



Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

October 2007

VOL. 37

#2

The New Look of the Chat

For 37 years, a line art drawing of a Yellow-breasted Chat by noted avian artist Jan Janosik (www.natureartists.com) has been the logo of the ASC. Mr. Janosik has graciously donated a new painting of a Chat (see above) to the ASC for future use as our logo and to share with our members. Color reproductions are available on the ASC website (www.audubon.corvallis.or.us).

General Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church

Marine Reserves and Wave Energy on the Oregon Coast

A presentation by Robin Hartmann, Oregon Shores Ocean Program

With the intense efforts of the conservation community and others to explore and develop alternative energy resources in lieu of our dependence on oil, the possibility of relying on energy harnessed by ocean waves is currently being very actively explored. The Oregon coast and off-shore areas have great potential for this alternative energy source. But at what cost? This month's speaker, Robin Hartmann, will explore these efforts, particularly considering the impact development of wave energy would have on the marine reserves currently in place and planned for the Oregon Coast. Robin is Director of the Ocean Program for the environmental coalition Oregon Shores. Oregon Shores plays a key role in the coalition working to establish marine reserves in Oregon and provides information about the links between land use, other onshore activities and the health of the ocean.

Sue Haig

Directions

The chapter meeting is in the meeting hall of the First Presbyterian Church (upstairs), 114 SW Eighth Street. The meeting is preceded by a social period with refreshments, which begins at 7 pm.

Yes on 49

Come to our House Party!

Measure 49 would repair the worst problems introduced by Measure 37. M37 was the initiative that said that if a law, such as the Urban Growth Boundary law or a zoning change, had reduced the value of property you own, you could file a claim that effectively allows you to ignore the law. It was sold to voters by showing people who had owned land for decades but who couldn't build retirement houses on it. But after it passed, many claims turned out to be for large-scale development of subdivisions and shopping malls on some of the best farm and forest land in the Willamette Valley and Columbia Gorge.

Measure 49 (the new measure) corrects the worst features of M37 (the old measure) while still allowing some relief from the restrictions of Oregon's land-use laws. Similarly to M37, it would allow people to build houses on their property, but would restrict them to three houses -- or ten houses if they can show that a law did indeed reduce the value of their property enough (In high-value farmland or forestland, or places with limited water supplies, the three-house rule would always apply). Commercial and industrial development would have to go through the existing land-use planning process.

Measure 49 is important to the high quality of life we enjoy here in Oregon.

see "Yes on 49" on next page

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Yes on 49 *continued from front page*

What you can do to support Measure 49:

- House party! I am hosting one on Weds., Oct. 10 at 7:30 PM at my place, 3798 NW Jameson Dr. Call me to RSVP and get directions. At the party, you can learn more about the measure, get to know fellow supporters, and volunteer to help pass the measure. Plus enjoy good food and drink -- please bring a bit of this if you are so inclined (but come anyway if you aren't).
- Learn more about it. See www.yeson49.com.
- Donate money (at no cost!). There is an expensive TV battle over this measure going on now. The anti-49 side is funded by development interests, and the pro-49 side needs all the help it can get. See the web site above or the local address below. IT'S FREE! Donations to support the measure are eligible for the annual Oregon income tax credit of \$50/person (\$100/couple). So if you give any amount up to this limit, you will get it all back in reduced tax or a tax refund.
- Help the M49 effort in the Corvallis-Philomath-Albany area by making phone calls, knocking on doors, and helping get out the vote. Since this is an off-year election, getting pro-49 people to vote will be critical. Call me or call/visit the local office (address just below).
- Volunteer at the local office: 206 SW Madison #103, Corvallis. The staffer there is Cameron Mulder, 541-908-2777.
- Put up a yard sign. Lots of people don't know about Measure 49, so signs can help on this one.
- Last but definitely not least, vote. Don't forget to turn that ballot in.

Dave Mellinger, 757-7953

**BLM WOPR Revision
Threatens Public Lands
Public Comments due November 9**

Making a friendly out-of-court settlement with the Wall Street timber industry, the Bush Administration is pushing the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR), which will affect the 2.6 million acres of public land managed by the BLM. Not only reigniting controversial old-growth logging, WOPR's proposed alternatives include eliminating key provisions of the current Northwest Forest Plan, such as the key watersheds and Survey and manage species. Alternatives also reduce riparian buffer zones, late-successional reserves, and other administratively protected special areas, like Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Fully 50% of western Oregon lands could be placed in "Timber Management Areas", all to be clearcut at age 80.

Why is the WOPR a bad idea? It builds 1000 miles of new roads; it clearcuts 140,000 acres in western Oregon in the first decade; it creates 100,000 acres of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use areas, many adjacent to rural residents; it removes and reduces stream buffers that will lower water quality and fish and aquatic habitats, and reduces the supply of clean water for domestic water use; it increases logging in forests over 200 years old seven-fold; it reduces protections for native plant populations, and predicts an increase in noxious and invasive species; it predicts no measurable gain for local counties while producing fewer jobs and depleting the natural asset base that supports a thriving new economy; it unravels the ecological compromise of current federal forest planning (Northwest Forest Plan); it ignores court recognition that anything less than the NW Forest Plan would violate the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and other laws; it ignores current global climate change trends as "speculative" and thus not worthy of consideration.

The full text (1600 pg) is available at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr/index.php> Other information sources can be found by a web search for "BLM WOPR".

Send comments by November 9th to:
Bureau of Land Management
333 SW 1st Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

Send copies to Congress and your County Commissioners, and please consider submitting a letter to the Editor of your local newspaper. Also look for public informational meetings on the BLM WOPR and field trips to nearby BLM ancient forests, courtesy of Benton Forest Defense.

Jim Fairchild

**Nature on a Human Scale
Oct 19, 6:15pm at First Alternative Co-op, 1007
SE 3rd St., Corvallis**

You are invited to a showing of our film, *Nature on a Human Scale*, as part of the Co-op's Local Fest. The film celebrates the surprising diversity of life found in and near Corvallis. This film features a dazzling and colorful array of more than 170 local species in a journey through the seasons.

Lisa Millbank and Don Boucher

Field Trip Schedule

Monthly Year-Round 2nd Saturday

- Oct 13 Saturday morning local birding 7:30 am
Nov 10 Saturday morning local birding 7:30 am,
meet at the Benton Center parking lot due to
OSU Football game
Dec 08 Saturday morning local birding 7:30 am

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of every month at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 am. This field trip is especially interesting for beginner birders, and birders new to Oregon's mid-valley area. We spend a lot of time identifying local birds by sight and song. We visit the valley national wildlife refuges—Finley, Baskett Slough, and Ankeny, as well as other birding areas throughout the year. Paula Vanderheul is field trip leader. vanderp@peak.org 541-752-0470

NEW...Midvalley birding discussion list

A free subscription email list posts local bird sightings and birding information. I post where the field trip will be going two days before the field trip date on this list. To subscribe, go to www.midvalleybirding.org and follow the instructions.

Full Day Birding Schedule

- Oct 20 Fern Ridge Reservoir Wildlife Area
Nov 17 Newport Coast

Three to four times a year we schedule full-day trips to the coast, and other refuges with Oregon. On these trips we carpool sharing gas cost with the drivers. Everyone should bring a large lunch, water/drinks, binoculars, spotting (if available), and layers of warm clothing, sturdy shoes, and rain gear. We meet at 7:30 am at the Benton Center (LBCC) parking lot in Corvallis, which can be reached by turning east on Polk at the corner of Polk and 9th St., where Borders Books is located. Contact Paula Vanderheul (541-752-0470, vanderp@peak.org) with questions.

Spring 2008 Weekend Field Trips

- March 21-23 Bandon Coast
April 18-20 Klamath Basin
May (date open as play schedule yet unknown)
Rogue Valley
May 15-18 Malheur NWR

Fred Ramsey leads all the spring weekend trips. Fred has been leading these field trips for ASC over 35 years. He is an amazing field trip guide sharing his knowledge of finding birds in their habitat, pointing out wildflowers, butterflies, mammals, and reptiles. The field trips fill up early in the fall. Sign-up sheets are available at the general meeting or email Paula Vanderheul with your requests. vanderp@peak.org.

The Rogue Valley and Malheur trips require deposits by February 28, 2008. The Rogue Valley deposit is \$40 for the play *The Clay Cart*, by Sudraka. The Malheur deposit is \$50. Each deposit made payable to Fred Ramsey 3550 NW Glen Ridge Pl. Corvallis OR 97330

Paula Vanderheul

Mushroom Workshop

Oct 21, 1-4pm, Avery House Nature Center, Avery Park

Workshop at the Avery House will be followed with a trip to Woods Creek to hunt for mushrooms and observe other forest inhabitants. Please pre-register. Led by Gary Gibson & Don Boucher. The cost is \$10. To register: Phone 541-753-9211, email ecenter@peak.org, or stop by 214 SW Monroe Avenue in downtown Corvallis.

Don Boucher

HCT Update

The Homer Campbell Memorial Trail is progressing apace! Two-thirds of the elevated boardwalk in the Muddy Creek riparian area at Finley Wildlife Refuge is completed, and the rest will be finished this month – barring a serious deluge.

14 volunteers spent three hours on September 22nd cleaning up construction debris and trimming overhanging branches. We want to thank the Auduboners, Friends of Willamette Valley Refuges (some from Salem and Eugene), Greenbelt Land Trust folks, and refuge staff who turned out for a crisp autumn day of lively work, made easy and fun with many hands! Go to the ASC website to see current pictures.

The next work party, another site clean up (and possibly a celebration of the completed boardwalk!!), will be either Oct 20 or 27, depending on weather and progress on the trail. We will announce the date and other details at our Oct. 18th general meeting. Or you can call Linda Campbell at 929-9420.

Linda T. Campbell



This Raccoon family was fishing with Great Egrets at Finley Refuge. Photo by Don Boucher

Field Notes

Aug 28 – Sept 24, 2007

Dry late summer weather continued, punctuated by just a few light showers. Nighttime temperatures dipped down to just above freezing on the last night of the period, as the harvest moon was waxing and owls started to call in anticipation of their mating season which begins in a few months. Most of our migrant songbirds left for the tropics even as the first wintering ducks, raptors, and sparrows began to show up. By late September, fall colors were showing as many black cottonwoods and Oregon ash trees had turned yellow, and bigleaf maples and Oregon white oaks showed tinges of orange and brown. The season's first snow was falling at 4500 ft elevation in the Cascades, as I sat down to write this column on our first truly rainy day of the season on 28 Sep.

Abbreviations & Locations: NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; STP = sewage treatment pond(s); m. obs. = multiple observers; p. obs. = personal observation. Coffin Butte and E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) are north of Corvallis along Hwy 99W. Cabell Marsh, Cheadle Marsh, and McFadden Marsh are at Finley (NWR) s. of Corvallis. Knoll Terrace STP is behind the Knoll Terrace mobile home community off Elliot Circle in Lewisburg. Toketie Marsh is the remedial wetland for Coffin Butte Regional Landfill north of Corvallis. Willamette Park is in s. Corvallis.

Reports

Wintering waterfowl began to arrive this month, with two **Gadwalls** at E.E. Wilson 15 Sep (p. obs.) and pairs of **Northern Shovelers** at Cabell Marsh 6 Sep and Knoll Terrace STP 7 Sep (Rich Armstrong). By 13 Sep about 200 shovelers were at Philomath STP (Noah Strycker). Two **Northern Pintails** were at Finley NWR 8 Sep (Rich Armstrong).

Six **Redheads** were at Philomath STP 20 Sep (Rich & Nanette Armstrong), after two juvenile **Ring-necked Ducks** arrived there 8 Sep and 20 showed up by 20 Sep (Rich & Nanette Armstrong). Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at Cabell Marsh 6 Sep and two more were at Philomath STP 8 Sep, increasing to six by 20 Sep (Rich & Nanette Armstrong).

Pied-billed Grebes were numerous at Finley NWR 8 Sep (Rich Armstrong). A migrant **Eared Grebe** showed up at Philomath STP 13 Sep (Noah Strycker), and one was still there 20 Sep (Rich & Nanette Armstrong).

Double-crested Cormorants began to show up in the Willamette Valley with several at Cabell Marsh 8 Sep (Rich Armstrong). Two **Great Egrets** there by 8 Sep (Rich Armstrong) were quarrelsome as they staked out their winter hunting territories 10 Sep (Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank). Three more egrets were at Toketie Marsh by 15 Sep (p. obs.). A **Green Heron** was still at Finley NWR 8 Sep (Rich Armstrong) and two were still at E.E. Wilson 15 Sep (p. obs.).

Turkey Vultures began to migrate south this month. A "kettle" of 55 passed over S. Corvallis 19 Sep (Molly Monroe). One or two continued to be seen daily through the end of the period at our place near E.E. Wilson.

An **Osprey** perched at Cabell Marsh 8 Sep (Rich Armstrong) was the last one reported for the field notes, though likely a few stayed longer. Two **White-tailed Kites** flew in to hunt over a prairie restoration at Finley NWR after a prescribed burn on 26 Sep (Molly Monroe). Several **Northern Harriers** at Cabell Marsh 8 Sep (Rich Armstrong), and another at E.E. Wilson 15 Sep BN (p. obs.) may have been birds that nested locally, but they will soon be joined by wintering birds.

A **Cooper's Hawk** chasing after a **Brewer's Blackbird** at Philomath STP 8 Sep was an exciting moment for the ASC field trip (fide Rich Armstrong). One made several passes over shorebird flocks at E.E. Wilson 15 Sep, stirring up the **Killdeer** (p. obs.).

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** snuck along the edge of an Oregon ash grove at E.E. Wilson 15 Sep (p. obs.). Up to four have been active and frequently calling in the Cheadle Marsh area at Finley, where nesting was suspected this summer (Molly Monroe).

An apparent male **Merlin** that gave chase to a swallow over McFadden Marsh 23 Sep (Becky Schwiebert) was the first one reported this season. A **Peregrine Falcon** cruised over S. Corvallis 19 Sep (Molly Monroe).

A juvenile **Ring-necked Pheasant** turned up in the Witham Hill neighborhood of Corvallis 2 Sep (Dave Mellinger). An adult was wandering around the Skyline West neighborhood 5 Sep (Chris Miller).

Numbers of **American Coots** at Philomath STP swelled to over 100 by 20 Sep (Rich & Nanette Armstrong). A single **Killdeer** and a **Greater Yellowlegs** were the only shorebirds to be found at at Finley NWR 10 Sep (Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank). 21 **Killdeer** were concentrated around the canal pond at E.E. Wilson 15 Sep (p. obs.), in the company of one **Greater Yellowlegs** and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** that flattened onto the mud in a predator-avoidance posture as a **Wood Duck** flew over (p. obs.).

A **Western Sandpiper** and four **Least Sandpipers** were at Knoll Terrace STP 7 Sep (Rich Armstrong). Four **Least Sandpipers** were at E.E. Wilson 15 Sep (p. obs.). Surprisingly there were few other reports of migrant "peeps." Six **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at Philomath STP 6 Sep and one was still there 8 Sep (Rich Armstrong).

A first-year **California Gull** was at Philomath STP 6-8 Sep (Rich Armstrong). A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** (usually a pelagic species in migration) showed up on the duck pond at Starker Arts Park 15 Sep (Will Wright & Kim Nelson), then moved over to Philomath in the afternoon (Doug Robinson). A well-described adult **Common Tern** in transition plumage at Philomath STP 13 Sep (Noah Strycker) was apparently the first Benton Co. record for this species.

Six **Band-tailed Pigeons** visited Karin Donoyan's feeders in the Alsea River Valley just west of the Lincoln Co. line 16 Sep. Two lingering individuals feasted on cracked corn and blue elderberries in Bill & Lena Proebsting's Oak Creek yard 23 Sep. Three **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were along Bellfountain Rd. near Nicole Dr. 16 Sep (Doug Robinson), and one was heard there 20 Sep (Rich & Nanette Armstrong). This invading species now seems to have a toehold in our area, and, judging from the pattern elsewhere in the western states, it will soon be common.

Barn Owls were still roosting in the barn near Cheadle Marsh at Finley NWR 10 Sep (Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank). A pair of **Great Horned Owls** were duetting in NW Corvallis 17 Sep (Mary Garrard).

As of 21 Sep, a pair of **Anna's Hummingbirds** were displaying and chirping to establish winter ownership of Will Wright and Kim Nelson's feeders. A pair also staked out Andrea Foster's feeder in the Timberhill neighborhood by 25 Sep. Two **Rufous Hummingbirds** were still at Oak Creek 13 Sep, with one remaining through 20 Sep and a migrant stopping by 22-23 Sep. (Bill & Lena Proebsting). Another migrant female **Rufous Hummingbird** visited NW Corvallis 23 Sep and chased the **Anna's Hummingbirds** away from Carol Bosworth's feeders. These might have been the last Rufous Hummingbirds to be seen locally until late February.

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** was north of Cheadle Marsh at Finley NWR 10 Sep (Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank). **Acorn Woodpeckers** were noted at Finley 31 Aug BN (Rainer Wieland) and in Lewisburg 11 Sep (Paul Adamus). Andrea Foster heard a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** regularly through the period in the Timberhill neighborhood.

Four **Western Wood-Pewees** were still on Coffin Butte 15 Sep (p. obs.) but there were no subsequent reports. A wandering **Black Phoebe** stopped by the headquarters at Finley 19 Sep (Molly Monroe), and one took up its regular post beside the Long Tom River bridge in Monroe by 26 Sep (Will Wright).

Four **Horned Larks** atop Marys Peak 13 Sep were "chunky and pale" suggesting that these were migrants of the northern-nesting *arcticola* subspecies (Noah Strycker).

The large flocks of **Violet-green Swallows** that were staging for migration in late August mostly left our area, with just ten stragglers at E.E. Wilson 15 Sep (p. obs.) and two or three were at Philomath STP 20 Sep (Rich & Nanette Armstrong). **Cliff Swallows** were still abundant at Cabell Marsh 8 Sep (Rich Armstrong) but there were no later reports.

A late brood of four young **Barn Swallows** fledged on 8 Sep from a nest at Bob Altman's place on Logsdon Ridge north of Corvallis, even as large flocks were staging for migration including 300 at Philomath STP 9 & 20 Sep (Rich & Nanette Armstrong). A spectacular flock of many hundreds passed by our front door 15 Sep, swooping back and forth but gradually shifting south over a half-hour period. Swallows at Finley NWR 25 Sep swooped low over the smoke from a prescribed prairie fire, in order to pick off **yellowjackets** that were dazed by the smoke and flames (Molly Monroe).

A **Mountain Chickadee** was with a flock of **Black-capped Chickadees** on Witham Hill 23 Sep (Mark Rudolph). **Bushtits** visited Andrea Foster's fat-cake

feeder in the Timberhill neighborhood throughout the summer, joined at times by **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and **Bewick's Wrens**. Andrea also encountered **Brown Creepers** on Bald Hill and Dimple Hill in mid-Sep. Four **Marsh Wrens** were along the canal at E.E. Wilson 15 Sep (p. obs.), as further indication that a breeding population has become established there in recent years.

Three **Golden-crowned Kinglets** feeding high in a Douglas-fir on Coffin Butte 15 Sep (p. obs.) must have moved into the valley from breeding habitat in the Coast Range. The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** of the season showed up along Oak Creek and atop Marys Peak 13 Sep (Bill and Lena Proebsting; Noah Strycker). A vagrant female **Mountain Bluebird** was noticed among a flock of 15 **Western Bluebirds** along Bruce Rd. sw. of Finley NWR 9 Sep (Doug Robinson; Rich Armstrong).

The nocturnal migration of **Swainson's Thrushes** peaked by 10 Sep when Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank heard migrants "raining out of the sky" at dawn as they settled into daytime roosts. Some were hunkered down in the bushes at E.E. Wilson 15 Sep (p. obs.), and Andrea Foster heard a late individual calling softly from a bush near Chip Ross Park 25 Sep. A **Hermit Thrush** atop Marys Peak 13 Sep (Noah Strycker) may have been a migrant though a few are thought to breed there. A **Varied Thrush** singing SW of Philomath 17 Sep (Karan Fairchild) was a sure sign of fall, as these denizens of the Coast Range began to move into lower elevations in the foothills.

Numbers of **American Pipits** atop Marys Peak reached 50 by 13 Sep (Noah Strycker). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was still near Lewisburg 11 Sep (Paul Adamus), and a migrant **Yellow Warbler** was atop Marys Peak 13 Sep (Noah Strycker).

Three **Black-throated Gray Warblers** were still on Coffin Butte 15 Sep (p. obs.), and one straggler was near Chip Ross Park 25 Sep (Andrea Foster). A **Townsend's Warbler** on Coffin Butte 15 Sep was the first reported arrival of the season. Good numbers of **Common Yellowthroats** were still around the area through that date.

Migrant **Wilson's Warblers** were noted at Finley NWR 10 Sep (Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank). One late individual was at Oak Creek 18 Sep (Bill & Lena Proebsting). Migrant **Western Tanagers** were last reported at Finley NWR 10 Sep (Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank) and in Lewisburg 11 Sep (Paul Adamus).

As these bright birds departed for the tropics, wintering sparrows showed up to take their place. Jim and Karl Fairchild had several brief views of a **mysterious sparrow** atop Marys Peak 9 Sep, possibly an *Ammodramus* sp. which would be rare to our region. However this is also the time of year when unfamiliar subspecies of Savannah Sparrows show up as migrants on Marys Peak, and some look very different from the familiar local subspecies.

The first **Fox Sparrow** of the season turned up in Lewisburg 11 Sep (Paul Adamus). Two more were atop Marys Peak 13 Sep (Noah Strycker), and one of the wintering "**Sooty**" form was in NW Corvallis 21-24 Sep (Becky Schwiebert). An early **Lincoln's Sparrow** turned up at Cabell Marsh 8 Sep (Rich Armstrong), followed by one at E.E. Wilson 15 Sep (p. obs.), and one at Oak Creek 20 Sep (Bill & Lena Proebsting).

A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was at Lewisburg 11 Sep (Paul Adamus) and singles were on Marys Peak and along Oak Creek 13 Sep (Noah Strycker; Bill & Lena Proebsting). Small groups totaling eight at E.E. Wilson 15 Sep appeared to be mainly hatch-year birds (p. obs.), which is typical of the earliest fall arrivals. By 21 Sep, good numbers had also arrived at Marys River Natural Area (Will Wright).

About ten **Western Meadowlarks** were using the dried-up mitigation wetland along Bruce Rd. at Finley NWR 6 Sep (Rich Armstrong). A few were seen around prairie restorations that were burned elsewhere on the refuge 26 Sep (Molly Monroe). Two **Evening Grosbeaks** were noted in at Lewisburg 11 Sep (Paul Adamus).

Numerous **Green Darner** dragonflies were zipping around marshes at Finley NWR 10 Sep, when Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank also saw a dazzling orange-and-black **Sheep Moth**, heard many bull **elk** bugling, and watched a mother **coyote** hunting for rodents with two rambunctious pups.

Coastal Notes

Participants in an Oregon Field Ornithologists family birding weekend on the coast 3 Sep enjoyed two **Harlequin Ducks** at Seal Rock, and puzzled over some **Surf Scoters** that were just coming out of eclipse plumage, as four **Black Oystercatchers**, a **Wandering Tattler**, and small flocks of **Black Turnstones** and **Surfbirds** foraged on the rocks.

Next issue

I am passing on the role of field notes compiler for Audubon Society of Corvallis. It has been my privilege to share your observations for the past seven years. Doug Robinson who teaches ornithology at OSU has volunteered to carry on the tradition of the ASC field notes.

Joel Geier

Send your Field Notes reports to:

Douglas Robinson

douglas.robinson@oregonstate.edu

541-737-9501

Due date: *Oct. 22*

Thanks to Joel Geier! Field Notes Compiler Steps Down

After more than seven years as the Audubon Society of Corvallis' field notes compiler, Joel Geier has decided to step down. We have all enjoyed Joel's unique style with the field notes, including his attention to anecdotal seasonal occurrences of plants and creatures. In addition to his labors on the Field Notes, Joel has been involved in efforts to preserve the Luckiamute Landing and the Vanderpool tract master plan for the Oregon Park and Recreation Department in northeast Benton County and southeast Polk County. Joel has recently provided native plants for the demonstration native plants garden at Hesthavn, and conducted a species count of the grasslands around Bald Hill for six weeks this spring. We all thank Joel warmly for his long service and devotion to the ASC field notes!

Douglas Robinson will take over compiling field notes as of the November issue of the Chat. Douglas is an ecologist in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at OSU. Welcome to Douglas, and thank you for taking on this important job! Douglas' email address and phone number are on the back of the Chat.

*Paula Vanderheul, Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank, and
Chris Mathews*

Hesthavn Update

Much has been done at Hesthavn over the last month. Insulation was installed in the ceiling so that now the insulation process is complete. We can heat the building with minimum loss. A white fire-proof paper was applied over the ceiling insulation and as of yet that is what is visible when you look up. It is not wonderful aesthetically and we will be installing sheet rock soon to complete the ceiling work. The parking lot has been doubled in size this last month so that roughly 12 cars can now park there. Much as we hated to cover over more of our meadow with parking

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Hesthavn Update *continued from page 13*

lot, the small size of the old parking lot caused problems at every significant event we held on the property. The new expanded parking lot now has a finished gravel on the surface and has been compacted. This should be significantly more functional. In the mean time Paula Vanderheul and Susan Brown are working to improve the gardens around the barn. Susan has been installing a rock garden using rocks donated by herself and Jerry Paul. Paula has been working hard to expand and improve the wildflower gardens around the barn. I have been playing grim reaper and have been roving the property with scythe in hand, knocking down any blackberries, thistle and teasel that show up. Thanks also go to Dan Mikowski who brought his weed whacker and took out a big patch of blackberries growing next to the road. Note, the open house and work party for October will happen on Saturday, the 27th. Someone will be on site from 9 am to 3 pm.

Ray Drapek



Volunteer Susan Brown installs a rock garden at Hesthavn. Photo by Paula Vanderheul

Kids Day for Conservation V What's in Your Watershed?

Kids Day for Conservation is coming to Corvallis and the Benton County Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 20 from 10 am until 4 pm and your family is invited!

There will be do-it-yourself nature art projects for kids of all ages. You will discover amphibians, insects, fish and other critters that live in our farms, forests and urban areas. You can build a bird house to take home, climb a rock wall, and shoot a bow and arrow. Learn how soil “works” and how to conserve energy. See how wildfire spreads and how to protect your family from it. Participate in the Great Western Oregon Forest Scavenger Hunt and learn about farm and forest products that are produced locally. This is only a sample of all that you can see and do at Kids Day! Do you know about “dirt babies” or “bubbling bazookas”? Come and find out!

Kids Day for Conservation will be held under cover, rain or shine. Food and drink will be available for purchase, with Corvallis Transit buses providing free transportation.

Volunteers Needed for ASC's booth

This year ASC will be teaming up with the Greenbelt Land Trust. The theme of our booth is “Hoo’s in your watershed?”, with information on owls of the watershed and activities such as viewing owl feathers under a microscope and finding pieces of bone in owl pellets. Greenbelt will be concentrating on plants and soil and together we will put together a web of life.

If you are interested in helping at the booth for a couple of hours, please contact Marcia Cutler at marciafcutler@comcast.net or 541-752-4313.

Marcia F. Cutler

From Atop the Nestbox

Since the first nesting season 30 years ago, we approach every Western Bluebird box in March and April with some trepidation. Will it start too early and collapse in the middle of the year? Will our old standby sites produce the usual exceptional parents? Is the food supply going to be sufficient? Has the habitat changed or disappeared? Do we need to replace or retrofit old nest boxes?

Probably the most exciting news this year has been nestlings banded by sub-bander Raylene Gordin at five new sites in boxes placed in Linn County: Holley, Kahdah, Stalcup, Buckmaster and Daniels. Others nested in last year’s boxes. She banded 81 nestlings in 2007.

Three failed in Linn County at boxes from raccoon and House Sparrow predation and the disappearance of an adult at one nest. Raylene performed a minor necropsy of a clean adult female to try to determine the cause of death and found the gut empty; however a large (3.7 cm/1.5”) ascarid (intestinal parasite) was lodged in the crop. We fostered two of her orphans into boxes on the ASC Trail.

Here in Benton County, our outstanding news was the report of Western Bluebirds using five boxes that were placed at Bald Hill Farm North several years ago along the trails from the Oak Creek access. Tom Ahlers moved his boxes from Brooklane Natural Area to the south trail of Bald Hill Park.

We banded his very first brood of 6 in Bald Hill Park South on April 26th. When we ID’d the female nesting there, it wasn’t too surprising to find out that she had come from Gordin’s Trail in Linn County. Data supports the movement of females moving greater distances than males from their natal nest box; the male being more territorial to the site from which he had fledged.

On the Snyder property on Crescent Valley Drive, we

banded 66 nestlings in 7 boxes, probably a record number north of Corvallis. On Airport Road, or near the Kingery property, 37 bluebirds were banded at several sites.

Bluebirds were banded in the Grand Oaks subdivision, west of 53rd St. for the first time in 2006; one young female evidently nested in another box for the first brood of the 2007 season. She brought with her, her mate, and three unbanded fledglings. Nothing extraordinary, you'd say? It's where she took up residence for her second brood!

Deb Savageau, an experienced monitor for the past three years has volunteered to check boxes in the Soap Creek area. She and Nan Moore live near the intersection of 53rd and Philomath Blvd., the busiest intersection SW of Corvallis. Deb called at daylight, late in June, to say that "There are bluebirds looking in the old box on my fence!" She and Nan were jubilant. How did that cool chick find the support she needed? This was an incredible experience for us all to keep this new brood alive to band on July 15th.

We added seventeen new boxes to the ASC Trail with three nesting pair in North Albany. Brood sequence had little overall effect on the overall season. A brief summary:

First Broods:	58
Second Broods:	31
Third Broods:	6
Eggs laid:	525
Nestlings Banded:	483
Fledged:	476
Broods with 7 eggs each:	4

The ASC Trail is grateful for the help of Deb, Rita, Carole Steckly, Kristy Kingery, and many others who are dedicated to the return of our bluebirds. Please report all sightings or recoveries to the Field Notes Chairman.

Elsie Eltzroth

Festival of the Cranes

The four Audubon Society chapters in New Mexico have asked us to help them publicize the annual Festival of the Cranes, scheduled for this coming November 13 through 18 at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. The crane migration is a spectacular feature of autumn at this refuge on the Rio Grande. And Bosque del Apache is a spectacular place for wildlife viewing, whether or not the cranes are present. Further information can be obtained at the following website, phone number, or mailing address. www.friendsofthebosque.org/crane (505)835-2077 P.O. Box 340 San Antonio, NM 87832

Chris Mathews

San Diego Bird Festival

Kenn Kaufman is the keynote speaker and trip and workshop leader at the San Diego Bird Festival, Feb 6 – 11, 2008. Last year 224 bird species were reported including Blue-footed Booby and Crested Caracara! This year there will be trips to the desert, mountains, coast, and chaparral, pelagic and overnight to Baja CA Mexico. A special addition will be an overnight trip to the Salton Sea. An all-day Digiscoping class with in the field experience sponsored by Swarovski Optik is one of the fourteen workshops offered. The Festival includes three-day optics and vendors fair!

For a Festival brochure and registration information contact us at: sandiegoaudubon.org or 619-682-7200

Ann Hannon

Morro Bay

Winter Bird Festival

Join the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) at the 12th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 18 – 21, 2008. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway and one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots. The area is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is sponsored by MCAS and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

For more information about the Festival, check out our website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org, or call (805) 772-4677. You can request that your name be added to the mailing list for our 2008 brochure, or register online. Both the brochure and online registration will be available in October 2007. The registration deadline is January 4, 2008 and early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.

Katy Budge

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Don Boucher, Linda T. Campbell, Marcia F. Cutler, Ray Drapek, Elsie Eltzroth, Jim Fairchild, Joel Geier, Sue Haig, Chris Mathews, Dave Mellinger, Lisa Millbank, Paula Vanderheul.

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Audubon Society of Corvallis

the **CHAT**

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

Calendar

- Oct 10 Pro-49 House party*
- Oct 11 ASC board meeting at Hesthavn
- Oct 13 2nd Saturday local birding***
- Oct 18 General meeting, 7:30*
- Oct 19 Nature on a Human Scale showing**
- Oct 20 Fern Ride full day birding***
- Oct 20 Kids Day for Conservation*****
- Oct 21 Mushroom Workshop***
- Oct 22 Deadline for Nov Field Notes
- Oct 25 Deadline for Nov Chat
- Oct 27 Hesthavn open house and workparty****
- Nov 9 BLM WOPR public comments due**
- Nov 10 2nd Saturday local birding***
- Nov 17 Newport coast full day birding***

*see pg
 **see pg
 ***see pg
 ****see pg
 *****see pg



*An juvenile Sabine's Gull (see Field Notes, page 12).
 Photo by Will Wright & Kim Nelson*

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