



# THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

NOVEMBER 2014

VOL. 44 #3

## ASC GENERAL MEETING

### BIRDING ECUADOR FROM THE ANDES TO THE AMAZON

Bill Proebsting will share his and Lena's birding tour of Ecuador at our November 20 meeting.



Bill and Lena Proebsting

Ecuador has extremely diverse terrain, forests and birds. In an area the size of Colorado, Ecuador lists over 1600 species of birds. The Amazon portion of Ecuador and Peru is described as containing mega-biodiversity. One measure of this is that one hundred acres of Amazon rain forest contains more tree and shrub species than all of North America! Bill will provide some flavor of the spectacular biology of this country, based on a trip that sampled both slopes of the rugged Andes and the steaming Amazon Basin of eastern Ecuador.

Bill lives in Corvallis and retired from

OSU's Department of Horticulture in 2008. Besides spending time birding in Oregon, serving as field trip coordinator for ASC and conducting various gardening projects, Bill and Lena enjoy traveling to see birds and their habitats. They have particularly enjoyed birding in Latin America, including Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, as well as Ecuador and, most recently, Peru.

As usual, the evening will begin at 6:30 with refreshments and visiting. The chapter business meeting begins at 7:00, and the speaker will be introduced about 7:30 pm.

Questions about the series can be directed to Chris Matthews at 541-754-1172 or [matthewssc2@comcast.net](mailto:matthewssc2@comcast.net).

Chris Matthews

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



Blue-winged Mountain Tanager

## GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Nov. 20  
7:00-8:30 pm  
First Presbyterian Church  
9th and Monroe

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## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Full-day and longer field trips will be announced after the first of the year.

### LOCAL MONTHLY SECOND SATURDAY HALF-DAY FIELD TRIPS

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of each month through June at the Benton Center parking area, behind the Cannery Mall, 777 NW 9th, Corvallis. at 7:30 am

This field trip is geared towards beginning birders, birders new to Oregon's mid-valley area and persons looking for a pleasant outing. Contact Bill Proebsting at [proebstw@gmail.com](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com) or 541-752-0108 with questions. Check the MidvalleyList-Serv at [www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/](http://www.midvalleybirding.org/pipermail/birding/), a couple of days before the field trip for updates. Weather may alter plans. Watch the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Return to Benton Center by noon.

### NEXT HALF-DAY FIELD TRIP:

**November 8** Luckiamute Landing

*Bill Proebsting*

## THE 2014 ANNUAL APPEAL

The end of the calendar year is at hand and it's time to kick off the 2014 ASC Annual Appeal! This is a great opportunity to show your support for the Audubon Society of Corvallis (ASC) and its committed group of volunteers.

Donations can go to the ASC General Fund, or you can designate a specific committee for your donation.

Our Conservation Committee works on a variety of projects & collaborative efforts that 1) help to conserve & protect habitat and wildlife, 2) help to stem the impact of climate change, and 3) work on sustainability issues.

Education is an important focus for ASC. Our Education Committee will be conducting another series of monthly educational nature classes. January's program will start the year off (with a hoot) with the return of the popular Owl Walk at Hesthavn Nature Center. The Education Committee has also begun a 3-year collaborative project with OSU that will bring middle school classes to study the stream ecology and hydrology of Oak Creek. It's great to have the Hesthavn Nature Center & Oak Creek as learning sites for the students.

This summer Hesthavn threw open its doors to host an open house and the public spent a wonderful day walking the trails, learning about stream critters, and getting an up-close view of wildlife from volunteers from Chimtini Wildlife Center.

Our Bluebird Trail Committee, in existence since 1976, has an active group of volunteers who play a pivotal role in the conservation of the Western Bluebird. All of these programs welcome your support.

This November, every ASC member will receive a hard copy of our newsletter with an envelope insert. The envelopes serve multiple purposes. You can use them to make a donation, purchase a gift membership for family and friends, and for your membership renewals. You can also go the ASC website and use Paypal to donate or renew:

[www.audubon.corvallis.or.us](http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us)

With your help and support 2015 will be a great year for ASC!

*Suzanne Ortiz*  
*ASC Membership Chair*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### MAKING A PERSONAL DIFFERENCE

With recent voting now behind us, the business of self-governance and our mission to protect wildlife and their habitats around our community returns as our focus.

Corvallis and the surrounding area are blessed with many conservation groups, a leading research university and related agency research, innovative businesses, and educators at every level whose work supports our mission and activities. In turn, our Chapter has benefited tremendously from the insights and expertise all these bring to our efforts. Together we advocate for species protections, volunteer as public speakers, help with bird nesting and census projects, work as educators in nature and science education classes, lead or assist on field trips, and help in many other basic to remarkable ways. What comes after another round of voting? We need to refocus on making our representative government, and our own daily lives, work in the best interests of birds, wildlife, and the habitats they need. You can write letters or speak at public meetings, lead a class or plant a tree to make a positive difference. Often the most influential action you can make is in simple conversation with friends or neighbors, or by setting an example, like recycling, or turning off that unnecessary light. My point is that the cumulative impact of many little improvements, choices made day-to-day by each of us, are incredibly significant. We are each just one of billions of humans rooted on the only planet we'll ever know.

*Jim Fairchild*



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## CHAPTER PRESIDENT NEEDED

Jim Fairchild has done an outstanding job as ASC Chapter president for years, but due to other responsibilities, he cannot continue. So, we need a volunteer to step into that role now. Many volunteers have offered to help the new president, so please consider assuming the role! Besides presiding over Chapter Board meetings and the business portion of 10 monthly program meetings each year, the President represents our interests in official correspondence, and becomes acquainted with our many activities and programs. As we are an independent Chapter of National Audubon, the President is also responsible for completing an annual report to National Audubon. This Corvallis Audubon chapter has a large leadership base of dedicated volunteers, many with extended experience, and our activities and programs are very self-directed. Much of the day-to-day business involves forwarding new information and correspondence to the appropriate leaders, and regularly reporting activities to the Board. Here's your chance to help out a great organization and support wildlife in your community using your own leadership and communication skills. Please contact Jim today at [alderspring@peak.org](mailto:alderspring@peak.org) if you can help.

*Teri Engbring*

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## ASC EDUCATION NEWS

I want to send out a big thanks to Suzanne Ortiz, John Criscitiello, Julie Gibson, Susan Nicholas, Ross Holloway, and Ray Drapek for their awesome assistance, time, and support in building a more reliable path to Oak Creek for our Aquatic Ecology program. We now have a much safer route for our 4th and 5th grade aspiring scientists!

Our first class is scheduled for Nov. 6th, so we are making sure we have all of our corners covered. Jessica and Michelle toured the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest the first week in October to learn more about stream hydrology and how to better incorporate OSU's project and findings in our Aquatic Ecology lesson plan.

We are also looking forward to our 2015 monthly education classes starting in January, with an owl walk to kick off the new year!

For more information on ASC education programs, please contact Jessica Brothers, ASC Environmental Ed. Chair, at: [educationaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:educationaudubon@gmail.com)

*Jessica Brothers*

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## FIELD NOTES

**9/21-10/21**

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

As a long and exceptionally warm summer came to an end, the last waves of neotropical migrants were passing through, and shorebird numbers were also decreasing. Rain began to refill wetlands as the winter flocks of Cackling Geese and other waterfowl settled in.

Location abbreviations: Ankeny = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, Finley = William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, Philomath STP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds, Tangent STP = Tangent sewage treatment ponds, TWG/SP = Talking Water Gardens/Simpson Park in Albany

Observers: Bob Altman (BA), Mark Baldwin (MB), Don Boucher (DB), Pam Comeleo (PCo), Randy Comeleo (RCo), Marcia F. Cutler (MFC), Barbara Dolan (BD), John Criscitiello (JC), Mark Dennis (MD), Chris Downie (CD), Jim Fairchild (JFa), Karan Fairchild (KFa), Diane Garlick (DG), Niels Garlick (NG), Becky Geier (BG), Joel Geier (JG), Roy Gerig (RG), Jeff Harding (JHa), Oscar Harper (OH), Hendrik Herlyn (HH), Wayne Hoffman (WH), Tim Johnson (TJ), Erik Knight (EK), Jim Kopitzke (JK), Karin Lamberson (KL), Sylvia Maulding (SM), Lisa Millbank (LM), Noelle Moen (NM), Molly Monroe (MM), Russ Namitz (RN), Lars Per Norgren (LPN), Suzanne Ortiz (SO), Bill Proebsting (BP), Doug Robinson (DR), Patty Rose (PR), Jamie Simmons (JSi), Jim Smith (JSm), Evan Smouse (ES), Mike Unger (MU), Brandon Wagner (BW), Wayne Weber (WWe), Will Wright (WW)

**Greater White-fronted Goose** numbers peaked in late September, with 550 at Ankeny 9/28 (RG). A single **Snow Goose** traveling with Greater White-Fronted Geese 10/3 was a new yard bird for an Independence birder (BW). A flock of 12 Snow Geese were among the large flocks of **Canada** and **Cackling Geese** at Finley 10/21 (BP). **Wood Duck** numbers had decreased from a peak in mid-September, but up to 20 were still at Philomath STP throughout the period. As many as 12 **Gadwall** were noted at Ankeny this period (WWe). Philomath STP produced high counts of 410 **American Wigeons** 10/12 (HH), 165 **Mallards** 10/1 (HH), 1300 **Northern Shovelers** 10/16 (HH) and 180 **Ring-necked Ducks** 10/20 (HH). 1 or 2 **Blue-winged Teal** were present at Philomath STP for the first half of the period, and 1 female was photographed at TWG/SP 10/8 (NG, DG). Moderate

numbers of **Cinnamon Teal** continued through the end of the period, suggesting that some birds might overwinter locally as they often do where water is artificially warmed. Finley had large numbers of **Northern Pintail**, 270 on 10/11 (JSi), and 600 **Green-winged Teal** were there 10/19 (EK). A high count of 8 **Redheads** at Philomath STP 10/1 (HH) was a good number for this uncommon duck, and 1 **Canvasback** showed up 10/16 (WW). 2 Canvasbacks were also seen at the Eicher Rd quarry in Linn Co 10/19 (JK). A single male **Greater Scaup** turned up at Philomath STP 9/28 (HH) and lingered through the period, with up to 25 **Lesser Scaup** 10/26 (HH). **Bufflehead** and **Hooded Merganser** numbers were still low; numbers should grow into November. 17 **Common Mergansers** were seen on the Willamette from Peoria 10/3. 32 **Ruddy Ducks** were at Philomath STP 10/26 (HH).

8 **Mountain Quail** were reported NE of Alsea Falls 10/9 (HH, OH), and 11 were on Marys Peak Rd 10/1 (MB). 1 adult **California Quail** was followed by about 10 chicks on SW 53rd St 10/9, perhaps a later-than-average brood (HH, OH). A **Ruffed Grouse** was found at Cabell Marsh at Finley 10/21 (NM), where they can occasionally be heard drumming in spring. 3 **Sooty Grouse** were found on Marys Peak 10/7 (MD). About 25 **Wild Turkeys** temporarily stopped traffic trying to leave Peavy Arboretum as they casually strolled across the road 10/19 (LM, DB).

12 **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen at Ankeny 9/28 (BD), and 7-8 were at Stewart Lake throughout the period (JSi). 4 **Western Grebes** and 1 **Clark's Grebe** visited the Eicher Rd quarry pond in Linn Co 10/19 (JK). **Eared Grebes** and **Horned Grebes** were present throughout the period at Philomath STP, with high counts of 22 Eareds there 10/10 (WW), and 4 Horneds 10/26 (HH).

**Double-crested Cormorants** seem to be notably scarce this fall, with just a few birds noted around our



*Cackling and Canada Geese photo by Sue Powell*

area. **American White Pelicans** left Finley this period, starting with 9 there on 9/22 (HH), and just one on 10/11.

There were still up to 5 **American Bitterns** at Ankeny early in the period, but they seemed to have departed by October. **Great Blue Herons** and raptors were evenly spaced at the foot of Pigeon Butte, hunting voles (LPN). 15 **Great Egrets** were at Ankeny 10/10 (MU). 2 **Green Herons** were still at Ankeny as late as 10/10 (MU); it remains to be seen whether any stick around for the winter.

3 **White-faced Ibis** continued at Ankeny this period, with numbers decreasing until just 1 was there 10/10 (TJ).

About 115 migrating **Turkey Vultures** congregated at a roost site on Tampico Ridge 9/27 (BG, JG), and a few vultures were still being seen through the end of the period. The last **Osprey** report was one flying over Corvallis 10/10 (HH). 1 or 2 **White-tailed Kites** were noted regularly at the Finley prairie throughout the period, and there were 8 **Northern Harriers** there 10/12 (PR). A young **Sharp-shinned Hawk** managed to kill a Western Scrub-Jay in a backyard in Albany 10/12 (JSm); it had a hard time carrying away its huge meal. A couple of **Cooper's Hawks** NE of Albany seemed to be hunting birds at the margins of disked and mowed fields 9/23 (JG, BA). A probable **Northern Goshawk** rocketed through a yard with feeders SW of Philomath 10/4 (JFa, KFa). 3 **Bald Eagles** were at Finley 10/21 (SM), and 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen or heard regularly there throughout the period. A couple of unusually light-colored **Red-tailed Hawks** seem to be resident in SW Albany (JSm). **Rough-legged Hawks** were beginning to show up at their regular spots around Finley this period.

There were no **Virginia Rails** reported in October, but it's likely that some will overwinter here. A **Sora** was seen in the open at TWG/SP 10/8 (NG, DG). 1160 **American Coots** gathered at Philomath STP 10/12 (HH), and very high numbers were observed through the end of the period.

Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were found at two locations on 9/1, Philomath STP (HH) and the Eicher Rd quarry (DR). **Killdeer** numbers are slowly creeping up, while **Spotted Sandpipers** are nearly gone, except for a few overwintering birds. Numbers of **Greater Yellowlegs** tended to decline over the period, although they were still present at all major wetland areas. 1 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was still at Ankeny, and 1 or 2 were sporadic at Finley. 1 **Dunlin** showed up at Philomath STP 10/12 (HH), followed by fluctuating numbers through the end of the period. **Least Sandpiper** and **Western Sandpipers** were also present throughout the period, in low numbers. 4 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at Ankeny 10/20 (MU, BD) and one limping Pectoral was seen at Finley 10/11 (JSi).



There were 70 **Long-billed Dowitchers** at Ankeny 10/20 (MU). **Wilson's Snipe** are arriving and settling into wetlands, while a few **Red-necked Phalaropes** have been present at Philomath STP through much of the period.

1 **Bonaparte's Gull** was at the Philomath STP 9/27 (WW), and a **Mew Gull** was seen in Corvallis 10/14 (ES). 1 **Thayer's Gull** and a few **Glaucous-winged Gulls** were reported from Ankeny 10/18 (RN).

Most **Band-tailed Pigeons** left our area this period, with the last report on 10/18 (KFa).

Inexplicably, a **Barn Owl** stood in a bare dirt field facing a Red-tailed Hawk about 10 feet away near Jefferson 9/23 (JG, BA). A pair of **Great Horned Owls** were calling in town near Circle and Highland 10/16 (MFC). At McDonald Forest 10/3, a **Northern Pygmy-Owl** flew down to the ground a couple of times and then ate what it had caught (SO, JC). A **Barred Owl** was calling near Teloh-Calapooia Park in Albany 10/5 (JSm), and 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** called to one another NE of Lebanon 10/9 (JH).

The last report of **Vaux's Swift** was 1 at Peoria 9/30, although locations north of our area still had good numbers at this date.

An **Anna's Hummingbird** "showered" in a heavy rainstorm in SW Albany this period (JSm). A **Rufous Hummingbird** lingered at Peoria through 9/24.

**Belted Kingfishers** numbers were augmented with migrants from east of the Cascades and from the north, and they were spreading into smaller tributary streams this period.

4 **Lewis's Woodpecker** were found at an oak savanna restoration site on a farm near Jefferson 9/23 (JG, BA). **Acorn Woodpeckers** were hard at work putting away some of the year's heavy acorn crop. 2 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** were new yard birds for an Independence birder 10/3 (BW). A male and a female **Downy Woodpecker** shared a suet feeder in SW Albany 10/12 (JSm). Two male **Hairy Woodpeckers** gave a "bill fencing" display and postured at McDonald Forest 10/12 (LM, DB). A **Northern Flicker** shared a tree with a Merlin and was moving closer and closer to it, but the sound of gunfire startled both birds away (LPN).

A **Merlin** flying over NW Corvallis took a swipe at a second Merlin perched on a conifer 10/9 (DB). A **Peregrine Falcon** battled a Northern Harrier at Ankeny 9/20 (MU); both tend to be aggressive toward other raptors.

1 lingering **Western Wood-Pewee** was seen at Irish Bend Co Park 9/25 (BP), and a **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** stuck around Snag Boat Bend until 9/23. A **Black Phoebe**

at Finley HQ perched on a spotting scope and would fly under the eaves to collect spiders (MM).

A **Northern Shrike** visited the top of Marys Peak 10/6, presumably eating grasshoppers (LPN). **Hutton's Vireos** were singing during sunny weather this period. 1 **Warbling Vireo** was lingering until 9/28 (DR).

4 **Gray Jays** were seen along the Extendo Trail in McDonald Forest 10/3 (SO, JC). The resident **Steller's Jays** seemed to taunt or just brush off the antics of young Sharp-shinned Hawks learning to hunt SW of Philomath this period (JFa, KFa). Steller's Jays drove off a Merlin in NW Corvallis 10/5 (HH), but the **Western Scrub-Jays** seemed not to care about its presence. A **Common Raven** called from the roof of the downtown Corvallis fire station 9/22 (LM, DB).

2 **Horned Larks** of undetermined subspecies were chasing one another along Finley Rd 10/22 (LPN).

12 **Tree Swallows** near Peoria were the last ones reported. 2 **Violet-green Swallows** at Finley 10/12 were the last reported. A **Bank Swallow** was passing through with a few other swallows at Cabell Marsh at Finley 9/27 (WW). A group of 3 **Barn Swallows** pestered a Rough-legged Hawk near Camp Adair Rd 10/21 (JG, BG).

**Black-capped Chickadees** and a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** picked seeds from a sunflower head, and then tucked the seeds into loose pine bark for storage this period (LM). **Bushtits** were eating Western Poison-oak fruit this period, in downtown Corvallis. **White-breasted Nuthatches** were present at an oak savanna restoration site near Jefferson 9/23 (JG, BA).

**Pacific Wrens** were becoming more common in wooded parks in the lowlands, moving into thickets alongside **Bewick's Wrens**. 2 lingering **House Wrens** were found in an oak savanna near Jefferson 9/23 (JG, BA).

An **American Dipper** was found at its usual site along Crooked Creek off Hwy 34 (KL). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** became extremely abundant in lower-elevation conifer forests this period, with about 125 heard over a 3-hour walk at McDonald Forest 10/19 (LM, DB). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were continuing to arrive this period. **Western Bluebird** flocks are moving around; often with Yellow-rumped Warbler companions. **Swainson's Thrushes** were still common migrants at the beginning of the period. A few stragglers were still lingering through the end of the period. **Hermit Thrushes** are beginning to show up in lowlands; one was at EEW 9/30 (BP). **Varied Thrushes** were turning up in yards, soon to be accompanied by many wintering American Robins. A **Northern Mockingbird** was seen at West Albany High School 10/16 (JG); a mockingbird is reported in our area

## 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 meeting location.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sheila Byrne & Ronald Sousa, Jeremy Felty, Delores Porch, Amy Rossman, Jenny Saarloos, Jonathan Sharp

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew your membership online go to the ASC website ([www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml](http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us/join.shtml)) & renew via Paypal, or you can mail a check to ASC, PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

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## EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Please note that you need to opt into the ASC listserve. After you sign up, you'll receive up-to-date email notifications about ASC events, field trip locations, volunteer work parties and weather-related cancellations. Send an email to our listserve administrator, Karan Fairchild, and request to be added to the listserve: [alderspr@peak.org](mailto:alderspr@peak.org)

in most winters.

**American Pipits** were abundant, and birders scanned the flocks for longspurs and other possible rarities. Hordes of **Cedar Waxwings** descended on crabapples and other ornamental fruit, once they'd already stripped off the Blue Elderberry and Black Hawthorn berries. A female **Lapland Longspur** was on a gravel road at the Philomath STP 10/8 (SM); variable numbers winter in the valley annually.

A small flock of late-migrating warblers, consisting of 1 **Orange-crowned Warbler**, 1 **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, and 3 **Yellow Warblers**, moved through LNSA 9/28 (JG). An even later lingerer was a Black-throated Gray at Peoria 10/4. 2 **Common Yellowthroats** along 53rd St 10/16 were the last reported (BP). By the middle of the period, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were quite common, but only a handful of **Townsend's Warblers** had been reported. The last **Wilson's Warbler** was found at EEW 9/18 (BP).

Most **Chipping Sparrows** had already left the area, but 1 was at Teloh-Calapooia Park in Albany 9/28 (JSm), and a first-year bird was seen along 53rd St SW of Corvallis 10/16 (BP). A juvenile **Vesper Sparrow** was seen along the railroad tracks at Finley 10/19 (EK); most leave our area by early Oct. **Fox Sparrows** and **Lincoln's Sparrows** were just arriving and passing through last period, but by the end of this period, many were in the places they'll spend the winter. **Swamp Sparrows** were found at Finley 9/28 (DR), 10/10 (WW) and along Hunsaker Rd in Marion Co 10/13 (RG). A **White-throated Sparrow** showed up in a NW Corvallis yard by 10/9 (JSi), soon followed by a few other reports of these uncommon yard birds. Wintering **White-crowned Sparrow** and **Golden-crowned Sparrow** populations are largely in place, and **Dark-eyed Juncos** returned to most yards this period.

A **Western Tanager** was noted in the Bald Hill 10/18 (BP), and a few stragglers may be present into November. The "electrical buzz" call of a **Dickcissel** was heard at Philomath STP 10/6 (DR), but the bird was not relocated. About a dozen Oregon records have been accepted. The last **Black-headed Grosbeak** report from our area was in Peoria 10/1. A very rare fall sighting of an immature male **Indigo Bunting** was reported from TWG/SP 10/5 (WH); only a few fall records have been accepted.

Mixed flocks of **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Brewer's Blackbirds** swirled over agricultural fields this period, but most **Brown-headed Cowbirds** had migrated away. 10 **Western Meadowlarks** were along Wintel Rd at Ankeny 10/20. 1 **Yellow-headed Blackbird** remained at Ankeny until 9/22 (CD).

**Purple Finch** numbers have decreased somewhat as some birds migrate away. **Red Crossbills** were reported from the nearby coast range frequently, and numbers of **Pine Siskins** continued to increase slowly this period. An **American Goldfinch** with mostly white wings and blond coloration elsewhere, showed up at a feeder in SW Albany 10/4 (JSm). Small flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** have been heard consistently throughout the period.

Please post your reports to [midvalleybirding.org](http://midvalleybirding.org), send them to [lisaaves@peak.org](mailto:lisaaves@peak.org), or leave a message at 541-753-7689 by 11/22/14.

- Lisa Millbank

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## ATOP THE NEST BOX

On September 13th, I gave a presentation to the volunteers of the Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project. Approximately 40 people attended. The purpose of the presentation was to tell them about the ASC Bluebird Trail and how it relates to their project. I provided a history of bluebird conservation in the country as well as details of Elsie's work.



I was surprised that none of the attendees had observed phenomena mentioned in the presentation, such as parasitization by the thorny-headed worm, bill deformities, leucism, and extruded air sacs. They had observed only one instance of hostile swallow takeover of a bluebird nest with chicks. The PBRP banders have been marking nearly all of their nestling bluebirds for many years, and they monitor nests on approximately the same schedule as we do. The difference in observations between their project and ours made for some interesting conjecture.

For those of you with nest boxes, please be sure to winter-proof them so they will be fit for winter roosting. Fill any cracks or holes, including the floor of the box, and cover the ventilation holes or spaces. I like to sprinkle a 1" layer of wood shavings as bedding to increase the insulation capacity and/or absorb scat.

*Raylene Gordin*

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## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

### OCTOBER 2014 ASC BOARD MEETING

The board approved the budget submitted by Fred Ramsey and also approved a donation to the Great Basin Society of \$7,465 from the general fund. Discussion of board approval of letters in support of conservation issues was tabled until next month. The next meeting will be at Fred Ramsey's house Nov. 13, 2014.

*Gail Nickerson, Secretary*

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## OSU BIRD NERDS CALENDAR

OSU students interested in birding and wildlife, both personally and educationally, have formed the Bird Nerds group in Corvallis. Here are dates of coming meetings and birding activities, which other Audubon members are welcome to attend:

**Wednesday, November 5th** - OSU Bird Nerd member meeting, at 5:30PM on campus in Nash 032, with special guest Scott Jennings, a graduate student discussing his research on Adélie Penguins in Antarctica.

**Saturday, November 22nd** - Raptor ID Workshop with Dr. Robinson, OSU faculty Ornithologist (location TBA) Wednesday December 3rd - Last OSU Bird Nerd Member meeting of the term, Speaker TBA, on campus in Nash 032 at 5:30 PM

For more information please email us at: [birdnerds@oregonstate.edu](mailto:birdnerds@oregonstate.edu)

*Melanie Ripley, Bird Nerds Outreach Chair*

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## HESTHAVN NEWS

We would like to offer our thanks to students from the GEO 300 class at Oregon State University ("Sustainability for the Common Good"). On October 18, a group of them gathered at Hesthavn and installed some deer fencing. Audubon Society of Corvallis volunteer Julie Gibson has been working hard to restore a large section of the upper meadow at Hesthavn from pasture grasses to native vegetation, but her efforts have been stymied by the voracious deer (who apparently have an especially big appetite for native vegetation). A large section of the meadow now has been fenced off and hopefully the deer will not be able to get through this barrier. Students participating in this project include: Mikayla Kelly, Stephen Mosier, Joseph Wigton, Brandon Lane, Angela Umscheid, James Campeau, and Linnie Kitchen

Weather and fire regulations permitting, we will be burning slash piles at Hesthavn on Saturday, November 15. All are welcome to come join us. Bring marshmallows!

*Ray Drapek*

## HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

If you have moved or changed your email address, send your new contact information to Suzanne Ortiz at [ortizsv@gmail.com](mailto:ortizsv@gmail.com).

*Suzanne Ortiz*

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## CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CHAT

Chris Matthews, Suzanne Ortiz, Bill Proebsting, Jim Fairchild, Teri Engbring, Jessica Brothers, Raylene Gordin, Lisa Millbank, Melanie Ripley, Gail Nickerson, Ray Drapek

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## CHAT ARTICLES

The Chat editors welcome monthly articles from all members of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. Please submit articles to the Chat editor by the 4th Thursday of the month. Always submit text using Microsoft Word.

## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS

## Calendar

Nov 8	Luckiamute Landing field trip
Nov 13	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Fred Ramsey's
Nov 20	ASC General Meeting
Nov 22	Bird Nerds Raptor ID Workshop
	Field notes submissions due
Nov 28	Dec Chat submissions due
Dec 13	Second Saturday field trip, TBA

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Audubon Society of Corvallis  
P.O. Box 148  
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