



Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

September 2003

VOL. 33

#1

General Meeting

September 18, 7:30–9:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church

Owyhee Canyonlands

A Landscape to Love

Ken Snider, vice-chair of the Sierra Club Oregon Chapter High Desert Committee (HDC) will give a presentation on the Owyhee Canyonlands.

The Owyhee consists of uplands, canyonlands, and riparian stretches comprising roughly 3 million acres of Bureau of Land Management managed public land in Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada. This expanse of land is the largest undeveloped, unprotected wildlands region in the United States, south of Alaska. Within Oregon, the Oregon Biodiversity Project estimates less than 3% of the Owyhee is adequately protected to conserve its biodiversity. With this slide show we hope to arouse some concern over the Owyhee and its wilderness designation fate, and in the process educate you about an “in the shadows” region of this state worthy of appreciation, visitation, and collective action for protection.

The meeting is in the Education Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 8th Street at Monroe, downtown Corvallis. At each meeting we give updates on conservation and Audubon activities. Meetings start at 7:30 PM and speakers begin at 8:00. Come early for refreshments, conversation and browsing at display tables.

Meeting Place to Change Soon

At a certain point this season, the First Presbyterian Church Education Hall will not be available due to construction. We will then switch our meeting place to the Corvallis-Benton County Library. Look in the Chat or our web site for a notice as to when this occurs.

Future Programs at General Meetings

- Oct. 16 Carol Schuler, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, speaking about the Willamette Valley Refuge complex
- Nov. 20 David Copeland, world traveler from Salem, Chasing Birds and Orchids in Papua New Guinea
- Dec. 18 Member slides; each Audubon member is encouraged to show his/her ten most unusual/beautiful/educational slides
- Jan. 15 Fred Ramsey, Corvallis Audubon/OSU faculty, speaking on his latest interest (butterflies)
- Feb. 19 Bill Ripple, OSU faculty and U. S. Forest Service, speaking on forest resources
- March 18 James Davis, Portland Audubon Society, speaking on Owls of Oregon
- April 15 Bill Sullivan, Oregon author, speaking on trails and travels in Oregon (this scheduling is tentative, until Bill returns to the U.S. in November)
- May 21 Roy Lowe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, speaking on wildlife refuges of the Oregon Coast

This list is preliminary and a few programs are subject to change. Check future Chat issues or the web site for updates.

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Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week

Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge October 18th, 2003

- Guided bird walks with refuge biologist
- Oak savanna restoration walks
- Question and answer session with refuge staff
- Hands on activities for adults and children
- Wildlife and educational displays

Look for detailed information in the October Chat or call Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters at 541-757-7236

Vaux's Swift Social

**6:30 to 8:00 PM Friday September 26
311 Monmouth St., Independence, OR**

An event that is part of the Independence Hop and Heritage Festival and presented by the Friends of the Independence Oregon City Library.

Celebrate Vaux's Swifts as they prepare their southern migration. Hear all about these mosquito eaters from birder experts. Watch the birds as they swirl in their vortex down the chimney at the old library building. Third Street will be closed to vehicular traffic between Monmouth and 'D' Streets so that families may bring picnics, snacks, lawn chairs, blankets to sit on, etc.

Information: Contact Jo (503) 838-5969 or chenowethyeager@yahoo.com.

"Take Back Audubon"

Seeking to Restore Chapter Partnerships with National Audubon

Take Back Audubon (TBA) has announced its mission and platform and has fielded eight candidates for National Audubon's Board of Directors annual election. This reform effort's mission is "to restore a true partnership between the independent Chapters and the National Audubon Society through a real voice in the NAS organization and in all decisions that affect Chapters."

TBA has developed five resolutions to be adopted at the Annual Meeting of Members on December 6, 2003, in Cincinnati. The resolutions endorse a member's right to access basic information from National, the right to initiate ballot measures by petition, the requirement to have competitive elections, the guarantee of grass-roots input through regional or subregional Chapter congresses, and the reinstatement of a dues share.

Eight TBA candidates have declared their candidacy for directors-at-large: Chuck Bragg, Santa Monica Bay Audubon (CA); Marsha Cannon, Madison Audubon (WI); John Gallagher, Clark County Audubon (OH); Andrew

Mason, Delaware-Otsego Audubon (NY); Cary Meister, Yuma Audubon (AZ); Pat Rasmussen, Leavenworth Audubon Adopt-a-Forest (WA); Darrel Whipple, Willapa Hills (WA/OR); and Jennifer Wilson-Pines, North Shore Audubon (NY). Biographies of the candidates, background material on the movement, its endorsers, and the proposed reform resolutions may be viewed on the TBA web pages at www.smbas.org/tba.

A proxy form and explanation will be included with the October CHAT. The NAS membership meeting and election of board members is scheduled for December 6, 2003 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Gearing Up for 2003–04

Welcome to the 2003–04 season of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. I am honored to be your new president, thanks so much for your support. I am also excited about the many events we have planned for this year. Our upcoming Kids Day for Conservation (13 September at the Fair Grounds) will be a great way to kick off the year and Chris Mathews has lined up outstanding speakers for our monthly meetings starting on Thursday, 18 September.

This year, we have a number of new initiatives that we hope you can get involved with. Ray Drapek has been working very hard behind the scenes on Hesthavn, our sanctuary property just outside of town, and we should see the building undergo some significant changes this fall. The Hesthavn property always needs volunteers, so please think about helping out with the work parties on the *last* Saturday morning of each month.

We plan to extend some of the incredible education activities Kate Mathews has worked on for so many years by instituting Saturday morning ornithology workshops for kids—stay tuned for more details on that. We are also forming important partnerships with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at OSU so we can take advantage of the enthusiastic students and faculty in the department and provide them with some important outreach opportunities.

One initiative I hope you will take to heart is our effort to conserve paper and save costs by becoming more electronic. If you have email access, please consider changing your newsletter delivery from paper to electronic as soon as possible—send Amy Schoener an email and she will switch you over (cloudrun@peak.org). As an added bonus, we hope to begin a weekly email that outlines all the ASC activities for the week, so you won't want to miss that!

Finally, as we begin this new year, I want to be sure we thank everyone for their incredible help last year. Copresidents Jim and Karan Fairchild worked so hard and did an excellent job for ASC. We hope they stay close to ASC for many years.

See you at the General Meeting on September 18.

-Sue Haig, President

Hesthavn Work Parties

September 27, October 25 and November 22

Hesthavn Sanctuary is located 8590 NW Oak Creek Road, west of Corvallis. It is a quarter mile before the OSU Forest Field Station and trail head. A cougar was spotted on the property on August 19 but hasn't been seen since.

9 AM–12 PM: Restoration

We will be doing the western-most transect. This means mostly working on False Brome and Blackberries. Bring: Water, heavy duty work gloves, protective eye-wear is a good idea in blackberries, loppers/clipper, shovels, etc.

1 PM–4 PM: Barn Renovation

We have one more stall to remove. Bring: Water, miscellaneous implements of destruction (crowbars, hammers, etc)

In October and November, we'll bring some independent contractors in to do some work on the barn. What we do with our barn work parties will depend partly on what the contractors are able to finish up (with our limited budget), and the contractors may direct some of the volunteer work.

-Ray Drapek, 754-7364

North American Migratory Bird Count

Saturday, September 20

I am the coordinator for Benton Co. For those of you who bird in Benton Co. on that date, I'd appreciate hearing the results from you. Please provide bird species and numbers, the mileage and hours spent (broken down by mode of transportation). If you bird several areas, a bird list by area is appreciated. Backyard counts are also welcome. You can send the results to me at mccarmel@peak.org or mail them to my home address (see back of CHAT). If possible, I would appreciate knowing ahead of time where you plan to bird.

-Marcia Cutler

ASC on the Web

www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

Thanks to efforts by pioneered by Sandy Segna, the ASC has a splendid web site. Sheridan McCarthy has now taken the reigns and has added more functionality and resources than we could ever hope to put in the Chat! The web site is also helpful to newcomers, visitors looking for local events and current members away from home. With pride, we encourage you to visit the site.

Field Trip Schedule

Sept. 13	Saturday local morning 7:30 AM*
Sept. 14	Bicycle Birding 9 AM – Noon
Sept. 20	Migratory Bird Count Day
Sept. 30	Tuesday morning Bird Walk 8 AM**
Oct. 11	Saturday local morning 7:30 AM*
Oct. 18	Coastal trip full day 7 AM
Oct. 28	Tuesday morning Bird Walk 8 AM**
Nov. 8	Saturday local morning 7:30 AM*
Nov. 15	Full day field trip—where would you like to explore?
Dec. 13	Saturday local morning 7:30 AM*

***Local Saturday Morning Trips**

Meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 AM. Our next our second Saturday local field trip is on September 13, 2003. This field trip is especially interesting for beginner birders and new birders to Oregon's mid-valley area. We spend a lot of time identifying local birds by sight and song. Leader Paula Vanderheul 541-752-0470, vanderp@peak.org

September 14, Sunday Bicycle Birding in Corvallis

9:00 AM, Meet at Avery Park Rose Garden. An easy, flat ride of 10 miles or less. We've come across unexpected birds on some of these trips. We'll tour great habitat not accessible to cars and we won't miss those countless birds that motorist whiz by at freeway speeds. Bring water and rain gear. Leader: Don Boucher 753-7689, bouchdon@juno.com

****Tuesday Morning Trips**

Marcia Cutler will lead these local Birding Walks. Everyone is to meet at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 8:00 AM.

Spring Trips

In the Spring there are two major long weekend field trips to Klamath Basin and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge that are led by Fred Ramsey. April 16–17, 2004 will be the Klamath Basin trip, and May 20–23, 2004 will be the Malheur trip. Sign-up sheets will be available at the field trip table at the general meeting each month, or contact Paula Vanderheul directly for sign-up or further information.

Look in the Chat for changes, additions, and updates of field trips each month. Come and join other bird watchers exploring a wildlife adventure in Oregon.

-Paula Vanderheul

Field Notes

July 1 through August 25, 2003

If you've ever wondered what determines the order of birds in these field notes, the answer is that I try to follow the "taxonomic order" defined by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). Every few years, the AOU puts out a revised checklist of the birds that have occurred in North America (including Central America), the West Indies, and Hawaii. This checklist gives the latest accepted ordering of birds, according to order, family, genus, and species.

The AOU's latest checklist revision should be good news for frustrated U of O football fans: Ducks and their relatives are finally No. 1 (at least if you don't count Tinamous, a group of heavy-bodied birds found only in Central and South America). After that come pheasants, grouse, and their relations, followed by loons, grebes, albatrosses, shearwaters, pelicans, cormorants, herons, storks, vultures, and raptors, then the rest pretty much in the order we are used to seeing them.

Veteran birdwatchers might be amused to note that this revision brings Turkey Vultures back alongside of Ospreys, eagles and hawks (although it still keeps them most closely in the company of herons and storks). Even better, the new checklist finally comes into line with common sense by calling pigeons "pigeons" – specifically, "Rock Pigeons" instead of "Rock Doves."

I like to think of new AOU checklists as providing us with new ways to think about the relationships among birds, to keep us from becoming stodgy. However, since I write this column for Corvallis readers, I've taken the precaution of reordering the column to ensure that the **Beavers** come out ahead of the **Ducks**. Happy fall migration!

Abbreviations & Locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; SF = State Forest; E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) is north of Corvallis along Hwy 99W. Baskett Slough NWR is near Dallas in Polk Co. Doerfler Pond is a private pond in Linn Co. Clear Lake and Lost Lake are in Linn Co. west of Santiam Pass. Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC) is south of Albany. McFadden Marsh is at Finley NWR south of Corvallis. The Pioneer Villa ponds are alongside I-5 west of Brownsville. Willamette Park is in south Corvallis.

Inland Sightings:

On 25 Aug Marie Parcell had a midnight visit from a young **Virginia Opossum** which somehow got into her apartment e. of Kings Blvd. After removing cats and dog from the scene, she managed to get it back out the door using a cardboard box. A **Bobcat** crossed Bruce Rd. near Finley NWR ahead of Stephanie Haines and Don Boucher on 4 Aug. The most surprising sighting at our place in SE Polk Co. in late July was a large **Beaver** that waddled insouciantly past our family, along the driveway and then back down the bank of Soap Creek. I'm not sure who was more surprised – me or the **Coyote** pup that I encountered just outside its den while I was on a run near E.E. Wilson WA 13 Jul.

A **Wood Duck** hen had a brood of four young at the Tangent sewage ponds 10 Jul (Jeff Fleischer).

A surprising diversity of duck species stayed in the Willamette Valley well into the breeding season. Erik Knight noted **Gadwall**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Redheads** and **Ring-necked Ducks** at Baskett Slough NWR 8 Jun. Four **Green-winged Teal** were at the Pioneer Villa ponds 14 Jul (Tom Snetsinger). **Northern Shovelers** stayed around to breed in Polk Co. this season; two hens with young were at Baskett Slough NWR 5 Jul (Bill Tice).

Cinnamon Teal finished raising their young and began to gather in large flocks by 10 Jul when 45 were at the Tangent sewage ponds. On 30-31 Jul Lansing Bulgin noted hundreds feeding in a freshly harvested grass seed field by Baskett Slough NWR.

Hendrik Herlyn and Oscar Harper saw three female or immature **Harlequin Ducks** along Quartzville Creek, Linn Co. 24 Jul.

On 29 Jun Randy Campbell made another hike to the Patjens Lakes in the Cascades, hoping for a better look at the **goldeneye** hen with brood he reported earlier in June. The only ones he found on this trip looked like **Barrow's Goldeneyes**, so the possibility of nesting **Common Goldeneyes** will have to be left as hypothetical.

On 23 Jul Roy Gerig saw a female **Hooded Merganser** with a brood of four near a nesting box at Fay Lake in the Cascades. A juvenile was on the Philomath sewage ponds 19 Aug (Joe Fontaine).

Pauline Carter spotted two perched grouse during the ASC field trip to Beazell Memorial Forest, which may have been **Blue Grouse** judging from the white bands on their tails (Paula Vanderheul).

A **Mountain Quail** hen showed up in Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth's yard 17 Jul, with just one chick in tow. Bill and Margaret Eltzroth also got to see the quail while visiting. A hen at Pat & Dan Waldron's place e. of Scio did better, showing up with a brood in the driveway 25 Aug. A **California Quail** family also showed up there on 24 Aug.

Jamie Simmons saw a juvenile **Common Loon** on Suttle Lake (Jefferson Co.) 16-17 Aug. A **Western Grebe** was at Baskett Slough NWR 5 Jul (B. Tice).

Marie Parcell noted **Great Blue Herons** along the Corvallis waterfront all month in July, and saw many more on a float trip from Peoria to Crystal Lake 21 Aug. A **Great Egret** turned up at Finley NWR 27 Jul (E. Knight), and three were at E.E. Wilson WA 6 Aug (J Geier). A **Green Heron** by the Lewisburg stoplight 7 Jul (E Eltzroth) was in an odd location; one was seen regularly at McFadden Marsh from 4 Aug onward (D Boucher, S Haines; J Fontaine).

On 9 Aug eleven **Turkey Vultures** circled on a thermal e. of Scio (P Waldron). Watch for more vulture "kettles" as many will be migrating south in the coming month.

Three **Ospreys** in the Van Buren St. nest in Corvallis were calling to a fourth on 22 Jul (M Parcell). An immature **White-tailed Kite** was near the prairie overlook at Finley NWR 12 Jul (P Vanderheul). A **Bald Eagle** was at Fish Lake in the Cascades 29 Jun (Mark Nikas); one was at nearby Lost Lake 17 & 20 Jul when our family stopped by.

An adult female Cooper's Hawk was guarding a nest with one fledgling n. of Lebanon 4 Jul (Jeff Harding). A Red-shouldered Hawk was spotted in a wetland along Bruce Rd., Finley NWR 27 Jul (E Knight).

On 4 Aug I encountered a very early fall **Merlin** near our place, and watched it fly off toward E.E. Wilson WA. More should be showing up in the coming month. An adult Peregrine Falcon was over the river at Peoria on 3 Aug (R Campbell).

Two juvenile Virginia Rails were at the Pioneer Villa wetlands on 2 & 10 Aug (J Fleischer). A Sora was there 7 Aug (J Fleischer), and one was at Finley NWR 8 Jun (E Knight).

By late summer, arctic-nesting shorebirds were already well into their southbound migration. Inland plover sightings included two **Semipalmated Plovers** at a pond n. of Lebanon 3 Aug (Craig & Judy Corder), one at Finley NWR 19 Aug (J Fontaine), and a **Black-bellied Plover** at a pond south of Linn-Benton Community College 12 Aug (J Fleischer). **Killdeer** began to form larger flocks, as 25 were in a field by our place 29 Jul and 50 were at Pioneer Villa 10 Aug (J Fleischer).

Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were at Pioneer Villa 10 Jul (M Nikas), and numbers there increased to 15 by 2 Aug (J Fleischer). Four **Lesser Yellowlegs** showed up at Pioneer Villa 2 Aug; by 7 Aug a total of five were at Pioneer Villa and Tangent ponds, and one was still at Pioneer Villa 10 Aug (J Fleischer). Dave Budeau flushed a possible **Solitary Sandpiper** at E.E. Wilson WA 21 Jul.

Migration of common "peeps" – Western Sandpipers and Least Sandpipers – began with small numbers from 4 Jul onward, and peaked with 60 Least Sandpipers at Baskett Slough NWR on 16 Jul (R Gerig) and 300 Western Sandpipers at the LBCC pond on 12 Aug (J Fleischer). Craig and Judy Corder (visiting birders from Umatilla) picked out a juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper** among peeps near Harrisburg 3 Aug,

and saw another possibly of this species n. of Lebanon. Two Baird's Sandpipers were at Baskett Slough 22 Aug (R Gerig). A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Pioneer Villa 10 Aug (J Fleischer).

Six **Long-billed Dowitchers** showed up at Pioneer Villa 14 Jul (M Nikas), and 20 were in Tangent 7 Aug (J Fleischer). Dowitchers were noted at McFadden Marsh 4 Aug (D Boucher, S Haines), and one Long-billed Dowitcher was still there 8 Aug when I checked. Two **Wilson's Snipe** were by the E.E. Wilson canal pond throughout the summer (D Budeau). One was at Lost Lake in the Cascades 6 Jul (Vjera Arnold).

Seven **Wilson's Phalaropes** were at Pioneer Villa 14 Jul (M Nikas). On 7 Aug two **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at the Tangent sewage ponds and three were at Pioneer Villa; the same locations held a total of three on 10 Aug (J Fleischer). A juvenile was at the Philomath sewage ponds 19 Aug (J Fontaine).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at the Tangent sewage ponds 3 Aug (C & J Corder). Another **gull** of undetermined species along the Willamette 21 Aug (M Parcell) was the only other inland report. On the night of 30 Jul Mike Lippsmeyer heard the distinctive, incessant begging call of a juvenile **Caspian Tern** over his place in SE Polk Co.

Rock Pigeons were in Corvallis throughout the period, showing no evident excitement over their new name. **Band-tailed Pigeons** were seen on the ASC field trip to Bezell Memorial Forest 9 Aug (P Vanderheul). The last ones at Pat Waldron's place e. of Scio were on 13 Aug. Pat noted more **Mourning Doves** there than in previous years.

A pair of **Barn Owls** nesting in Gerald and Billie Simonson's barn along Riverside Drive fledged five young this year. The owlets hatched in late spring and fledged from late June through late July, in what Billie says was quite a noisy process.

On 5 Jul a **Western Screech-Owl** showed up and, as in years past, watched as 94 **Big Brown Bats** left their roost in downtown Albany (J Fleischer). Curiously the owl made no attempts to capture any on this occasion.

A **Common Nighthawk** was booming over Belts Rd. near Brownsville 20 Jun (M Nikas). A par circled above Mary's Peak 20 Jul (Sandy Bryce). A few were still around e. of Scio as of 25 Aug (P Waldron).

Wayne Hoffman saw a Black Swift flying over hayfields near Alsea on 17 Jul. About 500 Vaux's Swifts swirled down to roost in a chimney in Monmouth on 15 Aug (Maggie Meikle). No major roosts have been reported in Corvallis yet this fall.

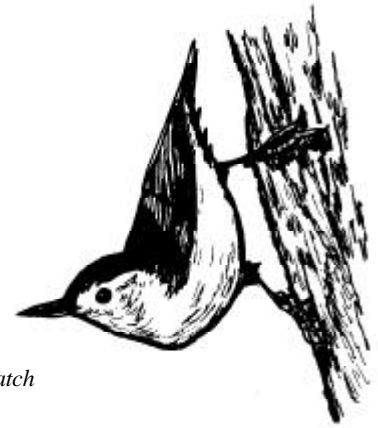
Most **Rufous Hummingbirds** moved to higher elevations in the later part of summer. Bruce Newhouse and Peg Boulay saw 25 to 30 in a meadow near Clear Lake 11 Aug. August sightings at lower elevations included one on Vineyard Mtn 24 Aug (M&E Eltzroth), a migrant in NW Corvallis 25 Aug (P Vanderheul), and a few females e. of Scio through 25 Aug (P Waldron).

Don Miller found **Acorn Woodpeckers** in the oaks at Adair Park on 12 Aug. On 27 Jul Jeff Harding and Bill Thackaberry found a family of four **Williamson's Sapsuckers** in Linn Co., where Woodpecker Ridge meets the Pacific Crest Trail on the west side of Mt. Jefferson. A juvenile **Hairy Woodpecker** with a reddish crown was e. of Scio 12 Aug (P Waldron).

Don Miller noted a **Western Wood-Pewee** at Adair Park on 12 Aug. A few remained in the area through the end of the period. I found a **Willow Flycatcher** at E.E. Wilson on 9 Jul. **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** were still plentiful at Bezell Memorial Forest 29 Jul when Marcia Cutler led an ASC field trip there.

An adult **Black Phoebe** was at Pioneer Villa 10 Jul (J Fleischer, M Nikas). Craig and Judy Corder found one at the Tangent sewage ponds 3 Aug, and later came across a family of **Western Kingbirds** while meandering their way through rural Linn Co.

Cassin's Vireos were noted on ASC field trips to Finley 12 Jul and to Bezell Memorial Forest 9 Aug (P Vanderheul). Field trip participants on 9 Aug also found **Warbling Vireos**, and enjoyed watching two **Gray Jays** preening after a bath in the creek. Another **Gray Jay** showed up on



White-breasted Nuthatch

Vineyard Mtn 11 Aug (M Eltzroth). A **Steller's Jay** was in the neighborhood near Kings & Grant in Corvallis on 23 & 24 Aug (M Parcell).

The population of "**Streaked**" **Horned Larks** nesting in fields around our place e. of E.E. Wilson had a very productive year. The earliest fledglings appeared 13 Jul, and by 18 Aug I estimated a total of 23 juveniles and 12 adults – good news for a subspecies that has been declining. Larks were also noted around Baskett Slough NWR, along Belts Rd. where Jeff Fleischer saw 2 territorial males 10 Jul, and near the Independence airport where Pamela Johnston heard several males singing 31 Jul.

Purple Martins nesting e. of Scio fledged young by 9 Aug, and other swallow species there had all fledged by 11 Aug (P Waldron). A **Bank Swallow** was at the Tangent sewage ponds 3 Aug (C&J Corder).

White-breasted Nuthatch is another species that seems to be declining in the Willamette Valley, due to loss of open oak woodlands. One was in the oaks at the new Vanderpool Tract greenway in NE Benton Co. when our family went there for a walk 28 Jun. The ones at our place have gradually become less evident in the 6 years we have lived here, and this year was the first time we have not seen any fledglings. Pat Waldron notes that **Red-breasted Nuthatches** seemed more numerous than usual this year at her place e. of Scio.

Steve Gordon saw an **American Dipper** while visiting the Thyme Garden near Alsea on 5 Jul. Hendrik Herlyn and Oscar Harper found a family along Quartzville Creek in Linn Co. on 24 Jul. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were noted in the Cascades at Lost Lake 6 Jul (V Arnold) and on the w side of Mt. Jefferson 27 Jul (J Harding, B Thackaberry).

The ASC field trip to Finley NWR on 12 Jul noted **Western Bluebirds**. I counted 10 juveniles on a loop through the refuge 8 Aug. Jeff Harding and Bill Thackaberry found **Townsend's Solitaires** on the west side of Mt. Jefferson 27 Jul.

Two juvenile **Swainson's Thrushes** were at Bezell Memorial Forest 29 Jul (M Cutler). Southbound migration had started by the night of 23 Aug, when Matt Hunter heard flocks passing over his Corvallis house. A **Hermit Thrush** at Clear Lake 11 Aug seemed to be carrying an insect to a nest (B Newhouse).

On 31 Jul I heard a **Wrentit** calling along Soap Creek 1/3 mile w. of Independence Hwy, marking the farthest these birds have wandered east from E.E. Wilson WA, which they colonized within the past few years. The ASC field trip 9 Aug also found some at Bezell Memorial Forest (P Vanderheul).

The field trip to Finley NWR 12 Jul found six kinds of warblers along Woodpecker Loop: **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Yellow-Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, and **Wilson's Warbler**.

The **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Lost Lake was seen through 7 Jul (Tom Love, Phil Rempel). The **Northern Waterthrush** there was banded

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Field Notes

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on 11 Jul, when it showed a full cloacal protuberance indicating breeding condition (Steve Dowlan).

The 29 Jul ASC field trip to Bezell Memorial Forest got to see a **MacGillivray's Warbler** (M Cutler). A female that turned up in E.E. Wilson WA 29 Jul was a sign of post-breeding dispersal. Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** at E.E. Wilson WA 29 Jul seem to be the last ones noted in the period, although in most years some remain through August.

On 31 Jul I watched a male **Western Tanager** being followed by a begging **Brown-headed Cowbird** fledgling at E.E. Wilson WA. It was sort of a disappointing way to confirm breeding by tanagers in the wildlife area.

Dave Budeau found two **Spotted Towhee** nests, with 3 eggs in each, at E.E. Wilson WA on 22 Jul, a notably late date for towhees to be incubating. By 1 Aug one nest was inactive (probably due to nest predators) but the other had three nestlings. Towhees and **Song Sparrows** e. of Scio were molting as of 25 Aug, resulting in some sparrows flying around without tails (P Waldron).

The only **Chipping Sparrow** report during the period was from Bezell Memorial Forest 29 Jul (M Cutler). **Vesper Sparrow** reports were also scant: 2 at Willamette Park 16 Jul (D Boucher) and 1 near McFadden Marsh 4 & 8 Aug (D Boucher, S Haines; J Geier). **Savannah Sparrows** were abundant as usual in the grass fields near our place, with a high count of 210 as youngsters were fledging on 13 Jul. Three **Grasshopper Sparrows** were along Belts Rd. near Brownsville 18 & 20 Jun (M Nikas). **Dark-eyed Juncos** at Pat Waldron's place e. of Scio were still nesting as of 25 Aug.

Black-headed Grosbeaks began migrating south by 6 Aug when Don Boucher noted movement through the LBCC Benton Center neighborhood in Corvallis. Two were still in NW Corvallis (one at Hewlett Packard) through 19 Aug (J Simmons), and some were still e. of Scio through 25 Aug (P Waldron).

Lazuli Buntings were a highlight of the ASC trip to Finley NWR 12 Jul. The ones nesting at our place fledged young by 23 Jul; after 9 Aug they were gone.

A few **Western Meadowlarks** were seen regularly at the north entrance of Finley NWR through the summer. Eight were in the grasslands along Belts Rd., Linn Co. 18 Jun (M Nikas). Lynn Rainwater had a juvenile show up near her yard feeder NE of E.E. Wilson WA on 6 Jul, but later found the bird dead.

Sharon and Jim Kavanagh had a pair of **Bullock's Orioles** nesting at their place near Monroe as of 8 Jul. A pair were in Washington Park, downtown Corvallis 10 Jul (D Boucher). A juvenile at our place 30 Jul seems to be the last local report, for a species that tends to slip away unnoticed during August and earliest September.

Purple Finches were noted during ASC trips to Finley NWR 12 Jul and to Bezell Memorial Forest 29 Jul (P Vanderheul; M Cutler). Both these and **American Goldfinches** were still around at Pat Waldron's place e. of Scio through 25 Aug. When Paula Vanderheul refilled her feeder in NW Corvallis after returning home from a trip, her first visitors were a pair of **Lesser Goldfinches** that appeared almost immediately.

Coastal Notes

While fishing for **salmon** offshore of Depoe Bay on 16 Aug, Troy Guy saw a well-described, rare **Manx Shearwater** along with many **Pink-footed Shearwaters** and **Sooty Shearwaters**. Dave Pitkin and Matt Wells saw three Leach's Storm-Petrels about 8 miles offshore of Depoe Bay on 17 Jul, closer to shore than usual.

A **Wandering Tattler** and 11 **Black Turnstones** were at Depoe Bay 16 Aug (Mitch Ratzlaff). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** and three **American Golden-Plovers** were among highlights of a trip to Coos Bay by Jim, Karan, and Karl Fairchild 23 Aug.

Bend birder Dave Tracy saw numerous **Red-necked Phalaropes**, a **Pomarine Jaeger**, an **Elegant Tern**, **Cassin's Auklets** and **Rhinoceros Auklets** while fishing with his dad and father-in-law off Depoe Bay 17 Aug. With all those exciting birds, he forgot to mention if he caught any fish or not.

A spectacular gathering of gulls were in Siletz Bay in late July, with up to 10,000 **California Gulls** and 5000 **Heermann's Gulls** on 30 Jul, feeding on a high concentration of **anchovies** (Phil Pickering, Wayne Hoffman).

A **Peregrine Falcon** was over Yaquina Head on 16 Jul (B, E & M Eltzroth). On 2 Jul Roy Filby reported the release of a **Hairy Woodpecker** at Newport, after successful rehabilitation at the Chintimini Center in Corvallis. Eric Horvath was happy to note 40 **Purple Martins** all in the air at once on 22 Aug near the nesting boxes he maintains at Yaquina Bay.

More coastal sightings are documented in field notes of *The Sandpiper* (Yaquina Birders & Naturalists) which can be viewed at <<http://www.orednet.org/~rbayer/lincoln/bird.htm>>.

Next month

We'll be bidding farewell to most flycatchers, swallows, tanagers, warblers, but welcoming the return of pipits, kinglets, and wintering sparrows. Please send me your observations by 25 September.

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Combining Forces

ASC Connects with Other Local Groups

The ASC has an ongoing effort to associate with local organizations with similar goals. In so doing, we avoid duplicating some efforts and we pool together when our combined strength is needed. As part of this effort, I have been attending Corvallis Environmental Center board meetings and volunteering with the Corvallis Northwest Earth Institute. Other ASC members, like Jim Fairchild, are making efforts such as the Northwest Forest Plan Defense Meeting (see article on next page) sponsored with the Coast Range Association. The ASC collaborates with other groups such as the Marys Peak chapter of the Sierra Club, the Master Gardeners, LBCC, other regional Audubon chapters and more.

Corvallis Environmental Center

The Corvallis Environmental Center (CEC) has three primary programs. They have a downtown office at 214 SW Monroe St., which has an administrative function as well as a community resource for pamphlets, books and information about their programs as well as other, similar groups, like the ASC. The office can be reached at 541-758-6777. See their web site at www.peak.org/~ecenter

Their Nature Education Program utilizes the Avery House Nature Center, located in Avery Park, and they conduct nature programs for kids and adults. The Avery House is also a splendid place to visit for adults and kids alike, with fascinating displays about local ecology and natural history. They also have a display on the birds of

Marys Peak! They are open from 11 AM–4 PM on Fridays and Saturdays. If you have children, you would be particularly interested in their youth programs. This Fall, they have programs like "Birds on the Move", "Decay Day", "Frogs and Salamanders", and many more. With or without the kids, you may interested in their "Family Nature Walk" series covering various topics like, local forest ecology, urban ecology, mushrooms and more. For a schedule, stop by the Avery House, call them at 541-758-6198, also visit or call the CEC office. A list of Avery House programs appears in the Corvallis Parks and Rec. activity guide.

The Youth Garden Project is the CEC's third program. In this program, kids and teens learn the process of organic gardening and produce food for local food banks and other organizations. The program is conducted at the Community Gardens on Country Club Drive (parking on 45th Street). Join them the last Saturday of the month (reasonably weathered months) for garden work and pizza from 10 AM–3 PM. Contact them at 541-753-9211, or email farm4thefuture@hotmail.com, or the CEC office.

The Corvallis Northwest Earth Institute

Their primary function is to conduct discussion courses on sustainability, deep ecology, living in place, the practice of simplicity and other topics. They also help people sponsor neighborhood events like home eco-parties. The courses are offered through LBCC, churches and other places and typically cost only for the associated handouts. Go on their Corvallis Organic Garden Tour on September 21 in which I will be attending an Audubon information table. Corvallis contact 541-752-3517 or visit the regional web site at www.nwei.org

-Don Boucher

Northwest Forest Plan Defense Meeting

Corvallis Public Library Meeting Room Sunday September 21, 7 PM

ASC's Conservation Committee and Coast Range Association are sponsoring an informational meeting on the status of the Northwest Forest Plan. Invited speakers will reveal federal forest management methods under the direction of Bush administrators. And we'll review photos from proposed timber sales, some are 900 acres in size and include hundreds of acres of six- to ten-foot diameter old-growth trees.

Please come and learn how to be an effective voice for federal forest conservation!

16th Annual Coast Conference

Commercial fisherman and conservationist Pietro Parravano will be the keynote speaker at the 16th annual Coast Conference, coming up on Oct. 25–26 in Newport, OR

The conference, sponsored each year by the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, features a range of speakers and workshops on natural history and coastal issues. This year's version will have a special focus on Oregon's offshore habitats and on what citizens can do to protect them.

Other speakers will include Dave Hatch of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, speaking on sea otters in Oregon's past and future, and Mark Hixon, Oregon State University marine scientist, describing and showing the ocean habitats hidden beneath the waves off Oregon's shore. A wide range of additional speakers will discuss other aspects of marine conservation, including the campaign to create protected marine reserves, as well as on-shore conservation topics.

For information, contact Phillip Johnson, director of Oregon Shores Coast Watch program, at (503) 238-4450, orshores@teleport.com

***The Chat* by Email**

If you have computer access to email, we will save trees and also money for postage, and email you the Audubon Society of Corvallis' newsletter. Please contact Amy Schoener (Membership Chair) 929-4041, cloudrun@peak.org.

You will receive the CHAT in Adobe Acrobat format. File size will be 300k or less. Adobe Acrobat reading software is free and can be downloaded from Adobe's web site (www.adobe.com).

-Amy Schoener

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Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

Calendar

Sept. 11 Board meeting, 7:30 PM
Sept. 13 Saturday local morning 7:30 AM**
Sept. 14 Bicycle Birding 9 AM – Noon**
Sept. 18 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, 1st Presb. Church*, Ken Snider, Owyhee Canyonlands
Sept. 20 Migratory Bird Count Day**
Sept. 21 NW Forest Plan Defense Meeting, 7 PM, Public Library Meeting Room
Sept. 22 Field Notes deadline
Sept. 25 Chat deadline for October
Sept. 27 Hesthavn Sanctuary work party (see page 3)
Sept. 30 Tuesday morning Bird Walk 8 AM**
Oct. 6 Conservation Discussion, New Morning Bakery, 5:30 PM
Oct. 9 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
Oct. 11 Saturday local morning 7:30 AM**
Oct. 16 General Meeting, 7:30 PM, 1st Presb. Church*, Carol Schuler, Willamette Valley Refuges
Oct. 18 Coastal trip full day 7 AM**
Oct. 25 Hesthavn Sanctuary work party (see page 3)
Oct. 27 Field Notes deadline
Oct. 28 Tuesday morning Bird Walk 8 AM**
Oct. 30 Chat deadline for November
Nov. 4 Conservation Discussion, New Morning Bakery, 5:30 PM

Everybody's welcome, including nonmembers, to any ASC function
* General Meeting location may change this year—see front page
**See page 3 for field trip descriptions

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