



THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

FEBRUARY 2015

VOL. 44 #6

ASC GENERAL MEETING DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES



Variegated Meadowhawk obelisking

About once a year we have a program on wildlife other than birds. Our February program presents dragonflies and damselflies. Discover insects in Oregon whose ancestors were here before the dinosaurs, can live for 5 years, fly 35 mph, and truly eat "on the fly." Learn about the life history, habitats, and behavior of these fascinating insects along with a photographic introduction to the Oregon species.

This month we have a tag team presenting. Cary Kerst is an entomologist, with degrees from Purdue and OSU. He is retired from a career in environmental sciences, most recently working for the City of Eugene. He has conducted professional aquatic insect studies on local rivers and streams and authored scientific articles on caddisflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and stoneflies. Steve Gordon graduated in 1973 in Geography from the U of O. After retiring from a career with the Lane Council of Govern-

ments, he became interested in Odonates. He is a long-time birder and was a contributing author to *Birds of Oregon: Status and Distribution* and *Birds of Lane County, Oregon*, and he is a past editor of *Oregon Birds*.

Cary and Steve began studying local dragonflies and damselflies in 1999 and have coauthored *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Willamette Valley, Oregon* in 2005 and *The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Oregon* in 2011. They enjoyed traveling around scenic Oregon in preparation of this guide.

Social hour begins at 6:30, with the chapter meeting starting at 7:00 and the program starting about 7:30. Questions can be directed to me at mathewsc2@comcast.net.

Chris Mathews, Vice Pres. & Program Chair

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

PLAN AHEAD FOR SPRING PROGRAMS

Here are the basics on our monthly General Member Meeting programs for the rest of this spring, with dates, speakers and subjects:

March 19 - Paul Rentz,

Bird photography

April 19 - Ram Papish,

Bird photography

May 21 - Bridget Callahan,

The Wilderness Society - Fiftieth Anniversary of Wilderness Act

ASC GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Feb 19
7:00-8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
9th and Monroe

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FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE

2015 WEEKEND FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

We have six weekend field trips scheduled, starting when birds begin arriving from the south, through their breeding season, and until they leave for warmer climes to the south again.

March 27-29: *The South Coast: Bandon to Port Orford.*

Head to the coast and south for two nights in Bandon by the sea. The timing of this trip hits blossoming manzanita, where we search for Allen's Hummingbirds at the northern edge of the summer range. Other targets are White-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Black Phoebe.

April 24-26: *Rogue Valley.*

May 14-17: *Malheur NWR.*

June 26-28: *Summer Lake to Crater Lake.*

August 13-16: *Steens Mountain.*

September 11-13: *The North Coast: Tillamook to Astoria.*

Transportation on these trips is in 12-person and/or 15-person vans rented from Enterprise. Expenses are shared. Participants will be provided with tour information a month prior to departure. Bird, mammal, herp, butterfly, and odonate checklists are provided.

There will be signup sheets for weekend field trips at the Field Trip table at ASC general meetings, but note that some already filled up in January. Or email Fred Ramsey at framsey5@comcast.net. Deposits of \$50 per person per tour are requested. Make checks out to ASC and mail them to ASC at PO Box 148 in Corvallis, 97339.

Notice the two gaps in this schedule: mid-May to late June and all of July. We may be able to schedule trips to visit other Oregon locations of your choice then.

Fred Ramsey

MONTHLY SECOND SATURDAY HALF DAY FIELD TRIP

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of from September through June at the Benton Center parking area, behind the Cannery Mall, 777 NW 9th St., Corvallis at 7:30 am. This field trip is free and geared towards beginning birders, birders new to Oregon's mid-valley area and persons looking for a pleasant outing. Questions? Contact Bill Proebsting at proebstw@gmail.com or 541-752-0108. Check the Midvalley Listserv at 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 field trip: February 14. Cheadle Lake, Lebanon

Bill Proebsting

ASC'S 2014 FIELD TRIPS

Bingo! 275 species of birds targeted and recorded on our 2014 field trips. ASC conducted ten local second-Saturday trips, eight weekend field trips to the corners of Oregon, and polished off 2014 with its Christmas Bird Count. Lest you think that just a few trips would have brought all that Oregon offers, here is a list of some species recorded on our trips:

Spring South Coast: Red Phalarope, Myrtle Warbler

Klamath: Ross's Goose, Juniper Titmouse, Black Swift, Northern Wheatear, Tricolored Blackbird

Rogue Valley: Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Oak Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, California Towhee

Malheur NWR: Long-billed Curlew, Gray Flycatcher, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Woodhouse's Scrub Jay

Summer Lake: Merlin, Snowy Plover, Yellow Rail

Wallowas: Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Gray Catbird, Townsend's Solitaire

Steens: Baird's Sandpiper, Black Rosy-finch, Sagebrush Sparrow

Fall South Coast: Heermann's Gull, Elegant Tern, Marbled Murrelet, Ruff

CBC: Ruffed Grouse, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Western Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, White-throated Sparrow, Lapland Longspur

Oct. 2nd Sat: Pectoral Sandpiper

And that's not all we found. There were 34 mammals including Elephant Seal, Black Bear, Kangaroo Rat, and Bushy-tailed Pack Rat. There were 13 herps including Great Basin Black-collared Lizard, Desert Spiny Lizard, and Western Whiptail. There were 52 species of butterfly including Coral Hairstreak and Monarch. And we started paying attention to odonates (dragonflies and damselflies), 8 species identified. Although there was no official tally of plants, many beautiful floral displays were encountered.

These trips provide expansive views of the flora and fauna of our magnificent state. I hope you will join us for the 2015 series.

Fred Ramsey



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

FUND NON-GAME WILDLIFE: BUY A 2015 HABITAT CONSERVATION STAMP

For decades Oregon's Department of Fish & Wildlife relied on licenses and tag fees to fund their conservation programs. As hunting and fishing declined in popularity, and our need to benefit non-game species increased, ODFW began a successful income tax credit check-off program to support their non-game activities. Now with a proliferation of tax credit check-offs and swelling ranks of species in decline, there is another and more direct way for us to contribute to improving conditions for many species of concern—the Habitat Conservation Stamp.

HERE IS THE ODFW EXPLANATION FROM THEIR WEBSITE:

The Habitat Conservation Stamp allows Oregonians to purchase an annual stamp to benefit conservation of Oregon's native species and habitats. Stamps sell for \$20 a year. Habitat Conservation stamps and art prints feature fish and wildlife species identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy as species in need of help—Western Meadowlarks, Oregon Spotted Frogs, Northwestern Pond Turtles, Pygmy Rabbits, Gray Whales and many more. Revenue is used for restoration of habitats vital to our declining species, including wetlands, grasslands, oak woodlands and ponderosa pine forests. The stamp is available for purchase at ODFW license sales agents, at ODFW offices that sell licenses, and online.

In previous years, this stamp sold for \$40, and included as a bonus the \$22 state wildlife area parking permit. For 2015 the Oregon Wildlife Commission has directed ODFW to sell stamps for \$20, and parking permits must be purchased separately. Although this new direction decreases non-game support on a per-stamp sale basis, the Commission hopes to see stamp sales increase significantly.

Your purchase of a 2015 Habitat Conservation Stamp, or limited edition art prints, is still the best way to demonstrate our support for ODFW non-game habitat projects. And collectively, our stamp purchases could begin to dispel the notion that non-consumptive wildlife viewers aren't willing to pay for habitat conservation.

\$20 is a good start!

Jim Fairchild

FIELD NOTES

12/23/14-1/27/15

Late December's heavy rains combined with snow melt in the mountains produced local flooding in bottom lands along the

Willamette. As temperatures dropped so did the water levels, leaving sheets of ice that sagged into depleted ponds and swales on New Years Day. Hungry birds made use of berries which in some cases had fermented during December's warm spell. Another warm spell had **Pacific Chorus-Frogs** singing in force by late January.

Locations: ANWR = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), AV = Adair Village, CVO = Corvallis Airport, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, FNWR = William L. Finley NWR, HSP = Sarah Helmick State Park, JFW = Jackson-Frazier Wetland, LSNA = Luckiamute State Natural Area, MDF = McDonald-Dunn Forest, SP = State Park, PSTP = Philomath STP, Stewart Lake = lake on HP campus in Corvallis, TWG = Talking Water Gardens in Albany.

Observers: AFo: Andrea Foster, AIC: Alan Contreras, AMM: Anne Mary Myers, BA: Bob Altman, BCI: Bev Clark, BDu: Bruce Dugger, BPr: Bill Proebsting, BTi: Bill Tice, CBu: Carrie Burkholder, ChH: Charlotte Hottmann, ChR: Chris Reidy, CHi: Carol Hiler, CO: Catherine Otto, DAL: Don Albright, DBi: Doug Bilsland, DBo: Don Boucher, DEEm: Deanna Emig, DRo: Doug Robinson, DSB: Dale Simon-Brown, EKn: Erik Knight, GH: Grant Hoyt, GLi: Gavin Lippsmeyer, HB: Howard Bruner, HH: Hendrik Herlyn, HDz: Hannah Denzer, IDz: Isaac Denzer, JBB: Jean Baecher Brown, JBo: Jamie Boulton, JCr: John Criscitiello, JDS: Jim Smith, JF: Jeff Fleischer, JGe: Joel Geier, JH: Jeff Harding, JHi: Jim Hiler, JHz: Jon Hazen, JiF: Jim Fairchild, Jj: Jarod Jebousek, JLa: Janet Lamberson, JSi: Jamie Simmons, JSw: Jenny Swanson, KCo: Ken Corcoran, KJo: Karin Johnson, KLa: Karin Lamberson, KnF: Karan Fairchild, LM: Lisa Millbank, LMc: Lynne McAllister, LPN: Lars Norgren, MB: Mark Baldwin, MBr: Michael Brawner, MBS: Matt Blakely-Smith, MC: Marcia F. Cutler, MG: Mary Garrard, MGe: Martha Geier, MLI: Mike Lippsmeyer, MLS: Marylee Sayre, MMo: Mollie Monroe, MRa: Michael Rauscher, PA: Paul Adamus, PCo: Pam Comeleo, PO: Pam Otle, PSo: Priscilla Sokolowski, PRz: Paul Rentz, PTS: Paul Sullivan, RCo: Randy Comeleo, RCr: Robin Corcoran, RFo: Rana Foster, RHo: Richard Hoyer Sr., SHg: Susan Hatlevig, SHz: Stephanie Hazen, SLi: Stephen Lindsay, SOz: Suzanne Ortiz, THy: Tristen Hynes, TOn: Tom Olson, TWi: Teresa Wicks, VP: Virginia Pear, VSB: Viviane Simon-Brown, VSt: Virginia Stanton, WW: Will Wright. ACBC: Airlie-Albany CBC area (held on 3 Jan, results fide PA).

A flock of 26 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found NW of Albany 3 Jan (SOz, JCr); a very similarly sized flock was near Halsey 14-22 Jan (DEm); two consorted with the resident domestic geese at Waverly Park thru the period. Four **Snow Geese** were at ANWR 3 Jan (JJ, AMM, MBS, ChR); three were at PSTP 20 Jan (WW) with two still there 21 Jan (JSw). An adult **Ross's Goose** turned up with a flock of **Cackling Geese** w. of CVO 20-21 Jan (DEm; WW; JSw). A **Ross's Goose** was later at FNWR 27 Jan (HH). A "**Western**" **Canada Goose** was up on a nesting platform at EEW 7 Jan though not yet brooding.

Nine **Trumpeter Swans** were near Suver 1 Jan (MMo). By 28 Jan two flocks totaling 54 were feeding with 35 **Tundra Swans** near Suver and Maple Grove (JGe). Large flocks of **Tundra Swans** at FNWR thru the period included one 1 Jan with extensive yellow on bill, as for the "Bewick's" (Eurasian) subspecies (DRo). Over 400 were s. of Halsey 14-22 Jan (DEm; PSo, MLS). 14 visited PSTP 20 Jan (HB,HH); seven flew over North Albany 21 Jan (RCo, KCo).

Wood Ducks were sparse with just scattered reports of small groups. An ASC field trip 10 Jan found 50 **Gadwall** at TWG and nearby Simpson Park (BPr, MB). Two **Eurasian Wigeons** were with 450 **American Wigeons** in Albany 3 Jan (PA, HDz, IDz). **Cinnamon Teal** mostly go south for winter, but in recent years, some have stayed around; two were at TWG 1 Jan (JBB) and 15 were in ne Albany 3 Jan (JF, PTS). 269 **Northern Shovelers** and 2423 **Northern Pintails** were recorded on the ACBC. Among many "American"

Green-winged Teal near ANWR 3 Jan was a male “**Common**” Teal (Eurasian subspecies) (BDu).

Lone **Canvasbacks** were at FNWR 30 Dec (HB) and at Waverly Park 16 Jan (JGe); up to 20 were recorded at Stewart Lake and PSTP thru the period. A **Redhead** was at PSTP 1 Jan (HH); up to two were noted thru the period (m.obs.). 138 **Ring-necked Ducks** were recorded on the ACBC, mainly at ANWR and ne of Albany. 51 **Lesser Scaup** and 126 **Buffleheads** were also found. **Greater Scaup** included one at PSTP 1 Jan (HH), 8 near HSP 3 Jan (GH), and one at AV 26 Jan (JGe). A male **Common Goldeneye** visited the Knoll Terrace STP near Lewisburg 3 Jan (JGe). Two first-year male **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were on PSTP 1 Jan (HH). 33 **Hooded Mergansers** and 34 **Common Mergansers** 34 were found for the ACBC. **Ruddy Ducks** were unusually widespread: besides regular sites such as PSTP and ANWR where up to 145 and 258 were recorded (HH; EKn), 20 were at Adair Village STP 26 Jan and one even showed up 9 Jan at EEW.

A female **Ring-necked Pheasant** was photographed in N Albany 3 Jan (SOz, JCr). A **Sooty Grouse** flew thru woods below the campground on Marys Peak 10 Jan (JiF, KnF). A flock of not-very **Wild Turkeys** in Lebanon 11 Jan included several males strutting to impress the hens (CHI, JHi); 148 were recorded for the ACBC. Five **Mountain Quail** visited a feeder along Soap Creek 3 Jan (DBi). **California Quail** perched atop a grain elevator s. of Oakville Grange 4 Jan (Rfo).

Eight **Eared Grebes** were on the PSTP 1 Jan (HH). 20 **Western Grebes** were ne of Albany 3 Jan (JF, PTS).

38 **Double-crested Cormorants** and 59 **Great Blue Herons** were recorded on the ACBC. **Great Egrets** were scarce away from FNWR, with just three for the ACBC. One was at Stewart Lake thru the period (JSi). A wintering **Green Heron** was at TWG 3 & 10 Jan (JF, PTS; BPr, MB).

Single **Turkey Vultures** were near Buena Vista 14 Jan (BTi), heading north over Elkins Rd. 18 Jan (MLi, GLi), and w. of Junction City 16 Jan (SLi). Several fed on a carcass near AV 12 Jan (ODFW staff). An **Osprey** was over the N. Santiam River at Stayton 24 Jan (JH).

The only **White-tailed Kites** found on Linn/Benton raptor routes in late Jan were one along Robison Rd. and two in Kings Valley (fide JF).

An adult **Bald Eagle** at PSTP 24 Jan failed to catch a plucky **Cackling Goose** that escaped by ducking under the water repeatedly (PO). 38 **Bald Eagles** were at a regular winter roost near Tangent 19 Jan (VSB, DSB); close to 30 were nearby along Tangent Dr 17 Jan (LM). A smaller group was perched on posts around a chicken farm w. of CVO 21 Jan (JSw). Totals of 140 and 10 were recorded on Linn/Benton raptor routes in late Jan (JF).

High numbers of **Northern Harriers** continue to be seen including dozens s. of Oakville Grange 4 Jan (Rfo), and totals of 117 and 20 on Linn/Benton raptor routes (JF). Eight **Cooper's Hawks** and ten **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were found on the ACBC. A juvenile sharpie impacted the behavior of birds at feeders near Teloh-Calapooia Park in Albany (JDS).

Red-shouldered Hawks continued their steady increase with 13 found for the ACBC, up from last year's record count of 11. Seven were found on Linn/Benton raptor routes (JF). An adult male was just s. of the Benton Co. fairgrounds 13 Jan (RHo). **Red-tailed Hawks** were also abundant with 247 on the ACBC and 596 on Linn/Benton raptor routes (JF). Two pairs soaring together w. of Corvallis 13 Jan (DBo) signaled the approach of nesting season. Five **Rough-legged Hawks** were found on the ACBC; 31 were recorded on Linn/Benton raptor routes in late Jan (JF). A juv. **Golden Eagle** continued at FNWR 30 Dec (HB), and was photographed 7 Jan just before a **Northern Harrier** gave chase (PRz). Another **Golden Eagle** was s. of Oakville Grange 4 Jan (Rfo).

Several **Virginia Rails** called at JFW 25 Dec (DBo, LM) and 26 Jan (Rfo). Two **Soras** were at TWG 3 Jan (JF, PTS). The ACBC also recorded 600 **American Coots** at ANWR and on the ne side of Albany.

Hundreds of **Killdeer** were in fields along Peoria Rd. 17 Jan (LM). Another large flock was along Simpson Rd. in late Jan (SHz). A few **Dunlin** shared the logs with cormorants at FNWR 30 Dec (HB). The ACBC turned up just a single **Long-billed Dowitcher** at ANWR (JJ, AMM, MBS, ChR), but 41 **Wilson's Snipe**. The rarest shorebird of the day was **Red-necked Phalarope** in AV (TWi, LMc), distinguished from Red Phalarope by its thin bill and streaked back.

A **Franklin's Gull** was photographed se. of Albany 28 Dec (DRo). Several hundred gulls along Hwy 34 near Oakville Rd 29 Dec included many **Ring-billed** and **Mew Gulls**, a few **Herring**, **Thayer's** and **California Gulls** along with **Glaucous-winged Gulls** (AIC).

The ACBC tallied 65 **Rock Pigeons**, 106 **Eurasian Collared-Doves**, and 191 **Mourning Doves**. A **Band-tailed Pigeon** turned up sw. of Philomath 27 Jan (JiF, KnF).

A female **Barn Owl** flew around and perched on a building near First Alternative in s. Corvallis 24 Dec, perhaps looking for a nest site (DBo, LM). The ACBC yielded 14 **Great Horned Owls**, 10 **Western Screech-Owls** (mainly in McDonald Forest and in the Buena Vista area), plus five **Northern Saw-whet Owls** and one **Northern Pygmy-Owl** in McDonald Forest (DBo, LM). Another **Northern Pygmy-Owl** turned up near Chip Ross Park 30 Dec (TOn, CBu); one was mobbed by chickadees on Coffin Butte 19 Jan (MBr). At least two **Burrowing Owls** continued thru the end of December in sw. Linn Co, including one HY bird that was originally banded near Kamloops BC, and one unbanded bird. **Barred Owls** were missed for the ACBC, but on 6 Jan one was roosting just s. of EEW HQ 6 Jan (BPr), and another was struck by car near HSP 14 Jan (fide MLi). **Short-eared Owls** included three along Diamond Hill Rd 26 Dec (PSo), one along Bruce Rd 27 Jan (HH), and one near Millersburg 3 Jan (JF, PS).

A record 45 **Anna's Hummingbirds** were found on the ACBC – quite a change from 11 years ago, when we were excited to record the first one for this count! Displaying males were noted throughout the period. A pair copulated near Teloh-Calapooia Park 18 Jan (JDS).

A **Belted Kingfisher** along the n. Corvallis bike path might have been looking for frogs 25 Dec (DBo, LM).

The **Acorn Woodpecker** colony e. of the Benton Co. fairgrounds was active 13 Jan (DBo). Some storing filberts near Palestine 3 Jan (MGE, JGe) were among the record total of 42 for the ACBC; other woodpeckers included 27 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers**, 43 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 23 **Hairy Woodpecker** (record high), 8 **Pileated Woodpeckers** including 6 in MDF, and 228 **Northern Flickers**. An intergrade male Red-shafted x Yellow-shafted flicker in nw Corvallis on 18 & 26 Jan may be the same bird returning annually since 12 Mar 2011 (JSi).

High numbers of **American Kestrels** continued with 113 on the ACBC and 345 on Linn/Benton raptor routes in late Jan (JF). Pairs were seen copulating in N. Albany 26 Dec (CHI, JHi) and near JFW 17 Jan (JGe).

Four **Merlins** were found on the ACBC. A female or imm. **Merlin** harassed a **Red-tailed Hawk** along Peoria Rd. 17 Jan (LM).

Peregrine Falcons included a “tundrius” type with very narrow cheek bar at Crawfordsville Cemetery 26 Dec (MC), and a very dark-faced individual along Fayetteville Rd. that was driven away by **ravens** 17 Jan (LM). 1 or 2 at FNWR 30 Dec (HB); one s. of Philomath munched on a **Northern Shoveler** 21 Jan (VSt). **Prairie Falcons** were seen in Linn Co. along Sand Ridge Rd and Glaser Rd. 1 & 19 Jan (CHI, JHi), and along Elkins Rd near HSP 3 Jan (GH). Five were found on Linn Co. raptor routes in late Jan (JF).

Eight **Black Phoebes** were a new record for the ACBC. Four were



farther s. in Linn Co. including one calling near the Calapooia R. bridge 17 Jan (LM). A **Say's Phoebe** was just s. of Alsea 10 Jan (JLa, KLa).

A **Northern Shrike** continuing at Corvallis Airport was seen intermittently thru the period Jan (MB; JHz). Another was at the FNWR prairie overlook 23 Jan (WW). Four **Hutton's Vireos** were found for the ACBC, most in McDonald Forest where a **Gray Jay** was also found (DBo, LM). **Western Scrub-Jays** outnumbered **Steller's Jays** on the ACBC, 444 to 224. A likely **Blue Jay** heard repeatedly at EEW 13 Jan could not be located visually (BPr). A hundred **American Crows** were upset with an adult Cooper's Hawk nw Corvallis 10 Jan (LM, DBo). **Common Ravens** at Coffin Butte started courtship displays by the end of the period.

300 **Horned Larks** s of Monmouth 15 Dec left when 3000 Cackling Geese descended on the field 23 Dec, but 85 returned 28 Dec (MLi). A pale female of the "arctica" race was with "**Streaked**" **Horned Larks** along Glaser Rd. w. of Lebanon 18 Jan (JH).

Black-capped Chickadees sang in nw Corvallis 2 Jan (CO). Two **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** turned up in N. Albany 24 Jan (CHi). A huge flock of **Bushtits** visited Elsie Eltzroth's Corvallis yard twice in early Jan.

Red-breasted Nuthatches outnumbered **White-breasted Nuthatches** 71 to 32 on the ACBC. 48 **Brown Creepers** were found, mainly in MDF.

A **Bewick's Wren** roosting in an artificial pine bough in North Albany slept better after CHi added a small nest of dried grass 5 Jan. Both **Bewick's** and **Pacific Wrens** were singing regularly by the end of the period. **Marsh Wrens** were sparse, with JFW, TWG, and FNWR producing the only reports of multiple birds. 577 of the 785 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** for the ACBC were in MDF. 28 of the 99 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were in Dunn Forest (PCo, RCo); one was singing at LSNA 13 Jan (BTi).

Seven **Western Bluebirds** roosted in a nest box along Campus Way in Corvallis 1 Jan (LPN); more foraged nearby 13 Jan (DBo).

Hermit Thrushes have been scarce this winter; single birds were noted at Simpson Park, EEW, LSNA, and Adair County Park (MB, JGe). **Varied Thrushes** on the other hand have been abundant, with 340 for the ACBC compared with 15 last year. Dozens of slightly inebriated **American Robins** fed on partly fermented Pyracantha berries in the Palestine area 3 Jan (MGe, JGe), among the 2576 recorded for the ACBC.

Wrentits were in several places e. of Brownsville 26 Dec (MC); 26 were found on the ACBC, all w. of the Willamette River. Several hundred **American Pipits** were along Eicher Rd. 25 Dec (Roy Gerig); over 1000 were in the Peoria/Tangent areas 17 Jan (LM). 20 **Cedar Waxwings** were near HSP (GH).

Wintering **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at Simpson Park 3 Jan (JF, PTS), near AV 3 Jan (BA), and near HSP (GH). 1 was at FNWR 27 Jan (BPr). 86 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found for the ACBC, and a **Common Yellowthroat** was found at ANWR (JJ, MBS, AMM, Chr). On 8 Jan an observer in nw Corvallis reported that two warblers identified as **Yellow-throated Warblers** had been visiting a suet feeder intermittently for five weeks (KJo). The description was very thorough, including details that seemed to rule out more expected warblers such as **Townsend's Warblers** that were also present, and which turned up to brighten other yards around Corvallis (AFo, SHg, JSw).

The ACBC found good numbers of common wintering sparrow species including 473 **Spotted Towhees**, 828 **Song Sparrows**, 238 "**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrows**, 522 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 814 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, and 1996 **Dark-eyed Juncos**. Numbers of **Savannah Sparrows** (43), **Lincoln's Sparrows** (26) and **White-throated Sparrows** (22) were modest considering the abundant habitat and favorable weather. More rare species for winter included a **Chipping Sparrow** near Jefferson (BDu) and two **Swamp Sparrows** at LSNA (JGe). A **Swamp Sparrow** at EEW 24

Dec dodged the ACBC but reappeared 7 Jan (BDu; JGe); one sang at LSNA 13 Jan (BTi), and one turned up in Adair County Park 26 Jan (JGe).

The rarest sparrow was a "**Red**" **Fox Sparrow** (probably from the subspecies that nests in the taiga of western Canada) photographed in nw Corvallis 28-30 Dec (TOn, CBu). "**Slate-colored**" **Juncos** were seen near ANWR 8 Jan (ChH), on Marys Peak 10 Jan. 1 slate-colored at ChH's feeder near ANWR NWR 8 Jan. 1 slate-colored on Marys Peak 10 Jan (JiF, KnF), in Albany 17 Jan (DEm) and in nw Corvallis 27 Jan (JSi). Unusual "**Oregon**" **Juncos** included one with white cheek patches in Soap Creek Valley 26 Dec (DBi) and one with a bold white eye ring in Corvallis 17 Jan (MRa). A **Lapland Longspur** was s. of Monmouth 28 Dec (MLi).

A nearly pure-white **Red-winged Blackbird** with pale tan on the head and back, and hints of a female head pattern, faint dark eye stripe and pale bill, was photographed at FNWR 21 Jan (PRz). 12 **Western Meadowlarks** were along the Campus Way bike path w. of OSU 13 Jan (DBo); up to 70 were in a tree farm near Muddy Cr. school 13 Jan (RHo).

Six **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** continued atop Marys Peak thru 10 Jan (JiF, KnF), with three still there 24 Jan (WW). Singing **Purple Finches** were noted in Corvallis 25 Dec & 8 Jan (DBo; TWi). Ten **Red Crossbills** fed on Douglas-fir cones near Holley 26 Dec (MC); 33 were in McDonald Forest 3 Jan (DBo, LM). A **Common Redpoll** was reported with a **goldfinch** flock on the n. side of FNWR 1 Jan (DRo). **Pine Siskins** seem to be back in good numbers, with 114 found for the ACBC after none were found last winter. **Evening Grosbeaks** were missed on the ACBC but a few were noted in nw. Corvallis 31 Dec (MC) and 2 Jan (SHg).

For next month, please post your reports to midvalleybirding.org, e-mail them to me at joel.geier@peak.org, or call (541) 745-5821 by 24 Feb 2015

ATOP THE NESTBOX

I wrote an article in the January 2014 Chat about birds being trapped in pipes in western states. Scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) have identified open bollards and pipes of many kinds as potentially large-scale threats to many species of birds, especially cavity-nesters. In a 25,000 acre site in northern New Mexico, more than 25% of the 4" diameter open bollards contained dead birds. Eleven percent of pipes 3½" to 4" diameter at another site contained dead birds. Open pipes on gates along a highway on federal land north of LANL were found to be 14% positive for bird carcasses. According to the American Bird Conservancy, open pipes are very frequently used to anchor gates in the western U.S.

Federal officials have documented horrors such as a single PVC pipe in Nevada that killed 26 birds, and a single pipe in Oregon that killed 32 birds.

Western Bluebirds accounted for 61% of the identifiable bird species in these pipes. Ash-throated Flycatchers, Acorn Woodpeckers and White-breasted Nuthatches were also identified.

The BLM administers over 3½ million mining claims on

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dale Holiday
Heather Wofford

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

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

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, fieldtrip 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

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.

Suzanne Ortiz

which open plastic or PVC pipes are used to mark corners and boundaries. Laws have been passed in Nevada encouraging the removal or crimping of open pipes used for mining claims and allowing any citizen to pull up open-pipe markers. Some Audubon chapters have organized pipe-pulling parties! (Sounds like great fun to me.) The US Forest Service is also fixing outhouse pipes to prevent further avian losses.

Please help in identifying dangerous pipes and getting them removed, capped or crimped, and in educating the public about this insidious problem. With so many cats, windows and windmills also taking bird lives, every closed or removed pipe will help.

Raylene Gordin

ASC EDUCATION NEWS

WINTER WILDLIFE FIELD DAY – A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS AND PARTICIPANTS!

Announcing ASC's first Winter Wildlife Outdoor Field Day from 9 am to 1 pm at Finley NWR on March 7!

ASC volunteers are working with scouts and other groups, friends of Willamette Refuges, William Finley Refuge staff and Chintimini Wildlife Center to plan a fun day in Nature for local youth! Please help us get the word out about this program for school age kids and families in the Corvallis area. We also need a few more volunteers to help run activity stations, from guided hikes to cutting wood for nest box building!

Our goal in this Winter Wildlife Exploration is to encourage kids and teens to become more familiar with local winter habitats and wildlife. The ideal place to spotlight this is Finley National Wildlife Refuge, where all activities will take place. This is a fun opportunity to get into nature, explore a protected refuge, gain a better understanding of the world around us, and earn a Nature Explorer badge! Hands-on activity stations, nature walks and discovery are featured, plus a live bird demo by our friends from Chintimini Wildlife Center, always a treat! We also want to thank Mary's River Lumber for donating the precious cedar planks for making the bluebird nest boxes.

Volunteer Jeremy Felty has put together a wonderful naturalist skills worksheet with a range of activities, similar to the Boy Scout Naturalist badge. We will also have Nature Explorer badges that participants can earn.

Please contact Jeremy Felty at feltyj@onid.oregonstate.edu or ASC Education Chair Jessica Brothers or volunteer Teri Engbring (contact info on back page of this CHAT) if you can help March 7, or to sign up group or individual participants! Advance notice helps us do a better job.

Volunteers are asked to please respond ASAP so we have every station fully covered. Stations include: bluebird nest box building, Habitat Hike, Learning about Birds, Bird parts and Drawing, Young Birders Intro, Why Refuges are Needed, and a Guided Birding Walk. Bring your kids, friends, neighbors, and youth groups to Finley March 7 to explore our winter habitats and avian visitors.

Teri Engbring

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

JANUARY 2105 ASC BOARD MEETING

The board met Jan. 8th. Two motions were approved: a donation to help sponsor the Sustainability Coalition and renting a table for \$70 at the Sustainability Fair in March. The next meeting will be held Feb. 12th at David Mellinger's house.

Gail Nickerson, Secretary



NOAH STRYCKER BIG YEAR UPDATE

Here's news on our October, 2014 General Member Meeting Speaker, Noah Strycker. His Big Year is underway with 614 species in the first 29 days! Suzanne Ortiz says you can follow his adventures daily at these websites:

www.audubon.org/features/birding-without-borders

OR

www.audubonmagazine.org/news/the-species-list

Here's an excerpt: This year I will try to become the first person to see 5,000 species of birds in one calendar year. Rather than hiring international tour guides, I'll spend my time with passionate locals—individuals who care about their home patches, and who are making a difference for birds in their own areas.

It will be one continuous trip, with no out-and-backs. In chronological order, I will spend a few days in Antarctica, three and a half months in South America, two months in Central and North America, a week and a half in Europe, two and a half months in Africa, three months in Asia and some Pacific islands, and three weeks in Australia, traveling by short hops. I'm packing super light. Everything—binoculars, a tiny laptop, malaria pills, a mosquito net, water-purification tablets—must fit in one small, carry-on backpack. My bulkiest item is a compact Leica spotting scope. I might take an extra pair of underwear.

Nobody has ever before tried a single, yearlong, round-the-world birding trip. In 2008 a British couple, Ruth Miller and Alan Davies, managed to see 4,341 species by squeezing a lot of birding tours into one intense year, but I'll take more of a big-picture approach. I'll just keep birding, across one border after another, for 365 straight days. It's hard to say what's possible, but 5,000 is a nice round number!

I'm 28, and a full-time bird nerd. I have been fortunate to study birds on six continents already, mostly by working on various far-flung research projects, and have spent more than two years of my life sleeping in tents. I enjoy writing about my adventures. (Newsweek, while reviewing my recent book, *The Thing With Feathers*, called me the "Birdman of Razzmatazz"—whatever that means!) I'm certainly not wealthy; like other full-scale expeditions. This one is financed by advances and sponsorships. Assuming I make it through this year, I will eventually write another book, to be released by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

It is exhilarating, daunting, and a bit surreal to embark on a full—and maybe frantic—year of birding. Seeing thousands of birds in 12 months is a thrilling proposition, but even more than racking up species, I'm looking forward to exploring the nature of birding in the digital age. I hope you'll join me on this quest, through updates on the blog and in Audubon's magazine. Who knows—maybe I'll see you out there!

Noah Strycker

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT!

Give Mother Nature a valentine this year and show how much you care about birds by counting them for the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The 18th annual count is taking place February 13 through 16. Anyone in the world can count birds at any location for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count and enter their sightings at www.BirdCount.org. The information gathered by tens of thousands of volunteers helps track changes in bird populations on a massive scale. The GBBC is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, with partner Bird Studies Canada.

Teri Engbring

OPEN 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.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CHAT

Chris Matthews, Fred Ramsey, Bill Proebsting, Jim Fairchild, Joel Geier, Noah Strycker, Raylene Gordon, Teri Engbring, Gail Nickerson, Suzanne Ortiz

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 final Thursday of the month. Always submit text using Microsoft Word.

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF
CORVALLIS

CALENDAR

Feb 12	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Dave Mellinger's
Feb 14	Field trip to Cheadle Lake, Lebanon
Feb 19	ASC General Meeting
Feb 24	Field Notes submissions due
Feb 26	Mar 2015 Chat submissions due

The Chat is published 10 times a year by the Audubon Society of Corvallis, PO Box 148, Corvallis OR 97339. Annual ASC memberships are \$25 for an individual; \$35 for a family; \$15 for student; \$15 for Chat only subscriptions (email delivery only); \$50 for Supporting Level; \$100 for Patron Level; and \$200 for Benefactor Level.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Interested in volunteering?
Please let us know: volunteerasc@gmail.com

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

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