



# THE CHAT

MARCH 2019

VOL. 48 #7

## ASC General Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2019, 6:30-8:30 pm

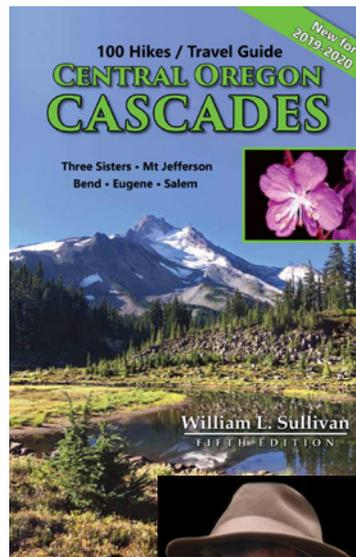
Chintimini Senior Ctr:  
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis

## Bill Sullivan: 100 Hikes/Travel Guide Central Oregon Cascades

Our speaker for the April 18th general meeting will be well-known Oregon author William Sullivan. Bill is a fifth-generation Oregonian and has been exploring Oregon's trails since he was five years old. He is the author of 21 books including his 100 Hikes series. He will be introducing his newly updated 100 Hikes/Travel Guide Central Oregon Cascades. Copies of his book will be available at our Raffle Table for sale and for signing by the author.

Our **May 16th general meeting**, "Birds of Costa Rica and Panama" will feature the photography of intrepid travelers and ASC members Matt Lee and Sue Powell as they share their adventures with us.

Mark Baldwin, Vice Pres. & Program Chair,  
[mark.baldwin2@comcast.net](mailto:mark.baldwin2@comcast.net)



## 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

### Local Monthly Second Saturday Field Trips

Our Saturday morning local field trips meet at the Benton Center parking area, behind the Cannery Mall, 757 NW Polk St., Corvallis at 7:30 am. This field trip is free and geared towards beginning birders, birders new to Oregon's mid-valley area and persons looking for a pleasant outing. Contact Bill Proebsting at [proebstw@gmail.com](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com) or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley ListServ, <http://www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/>, a couple of days before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Return to Benton Center by 12.

### Next Field Trips:

**April 13:** Cheadle Marsh, Finley NWR. Some ducks should be still on the ponds and early migrants moving through the ash trees. Plan to walk as far as Cheadle Barn on the rise above the wetlands. Otherwise, the trail follows flat, grassy dikes. Alternative to Benton Center is to meet at the trailhead just west of Muddy Creek around 8 am.

**May 11.** Finley Road. Finley NWR.

Bill Proebsting

## Weekend Field Trips:

Our Bandon trip initiated the weekend series of field trips with a bang. The 103 species logged included rarities Long-tailed Duck, American Bittern, and Snowy Egret. A single Mourning Cloak signaled the coming of butterfly season. On the odder side, we watched a fisherman at Port Orford haul in a Red Pacific Octopus.

Next up is the tour of three National Wildlife Refuges in the Klamath Basin, April 12-14. Klamath Marsh NWR starts us off with Sandhill Cranes and a host of waterfowl. Miller Island adds thousands of Greater White-fronted Geese and Ross's Geese, followed by the beginnings of the shorebird migration hitting Lower Klamath NWR. Tule Lake NWR tops off a huge Saturday. Then Sunday morning we experience Western and Clark's Grebes racing across Upper Klamath Lake. A hike through Moore Park adds a few early passerines, such as the Plain (Oak?/Juniper?) Titmouse.

April 26-28 follows with our trip to the Rogue Valley. A hike on Upper Table Rock usually nets three species - Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, California Towhee, and Oak(!) Titmouse - at the northern reach of the California chaparral country. Lazuli Bunting and Ash-throated Flycatcher highlight an accompanying group of arriving passerines. Road conditions permitting, we

then try for Great Gray Owl in the Cascades before descending to Ashland for a nap and play, *As You Like It* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Sunday morning features a leisurely stroll along Bear Creek to the tunes of Bullock's Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, Warbling Vireo, and more spring songbirds.

ASC weekend field trips are led by experienced birders in rented vans. We stay in comfortable motels and enjoy meals at local restaurants. Signup sheets will be offered for these and other trips at upcoming general membership meetings. However, the Klamath trip occurs before the April meeting, so sign up for that trip (and others) by email to: [flramsey5@comcast.net](mailto:flramsey5@comcast.net).

## The following trips are now open for registration:

Malheur NWR	May 17-20 (ASC's 50th Malheur trip)
Summer Lake	June 14-16
Wallowas	July 18-22
Steens Mountain	August 8-11
Shorebird Search	August 23-25

Fred Ramsey  
Weekend Field Trip Coordinator

## President's Corner

### Spring Migration

... They've made it again,  
Which means the globe's still working,  
the Creation's  
Still waking refreshed, our summer's  
Still all to come ...

Ted Hughes



Bill Proebsting, Chapter President

## Conservation Update

### Broad Conservation Bill Passes

A sweeping new conservation bill recently cleared the House and Senate with bipartisan support and was signed into law by the President. It set aside 1.3 million acres of wilderness lands in Oregon, Utah, California, and New Mexico, designated over 500 miles of new wild and scenic rivers, and created three new National Monuments of mostly historical interest. Oregon wildlands featured heavily in the bill, including the new 30,000-acre Devil's Staircase Wilderness Area that is mainly ancient forest near Reedsport; 256 newly designated miles of Wild and Scenic River along the Molalla and Elk rivers and tributaries of the lower Rogue River; protection from mining on the Chetco River; and permanent protection of a steelhead spawning area in the North Umpqua basin.

The bill also permanently authorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which uses royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling to pay for conservation projects and land purchases. This fund has been around for years, paying for a variety of land preservation and conservation projects across the country, but Congress had to periodically reauthorize it.

They failed to do so last fall and the LWCF lapsed; this new, permanent reauthorization means that this can't happen again. Authorizing it is just one of two steps needed to get money into the LWCF, however. The other is appropriation, which Congress must still do in its budget process each year. Still, the permanent authorization is a significant step forward, as appropriations have occurred frequently under both Democratic and Republican Congresses.

Kudos are due to several Oregon congress members: Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, who introduced the Oregon portions of the bill in the Senate, and Representatives Kurt Schrader and Peter DeFazio. All of them worked hard for this bill, with Mr. Wyden in particular having led the fight for more Oregon wilderness for over a decade.

### Act to Protect Endangered Wolves

The Trump administration is proposing to de-list the gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act, removing a wide variety of strong protections. Wolves are still relatively scarce throughout nearly all of their former range. In western Oregon, there are still only a handful, and they are considered endangered here. De-listing would undo protections for wolves, potentially allowing the state Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to implement their plan for hunting and trapping them.

To act on this issue, go to the website of Oregon Wild ([oregonwild.org](http://oregonwild.org)) and click on the link about de-listing wolves.

Dave Mellinger, Conservation Chair

### Birdathon Time!

**Birdathon 2019 is set for the weekend of April 27 and 28.**

This is our yearly fundraiser for the Hesthavn Nature Center. Over the years, we've raised thousands of dollars for projects and improvements for our wonderful local Audubon sanctuary.

**How it works:** Put together a team (or go solo). Ask people to sponsor you at so many cents a bird, or for a flat rate. Then go birding the weekend of April 27-28 and see how many species you can see! (Another weekend in that time frame is fine too, if you have a birding trip planned or a scheduling conflict.) Bird anywhere – your backyard, the coast, Costa Rica... the sky's the limit (literally)! If you feel shy about asking people to sponsor you, get creative. For example, you can pledge to your own



team, perhaps in honor of a nature-loving relative. Just drop me an email to let me know you are planning to participate. Sponsor forms and report forms will be on the ASC website under Birdathon. Results will be announced at the May meeting and in the summer Chat.

If you own a local business, you could generate some good publicity by having your business be a sponsor of the event. Your business could sponsor every team at a certain rate. This encourages more people to form a team and participate, knowing they already have their first sponsor. Beyond raising more funds for Hesthavn activities, this involves more people, who then feel they personally have a stake in Hesthavn's success and, more broadly, in wildlife and nature conservation.

Good Birding! And if you have questions, email Karan Fairchild at: [alderspr@peak.org](mailto:alderspr@peak.org).

*Karan Fairchild, Birdathon Coordinator*

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## Education News

### Winter Wildlife Field Day 2019

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Fifth Annual Winter Wildlife Field Day at Finley National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, March 9. Over 700 participants and 137 volunteers made it a big success. Everyone learned about local predators and enjoyed a beautiful but chilly day in the wild.

Special thanks to our friends from Chintimini Wildlife Center for sharing the Homer Campbell Trail parking lot with us. Their live birds were a big draw and complimented the dedicated ASC team of birding experts on the trail.

### Coming Ed. Programs Need Help

There are half a dozen events coming up in the next three months that have asked ASC's Education volunteers to participate. We don't have to coordinate the event, just our table or booth as part of a larger community education effort. It's a chance to share our love of Nature and Science in fun, interactive ways.

We have committed to help with several including local Girl Scout camps, Get Outdoors Day June 8, the Chintimini Wildlife Center Open House on Mother's Day, Science Night at Timber Ridge Schools in Albany, and Dancing Oaks Pollinator Festival.

With so many demands on our volunteers, we could really use some extra help. So, if you are interested in working with other team members on a special event, please contact me at [chateditors@gmail.com](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com). Thanks.

*Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team*

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## Hesthavn News

In March, we got lots of help from OSU GEOG 300 classes. On March 2, a group came and redistributed wood chips to native plantings throughout the property. This was a gift, as they weren't scheduled to work at Hesthavn originally. But the snow-storm caused other projects to be cancelled and they needed something new. I wasn't able to direct the project due to other prior obligations, but I sent an email describing what needed to be done and they did it on their own (with supervision from neighbor Steve Cook). On March 10, another group came to paint the floor. This was quite an undertaking since we needed an open floor to work on and many large objects needed to be moved out of the barn. Unfortunately, the paint didn't dry fast enough, the students had to head out, and so we had to leave many large objects out. Rain was forecast for Tuesday, so I really wanted to get those objects back in the barn ASAP. I sent out an SOS to my email list of volunteers and the ASC board and

a group came to the rescue (thank you Mark Baldwin, Linda Campbell, John Criscitiello, and Chris Mathews). The floor really still could use another coat of paint and I was wondering when I was going to get the time to work on it. As luck would have it, I got an email from an orphaned GEOG 300 student who hadn't gotten connected with anyone and needed a project. So, on Friday, March 15, she came in and put another coat of paint down all by herself. No large objects were moved this time; she just painted where she could. The floor is looking really nice right now. On a final note, we have all of the east side of the creek clear of apparent blackberries (many thanks to Karen Canan, John Criscitiello, Alice Formiga, and William Shafer). There will be sprouts showing up again within the month, but for now, we have the upper hand.

### Work parties for April:

Sunday, April 14, from 10 am to 2 pm. This will be a barn and yard work party with many miscellaneous tasks. We'll be mowing the "lawn" next to the barn. Weather permitting (and if enough volunteers show up) we may do additional painting. The creek-side porch area looks like it could use some paint. We may also paint the solar composting toilet. The color was never intended to be so ... pink, so we will put more of a reddish brown down (like the stain on the barn).

Sunday, April 28, from 10 am to 2 pm. Weed work party. This will probably be a false brome pull. False brome is a perennial grass native to Europe, Asia, and Africa. It is extremely aggressive and has covered many parts of McDonald Forest, to the exclusion of the native forest understorey.

*Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair*

### Explore Feathery and Leathery Wings at Hesthavn April 28

Families and nature explorers of all ages are welcome to join us for a special free program on bats and birds at ASC's Hesthavn Nature Center on Sunday, April 28, from 1-3 pm.

- Compare real bird and bat wings up close.
- See the Hesthavn Nature Center Bird Collections.
- Explore the Nature Center Trails.
- Plus, play as you learn games and Art projects for all ages and skill levels!

### Date Change for April HH Program

Since publication of our March newsletter, we realized that we had scheduled our next program at Hesthavn on Easter Sunday. As that is a conflict for many families, we rescheduled Leathery and Feathery Wings with Kate Mathews to the following **Sunday, April 28th**. Please spread the word about this free, family friendly program on fascinating birds and bats.

### Check out Hesthavn Nature Center

Guests who respect Nature are welcome to walk the trails and enjoy the birds on our grounds any day. Information on future programs will be on the ASC website and in future editions of the CHAT.

*Teri Engbring, Education Team*

**Directions to Hesthavn**, at 8590 NW Oak Creek Dr, Corvallis. Take Harrison west from downtown Corvallis and after you cross 53rd, it becomes Oak Creek Drive. Pass Bald Hill farm and follow the signs for Nature Center. Hesthavn will be on your left shortly before the end of Oak Creek Dr

## Sullivan Books Available at April General Meeting

Popular Oregon outdoor writer William Sullivan, our speaker at the April 18 general meeting, will have copies of his recently published book on hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades available for sale that evening. He'll also bring copies of his other books, including his revised Oregon's coastal hikes, and newly updated local hiking guide, both popular with ASC members. The table with Sullivan's books will be set up adjacent to our regular Book & Raffle Table where Bill will be glad to autograph your purchases.

The featured raffle item in April will be a framed limited edition print of a Northern Saw-Whet Owl by the international wildlife artist Guy Coheleach. Thank you to ASC member Francis Stilwell for donating this valuable print to us for our monthly raffle.

Be sure to visit our Book & Raffle table as the selection of used books for you to choose from changes each month. Among the new titles we'll offer in April is Francis Stilwell's superb *Oregon's Botanical Landscape: An Opportunity to Imagine Oregon Before 1800* with 82 images of native plants in their native habitats. Edward O. Wilson, professor emeritus at Harvard, describes this volume of Stilwell's botanical drawings: "This beautiful collection combines science and art in an original way, giving us a sense of the baseline in the world we acquired and are now recklessly changing."

*Sally Shaw, ASC Book & Raffle Table*

## Community Notes

### Birding by Ear 2019

Lisa Millbank and Don Boucher will instruct a Birding by Ear class through their Neighborhood Naturalist program in May and June.

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

There are 2 sections. Sign up for either May or June. Cost is \$65 for 3 weeks. Location details will be sent after registration

### Section 1 starts in May

**Classroom sessions:** Wednesdays, May 15, 22 & 29 in Corvallis, 7 pm – 9 pm

**Saturday field trips:** May 18, 25 and June 1 in the Corvallis-Albany area, 9 am - noon

### Section 2 starts in June

**Classroom sessions:** Wednesdays, June 12, 19 and 26 in Corvallis, 7 pm – 9 pm

**Saturday field trips:** June 15, 22 and 29 in the Corvallis-Albany area, 9 am - noon

To register, go to:

<http://www.neighborhood-naturalist.com/field-trips>

If you have questions please contact [donaboucher@gmail.com](mailto:donaboucher@gmail.com).

*Don Boucher*

## Natural Areas Celebration Week

The 10th annual Natural Areas Celebration Week will take place from May 4th to May 12th and will include a variety of events that range from hikes, walks, lectures and workshops. The calendar for the week will be posted soon by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, sponsor of the event.

*Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Sustainability Coordinator*

## Beaver Tales in the Willamette Valley

The Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex invite you to this event, on Sunday, April 7th, 2019, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, at the Rail Trail Loop Trailhead at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge.

Beavers were once hunted to the brink of extinction and we are still discovering their importance in the landscape. Join Pat and Bobbie Allaire, Oregon Master Naturalists and Certified Interpretive Guides, for a walk along the Ankeny NWR Rail Trail to look for beaver sign. Discover the amazing beaver adaptations that enable them to change the world around them to create and expand wetlands and what that means for other animals and humans. Learn how beavers brought early explorers and wealth to Oregon and the role they have in our world today.

*Carolyn Suckow, Friends of WVNWR*

## Field Notes

### 02/27/19-03/28/19

The period started off with lingering snow, as frosty mornings and occasional snow flurries continued. A warm front 9 Mar brought rain and daytime temperatures rising to 60 F by 11 Mar. The middle part of the month brought clear and unseasonably dry weather, with temperatures reaching the high 70s F by 18 Mar before settling back into more typical weather with mild temperatures and passing showers.

Total precipitation was scant, with a total of less than 1.5 inches in most valley areas. By the end of March, water levels were dropping in seasonal wetlands.

Native plants responded quickly to the warming temperatures, with leaves of **Common Camas** emerging by 10 Mar. By 11 Mar **Fawn Lilies** began to poke up through last fall's oak leaves on Bald Hill (Mary Garrard) and **Osoberry (Indian plum)** was blooming there by 16 Mar (Catherine Otto).

A few butterflies began to appear, including California Tortoise-shells in the Bald Hill – Fitton Green neighborhood 16 Mar (Randy & Pam Comeleo). However on Marys Peak, snow was still a foot deep at Connors Camp Saddle on 18 Mar (Lars Norgren).

*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. Talking Water Gardens is in NE Albany. Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR.*

### Lingering birds/movement

15 **Trumpeter Swans** continued near Suver Junction through 5 Mar (Deanna Emig). Most left but on the afternoon 20 Mar a pair of adults was still there; one was lethargic and had its head tucked under its wing, while the other one kept watch and grazed close by. On 23 Mar a single adult Trumpeter was alone in that field, perhaps the surviving member of this pair (Melinda Suydam). By 25 Mar that bird too was gone.

About 1500 **Tundra Swans** were still near Halsey 2 Mar (Tom



Gilg). An estimated 900 were still there 10 Mar (Rana Foster), and hundreds through 20 Mar (Delores Porch; Mary Garrard, Bev Clark). A dead swan was floating on Cabell Marsh 17 Mar (Howard Bruner). While swans may die of other causes, lead poisoning from ingesting shot pellets while dabbling in wetlands where lead shot was used historically continues to be a cause of fatalities.

On 15 Mar three male **Northern Shovelers** swam on ponded water in a prairie restoration area at Herbert Open Space. Rana Foster notes a new hazelnut plantation on the adjoining private field, which could eventually limit efforts to attract Horned Larks to this site as the trees grow taller.

Four species of grebes were on Foster Reservoir 21 Mar, including one **Eared**, one **Pied-billed** and larger numbers of **Western** and **Horned Grebes** (Kaplan Yalcin).

A **White-tailed Kite** lunched on a rodent on the North Prairie 2 Mar (Tim Shelmerdine). One or two adult **Golden Eagles** were sw. of Tangent 15-17 Mar (Lars Norgren; Rana Foster). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was still in that area 17 Mar.

A wintering "**Harlan's**" **Red-tailed Hawk** continued on Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's farm s. of Independence through 17 Apr. On 25 Mar a **Red-tailed Hawk** tagged last summer at Vancouver International Airport in British Columbia was still just nw. of E.E. Wilson WA (Deanna Emig).

Hundreds of **Killdeer** and one **Black-bellied Plover** were in a field n. of Harrisburg 3 Mar (Lars Norgren). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were in a small wetland behind Mt. View Elementary in Lewisburg 24 Mar (Rana Foster).

In addition to good numbers of **Prairie Falcons** wintering west of the Willamette, two were regular in the Halsey and Harrisburg areas through 27 Feb (Dan Fenske). A **Merlin** was s. of Peoria 2 Mar (Tom Gilg).

A flock of 25 **Horned Larks** wintering on Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's farm s. of Independence left around the beginning of Mar, presumably dispersing to breeding sites. Another flock wintering in bottomland s. of Finley NWR waned from about 40 in mid-Jan to less than 10 by mid-Mar (Howard Bruner). By 24 Mar, locally nesting larks were singing on territories near Airlie in s. Polk Co.

Large migrant flocks of **American Robins** foraged in local fields in early- and mid-Mar. A female **Variied Thrush** that turned up in a Lewisburg during the snowfall in late Feb continued through 5 Mar (John Tietjen, Pat Cummins). Good numbers of **Western Bluebirds** continued to be seen, with many pairs beginning to investigate nest boxes by late Mar.

A **Swamp Sparrow** was at Cheadle Lake in Lebanon 12 Mar (Jeff Harding). One lingering at E.E. Wilson WA was in bright breeding plumage 21 Mar. Up to five male **Tricolored Blackbirds** continued at the Philomath sewage treatment ponds in early Mar, but just one or two were noted in the later part of the period.

210 Elk were in a pasture off Tampico Rd. in the Soap Creek Valley 17 Mar (Rana Foster).

### **Song and dance, drums and other expressions of love**

A pair of **Anna's Hummingbirds** in nw. Corvallis 3 Mar appeared to be in courtship, circling around each other low to the ground, then landing together on the ground for several minutes (Susan Hatlevig).

**Wild Turkey** numbers in Soap Creek Valley are now upward of 300 (Rana Foster). By the end of the period many males could be seen fanning their tails, puffing up their feathers and dragging their wings to impress the males, both in pastures along Soap Creek Rd. and at Bald Hill Farm.

A pair of **Turkey Vultures** at E.E. Wilson WA 21 Mar were perched on one of the old barracks foundations, likely checking it out as a possible nesting site. Nearby a male **Northern Harrier** flew and vocalized in his "roller-coaster" display flight, but it was hard to tell if a nearby female harrier was interested.

On 20 Mar two adult **Red-shouldered Hawks** copulated in Sunset Park in sw. Corvallis, where this species has nested successfully in recent years (Don Boucher).

Three **Red-tailed Hawks** chased each other in an apparent territorial dispute near Coffin Butte 11 Mar, one knocking a few feathers loose from its rival. The battle ended with one hawk leaving the

scene, as the other two soared upward together on a thermal.

**Mourning Doves** began to sing their namesake song by 25 Mar. A **Barn Owl** called along Oak Creek w. of Corvallis 9 Mar (Paul Jacobsen). Twice during 16-22 Mar, Jenny Swanson heard a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** tooting after midnight while she attended to a sick lamb in her barn sw. of Corvallis.

A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** drummed on a metal sign on a utility pole in SW Corvallis 1 Mar (Don Boucher). A Northern Flicker drummed in NW Corvallis 2 Mar (Catherine Otto). A Pileated Woodpecker called at Fitton Green 16 Mar (Rana Foster), and one drummed on a flicker nest box nearby 17 Mar (Randy & Pam Comeleo).

On 23 a male **Red-naped Sapsucker** that wintered in the College Hill neighborhood of nw. Corvallis interacted non-aggressively with a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, following each other from tree to tree and sometimes sharing the same branch within 6 inches of each other. These two species regularly hybridize along the east slope of the Cascades and in the Warner Mountains.

A pair of **Black Phoebes** were in early stages of courtship at E.E. Wilson WA 21 Mar. A single bird continuing at Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's farm s. of Independence through 17 Mar might yet find a mate as this species continues to spread as a nesting species.

Two **California Scrub-Jays** engaged in an apparent courtship "dance" in ne. Corvallis 25 Mar, taking turns circling each other with their tails fanned and dragging one wing on the ground toward their partner (Lisa Millbank).

Many **Wrentits** sang in E.E. Wilson WA 16 Mar (Rana Foster). A **Pacific Wren** launched into full song at Bald Hill Park 16 Mar (Catherine Otto). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** sang in Sunset Park 20 Mar (Don Boucher).

"**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrows** wintering s. of Lebanon started singing in February (Virginia Stanton). A **Pine Siskin** sang in ne. Corvallis 26 Mar (Lisa Millbank). **Western Meadowlarks** at Greenbelt Land Trust's Kingston Prairie Preserve ne. of Scio were pairing up by 19 Mar.

Not necessarily amorous but just enjoying the sunshine, **Red-spotted Garter Snakes** were out and sunning themselves at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 3 Mar (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank).

### **More serious family business**

As of 18 Mar a female **Anna's Hummingbird** was incubating on a nest that Nancy Stotz noticed under construction in nw. Corvallis last month, but by 26 Mar the nest was abandoned, perhaps due to predation by jays or squirrels.

**Ospreys** began to show up at nest sites, including one very early arrival that circled and called near a nest platform just east of the Trysting Tree golf course across the river from downtown Corvallis on 1 Mar (Linda Campbell). On 21 Mar one fished on Foster Reservoir while another was on a nesting platform below the dam (Kaplan Yalcin). One carried a long stick to a nest at Luckiamute SNA 25 Mar. Another was on a nest at Half Moon Bend by 28 Mar (Gary Whitehouse).

On 23 Mar a **Bald Eagle** brooding on a nest at E.E. Wilson WA had a brief visit from her partner, perhaps delivering food (Pam & Randy Comeleo).

A **Great Horned Owl** was brooding on a nest at Luckiamute SNA by 3 Mar (Stephanie Hazen, Ray Temple) and on 17 Mar (Kaplan Yalcin), with at least one owlet visible by 28 Mar.

### **Migrants**

An **Eared Grebe** visited Baskett Slough NWR 9 Mar (Brandon Wagner). Eleven **Sandhill Cranes** landed in a wet field along Old River Rd. e. of Monroe 2 Mar (Lars Norgren).

Signs of shorebird migration included six **Greater Yellowlegs** at Herbert Farm 12 Mar and two in a flooded field along I-5 just south of Albany 16 Mar (Kaplan Yalcin), then two **Semipalmated Plovers** n. of Baskett Slough NWR 20 Mar (Helen Browning).

Some surprising birds to find at Clear Lake in the Cascades 3

Mar included a lone **Western Meadowlark**, a very lost **European Starling**, and four **Horned Larks**, searching for food on the mostly iced-over lake (Kaplan Yalcin).

Lingering snow east of the Cascades may have pushed some eastern-Oregon birds in our direction, including four **Say's Phoebes** at Foster Reservoir 8 Mar (Jeff Harding, Tom Gilg), and four more at Clear Lake 21 Mar along with a Western Bluebird and a Western Meadowlark. Also on 21 Trail Bridge Reservoir had a couple of **Say's Phoebes**, a **Horned Lark**, 4-5 **Mountain Bluebirds** and a **Savannah Sparrow** (Kaplan Yalcin; Jeff Harding, Tom Gilg). **Pine Siskins** – which have been scarce in the valley all winter – were also present in numbers in the Santiam Pass area 21 Mar (Kaplan Yalcin).

Back down in the valley, two dozen **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (mostly "Audubon's" form swarmed Linda & Earl Hadfield's home-made suet in the Witham Hill neighborhood 5 Mar. By 7 Mar some of the males in local flocks were beginning to transition to their more colorful breeding plumage.

### Huh?

Early on the morning of 13 Mar, Jim Fairchild saw a **Great Horned Owl** come walking out of the shallow end of the Fairchilds' pond sw. of Philomath. Bathing or hunting for frogs? We may never know the answer. Jim reports that the owl paused twice to shake the water off of its feathers.

### Spring arrivals

**Rufous Hummingbirds** are perhaps our most eagerly anticipated migrants. This year many observers had to wait longer than usual. A male visited John Tietjen and Pat Cummins' yard near Lewisburg 5 Mar, quickly asserting himself by their feeder and diving at a nearby junco. Another visited a feeder in sw. Corvallis 6 Mar (Ramesh Sagili). One showed up in Sweet Home 8 Mar (Ami Wright), and one was s. of Philomath 9 Mar (Virginia Stanton). But reports remained scant until around 19 Mar when the main flux seemed to arrive. The first females arrived unusually close on the heels of the males, noted sw. of Philomath 14 Mar (Karan & Jim Fairchild), 15 Mar in s. Albany (Jim Smith), and near Fitton Green 17 Mar (Pam & Randy Comeleo).

After a male **Rufous Hummingbird** got trapped in their backyard shop and was wearing himself out in an effort to escape through the roof, Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank managed to get him down with the aid of a ladder and a modified butterfly net, then released him outside.

Jeff Dillon saw nine **American White Pelicans** soaring on thermals near Halsey 16 Mar.

Two **Turkey Vultures** soared over w. Corvallis 1 Mar (Carol Savonen). Turkey Vultures were seen regularly from early March through the period, and widespread by 14 Mar.

A **Band-tailed Pigeon** flew through sw. Corvallis 20 Mar (Don Boucher).

Six **Violet-green Swallows** were near Peoria 2 Mar (Rana Foster). Three were there along with a Cliff Swallow and Tree Swallows 3 Mar (Tom Gilg). A female that moved into a nest box in s. Albany 6 Mar appeared to be part of a pair that used the same box last years, based on distinctive coloration and behavior clues (Jim Smith).

An early **Barn Swallow** was at Foster Reservoir 8 Mar (Jeff Harding, Tom Gilg). On 20 Mar two showed up in Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's barnyard s. of Independence, where they nest annually. Two **Cliff Swallows** foraged over Talking Water Gardens 22 Mar (Jeff Harding).

Three **Orange-crowned Warblers** visited an oak woodlot by Ramesh Sagili's sw. Corvallis yard 27 Mar). **Common Yellowthroats** were also beginning to show up at the end of the period.

A very early (or perhaps local wintering) **Chipping Sparrow** visited Dan Thackaberry's feeder near Crabtree 27 Feb. Three were in a wooded edge near Corvallis Airport 28 Feb (Randy Moore). One

turned up in Peoria 5 Mar (Greg Metcalfe). One was in ne. Corvallis 27 Mar (Lisa Millbank).

A flock of about 12 **Savannah Sparrows** were near Baskett Slough NWR 27 Feb. Some flocks winter in our area but many of the local nesting birds spend winter farther south, and began to return during the period. **White-crowned Sparrows** from the locally nesting *pugetensis* subspecies began to sing on territory by the end of the period.

**American Goldfinches** began to show up in new situations where they were absent during winter, including one at a Lewisburg feeder 4 Mar (John Tietjen). A flock of 20 **Evening Grosbeaks** munched on maple buds in ne. Corvallis 27 Mar (Lisa Millbank).

### Rare or off-course birds

The **Tundra Bean-Goose** was reported again near McFadden Marsh on 15 Mar (Nancy & Bill LaFramboise; Sally Hill).

An immature male **Barrow's Goldeneye** turned 7 Mar up at Willamette Park, consorting with an apparent female Common Goldeneye (Duncan Evered); it continued to be seen there through 24 Mar.

A first-winter **Glaucous Gull** was photographed at Coffin Butte Regional Landfill 28 Feb through 6 Mar (Kai Frueh et al.); several hundred **Glaucous-winged Gulls**, 20 **Herring Gulls**, and a few "**Thayer's**" **Iceland Gulls** were also present.

A leucistic, mostly white **Red-tailed Hawk** was in the Maple Grove area of s. Polk Co. 2 Mar (Daniel Battaglia).

A **Long-eared Owl** was perched on a fence east of Coffin Butte Landfill at midday on 1 Mar (Alex Farrand), perhaps after being flushed from more concealed nearby roost by activity in the area.

A brownish-gray **Gyr Falcon** was along Irish Bend Loop s. of Peoria 1 Mar, then just n. Harrisburg 2 Mar (Jeff Fleischer).

A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visiting Bruce Pratt's feeder in SW Corvallis fortunately stayed around long enough for Bruce's sons Eric and Andrew when they returned home from an education-related trip 11 Mar. The bird continued through the period.

After Kaplan Yalcin found a male **Lapland Longspur** along Blueberry Lane se. of Peoria 2 Mar, then on 7 Mar he found a small sparrow that turned out to be a **Clay-colored Sparrow** nearby, several other unusual birds by birders who converged on the area. Sylvia Maulding spotted a **Snow Bunting** with a flock of 8 **Horned Larks** 10 Mar. Then on 13 Mar Roy Gerig found a female **Chestnut-colored Longspur** nearby. The bunting, longspurs, and sparrow were all seen by many observers through the end of the period.

While en route to this location 11 Mar, Roy Gerig found another **Lapland Longspur** with more **Horned Larks** along Davis Rd. several miles to the northeast (30 larks per a later count, many of them from the Threatened endemic subspecies "strigata"). A very pale juvenile **Ferruginous Hawk** was also found in the neighborhood 17 Mar (Dave Irons, Shawneen Finnegan).

A first-winter **Harris's Sparrow** at Jackson-Frazier Wetland continued to be seen through the end of the period. Another visited Jason O'Brien's feeder in s. Corvallis 6 Mar.

On 25 Mar Catherine Otto photographed a **Giant Earthworm** that was more than 15 inches long, along the Discovery Trail near Peavy Arboretum. This was likely one of our rare native *Megascolecidae* earthworms, possibly *Driloleirus wellsi* (native to the Coast Range) or *Driloleirus macelfreshi* (Oregon Giant Earthworm, historically found on the Willamette Valley floor). Bill Gerth notes that identification of native worms of this family to species or even genus has traditionally required dissection by experts.

### Ideas for the coming period

**Next month:** Spring migration peaks with shorebirds and neotropical songbirds! Please post your observations to the Mid-Valley birding list at [midvalleybirding.org](http://midvalleybirding.org), e-mail them to me at [joel.geier@peak.org](mailto:joel.geier@peak.org), send by post to 38566 Hwy 99W Corvallis 97330, or call (541) 745-5821 by 25 Apr.



## Board Meeting Summary

### For March 14, 2019

1. While the Senior Center is undergoing renovation, the Methodist Church at 1165 NW Monroe will be the venue for ASC Chapter meetings starting in September, 2019.
2. Paul Adamus has taken over Membership Committee Chair responsibilities. Thank you, Suzanne & welcome, Paul!
3. The Bluebird Trail Committee needs a Chairperson!
4. Sue Powell has agreed to take the Board Member-at-Large position, left vacant by the untimely death of Valerie Mitchell, until the May election of new Board Members. Sue is also helping to upgrade our website.
4. Hesthavn work parties are regularly held on the second & fourth Sundays of each month and are attracting more volunteers because they are fun!

The next Board Meeting will be held at Dave Mellinger's house at 3798 NW Jameson on April 11th at 7 pm.

*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!

Virginia Chatfield  
Michelle Curanz  
Barbara Dolan  
Diane Zentgraf

## General Membership Renewal Information

For membership renewal online go to the ASC website (<http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml>) and renew via Paypal. To renew by USPS, mail a check to ASC, PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

## Email Notifications/Meeting Cancellations

We encourage members to contact Karan Fairchild to get on the ASC listserve to receive emergency email notifications about meeting cancellations related to weather conditions, 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/mail addresses please update your contact information.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

*Paul Adamus, Membership Chair*

## Contributors to this Chat

Mark Baldwin, William Proebsting, Fred Ramsey, Suzanne Ortiz, Teri Engbring, Naomi Weidner, Joel Geier, Don Boucher, Ray Drapek, Linda Campbell, Paul Adamus, and Carolyn Suckow, Karan Fairchild, Louise Barden and Sue Powell

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

## Audubon Society of Corvallis

## Help Us Update Our ASC Website

Please help us assess our ASC website by responding to the following survey and sending it to us ASAP.

**Your input can help Audubon create a more useful website. Please respond by mailing this survey to PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339 or via email to: [louise205@gmail.com](mailto:louise205@gmail.com).**

1. Do you use the Audubon of Corvallis website now?

\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

a. If YES, what do you use it for?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. What is good about the current website?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. If NO, why don't you use it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What could make the website more useful to you?

\_\_\_\_\_

Other? Suggestions? Comments?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. This website should help anyone interested in Corvallis Audubon. Please let us know if you are new to ASC \_\_\_\_\_

or an established member? \_\_\_\_\_

Optional:

Your name, \_\_\_\_\_

email or phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Louise Barden & Sue Powell, website volunteers*

## Calendar

Apr 11	ASC Board meeting at Mellinger home
Apr 13	Field trip, Cheadle Marsh, Finley NWR
Apr 14	Hesthavn Work Party, 10-2
Apr 18	ASC Monthly Members Meeting, 6:30
Apr 25	Articles due for May 2019 CHAT
Apr 25	Field Notes submissions due
Apr 27-28	ASC Birdathon
Apr 28	Hesthavn Work Party, 10-2
Apr 28	Feathery & Leathery Wings at Hesthavn, 1-3
May 11	Field trip, Finley Road, Finley NWR

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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## Education Team

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Find us on   
[CorvallisAudubon](http://CorvallisAudubon)

Interested in volunteering?  
**Please let us know:**  
[volunteerasc@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerasc@gmail.com)

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

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