith). Hundreds also mobbed Susan Hatlevig's feeders in NW Corvallis and Kris Ebbe's feeder in south Corvallis around the end of March. Several sick and dying **siskins** near Teloh-Calapooia Park 19 Apr were preyed on by the local **California Scrub-Jays** (Jim Smith).

After Nancy Stotz reported three **Lapland Longspurs** along Livermore Rd. n. of Baskett Slough NWR 31 Mar, other birders who followed found as many as 20 longspurs in the flock.

Migrant **Orange-crowned Warblers** began to arrive by 26 Mar with one at Peoria (Greg Metcalfe) and 28 Mar when one visited Stewart Lake and another sang in McDonald Forest (Tom Gilg; Howard Bruner). On 29 Mar one was in Bald Hill Natural Area (Jim Philipson) and on 30 Mar one turned up in Virginia Stanton's yard s. of Philomath. A **Nashville Warbler** briefly

visited a blooming cherry tree in our yard near E.E. Wilson WA 12 Apr.

Several **Common Yellowthroats** sang during a Sierra Club outing at Luckiamute SNA 7 Apr. By mid-April these skulking masked warblers could be singing at many sites around the Corvallis-Albany area. **MacGillivray's Warblers** turned up in McDonald Forest, w. of Finley NWR and at Stewart Lake 25 Apr (Nancy Stotz; Jacob Mathison; Jamie Simmons).

Flocks of migrant **Yellow-rumped Warblers** in bright breeding plumage were conspicuous through the period.

The first local report of a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** came from Bald Hill Natural Area 29 Mar (Jim Philipson). **Hermit Warblers** began to turn up in the Coast Range foothills with one w. of Finley NWR 25 Apr (Jacob Mathison). A **Wilson's Warbler** was along the creek at Hesthavn 18 Apr (Julie Gibson).

A migrant **Chipping Sparrow** hopped around in Lisa Millbank and Don Boucher's NE Corvallis yard on 24 Mar. Seventy years ago this dapper sparrow was one of the most familiar yard birds throughout the Willamette Valley, but now it's a rare treat to see one in town. Some still nest in locations with open oak woodland/savanna habitat such as Bald Hill Farm and Bald Hill Natural Area on the west edge of Corvallis, where numerous singing birds could be heard by the end of the period.

An early **Vesper Sparrow** in the Soap Creek valley 31 Mar - 3 Apr was noticeably more pale grayish than the local nesting birds, likely a migrant from the interior subspecies that nests east of the Cascades (Bob Altman). "**Oregon**" **Vesper Sparrows** from the imperiled subspecies that breeds in the Willamette Valley started to show up at nesting sites by 6 Apr.

Savannah Sparrows were singing s. of Halsey on 29 Mar (Nancy Stotz). By 9 Apr they could be seen singing along fencelines and utility wires in open habitats throughout the area. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** sang in a young Christmas tree farm near Airlie 18 Apr.

A "**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrow** sang near Griggs 4 Apr (Jeff Harding). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** sang at Bald Hill Farm 22 Apr (Don Boucher). Most Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows left the area by mid-April but a few migrants were noted through the end of the period.

By mid-April **White-crowned Sparrows** were singing throughout the area as they staked out territories for nesting. This adaptable species will even nest in downtown parking lots where dense ground cover or low bushes provide cover between the cars. A first-winter **White-throated Sparrow** near Teloh-Calapooia Park was transitioning to adult plumage by 26 Apr (Jim Smith). 1-2 **White-throated Sparrows** frequented Jamie Simmons' NW Corvallis yard through the period.

A female "**Slate-colored**" (**Dark-eyed**) **Junco** joined **Golden-crowned Sparrows** at our chicken feeder near E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area 1 Apr. Another "**Slate-colored**" **Junco** was near Griggs 4 Apr (Jeff Harding) and one visited a NW Corvallis yard 18 Apr (Jamie Simmons).

Two **Western Tanagers** were at Bald Hill Farm 23 Apr (Mary Garrard). A male **Black-headed Grosbeak** sang at Bald Hill Farm 21 Apr and another visited a feeder in NE Corvallis 23 Apr (Hendrik Herlyn; Ron Enck). A male **Lazuli Bunting** visited Stewart Lake 24 Apr (Jamie Simmons).

Up to six **Tricolored Blackbirds** continued to be reported from the flooded gravel quarry off Eicher Rd. through 29 Mar, when birders were notified that viewing points were off limits and further visits would be regarded as trespassing.

Western Meadowlarks continue to sing on territory through 9 Apr at the Camp Adair Rifle Range, their last significant breeding locale in n. Benton County.

By late April **Brewer's Blackbirds** were furtively sneaking into evergreen shrubs in commercial parking lots along Ninth Street.

Surprisingly, blackbird nests in these commercial areas tend to succeed more often than nests in residential neighborhoods around Corvallis, possibly because there are fewer free-roaming cats in the commercial areas (fide Bob Altman).

Brown-headed Cowbirds were noted at widespread locations from mid-April onward. Substantial numbers now winter in the Willamette valley, especially around large dairy operations, so it can be difficult to distinguish spring migrants from birds dispersing from wintering locations. A female **cowbird** in Peoria 19 Apr was lurking near a **Song Sparrow's** singing station, near where Greg Metcalfe saw a Song Sparrow feeding a cowbird chick last year.

A **Bullock's Oriole** turned up in Peoria 26 Apr (Greg Metcalfe).

Next issue: The next Chat issue will come out at the end of July. Please watch for arrivals of tropical migrants, nesting activity, and appearance of fledgling. By the end of the period, some arctic-nesting shorebird species will already be heading south. 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 29 Jul.

ASC Book and Raffle Table

The book and raffle table at our monthly member meetings has offered a variety of bird/guide books to members at a discounted price for many years. But, the books no longer sell well, so we will be discontinuing book sales starting this fall.

We will continue to hold a raffle each meeting with prizes for winners. The proceeds help defray the cost of the room rental. The current book inventory will be liquidated starting in May, so please take a look for anything you would enjoy. There are some treasures!

Bev Clarke, Book Sales and Raffle volunteer

Community Notes

Malheur Field Station Address Correction

After the release of the March Chat, we became aware of an error in the mailing address for your donations to replace the water system at Malheur Field Station. Checks can be made out to and sent to either ASC - P.O. Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339 - or directly to MFS - 34848 Sodhouse Lane, Princeton, OR 97721.

Naomi Weidner

Noah Strycker Receives OSU Award

The Spring 2018 issue of Oregon Stater magazine reports that ASC's popular September 2017 speaker, Noah Strycker, has been awarded the Don and Shirley Wirth Young Alumni Award for exceptional achievements which brings credit to Oregon State University. Noah's accomplishments as an author, Big Year record holder, researcher, photographer, and adventurer are legendary. The OSU grad from Creswell is a favorite with ASC members and birders around the globe. Congratulations, Noah!

Story suggested by Andrea Foster

Board Meeting Summary

Summary of April 2018 ASC Board Meeting

The shooting death of 3 bald eagles in Tangent last month is of great concern to many birders. ASC is offering a monetary reward of \$1000 **in addition** to the one offered by the State Police TIPs program (Turn In Poachers 1-800-452-7888) for information leading to the arrest & conviction of the perpetrator(s) of this crime.

Progress was made on the concept of a collaborative trail project in the Cardwell Hill area.

The Nomination Committee now has a complete slate of candidates for all Board positions to present to the membership at the May Chapter meeting.

The Education Committee is prepping to be really busy! Check elsewhere in this edition and on the website for coming events.

Next Board Meeting will be 17 May, 2018, at 7 pm at Mark Baldwin's home, 1700 NW Hawthorn Place.

Linda Campbell, Board 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 Board meeting minutes for location.

Membership Corner

Welcome New Members!

Paul Adamus	Mary Boyd
Stephanie Cyr	Lorna Glubb Family
Scott Harris	Susan Mukatis
Christina Sever	

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 to receive emergency email notifications about meeting cancellations related to weather, 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.

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

Contributors to this Chat

Bill Proebsting, Chris Mathews, Fred Ramsey, Joel Geier, Suzanne Ortiz, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Linda Campbell, Ray Drapek, Valerie & Dale Mitchell, Bev Clark, and Don Boucher

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

There Are Dinosaurs on My Feeders!

If you are the sort that likes to mix birding with a dash of science, then you have probably heard something like this: 1) birds are directly descended from dinosaurs or 2) (usually said more *stridently*) birds ARE dinosaurs! Research has produced a clear consensus among ornithologists and paleontologists on this point. Yet ... can you see an 'inner' *Tyrannosaurus* in that chickadee pecking your suet? Perhaps not. I, too, often have difficulty folding this heavy lump into my appreciation of all things feathered.

To see why this genealogy may be *intrinsically* difficult to grasp, an analogy might prove useful. You know what happened to all those non-bird dinosaurs—all that big mass extinction unpleasantness. Now suppose... just suppose, something like that happened tomorrow and all the *mammals* (and the birds) vanished—but for a few bats. Then, millions of years later, the creatures any observers would see coming to their feeders would be many different kinds of bats. If asked, how will our future bat-watcher's psyches find a way to link their fluffy backyard friendlies to old dusty fossils of creatures as bizarre as 'kangaroos', 'whales', 'giraffes', 'pigs', 'elks', 'monkeys', 'rats', 'armadillos' and ... 'kittens'?

Returning to the real world, now you can understand why it is so hard to see a glint of fierce old *Velociraptor* even in a vireo's cold hard stare. It's a tough thing to picture because—*birds were to dinosaurs as bats are to mammals*. Even when their other dinosaur cousins were thundering about, birds (again, like bats to mammals) were a freakishly-strange branch of those beasts. Nor is it helpful that almost all the dinosaurs we have seen in our media are either the most un-birdlike ones (like *Apatosaurus*) or have been visualized without the feathers they really had (such as the 'raptors' in the Jurassic Park movies).

I hope this helps. However... now that you're getting some practice, let's tackle visualizing the scientifically well-established idea that dolphins are just modified hippos...

Happy birding, everyone! Dale Mitchell

Calendar

May 10	ASC Board meeting, 7 pm Mark Baldwin's house, 1700 NW Hawthorn Pl
May 12	Field Trip to Finley NWR 7:30 am
May 12	Bird Nerds 24 hour Birdathon
May 17	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini Sr Ctr
June 9	Second Sat Field trip to McDonald Forest
July 19	Stories due for summer CHAT issue
July 19	Field Note submissions due

Please see Hesthavn News in this issue for dates and other information about nature center work parties scheduled from 5/5/18 - 9/29/18

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

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

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