



# Audubon Society of Corvallis the **CHAT**

September 2011

VOL. 41

#1

## General Meeting

Thursday, September 15, 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
First Presbyterian Church

### Liars, beggars, and cheats: the behavioral ecology of Brown-headed Cowbird nestlings

*A presentation by Dr. Jim Rivers*



Dr. Jim Rivers grew up in Massachusetts and studied variation in Hermit Thrush songs in college. He has studied birds in many places since then, examining altitudinal migration of forest birds in Argentina, avian use of seasonal wetlands in Kansas, the influence of troop training on wildlife populations in Kansas, and various aspects of cowbird ecology during his doctoral work at UC Santa Barbara. He is now a postdoctoral researcher in OSU's College of Forestry and teacher in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. He is also getting married on Sept. 24!

### Directions

The monthly chapter meeting is in Dennis Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 114 SW Eighth Street.

*Dave Mellinger*

Avian brood parasitism occurs when a female (the 'brood parasite') lays an egg into the nest of another individual (the 'host'), and the host provides all parental care to the offspring of the brood parasite. Brood parasitism is rare among birds, with only 1% of all birds using this reproductive strategy. From an evolutionary perspective, brood parasitic young present an interesting problem because they are not typically raised with siblings and, in turn, are predicted to be more selfish when competing for food. In this presentation, Dr. Rivers will first explore the ecology and evolution of avian brood parasitism and then present the results from studies aimed at understanding the factors that influence begging behavior in Brown-headed Cowbird nestlings.

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## Friends wanted for LSN Area!

Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) protects nearly 1000 acres of unique habitat where the Luckiamute River flows into the Willamette River, just across from where Santiam River confluence. Just 6 miles from downtown Albany and 9 miles from Corvallis, this gem holds one of the largest surviving remnants of the hardwood gallery forest that once lined the Willamette River.

This is one of the few places in our area where Red-eyed Vireos occur regularly, and is known among birders for its remarkable diversity and abundance of wintering sparrows. A boat-in campground in a grassy meadow (also reachable via a 1.25 mile trail from a parking area) provides the closest thing that you can find to a wilderness camping experience along the middle stretch of the Willamette River. OK, you might hear the lonesome whistle of a train heading north from Albany in the middle of the night, but after the distant rumbling of the train fades away, you might hear a Western Screech-Owl call from the massive old cottonwoods, or the “peent!” cry of a Common Nighthawk, somewhere in the starry summer sky overhead.

But the riverside meadow and high arching trees of the gallery forest are just part of what makes this a special place. Surprisingly, other parts of the natural area are home to 200+ year old oaks, remnants of an oak savanna that once grew within a hundred yards of the river on gravel terraces that were deposited by prehistoric floods of the Willamette. Up until recently, a few Oregon Vesper Sparrows (the imperiled subspecies endemic to the Willamette Valley) still nested here, and the equally imperiled Streaked Horned Lark still nests within two miles.

Volunteers now have a chance to help restore the native habitats of this remarkable site, in cooperation with the Luckiamute Watershed Council and Oregon State Parks. If you're interested in helping to form a “Friends of Luckiamute State Natural Area” group, and volunteering in our upcoming habitat restoration projects, please contact me.

*Joel Geier*  
([joel.geier@peak.org](mailto:joel.geier@peak.org), 541-745-5821)

## Fall Migratory Bird Count

The 2011 Fall Migratory Bird Count for Benton County is scheduled for Saturday, September 17th. The North American Migration Count (NAMC) is like the Christmas Bird Count, but with a few twists. The area is not a 15-mile diameter circle but an entire county. The big twist is the timing: unlike Christmas Bird Counts, which are spread over several weeks, this count is done in Oregon over a single weekend.

### Among the goals of the NAMC are:

- Have fun.
- To obtain a “snapshot” of the process of Spring and Fall Migration.

- To obtain information on the abundance and distribution of each species.

The North American Migration Count is an event not affiliated with any particular organization and there is no fee to participate. In Oregon, the East Cascades Audubon Society coordinates the event.

The count has been designed so that it is outside everyone's house, and not limited to defined circles. After all, migratory birds are everywhere and should be of concern to everyone. But you should remember to count all the birds (not just migrants). Participation by ALL birders, irrespective of skill or style, is encouraged. So whether you just count the birds in your yard, visit a favorite spot for an hour or two or spend the entire day birding, I would appreciate a report from you. Please provide a count for each bird seen listed by location (this way, I can amalgamate counts from the same location such as Cabell Marsh, Philomath Sewage Pond, etc.). Also provide the amount of time spent birding and mileage broken down by method of transportation (i.e. foot, car, bicycle, etc.).

If possible, please let me know ahead of time if you plan to participate. Also feel free to ask me any questions. I can be contacted at [marciafcutler@comcast.net](mailto:marciafcutler@comcast.net) or 541-752-4313.

*Marcia F. Cutler*

## Field Trip Schedule

### Local Monthly Saturday Field Trips

Sept. 10: Ankeny NWR

Sept. 17: Full Day at Fern Ridge Reservoir

Oct. 8: Finley NWR led by Marcia Cutler.

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 Bill Proebsting at [proebstw@gmail.com](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com) or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the Midvalley List-Serv, <http://www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/> the week before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately.

*Bill Proebsting*

## Bicycle Birding

### Sunday, Sept 25, 9am - noon

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

Trip is 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)

## Hesthavn News

Things are moving along nicely for the education programs at Hesthavn Nature Center. Currently in the works are four family programs for this year - and four homeschool programs. The homeschool community has expressed much interest in these programs and we already have attendees reserving their spots. Word seems to spread rapidly within these circles - and the goal is to have ten families for each program - which would bring in a sizable donation to Hesthavn and help to educate the community.

So far, it seem the homeschool programming might be a niche that Hesthavn can easily fill, and we would not be competing with the many many things going on during the weekend for families. For the rest of 2011, we will be testing the waters to see where advertising is best used and if family programs are worth our time. Plans for 2012 will begin in December, with hopes of offering a family program and a homeschool program each month, as well as outreach activities within the schools. Thank you to everyone who has been so supportive and we look forward to the future of Education at Hesthavn!

## Hesthavn Educational

### Program Topics

#### September Family Program –Night Hunters 8-10 pm Saturday. Sept 24th @ Hesthavn

Come learn all about the amazing owls of Oregon! We will discover the many species who live here, learn about owl biology and take a night hike to hopefully spot these silent hunters. Bring your sense of adventure and a light or lantern. All ages welcome. Please RSVP by emailing [hesthavneducation@gmail.com](mailto:hesthavneducation@gmail.com) as space is limited.



*Great Horned Owl photo by Sue Powell*

#### September Family Program –Night Hunters 8-10 pm Friday Sept 23rd @ Hesthavn

Come join us for an in-depth look at some amazing night predators. We will spend one hour focusing on the study of Owls through experiments and hands-on learning. During the second hour we will go on an owl hunt and call to these amazing animals. Program follows Oregon science standards and is open for ages 6-12. 10\$ donation per family is suggested.

#### October Family Program– Howl at the Moon Hike 8 pm Saturday, Oct 15th @ Oak Creek McDonald Forest parking lot

Have a night out with your pup and take a walk on the wild side! We will be hiking at dusk and will stop midway to howl at the moon with our four-legged friends and learn a few things about night-time critters. Hike is 1.5 miles long. Bring a lantern or flashlight and your dog!



*Garden Spider  
photo by Matt Lee*

#### October Homeschool Program – Scaly, slimy and scary. 1-3 pm Friday Oct 14th @ Hesthavn

Come learn all about those Halloween creatures – spiders, snakes, and bats. We will discover why they are important, explore why people may fear them and go in search of some ourselves. These animals are very misunderstood – lets find out what makes them so unique! Program is science standard driven and full of hands-on learning experiences. Please RSVP by emailing [hesthavneducation@gmail.com](mailto:hesthavneducation@gmail.com) as space is limited. Donation of \$10/family is suggested.

#### November Family Program – Edible Plants 2-4 pm Sunday Nov 13th @ Hesthavn

Oregon is full of edible wild things. Come explore the area around Hesthavn and learn which plants are safe to eat and how they were once used. We will do some hands-on experiments, learn some plant identification, and even taste a few wild delicacies. All ages welcome.

#### November Homeschool Program – Edible Wild Things 1-3 Friday Nov 11th

Ever wonder where the native Americans went to the grocery? We will be learning all about edible wild plants, how they were used in medicine and food, and what is and is NOT safe to eat. Come prepared for some hands –on experiments and to taste a few wild foods. Program is based on science standards and is open to ages 6-12. Donation of \$10/family suggested. Please RSVP by emailing [hesthavneducation@gmail.com](mailto:hesthavneducation@gmail.com) as space is limited.

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**December Family Program –  
Skins and Skulls 2-4 pm Sunday Dec 11th  
2-4 pm @ Hesthavn.**

Join us for an inside look at some really cool creatures. Using skins and skulls, we will uncover a mystery and figure out how to get information from bones found in the forest. Get up close and discover what some animals really feel like. All ages welcome.

**December Homeschool program –  
Animal Mysteries!  
Friday Dec 9th 1-3 pm @ Hesthavn**

Use your sleuthing skills as we use clues found at the “scene” to uncover the mysteries of what happened! Hands on experiments will guide us as we explore real skulls and skins of animals and look for other signs of animal activity. Program is based on Oregon science standards for elementary school-aged children. Please RSVP by emailing hesthavneducation@gmail.com as space is limited.

*Michelle Croft*

## **Ninth Annual Kids Day for Conservation**

It's time for the ninth annual Kids Day for Conservation (KDC) which will be held on Saturday, October 1st from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Benton County Fairgrounds Arena building.

Kids Day for Conservation is put on by over 40 organizations, agencies, and businesses that offer a variety of hands-on natural resource activities suitable for children of all ages. The event is free and open to the public. KDC has been designed to educate and encourage youth to take action for conservation in their community.

Participants will have the opportunity to hold a snake, join the animal parade, learn about recycling, and build a bird house. They can also create recycled art, hear fish tales, and discover the wonders of wetlands. Families can explore energy sources including wind turbines and solar panels and learn how to conserve energy and water.

Last year over 1800 youth and adults participated in KDC. Attendees said, “It was a great event for kids and adults!” and “It was hard to get my kids to leave, we will definitely come back next year.” This event will be held rain or shine and there is sure to be exciting and interesting activities for you and your family! A variety of food and drink will be available for purchase.

Volunteers Needed--ASC will be partnering with Avery House Nature Center on a booth and I am looking for volunteers to help for one of 3 2-hour shifts: 10:00 – noon, noon – 2:00 and 2:00 – 4:00. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Marcia Cutler, marciafcutler@comcast.net, 541-752-4313.

## **Atop the Nestbox**

We have continued to see wild and wacky things in the Willamette Valley bluebird population this year. Please refer to the summer 2011 Chat for our initial observations and speculations. Regarding the leucistic nestling, it fledged and was last observed about 2 weeks later. As for its mother and the mysterious second nesting, absent its father, we did indeed have a pairing between “mom” and her son of the previous year. And yes, they did produce another leucistic nestling! Unfortunately, this chick had a deformity of the mandible and airway that resulted in its demise at about 12 days’ development. Alas, the dangers of inbreeding were once again borne out.

As for the clutch of 9 eggs, the crazy hen actually hatched them all. After hatching a first brood of 8 and fledging 7 of them, one would think she should rest. Unfortunately, she died on the nest a few days after hatching the second clutch. The chicks were found dying on a chilly morning. One was gone, but the other 8 were revived and fostered to other nests. All 8 went on to fledge with their new families. I’m sure we will share other wacky stories at the bluebird trail annual meeting.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who continue to keep the bluebird trail operational, all of the people who provide us with valuable information about our local birds, and those who assist the cause by providing appropriate nesting locations for Western Bluebirds.

We will soon be able to finalize our nesting data for the 2011 nesting season, so stay tuned!

*Raylene Gordin*

## **Field Notes**

**6/27/11-8/29/11**

The general area covered by the field notes is a rough circle centered on Corvallis, extending to around Sweet Home, Monroe/Harrisburg, Marys Peak and the nearby Coast Range, and Monmouth/Dallas.

A decidedly cool early summer finally heated up to near-average temperatures during August. Some of the latest-breeding birds were still feeding fledglings during the heat of August, such as American Goldfinches. Many birds looked a bit disheveled during their summer molt. As the dawn chorus slowly faded, the summer “birding doldrums” set in. But, by early July, shorebird watchers were rewarded with small flocks already beginning to pass through the valley on their way south.

*Abbreviations and Locations:* STP = sewage treatment ponds, Finley = William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, LSNA = Luckiamute State Natural Area. FRCW = Finley Road Conservation Wetland. Cabell Marsh is located at Finley.

*Observer abbreviations:* m.obs. = multiple observers, Amy Hill (AH), Aaron Liston (AL), Don Boucher (DB), Doug Bilsland (DBi), Darrel Faxon (DF), Doug Robinson (DR), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Jackie Swartzendruber

(JSw), Jarod Jebousek (JJ), Jim Fairchild (JF), Joel Geier (JG), Karan Fairchild (KF), Kaynor Heineck (KH), Laura Faxon (LF), Lisa Millbank (LM), Margaret Stephens (MS), Matt Blakeley-Smith (MBS), Molly Monroe (MM), Pam Comeleo (PC), Randy Comeleo (RC), Sara Liston (SL), Steve Seibel (SS), Susan Hatlevig (SH), Will Wright (WW)

**Mallards, Wood Ducks, Common Mergansers and Canada Geese** had well-grown young by the end of the period. A single **Redhead** was at Philomath STP 8/12 (DR).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was calling on Riverside Dr on 6/29 (DB). Bobwhites were once deliberately introduced locally, but the populations were not self-sustaining, and this individual may have been a pet. **Sooty Grouse** were still “hooting” 7/10 at Marys Peak (PC & RC). A **Wild Turkey** tom was catching insects in the meadows at the top of Marys Peak 8/8 (PC & RC).



*Short-billed Dowitcher photo by Matt Lee*



*American White Pelican photo by Matt Lee*

Variable numbers of **American White Pelicans** continued at Cabell Marsh (m.obs.).

A pair of **Green Herons** had fledglings begging from the trees in Willamette Park by 7/3 (LM & DB). A juvenile expertly caught dragonflies in flight at Sunset Park 8/25 (LM).

The annual chopped rodent bounty created by hay harvesting at the Hwy. 34 bypass just east of Corvallis attracted a huge congregation of about 70 **Turkey Vultures** 7/18 (DF & LF). An adult **Bald Eagle** tried to steal an **Osprey**'s catch over downtown Corvallis 7/19, then briefly pursued a Great Blue Heron (LM). An uncommon mid-summer sighting of a **White-tailed Kite** at the Finley prairie was enhanced by the kite harassing a **Northern Harrier** 7/15 (SS). **Cooper's Hawk** fledglings were chasing one another at Willamette Park 7/3 (DB & LM). A **Northern Goshawk** made a pass through a yard in the Coast Range foothills SW of Philomath (JF). A possible **Golden Eagle** was spotted over NW Corvallis 7/16 (AL & SL).

An **American Golden-Plover** flew over FRCW,

calling, but didn't stop 7/7 (DR). A single **Semipalmated Plover** was at Cabell Marsh 8/21 (DR). Post-breeding **Killdeer** flocks were present at most wetlands (m.obs.).

**Spotted Sandpipers** may still have been nesting or tending young on a gravel bar at LSNA 7/18 (JG), and 2 were at Cabell Marsh 8/12 (DR). Several **Greater Yellowlegs** were reported from FRCW 7/7, 7/8 and 8/12 (DR & MBS). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** stopped by Philomath STP 8/11 and FRCW 8/12 (DR). 6 **Western Sandpipers** visited the mud at Cabell Marsh 7/7 (DR), and 3 at LSNA 7/18 (JG), with numbers swelling mid-August. By 7/7, 7 **Least Sandpipers** were at FRCW, with 16 at Cabell Marsh the next day. 41 were there 7/12 (DR), and continued regularly in August. 1 **Baird's Sandpiper** showed up at FRCW 8/10, and 2 on 8/21 (DR). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at Cabell Marsh 8/12 (DR). 10 **Long-billed Dowitchers** visited Cabell Marsh 7/12 (DR), and one made a brief stop at Sunset Park in Corvallis 7/24 (LM & DB). A **Wilson's Phalarope** acted protective of a possible nest or chicks 7/9 (JJ) at the FRCW. 2 **Red-necked Phalaropes** turned up at the Philomath STP 8/8 (WW), and 1 at FRCW 8/21 (DR).

1 **Ring-billed Gull** visited Philomath STP 8/8 (WW). 2 **California Gulls** stopped by Cabell Marsh 7/12 (DR) and 10 were at Philomath STP 8/8 (WW), but local numbers of these gulls have been below normal this year. A **Caspian Tern** was spotted at Cabell Marsh 7/8 (DR).

Some unwary **Band-tailed Pigeon** fledglings perched in treetops at Bald Hill Park 7/10 (LM & DB).

**Common Nighthawks** seemed to be reported more regularly around Corvallis this year than in the past several years. 1 was over Kings & Grant 7/12 (HH), 1 over SW Corvallis 7/13 (DB) and one in the hills west of town 7/15 (PC & RC). 3 were at Cabell Marsh 7/18 (SS).

A young **Red-breasted Sapsucker** visited a Corvallis yard 8/27 (SH). A **Hairy Woodpecker** was along Riverside Dr on 7/1 (DB), an unusual location outside of preferred

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**Field Notes** *Continued from previous page*

habitat. A **Northern Flicker** chick fledged 7/4 (SH); the offspring of a Red-shafted mother and a Red-shafted/Yellow-shafted intergrade father.

An **Olive-Sided Flycatcher** called from a treetop in Dunn Forest 8/28 (PC & RC). A **Hammond's Flycatcher** was still singing 7/10 at Marys Peak (PC & RC). A **Black Phoebe** visited a yard in SE Corvallis 8/6 (JSw), and another was at Sodaville (near Lebanon) 8/8 (KH). A **Western Kingbird** was perched on a fence near 99W in SE Corvallis 8/6 (JSw).

A chorus of our 3 common vireos – **Hutton's, Warbling** and **Cassin's** – could be heard at Bald Hill Park 7/10 (LM & DB). A **Red-eyed Vireo** was singing in the tall cottonwoods of LSNA 7/18 (JG), one of the few reliable locations for them in our area.

A family of **Gray Jays** passed through at an unusually low elevation along Soap Creek Rd 8/16 (DBi). The rodent carnage left from cutting hay near Bald Hill Park attracted a **Common Raven** family with squawking fledglings 7/10 (LM & DB).

**Purple Martins** using some nest boxes were a welcome sight at Cabell Marsh 7/18 (MM). One martin was at Adair Wildlife Area 7/22 (JG). A backyard brood of **Violet-green Swallows** fledged 7/23 (SH). Fledgling **Barn Swallows** were noted at LSNA 7/18 (JG).

A thrush chorus of **Variied, Hermit & Swainson's Thrushes** brightened a hike at Marys peak 7/10 (PC & RC). An almost tailless, recently-fledged Swainson's Thrush was at Bald Hill Park 7/10 (LM & DB), and males had almost entirely stopped singing by the end of July. On 8/26 one gave a flight call at night, as they commonly do during nocturnal migration in September (LM).

A **Wrentit** was singing at LSNA 8/8 (MS), and another was outside of normal habitat along Riverside Dr 8/19 (DB).

**Black-throated Gray Warblers** seemed to be on the move by mid-August, being reported from nonbreeding locations. 55 **Hermit Warblers** and 1 **Townsend's Warbler** were counted along the back way (via Harlan) to the top of Marys Peak 8/15 (DR). **Common Yellowthroat** fledglings were at LSNA 7/18 (JG). A **MacGillivray's Warbler** outside of breeding habitat was at Cabell Marsh 8/21 (DR). Apparent movement of **Wilson's Warblers** away from breeding habitat was noted as early as 7/12 (JG). A **Yellow Warbler** was singing enthusiastically in downtown Corvallis 8/28 (LM & DB), quite late in the season.

A pronounced movement of **Western Tanagers** away from breeding areas began in late July (LM).

A **Brewer's Sparrow** turned up at Cabell Marsh 8/21 (DR), apparently a little off-course during migration.

**Black-headed Grosbeaks** began wandering freely away from breeding areas from mid-July onward (m.obs.).

Flocks of **Red Crossbills** were occasionally making flights over the valley. A flock of 12 passed over Oak Creek Dr 7/7 (DR). A **Pine Siskin** family foraged together on the Marys Peak road 7/10 (PC & RC). An unusually pale



*Photo of American Goldfinches by Matt Lee*

**American Goldfinch** was visiting a feeder and stood out among the other males 7/1 (AH). The begging of fledgling goldfinches was sometimes the only bird sound to be heard on hot afternoons throughout August.

**Next issue**

Please post your reports to [midvalleybirding.org](http://midvalleybirding.org), send them to [lisaaves@peak.org](mailto:lisaaves@peak.org), or leave a voicemail at 541-753-7689 by Sunday, September 25.

*Lisa Millbank*

**GreenTip**  
OF THE MONTH

Summer has sped by and soon it is time for kids to head back to school. Here are a few tips to get you and your children involved in lessening our impact on the planet and live a healthier life (compiled from Earthshare.org).

**Start at home.** Remind kids to turn off the lights in the bathroom or any unoccupied room at home and at school. Encourage them to throw away any trash they find on the school playground, tell them to use both sides of their notebook paper, and suggest that they save unused chalk and art supplies.

**Lunch break.** Pack kids' lunches in lunch pails or canvas bags instead of throwaway paper bags. Consider re-using plastic sandwich bags, or only using durable plastic containers.

**Check out your school's recycling programs.** Ask whether recycling bins are accessible and if the kids are encouraged to use them. If they are, be sure your child knows to recycle plastic and glass bottles, as well as paper.

**Make smart decisions while shopping.** Buy school supplies with less packaging and seek those made with organic materials, or which have been recycled. Consider investing in sturdier products – this can ensure years of use from items like backpacks.

### **Re-use school supplies that are in good condition.**

When you're in the middle of exciting back-to-school shopping, sometimes it's easy to forget about all the items you already have at home that are still in good working condition. Binders, loose leaf paper, pencils and scissors are often only lightly used. Save money and resources by buying only what's really needed! If you can't re-use old products, donate them to your school or daycare.

**Carpool.** If you live somewhere where bus service isn't provided, start a carpool and take turns with other parents in the neighborhood to drop off and pick up the kids. You'll each save time, energy, and fuel.

**Keep children in touch with nature.** Take your students on local Audubon weekend trips. After-school time used to involve catching fireflies, exploring the neighborhood woods, making mudpies, and just having a good time running around outside. This has changed dramatically in the digital age and children are less connected to nature which can cause them to care less about its condition. Instead of plopping down in front of the T.V. or computer after school, encourage your kids get outside for an hour or two each day. Not much daylight left after the homework's done? Take a family walk after dinner, devote your weekends to outdoor-only activities like biking and hiking. Studies have shown children who spend more time outside are less likely to be obese, have Attention Deficit Disorder, or be depressed.

## **Conservation Corner**

With a full slate of activities and issues to deal with, the ASC Conservation team is underway. This year's committee consists of Jim Fairchild, Tom Penpraze, Peter and Stacy Moore, Will Wright and John Gaylord. A host of important issues face the group including working with Sierra Club member Debra Higbee-Sudyka on creating a city ordinance concerning single use plastic bags. The Oregon Marine Reserve issue is not final and will likely require time and effort as will the Migratory Bird Treaty Act which needs a strong campaign to educate our community. Recent wind farm bird mortality problems will likely require us to take a more active role in this growing problem. Most likely we will need to respond to the Benton County riparian proposals as they will affect bird habitat. We plan on having an open committee meeting at least once a month at a local restaurant or coffee shop and all are welcome. The place and time has not been decided as yet, but will be posted in the Chat when finalized. We welcome volunteers, as many of our projects such as the community planting project require a lot of help. A number of conservation issues like Clean Water in the Willamette need your support. Please come join us.

*John Gaylord*

## **Book Chat**

Here is a link for a free birding app for the iPhone, iPod Touch, and the iPad: <http://birdbookerreport.blogspot.com/2011/08/app-news-free-app.html>

The same website (Birdbooker Report) has a sidebar which contains links to book reviews, their library, etc. A great resource for any birder.

*Will Wright*

## **Volunteers needed for CBC Countdown**

This year marks the 50th year that the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count has been held. I've been the compiler for the count for the past 10 years or so and I've also made the arrangements for the countdown potluck afterwards. The potluck has been a hallmark of the Corvallis CBC and the arrangements have traditionally been handled by ASC's board in coordination with the count compiler. Since I was a board member when I assumed compilation duties, I handled both jobs. However, I have informed the Board that I no longer feel able to continue planning the countdown potluck in addition to coordinating the Christmas Bird Count.

The board is looking for volunteers to help plan the countdown gathering. It does not necessarily need to be a potluck dinner. Basically, the job entails finding a place to hold the countdown at the end of the count day and making arrangements for some food and drinks to be available while the countdown is held, it need not be elaborate. If you are interested in helping, please contact one of the members of the ASC board.

*Marcia F. Cutler  
Compiler, Corvallis CBC*

## **Open ASC Board Meetings**

ASC Board of Directors meetings are open to all ASC members, and the board encourages you to come and see what we do. Our monthly board meeting is on Thursday one week before the General Meeting. See the calendar on the last page of The Chat for the meeting location.

## **Contributors to the Chat**

Dave Mellinger, Joel Geier, Michelle Croft, Marcia F. Cutler, Bill Proebsting, Raylene Gordin, Lisa Milbank, Stacy Moore, John Gaylord, and Will Wright

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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**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Sep. 8  | September Board meeting 7 pm                  |
| Sep. 10 | Monthly Saturday field trip, 7:30 am          |
| Sep. 15 | September General meeting                     |
| Sep. 17 | NAMC bird count                               |
| Sep. 18 | Field notes submission deadline for Oct. Chat |
| Sep. 22 | Article submission deadline for Oct. Chat     |
| Oct. 1  | Kids Day for Conservation                     |
| Oct. 8  | October Saturday field trip, 7:30 am          |



*Photo of Barn Swallows by Matt Lee*

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