



# Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

May 2010

VOL. 39

#9

## General Meeting

Thursday, May 27, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church

*Please note: ASC's general meeting this month is delayed a week because a lot of members will be on an ASC field trip on the usual third Thursday.*

### Feathered dinosaurs?

*A presentation by Dr. John Ruben*

We are all familiar with the popular, TV-inspired notion that living birds are descendants of dinosaurs—that they are little more than small flying theropods. However, in the scientific community many issues relating to the origins of birds remain far from settled. Very recent studies indicate that so-called “feathered dinosaurs” may never have existed and that the earliest (Mesozoic Era) birds were unlikely to have arisen from any known group of dinosaurs. Dr. Ruben will discuss some of these issues and describe other, distinctly unbird-like aspects of theropod dinosaur anatomy and physiology. Dr. John Ruben is a Professor in the Department of Zoology at OSU, where his research centers on vertebrate paleobiology.

Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and visiting. The chapter meeting commences at 7:00 pm, followed by the guest lecture at 7:30 pm. Questions about the series can be directed to Dave Mellinger at [David.Mellinger@oregonstate.edu](mailto:David.Mellinger@oregonstate.edu) or 541-757-7953.

### Directions

The chapter meeting is in the meeting hall of the First Presbyterian Church (upstairs), 114 SW Eighth Street.

*Dave Mellinger*

## ACS Board Elections

Members are encouraged to participate in the election of our board and officer candidates during the May 27 meeting. The new Board term begins after the summer Board meeting 2010.

The Nominating Committee offers the following slate of candidates:

President: Will Wright  
 Vice President and Program Chair: Dave Mellinger  
 Secretary: Karan Fairchild  
 Treasurer: Fred Ramsey  
 Board Member-at-Large: Gail Nickerson  
 Board Member-at-Large: Glenn Aikens  
 Board Member-at-Large: Raylene Gordin  
 Board Member-at-Large: Lori McGovern  
 Board Member-at-Large: Tom Penpraze  
 Board Member-at-Large: Linda Campbell

**Will Wright** is currently ASC President and a 3rd/4th grade teacher. He has served as a Teaching Interpretive Naturalist at Mt. St. Helens, Biology Instructor for O.M.S.I., Instructor at Camp Hancock, Outdoor School, and staff member for Puffin Project in Maine for National Audubon Society. He spent one year following Spotted Owls with radios; two seasons doing cavity nesting bird surveys; and four seasons doing Marbled Murrelet surveys. He has travel experience for birding and education in Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Hawaii, Japan, India, Nepal, Kenya, and Europe.

See “Board Elections” on next page

### In this issue:

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| ACS Board Elections     | 65-67 |
| Field Trip Schedule     | 67    |
| Bicycle Birding         | 67    |
| Celebrate Pollinators   | 67    |
| Hesthavn News           | 68    |
| Field Notes             | 68-69 |
| Who's Being Seen        | 69    |
| Green Tip of the Month  | 70    |
| Atop the Nestbox        | 70    |
| Report on Chapter Costs | 70    |
| Digital Warbler Songs   | 70    |
| Nature Writing Workshop | 71    |

## Board Elections *continued from front page*

**Dave Mellinger** has been a member of ASC since 2000, served as ASC Conservation Chair for many years, and is currently ASC's Vice President. Dave is currently an Associate Professor at OSU, where he studies sounds of whales and other marine and terrestrial species. In particular, he studies ways to detect and locate animals acoustically and estimate their populations, in Corvallis and at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport.

**Karan Fairchild** is currently Secretary and has been involved with the Audubon Society of Corvallis for over 25 years. She's served in many capacities during that time, from board member at large to fundraising chairperson. She is currently Secretary and instigated the successful Birdathon fundraisers, and continues to work for fundraising today, as well as on the Homer Campbell Award committee and the nominations committee.

**Fred Ramsey** cofounded ASC in 1970, was its first president, and served in this position again in the 1980s. He is currently Treasurer. Fred has led the weekend field trips since 1971, edited the Chat and served in many other positions over the years. As a world-traveled and respected ornithologist, his other interests include music, theatre, fishing and baseball. Fred is also Professor Emeritus of Statistics at OSU. His many publications include *Birding Oregon*, one of the first site guides, which was published by ASC in 1978.

**Raylene Gordin** joined the Audubon Society of Corvallis in 2001 and began working on the Bluebird Trail in 2003. She has expanded the ASC Bluebird Trail throughout Linn County and earned a Master Bander permit in 2008. She lives in Lebanon and practices orthopedic surgery part-time in Salem. When not working or bluebirding, Raylene enjoys gardening, hiking, spending time with her husband and dogs, and constructing nest boxes for many avian species. She conducts wildlife surveys and leads nature hikes for a volunteer group called Build Lebanon Trails. In 2005, she and her husband, Erez, undertook a habitat restoration project on their property on Middle Ridge, converting several acres to upland prairie and oak savanna habitats, and beginning a gradual conversion of coniferous forest to mixed forest. Raylene is particularly interested in the interdependency of native plants and wildlife, and hopes to conduct a study in the near future. She is very glad to have established relationships with many fine conservationists through the Audubon Society of Corvallis and other groups associated with her work, and she looks forward to the opportunity to give back by serving on the ASC Board of Directors as a member at large and continuing Elsie Elzroth's work as Bluebird Trail Chair.

**Gail Nickerson** is a native Oregonian who came to Corvallis to attend college and never left. She worked at OSU as a hop chemist and upon retirement in 2003, she

found out that there were many birds in the backyard that she did not recognize. Gail thought the Audubon Society of Corvallis would be a good organization to join. She has learned a lot from Fred Ramsay! Since she likes to bake, Gail volunteered for the refreshment committee. And after Claudia Regier's retirement, she became Refreshment Chairperson. Gail looks forward to also contributing to the organization as a board member.

**Lori McGovern** moved to Oregon from Lake Havasu City, AZ with her son in 2000. Her formal training is in working with at-risk youth and she currently works as a Juvenile Corrections Counselor/Case Manager. Lori has been an amateur naturalist for as long as she remembers and loves being outdoors hiking and observing nature. She is an artist, enjoys history and architecture, and is learning how to play the acoustic guitar. In 2008 Lori became interested in birding and has a special fondness for birds of prey. That same year she joined the Audubon Society of Corvallis and in 2009 the Audubon Society of Portland. In 2009 she began volunteering with the ASC's education department and has participated with other volunteers in presenting nature programs to children. Lori is involved with the Vaux's Swift survey. Recently, she organized an Animal Tracks program at Hesthavn by coordinating with a local home school network and the Portland Audubon's education department. She has also been actively involved in projects at Hesthavn and Finley National Wildlife Refuge, and as an educator with the Freshwater Trust's Salmon watch program. Lori's interests include the continued development of Hesthavn and expanding nature education/conservation programming.

**Linda Campbell** moved back to her home valley after 25 years of living on San Juan Island. She works for Oregon Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and takes frequent long rambles in the woods where she lives, along the Mary's River. Linda was instrumental in securing the completion of the Homer Campbell Trail at Finley Wildlife Refuge, the first year round accessible trail on the refuge. She has served ASC in many capacities over the years.

**Glenn Akins** has lived in Corvallis for three years and is currently a board member of the Friends of the Willamette Valley NWR Complex group. He has been active in the local Audubon chapters where he and his wife have lived, including Vancouver (WA), Anchorage and of course, Corvallis. Glenn retired as an environmental planner and consultant, with experience in Alaska, Colorado, other western states and western Canada. Glenn holds a B.A. in Geography from the University of Minnesota, and an M.S. in Physical Geography/Biology from Western Washington University. His Oregon experience includes service as a regional planner for the Council of Governments in Salem; chief planner for the Oregon Coastal Commission and as a consultant to the Secretary of the Interior's Office in Washington, D.C. In the 1980s Glenn and his business partner founded and operated a consulting firm, America North Inc., which served clients across Alaska and the Yukon for several years. Glenn has

served as a board member of the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, the Friends of Ridgefield NWR, and the City of Juneau's Eaglecrest Ski Area.

**Tom Penpraze** has been an ASC member for many years. Previously active on the Conservation Committee, Tom is also familiar to us as one of the van drivers for Fred's weekend field trips for many of those years. He is director of the Utilities Division for the City of Corvallis and is active with the Friends of the Willamette Valley refuge, the Marys Peak Stewardship Group and other local organizations.

*Karan Fairchild*

## Field Trip Schedule

### Monthly Year-Round Saturday Field Trips

May 8: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

June 12: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of every month at the Benton Center parking area, 757 Polk Ave, Corvallis 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. Contact Rich Armstrong at [richarmstrong@comcast.net](mailto:richarmstrong@comcast.net) or 541-753-1978 with questions.

### Spring 2010 Weekend Field Trips

May 20 – 23: Malheur NWR

June 18 – 20: Summer Lake/Ft Rock/Fremont NFS

Fred Ramsey leads all the spring weekend trips. Fred has been leading these field trips for ASC for over 35 years. He is an amazing field trip guide, sharing his knowledge about finding birds in their habitat and 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 Fred Ramsey with your requests at [flramsey5@comcast.net](mailto:flramsey5@comcast.net).

**Please note:** The Malheur deposit is \$50. Each deposit must be made payable to Fred Ramsey at 3550 NW Glen Ridge Pl., Corvallis OR 97330.

*Rich Armstrong*

## Bicycle Birding

By "going green" and foregoing the automobile for a birding trip, you won't be sacrificing your potential bird encounters. I like to think of bicycle birding as high-density birding. When you're driving down the highway, you're whizzing by hundreds of birds without seeing or hearing them. By bicycle birding, we won't miss anything, and we'll be covering more ground than hiking.

### May 30: 9 am – noon

Chat-O-Rama. Meet at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, North of Adair Village. 29555 Camp Adair Rd, Monmouth, OR. E.E. Wilson is east of Hwy 99W and opposite of the Coffin Butte Landfill. Meet at the pheasant cage parking lot on the north

side of Camp Adair Drive. A good place to see and hear Yellow-breasted Chats.

### June through Sept:

Last Sunday of each month. 9am - Noon.

June 27, July 25, August 29 and September 26

Meet at Avery Park Rose Garden: 1210 SW Avery Drive in Corvallis.

Trips are free. Bring a bicycle helmet, water and binoculars. We ride slowly, listen for birds and stop frequently. Trip lengths are usually less than 10 miles. For more information, contact Don Boucher, 541-753-7689, [bouchdon@peak.org](mailto:bouchdon@peak.org).

*Don Boucher*

## Celebrate pollinators

### May 15th, from 8:30am - 2pm

Come to Baskett Slough and help us celebrate pollinators at the "Birds and Butterflies" event on May 15th!

Join National Wildlife Refuge staff and volunteers on and learn about the importance of pollinators. Take part in a guided nature hike and bird walk. Have fun creating crafts and participating in activities that emphasize the importance of birds and butterflies to the habitat. For more information, contact the Refuge at (541) 757-7236 or visit the website at <http://www.fws.gov/WillametteValley/Baskett/index.html>.

*Sallie Gentry*



*Green Heron photo by Matt Lee*

## Hesthavn News

The April 22 Earth Day Event featuring the nature center, rainwater catchment design and functional operation, drip irrigation, removal of invasive weed species, and native plant restoration provided visitors with abundant information on self-sufficient water usage. We thank Jim Fairchild for sharing the rainwater catchments system, Gail Andrews for the drip irrigation demonstration, Matt Blakely-Smith sharing about native plants, Ann Brodie for greeting visitors at the nature center, Stacy Moore for setting up stream ecology and animal pelts for children, and Paula Vanderheul talking about invasive weed species and restoration projects.



*Jim Fairchild showing Hesthavn water catchment system to state Auduboners*

Jim Fairchild's rainwater catchment system presentation had a surprise visitor from KEZI reporter Susan Gager who put together a special news clip airing during the 6 pm television station on April 22.



*Marcia Cutler, ASC education chair, showing Museum specimens to Oregon Audubon Council members*

## Volunteer Opportunity

May 15 is scheduled for the next work party and open house at Hesthavn. The work party will be from 9 am to 1 pm. We have plenty of weeds to pull from the trail, and fenced shrubs; weed whacking, and transplanting of native seedlings to keep everyone busy.

The Open House will be from 10 to 1 pm. We could use two greeters at the nature center for visitor welcoming.

For more information or to volunteer to help with the event, please contact Paula Vanderheul or Gail Andrews (contact info on back of Chat)

*Paula Vanderheul*

## Field Notes

25 March 2010 – 24 April 2010

Spring is coming as new arrivals were reported all through the period. Without question the bird of the period was the **Sage Thrasher** that unfortunately was only seen for an hour on OSU campus.

*Abbreviations and Locations:* m.ob. = many observers. Observer names are noted in parentheses after their reports. Observations without a name (or with RAA) are the editor's. ASC indicates observations made by Audubon Society of Corvallis field trips. EEW = E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area north of Corvallis. FNWR = Finley National Wildlife Refuge, and includes Cabell, Cheadle, and McFadden marshes. STP = sewage treatment ponds; Philomath STP are off of Bellfountain Drive south of Philomath. Stewart Lake is at Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis. The Diamond Hill Road wetland is in Linn County.

**Great Egrets** are rare in summer. There was still 1 on Robison Rd 4/6 (J Geier).

3 flocks of **Greater White-fronted Geese** (about 550 birds) were next to EEW 4/19 (J Geier). 1 **Eurasian Wigeon** was at EEW on 4/2, 1 at Philomath STP on 4/18 (M Nikas), and 2 were in Northwest corner of EEW on 4/18 (J Geier). There were 3 pair of **Cinamon Teal** on Bruce Rd on 4/2 ((W Wright). 2 **Greater Scaup** were at Philomath STP 4/6 (Tristen, RAA) and 4/24.

A **Mountain Quail** was still intermittently across from Forest Dell Park through 4/13 (J Paul) and another was along Riverside Drive on 4/19 (D Boucher). Some were on 34 West of Philomath (J&K Fairchild) 4/24.

Some **Virginia Rails** were calling at EEW on 4/2 and at least 3 were at Jackson Frazier 4/21. The 1st **Sora** was at EEW on 4/17 (J Geier) and at least 6 were at Jackson Frazier 4/21. 5 **Greater Yellowlegs** were across from Finley Prairie Overlook on 4/1 (B Proebsting) and 24 were there on 4/2, and still 20 on 4/7 (Tristen, RAA), also 20+ off Riverside on 4/11 (D Boucher). On 4/13 a pair of **Lesser Yellowlegs** was across from Finley Prairie (B Proebsting, K Hilton) with all the Greaters, and on 4/18 there was 1 in Peoria (R Campbell), and on 4/24 there were some at McFaddin. The 1st **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Sunset Park on 4/17 (L Millbank, D Boucher), still there on 21st, and there were 2 at EEW on 4/19 (J Geier), still there on 20th, and 2 at McFaddin on 4/24 (C Whelchel, B Schweibert). At Rice Ponds (off Gap Rd near Brownsville) there were 150 **Dunlin**, 20+ **Greater Yellowlegs**, and 50 **Least Sandpipers** on 4/19 (B Schweibert).

A **Peregrine Falcon** was again seen on 35th St (C Miller) on 4/1, same area as last month. **Merlin** were reported from a few places – downtown Corvallis on 3/8 (D Mellinger), near Forest Dell Park on 3/14 (E Sherr), along 99 south of Corvallis 3/14, and downtown Albany on 3/17 (D Boucher). 11 **Bald Eagles** were on 99w near Finley (S Seibel) on 3/30 and 18 were there on 4/3 (W Wright). **Golden Eagles** were very rare this winter, but 1 was over Tampico Ridge 4/8 (J Geier) and another was south of Albany on 4/15 (Tristen). There is always good information on when birds 1st show up, but not when they leave. **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen as late as 4/6 on Rifle Range (J Geier) and 4/7 Finley

Prairie (Tristen, RAA). **Ospreys** are now all over.

**Eurasian-collared Doves** continue to expand as new spots get reported every month. A **Barred Owl** showed up NW of Crescent Valley HS on 4/4 (T Nelson). The 1st **Vaux's Swifts** were over Albany on 4/16 (T Fox).

The FNWR **Lewis's Woodpecker** was seen throughout the period (mob) and there might be a 2nd bird? It has a tree just north of the old HQ where the road makes sharp left. The 1st **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** report was from Cabell Lake on 4/11 (B Proebsting, K Hilton). **Barn & Cliff Swallows** are back. A **Calliope Hummingbird** (rare but the area seems to get a couple every spring) was in Peoria on 4/18 (R Campbell) and then 1 on 34 west of Philomath (J&K Fairchild).

The 1st **Hammond's Flycatcher** was found at Willamette park on 4/11 (J Geier). The 1st **Pacific-sloped Flycatcher** report came from our own Hesthavn Nature Center on 4/15 (P Vanderheul). The 1st **Western Kingbirds** were in North Corvallis (H Bruner) and Finley Prairie on 4/18 (M Monroe). A **Black Phoebe** (very rare if any this year) was near Muddy Creek on Bruce Rd 4/19 (J&K Fairchild).

The 1st **House Wren** report was from Peoria on 4/18 (R Campbell). A **Hermit Thrush** was near EEW on 4/9 (J Geier). The 1st Benton County record **Sage Thrasher** was found on OSU Campus 4/11 by James Rivers and photographed by Doug Robinson. Unfortunately, it



*Sage Thrasher photo by Douglas Robinson*

did not stay an hour.

The 1st **Warbling Vireo** report was from Wilamette Park 4/19 (H Bruner). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were everywhere. The 1st reports of **Common Yellowthroat** came from Ankeny (M Stephens) and Finley (B Proebsting) on 4/1 and many reports after that. The 1st report of **Black-throated Gray Warbler** came from Finley on 4/1 (B Proebsting, R Cardwell) and many reports after that. The 1st **Wilson's Warbler** report came from Finley on 4/14 (B Proebsting). The 1st **Nashville Warblers** were at EEW (J Geier) and Wilamette Park. (H Bruner) 4/19. The 1st **MacGillivray's Warbler** was on 34 west of Philomath (J&K Fairchild). The 1st **Yellow Warbler** was at EEW on 4/24 (J Geier).

The 1st **Chipping Sparrow** report came from Albany on 4/7 (Tristen) and there were 22 in Dunn Forest on 4/21 (J Geier). **White-throated Sparrows** were at Starker Park 4/8 (L Millbank), EEW on 4/20 (J Geier), and in a yard in Brownsville (B Schweibert). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at EEW on 4/9 (Tristen, RAA) and another at Jackson Frazier on 4/21. The 1st **Vesper Sparrow** was at a traditional location off Bald Hill on 4/14 (R&P Comeleo) and 7 were in Dunn Forest on 4/21 (J Geier).

The 1st **Black-headed Grosbeaks** were from Sodaville on 4/18 (K Heineck) and at the Fairchilds' off Hwy. 34 on 4/19 (J&K Fairchild). The 1st **Bullock's Oriole** was in a yard in Corvallis on 4/19 (M Dosssett). **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported in many places this month and were all over OSU week of 4/19. **Pine Siskins** were reported a lot more this month than earlier in winter. **Red Crossbills** are not common at low elevations, but a flock was at Hesthavn on 4/15 (P Vanderheul).

Fern Ridge has a male **Tufted Duck** for at least 3 years in a row

and also had **White Pelicans, Black-necked Stilts, Purple Martins,** and **Redheads.**

### Next issue

Please send your reports for the next issue by 22 May.

Rich Armstrong

(541) 753-1978

[richarmstrong@comcast.net](mailto:richarmstrong@comcast.net)

*Rich Armstrong*

## Who's Being Seen Late Spring/Early Summer

While April was very active with arriving migrants, there's still some yet to arrive. In May, look for flycatchers, Bullock's Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks and Lazuli Buntings. The Common Nighthawk is the last one to arrive in early June. Listen for them just before sunset, in the Coast Range foothills. Some nighthawks roost on Coffin Butte and fly over the nearby E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area.

On any morning from late May through the end of June, try a short hike in the nearby Coast Range foothills or a dense river forest like Willamette Park in Corvallis, Simpson Park in Albany or Marys River Park in Philomath. This is where Swainson's Thrushes sing. Listen for a good 15 minutes and bathe in their enchanting music. That's a hallmark of early summer. This mesmerizing melody sounds like multiple tones at once, and in truth, that's exactly what the thrush is doing. The bird's voice box, called a syrinx, makes this auditory magic possible. These birds won't be leaving until September, but they stop singing after July, so take advantage of this window of time.

**Hear sounds of Swainson's Thrushes online at:**

[www.neighborhood-naturalist.com/bird\\_sounds/pages/180\\_robin.htm](http://www.neighborhood-naturalist.com/bird_sounds/pages/180_robin.htm)

When nights are warm enough to leave your windows open, you may hear chirping birds in the wee hours of the morning. That's the predawn chorus of Violet-green Swallows. It occurs in late May through July. Starting at least an hour and a half before morning twilight, the swallows make nocturnal flights while singing.

**Hear sounds of Violet-green Swallows online at:**

[www.neighborhood-naturalist.com/bird\\_sounds/pages/130\\_swallows.htm](http://www.neighborhood-naturalist.com/bird_sounds/pages/130_swallows.htm)

This heyday of birding will be coming to an end by the time the summer Chat comes out. My summer article will talk about our upcoming slowest birding season. Nevertheless, there are always birds to see and interesting observations to make.

*Don Boucher*



*Western Tanager photo by Matt Lee*



## GreenTip OF THE MONTH

Summer is upon us and according to Audubon Magazine, the average family doubles their water use during this time. Most of this water is used for keeping our lawns and backyards green. Of this amount, they say about half may be wasted due to evaporation, runoff, and overwatering. With the city considering higher fees for water use and knowing our water total quantity is limited, it is prudent for us to be efficient in our consumption of H<sub>2</sub>O.

First off you may want to contact the OSU extension service who have experts who can advise you on your watering needs. Next audit your watering devices to make sure they are putting the liquid where needed. Many sprinklers are inefficient and throw water in places not desired. Furthermore, using a drip irrigation system instead of sprinklers can cut your water use by a third or more. Other systems, including bubblers, micro sprayers and soaker hoses work well for watering specific trees or plants, according to Audubon. Watering at the roots is more efficient and makes for a healthier plant. Drip irrigation also keeps topsoil intact and nutrients in place.

Local nurseries such as Home Grown Gardens on Highway 99W can design and install an efficient watering system at modest cost.

Happy Gardening!

*John Gaylord*

## Atop the Nestbox

For those of you with nest boxes in habitats appropriate to bluebirds, please be sure to check on any nesting activity and let us know if you have nesting bluebirds. Also, if you did not have a chance to make repairs on your older boxes, the rains of April and May can cause nests to become soaked. Please remember that wet + cold + young nestlings = nestling death. We will be happy to assist you. Call Rita Snyder at 541-752-6457 or Raylene Gordin at 541-258-6625.

We are in need of monitors for the bluebird trail. Most of the boxes are easily accessible with minimal walking. There are several productive properties in the Kings Valley area as well as the Rosecrest area (west of Bald Hill Park) where the landowners have requested our help. We would be happy to provide training for any volunteers, and you can cover as little or as much territory as you want.

Also, I would like to remind everyone that we are beginning our longevity/ survivorship study and desperately need the help of all eyes. Please report banded bluebirds on your properties and any that you may see in your travels. You can use the reporting form on our web page at [www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/bluebird\\_trail.shtml](http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/bluebird_trail.shtml).

*Raylene Gordin*

## Report on Chapter Costs

At the April ASC Board meeting, it was suggested that budget figures for income and expenses be shared with the general membership. The following chart represents those amounts, summarized as separately totaled income and totaled expenses for each major activity area (Program) of the Chapter. For

comparative purposes, these summaries are given for both this current budget year, and suggested amounts for the coming budget year, which begins July 1st. More detailed information is available on request. This table does not present Chapter assets or liabilities, and final 2010-2011 budget amounts will be determined by the new Board.

|  | 2009-10<br>Budgeted<br>Income | 2010-11<br>Budgeted<br>Income | 2009-10<br>Budgeted<br>Expense | 2010-11<br>Budgeted<br>Expense |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| General Operations   | \$10,489                      | \$10,500                      | \$3,962                        | \$4,000                        |
| Membership*  | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$2,850                        | \$2,850                        |
| Education*   | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$100                          | \$200                          |
| Outreach*  | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$430                          | \$500                          |
| Conservation*  | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$500                          | \$400                          |
| Monthly Meeting  | \$85                          | \$85                          | \$785                          | \$800                          |
| Christmas Bird<br>Count  | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$50                           | \$75                           |
| Blue Bird Trail  | \$1,850                       | \$1,800                       | \$1,900                        | \$1,800                        |
| Sales Table  | \$1,470                       | \$1,200                       | \$1,525                        | \$1,500                        |
| Hesthavn*  | \$10,530                      | \$5,600                       | \$10,500                       | \$5,100                        |
| Wildlife Watch   | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$0                            | \$0                            |
| Homer Campbell<br>Trail  | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$0                            | \$0                            |
| Field Trips**  | \$0                           | \$7,500                       | \$0                            | \$7,500                        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>  | <b>\$24,424</b>               | <b>\$26,685</b>               | <b>\$22,602</b>                | <b>\$24,725</b>                |
| <small>Programs without budgeted costs have financial accounts, but no ongoing or regular costs.<br/>           *Chapter Programs with a Standing Committee or Chairperson with Board voting privileges.<br/>           **Program added to formal budgeting process.</small> |                               |                               |                                |                                |

*Jim Fairchild*

## Digital Warbler Songs to play on any MP3 device

A compilation of 310 songs and calls for 57 species of warblers is now available from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Macaulay Library—the largest archive of wildlife sounds in the world. Originally released in 1985 as an LP record, Songs of the Warblers of North America is the most comprehensive audio guide to warblers available anywhere. The newly digitized version can be used on any device that plays MP3 files and is \$14.99 at [www.macaulaylibrary.org](http://www.macaulaylibrary.org).

Multiple sounds for each species showcase the variability in warbler vocalizations, enabling listeners to recognize the essential qualities of each species' song while also appreciating the variability within and among species. Selected examples are available for listening at [www.macaulaylibrary.org](http://www.macaulaylibrary.org).

The MP3 files are accompanied by photos of each warbler for those who download the material to a device that can show images. A PDF copy of the booklet that accompanied the original album provides information on the location and date for each recording and is included in the download. This guide to warbler songs and calls is a collaboration of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics, and Ontario Nature.

*Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

## Nature Writing Workshop

Have you longed to put your observations about the natural world into print for others to enjoy? Author and University of Oregon writing teacher Melissa Hart will teach a two-day workshop titled "Write and Sell Nature Essays" at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology from Monday, July 19, 2010 at 10:00am to Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at 4:00pm.

This workshop will familiarize students with personal and expository essays from environmentally-themed magazines and newspapers. Students will identify the literary elements of a nature essay and craft and workshop a short prose piece. We will discuss revision techniques, how to locate interview subjects to add expertise, and how/where to submit the finished manuscript for publication. Students will revise rough drafts with the help of the instructor and peers, to complete a final draft. In addition, this workshop will explain how to pitch and sell photos to supplement essays.

Hart's nature essays have appeared in Orion, High Country News, Hemispheres, Horizon Air Magazine, The Boston Globe, Mothering, Brain Child, and The Christian Science Monitor. She's the author of the memoir *Gringa: A Contradictory Girlhood* (Seal, 2009).

The Sitka Center is located just north of Lincoln City on the Oregon Coast. For more information, visit [www.sitkacenter.com](http://www.sitkacenter.com) and [www.melissahart.com](http://www.melissahart.com).

## Birding Classes

Two classes for bird watchers will be offered by Don Boucher and Lisa Millbank this month.

### Birding in the Willamette Valley

We'll learn identification skills, how to choose field guides and binoculars, and birding sites. We'll spend time outside with the birds at the peak of springtime.

#### 2-week class:

**Wed., May 12:** 7-8:30 pm, classroom, Avery House Nature Center

**Sat., May 15:** 9-11 am, field trip at Avery Park

**Wed., May 19:** 7-8:30 pm, classroom, Avery House Nature Center

**Sat., May 22:** 9-11 am, field trip, carpool to Finley NWR

### Birding by Ear

Would you like to know your local bird songs and calls? Learn to listen and remember bird sounds. Beginners, take "Birding in the Willamette Valley" first.

#### 2-week class:

**Wed., May 26:** 7-8:30 pm, classroom, Avery House Nature Center

**Sat., May 29:** 9-11 am, Field trip to Willamette Park

**Wed., June 2:** 7-8:30 pm, classroom, Avery House Nature Center

**Sat., June 5:** 9-11 am, field trip to Jackson-Frazier Wetland  
Class information: Don Boucher, 541-753-7689, [bouchdon@peak.org](mailto:bouchdon@peak.org). Registration cost will be \$40 for each class. Contact the Corvallis Environmental Center at 541-753-9211 or [www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org](http://www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org).

## Contributors to the Chat

Dave Mellinger, Karan Fairchild, Rich Armstrong, Don Boucher, Sallie Gentry, Paula Vanderheul, John Gaylord, Raylene Gordin, and Jim Fairchild

## Migrant Arrivals

Bird phenology records in Corvallis date from 1970. The last phenology table was published in the Chat in March 1994. This list updates the arrivals through the spring of 2002. (M): Migrant, does not spend the season or breed in our area.

| Average | Species                       | years | Earliest |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Feb. 10 | Tree Swallow                  | 27    | 1/10     |
| 19      | Turkey Vulture                | 29    | 1/17     |
| 27      | Horned Grebe (M)              | 03    | 2/03     |
| March 2 | Rufous Hummingbird            | 32    | 2/14     |
| 3       | Violet-green Swallow          | 29    | 2/21     |
| 13      | Cinnamon Teal                 | 27    | 1/31     |
| 16      | Band-tailed Pigeon            | 20    | 2/04     |
| 19      | Long-billed Dowitcher (M)     | 20    | 1/19     |
| 21      | Orange-crowned Warbler        | 30    | 2/11     |
| 22      | Osprey                        | 30    | 1/28     |
| 31      | Cliff Swallow                 | 25    | 3/17     |
| April 2 | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | 24    | 3/22     |
| 3       | American Bittern              | 17    | 2/16     |
| 4       | Common Yellowthroat           | 31    | 3/18     |
| 5       | Barn Swallow                  | 27    | 3/22     |
|         | Sora                          | 20    | 2/22     |
| 8       | Lesser Yellowlegs (M)         | 19    | 1/20     |
| 10      | Black-throated Gray Warbler   | 30    | 3/15     |
|         | House Wren                    | 24    | 2/21     |
| 11      | Chipping Sparrow              | 26    | 3/07     |
| 14      | Vesper Sparrow                | 13    | 3/19     |
| 15      | Nashville Warbler             | 18    | 3/18     |
| 17      | Cassin's Vireo                | 30    | 3/26     |
|         | Wilson's Warbler              | 28    | 4/03     |
| 20      | Vaux's Swift                  | 30    | 4/05     |
| 21      | Solitary Sandpiper (M)        | 21    | 4/08     |
|         | Yellow-headed Blackbird       | 20    | 2/21     |
| 22      | Hammond's Flycatcher          | 11    | 4/14     |
| 23      | MacGillivray's Warbler        | 29    | 4/02     |
| 24      | Semipalmated Plover (M)       | 17    | 2/07     |
|         | Warbling Vireo                | 28    | 3/20     |
| 26      | Western Kingbird              | 23    | 4/15     |
| 27      | Calliope Hummingbird (M)      | 13    | 4/06     |
|         | Western Tanager               | 27    | 2/28     |
| 28      | Hermit Warbler                | 18    | 4/01     |
|         | Pacific-slope Flycatcher      | 26    | 4/02     |
| 29      | Yellow Warbler                | 22    | 4/10     |
| May     | Purple Martin                 | 10    | 3/17     |
| 3       | Swainson's Thrush             | 24    | 4/05     |
|         | Western Wood-Pewee            | 27    | 4/07     |
| 5       | Black-headed Grosbeak         | 29    | 4/03     |
|         | Bullock's Oriole              | 23    | 4/11     |
| 6       | Blue-winged Teal (M)          | 20    | 4/21     |
|         | Lazuli Bunting                | 26    | 4/22     |
| 7       | Olive-sided Flycatcher        | 23    | 4/20     |
|         | Red-necked Phalarope (M)      | 13    | 4/23     |
| 10      | Wilson's Phalarope (M)        | 20    | 4/20     |
| 12      | Yellow-breasted Chat          | 21    | 4/04     |
| 16      | Willow Flycatcher             | 18    | 4/25     |
| 19      | Black Tern (M)                | 07    | 4/02     |
| June 4  | Common Nighthawk              | 13    | 5/10     |
| 7       | Eastern Kingbird (M)          | 04    | 5/23     |

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*the* **CHAT**

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**Calendar**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| May 8     | Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am           |
| May 13    | Board meeting                                 |
| May 15    | Hesthavn work party                           |
| May 20    | Article submission deadline for June Chat     |
| May 22    | Field notes submission deadline for June Chat |
| May 20-23 | Malheur NWR Field trip                        |
| May 27    | General meeting                               |
| May 30    | Bicycle Birding                               |
| June 12   | Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am           |



*Black-headed Grosbeak photo by Matt Lee*

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