



THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

DECEMBER 2015

VOL. 45 #4

ASC GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, DEC 17, 7:00-8:30 PM
AT CHINTIMINI SENIOR CENTER:
2601 NW TYLER AVE (& 27TH), CORVALLIS

Thank you to everyone who helps us set up chairs at 6:15 and take them down afterwards.

DECEMBER PROGRAM:

MEMBER SLIDE NIGHT
CALLING ALL ASC MEMBERS:
SHOW OFF YOUR PHOTOS!



December's ASC meeting is Member Slide Night. Gather your best nature photos, videos, sound recordings, or whatever, and share them with us the evening of Dec. 17. Any fun or interesting photo(s) of birds, other animals, plants, nature scenes, etc. are welcome. Bring about 20 of your favorites, along with accompanying stories.

If you can, send your file to me in advance. Otherwise, bring your slides to the meeting on a flash drive. Plan to arrive around 6:30 pm so that we can load your files. From past experience, presentations work best if the photos are incorporated into PowerPoint. It is simple to set up and works better at the meeting. If you have physical (film) slides, please bring your own projector.

Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments and visiting. The chapter meeting begins at 7:00 pm, with member slides beginning at 7:30 or soon after. Questions can be directed to me at proebstw@gmail.com. We hope to see you on December 17.

Bill Proebsting, Vice Pres. & Program Chair, proebstw@gmail.com

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM:

Jan. 21- Birding the Manu Road in Peru with William Proebsting

ASC GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Nov 19
7:00-8:30 pm

At New Location:
Chintimini Senior Center,
2601 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis
Thank you to everyone who
has helped set up chairs at
6:15 and take them down
afterwards.

In This Issue

- Field Trips.....26
- President's Corner26
- Conservation Corner 26-27
- ASC Education News27
- Field Notes 27-30
- Membership Corner30
- Community Notes..... 30-31
- Board Meeting Summary31
- Contributors to this CHAT31
- Calendar32

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

LOCAL SECOND SATURDAY FIELD TRIP

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of each month 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. Contact Bill Proebsting at proebstw@gmail.com or 541-752-0108 with questions. 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 HALF DAY FIELD TRIP: DECEMBER 12. TALKING WATERS, ALBANY.

This is an easy walk among several artificial wetlands built to cool treated wastewater. These features attract a variety of ducks and wading birds that can be seen in close proximity. This site is adjacent to Simpson Park where we can check additional ponds, the Willamette River and riparian forest.

Bill Proebsting

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

COASTAL DEVELOPMENT THREATENS BIRD MIGRATION IN THE YELLOW SEA

An article in the 9 October, 2015 issue of Science describes impending ecological disaster in the Yellow Sea, where coastal mudflats in China, North and South Korea, and Japan provide a crucial stopping point for birds on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.



*Spoon-billed Sandpiper photo by JJ Harrison
([jjharrison89@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/jjharrison89))*

Nearly 500 species of birds depend on feeding grounds in coastal mudflats and wetlands for sustenance en route between breeding grounds in the far north and winter habitat

in Australia. In the past 50 years some 50 to 80 percent of the tidal flats in China and the Koreas has been lost to development. The percentage of China's

18,000-kilometer coastline bounded by seawalls has increased from 18 to 61 percent in the past two decades, forming a new "Great Wall of China." Upstream development, in the form of huge dams, is cutting off the sediment that restores coastal mudflats.

One iconic bird species, among the hundreds affected, is the spoon-billed sandpiper (see picture). This bird is well adapted to life on mudflats, with a bill designed to pummel mud to liquefaction, so that tiny shrimps can be detected and eaten. But its very specialization threatens its ability to adapt to new habitats. The number of pairs of this bird spotted at Russian breeding sites has dropped tenfold since the 1970s.

According to Christine Larson, author of this article, Beijing is beginning to take notice

of the problem—although China does not have laws for wetland conservation or protection. Meanwhile, powerful economic incentives promote further coastal development. Let's hope it is not too late for conservation awareness to reach our Asian friends and help to save this precious resource.

Chris Mathews, ASC President

CONSERVATION CORNER

We think of interior Great Basin wetlands as great places to concentrate water birds, as well as great places to manage water for crops, birds and wildlife, and of course other human uses. As birders, we like wetlands, and wetland restoration projects regularly find funding as off-site mitigation for human developments where other wetlands or natural systems are lost.

Wetlands are also known to filter and clean many contaminants and pollution from water. They also absorb AND redistribute various forms of atmospheric mercury, the most toxic of which is methyl mercury. Here's a weblink to Smithsonian's Environmental Research Center newsletter article as a good primer on one contaminant:

www.serc.si.edu/about/07_mitchell_mercury.aspx

Worldwide industrialization and coal combustion are significant sources of mercury above its naturally occurring levels in the air. Absorption rates of methyl mercury by wetlands are significantly affected by pH and dissolved organics. Some redistribution of this mercury is bio-accumulated in the food chain, so there is a greater concern for toxin accumulation and mortality in invertebrate feeders like shorebirds than in grain feeders like ducks, and greatest in fish feeding birds like loons.

Chewaucan River water, flowing towards Lake Abert, is increasingly diverted to alfalfa and forage production. Irrigators are receiving funding (e.g. Wetlands Joint Venture,



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board) to flood fields in the spring. Here the practice of flooding agricultural fields in spring provides longer foraging opportunities for waterfowl. But the slower biochemical methyl mercury detoxification here may already be causing significant shorebird mortalities, as is happening in Central California rice fields.

So here's something to think about: not all wetlands are alike. It may be that stable marshes and wetlands, with their greater organic component, have a greater ability to isolate mercury from food chain bio-accumulation than newly created or re-created wetlands. Given this information, we should give more thought to conserving natural systems, rather than accepting acre-for-acre mitigations, and greater consideration to the ultimate fate of birds we see finding their food in human-altered landscapes.

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair

ASC EDUCATION NEWS

2016 WINTER WILDLIFE FIELD DAY

Last March ASC volunteers put together a fun, interactive educational event at the Finley National Wildlife Refuge called Winter Wildlife Field Day (WWFD). Our super education team volunteers are prepping for a second field day at Finley from 10 am to 2 pm on March 12, 2016, with guided hikes, interactive stations, live birds on display thanks to the Chintimini Wildlife Center's Raptor Conservation Program, and many chances to explore Nature on the refuge.

All current and potential new volunteers are welcome to come to the next planning meeting for the event on Friday, Dec 4, from noon to 1:15, at the Market of Choice (Ninth and Circle) in their upstairs meeting room. We will continue to develop activity stations, and ways to reach out to the community about the program. Help is needed both in planning and/or on event day, so you will be appreciated and supported in whatever role you choose. Please contact Teri Engbring, WWFD volunteer coordinator to volunteer. Contact information is on the back page of the CHAT.

Teri Engbring

FIELD NOTES

10/28/15-11/24/15

Despite nearly four inches of rain this month, wetlands were slow fill after the extraordinarily dry summer and early fall. Temperatures remained mild with no significant frost on the valley floor until a light frost on the morning of 21 Nov. A harder frost on 22 & 23 Nov finally brought an end to the outdoor gardening season for non-hardy vegetables. Cottonwoods that had held most of their leaves far into fall were dropping them quickly at the end of the period.

Locations: ANWR = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), BHF: Bald Hill Farm, BSNWR = Baskett Slough NWR, DF = Dunn Forest, EEW = E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, Eicher pond (informal name) is a flooded former gravel quarry off of Eicher Rd east of Albany, FNWR = William L. Finley NWR, LSNA = Luckiamute State Natural Area, MDF = McDonald Forest, PSTP = Philomath sewage treatment ponds, TCP = Teloh-Calapooia Park in Albany, TWG = Talking Water Gardens in Albany. Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at FNWR.

Observers: AFo: Andrea Foster, ANo: Allen Norby, BCo: Barbara Combs, BPr: Bill Proebsting, CCe: Caleb Centanni, CHi: Carol Hiler, CHk: Christopher Hinkle, DBo: Don Boucher, DEm: Deanna Emig, DFe: Dan Fenske, DPo: Delores Porch, DRo: Doug Robinson, ECe: Evan Centanni, FrK: Frank Kolwicz, GHa: Greg Hayworth, GW: Gary Whitehouse, HB: Howard Bruner, HFu: Harry Fuller, HH: Hendrik Herlyn, IDz: Isaac Denzer, JBo: Jamie Boulton, JDS: Jim Smith, JF: Jeff Fleischer, JGe: Joel Geier, JH: Jeff Harding, JHi: Jim Hiler, JLi: Judy List, JLy: Jesse Laney, JPh: Jim Philipson, JrP: Jerry Paul, JSi: Jamie Simmons, JLe: Jim Leonard, JuP: Judith Paul, LHa: Linda Hadfield, LM: Lisa Millbank, LPN: Lars Norgren, MB: Mark Baldwin, MC: Marcia F. Cutler, MG: Mary Garrard, MGe: Martha Geier, MLi: Mike Lippsmeyer, MMo: Molly Monroe, MUn: Mike Unger, OH: Oscar Harper, PHo: Paul Howard, PLi: Peter List, PO: Pam Otley, PRz: Paul Rentz, RMo: Randy Moore, RTe: Ray Temple, SDr: Stacy Drake, SHg: Susan Hatlevig, SHi: Sally Hill, SHz: Stephanie Hazen, TEm: Todd Embree, VB: Vickie Buck, VSt: Virginia Stanton, WFz: Allen Norby, WW: Will Wright.

Other abbreviations: (e) = reports found in eBird database; e.o.p. = end of period; juv. = juvenile, imm. = immature, m. obs. = many observers, R. = river, sp. = species.

Wintering flocks of **Cackling Geese** and **Canada Geese** on Cabell Marsh swelled to about 15,000 total by 21 Nov (IDz). **"Dusky" Canada Geese**, the threatened subspecies for which the mid-valley refuges were founded, began to show up from their nesting grounds on the Copper River Delta in Alaska with two at ANWR 30 Oct (MUn) and 21 in sw Corvallis 5 Nov (MMo). An imm. **Snow Goose** grazed alongside of the resident domestic geese at Waverly Park in Albany 8 Nov and 13 Nov (JH; DEm). Two probable **Ross's Geese** were spotted at FNWR 23 Nov (PRz); at least one was seen there two days later along with two **Snow Geese** (HH, OH).

18 **Tundra Swans** were at Cabell Marsh 7 Nov (PO), increasing to 75 by 21 Nov (IDz) and 100 by 23 Nov (PRz). The flock at BSWR reached 60 by 9 Nov (FrK). Swan flocks were also seen in the Airlie area by 21 Nov (SHz, RTe).

Wintering duck flocks continued to expand, with over 1000 ducks at Cabell Marsh 7 Nov including **Mallards**, **Northern Pintails**, **Green-Winged Teal**, and **American Wigeons** (PO).

800 or more **Northern Shovelers** continued to be seen at

PSTP thru e.o.p.; flocks also increased at Stewart Lake. and Finley NWR (m.obs.).

A female **Wood Duck** on a pond n. of BSNWR 23 Nov showed some unusual behavior for the season, adopting a solicitation posture as a male nearby; copulation was observed on 5 Nov (FrK). Mallards on the same pond were also caught up in the "autumnal recrudescence of the amatory urge," as the phenomenon of fall breeding behavior has been called in song. It's thought to be triggered by daylight periods close to the same length as those during the normal vernal nesting season.

Six to ten **Gadwalls** were seen at PSTP thru the period (e). A male and at last one female **Eurasian Wigeon** were there along with 200 **American Wigeons** 5 Nov (HH), with one female still there 8 Nov (LPN), and a male there 9 & 17 Nov (MB; HH, OH).

Six **Canvasbacks** were at PSTP 8 Nov (LPN), increasing to ten there by 17 Nov (HH, OH). **Ring-necked Duck** flocks were reported mainly from artificial ponds such as PSTP early in the period. Just one was on Cabell Marsh 7 Nov (PO) but numbers increased later in the period as wetlands began to accumulate water. A pair of **Greater Scaup** were with 100 **Lesser Scaup** at PSTP 1 Nov (HH); two **Greater Scaup** were there 5 Nov (HH).

A female **Surf Scoter** continued at Philomath STP thru 29 Oct (HH, OH). One was again 17 Nov and joined by a second 19 Oct (OH, HH). A **Long-tailed Duck** that showed up last month continued at Philomath STP thru 3 Nov (IDz, m.obs.) but was absent by 5 Nov (HH). Numbers of **Buffleheads** and **Ruddy Ducks** at PSTP were noted to increase greatly between late Oct and 8 Nov (LPN), with tallies typically over 100 and 200, respectively, thru e.o.p. (e).

Two **Ruffed Grouse** were seen s. of Alsea Falls 6 Nov (HH, OH). In another instance of "autumnal recrudescence," a male **Sooty Grouse** hooted along Dunn Forest 130 Rd 29 Oct (JGe). **Mountain Quail** sightings included a covey of 7-8 along Dunn Forest 130 Rd 29 Oct (JGe) and two s. of Alsea Falls 6 Nov (HH, OH).

Two **Horned Grebes** were at PSTP 31 Oct (PO) and three were there 5 Nov (HH). Numbers of **Eared Grebes** at PSTP continued to be high, with counts of 37 and 32 there on



Cackling and Canada Geese photo by Sue Powell

5 & 17 Nov (HH, OH). A **Clark's Grebe** was photographed on Eicher pond 1 Nov; twelve **Western Grebes** were also present (PO).

Four **Great Egrets** at FNWR were pulling up and feasting on earthworms after rain showers on 10 Nov (JLe). The last local **Green Heron** sighting was an imm. at Sunset Park 29 Oct (CHK).

A late **Turkey Vulture** rode thermals along I-5 just west of the the Coburg Hills 22 Nov (BCo). A well-described late **Osprey** flew south over NW Corvallis 18 Nov (ECe). Two **White-tailed Kites** continued to be seen at the North Prairie overlook 6 Nov (VB, SHi), 7 Nov (PO), and 21 Nov (IDz; MG). One was n. of Airlie 21 Nov (SHz, RTe).

Bald Eagle numbers increased as wintering birds began to return to the valley. One was at the North Prairie overlook 6 Nov (VB, SHi) and 7 Nov (PO). An adult perched ne. of the Halsey paper mill 12 Nov (DPo). A pair flew together calling at LSNA 13 Nov (JGe). One landed and preened in a Douglas-fir right over a picnic table off Riverside Dr. 16 Nov, giving GW a rare bottom-side view. Two 3rd-year birds interacted high over TCP 10 Nov (JDS).

Northern Harriers were seen regularly at the North Prairie overlook. Two hunting around the PSTP caused consternation for ducks there on 16 Nov (VSt).

Despite alarm calls from a crow, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, managed to snatch a small songbird out of a tree in the Timberhill area 5 Nov, as other songbirds exploded in all directions (AFo).

Red-shouldered Hawks continue to be seen regularly in our area as this species is now well-established. One was at the North Prairie overlook 6-7 Nov (VB, SHi; PO) and 21 Nov (MG). One was s. of Monmouth along Stapleton Rd. 31 Oct (MLi).

A "**Harlan's**" **Red-tailed Hawk** that has wintered in past years returned to a farm s. of Monmouth during the third week of Nov (MLi). **Rough-legged Hawk** sightings included one at the North Prairie overlook 7 Nov (PO), one that circled over downtown Albany during the Veterans Day parade 11 Nov (JF), three n. of Brownsville 11 Nov (Chi, JBo), and four including one dark morph at the North Prairie overlook 15 Nov (DBo, Neighborhood Naturalist field trip).

A **Virginia Rail** called at EEW 3 Nov (JGe). A late **Sora** called at Cabell Marsh 19 Nov (JLy).

Wintering flocks of **Killdeer** were widespread in agricultural fields by e.o.p. A **Black-bellied Plover** was at PSTP 31 Oct (PO). 54 were along Green Valley Rd. s of Tangent 22 Nov (PLi, JLi) with 97 there the next day (HH, OH). A **Ruff** was photographed alongside **Greater Yellowlegs** at Ankeny NWR 5 Nov (HFu); this Eurasian vagrant was seen thru 9 Nov (m.obs.).

After small numbers of **Dunlin** began to turn up in late Oct, larger flocks began to be seen including 16 at Cabell Marsh 7 Nov (PO), 85 along Green Valley Rd. s of Tangent 22 Nov (PLi, JLi), and 140 there 23 Nov (HH, OH). Four **Least**



Sandpipers noted at FNWR 1 Nov (e) were the only ones recorded during the period – surprising for a species that often winters in small numbers in our area. Dry conditions this fall may have prompted fall migrants to keep heading south. Six **Long-billed Dowitchers** were at Cabell Marsh 7 Nov (PO). A few **Wilson's Snipe** were sw of Tangent 22 Nov (PLi, JLi).

Two Bonaparte's Gull were at PSTP 8 Nov (LPN). A flock of 85 gulls e. of Tangent 17 Nov consisted mainly of **Herring Gulls** with about half as many **Glaucous-winged Gulls**, but also included at least 3 adult **Ring-billed Gulls**, one adult **California Gull**, and three adult **Thayer's Gulls** (LPN).

Close to 100 **Mourning Doves** gathered around sunflower plantings in EEW by the end of the period (JGe).

A **Barred Owl** fed on earthworms in a Corvallis yard 21 Nov (JPh). Begging calls were heard from a possible juv. **Great Horned Owl** at Ankeny, circling around an attentive adult 24 Nov (HB). This would be a remarkable date for a juv. to still be dependent; sometimes adult females will give begging calls as part of a pair-bonding ritual at this time of year.

A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was on Prairie Mtn s. of Alsea Falls 6 Nov (HH, OH). A **Burrowing Owl** was along Davis Rd sw of Tangent 23 Nov (MB). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen from the North Prairie overlook at dusk 6 Nov (VB, SHi, WW).

The "pop" sounds of one and possibly two male **Anna's Hummingbirds** doing display dives were heard along the Mill Hill Trail at Finley NWR 18 Nov (HB), a notable location for a bird usually found closer to residential dwellings in our area.

Woodpeckers along the loop trail in the north unit of LSNA 28 Oct included calling **Red-breasted Sapsuckers**, **Downy Woodpeckers** and **Hairy Woodpeckers**, plus a drumming **Pileated Woodpecker**. Another **Pileated Woodpecker** turned up in a N. Albany yard 22 Nov (JHi, CHI).

A **Merlin** visited a Highland Dell yard 31 Oct & 1 Nov (JuP, JrP). One was along the Harrison-Circle bike path 22 Nov (JSi). A very pale "prairie" **Merlin** perched near TCP 19 & 22 Nov (JDS); another was photographed along Llewellyn Rd. 22 Nov (HH). Two **Peregrine Falcons** perched in a tree at PSTP 31 Oct (PO). One was at the North Prairie overlook 15 Nov (DBo, Neighborhood Naturalist field trip).

Up to six **Prairie Falcons** may be wintering in the mid-Wilamette Valley, including two n. of Brownsville 11 Nov (CHI, JBo), two females e. of Harrisburg in early Nov (DFe), one photographed along Livermore Rd. n. of BSNWR 18 Nov (SHz, RTe), and likely at least one more to account for three Benton Co. sightings between FNWR and the Corvallis airport area 8-13 Nov (WW; DRo).

Three **Black Phoebes** seem to be wintering at EEW with one in the s. end thru the period and 1-2 regularly around the angling pond (JGe, MGe; GHa). Singles were found regularly in Nov at Takena Landing in North Albany (CHI), in the south unit of LSNA (BPr), at PSTP (HH; WW) and around

FNWR (m.obs.).

A **Northern Shrike** was seen again at the North Prairie overlook 21 Nov (IDz; MG). Two **Common Ravens** fed alongside two Bald Eagles in a sheep pasture near PSTP 16 Nov (VSt). One in nw. Corvallis 14 Nov (JSi) was unusual for the neighborhood.

A **Horned Lark** flock of eight on a died-out fescue field s. of Monmouth 29 Oct, increasing to about 200 by 22 Nov (MLi). 100 were along Davis Rd sw of Tangent 22 Nov (LPN). Despite the mild weather that lasted thru mid-Nov, no **swallows** were reported.

One to two **Mountain Chickadees** continued to visit a feeder w. of Monmouth 24 Oct thru the period (CCe, ECe). One was photographed in N. Albany 22 Nov (ANo fide JF).

Chestnut-backed Chickadees were scarcer than usual in some typical habitat such as Dunn Forest, but showed up in unexpected places on the valley floor. Three in a downtown Albany yard 3-10 Nov were the first there in 30 years of watching (JF). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were likewise notably scarce in Dunn Forest and elsewhere in the Coast Range, but high numbers were reported from feeders on the valley floor (m.obs.).

Hermit Thrushes began to show up at low elevations by late Oct, but numbers remained sparse with mostly just scattered reports of singles. Wintering **American Robin** numbers swelled noticeably by 29 Oct when more than 20 were in a Highland Dell yard (JuP, JrP). **Varied Thrush** numbers at the edge of the Coast Range also increased with six under a single apple tree at EEW 1 Nov and dozens there by 14 Nov (JGe). However numbers farther out on the valley floor remained low, with just a few in TCP and none in a nearby yard until 23 Nov (JDS). Very high numbers of **European Starlings** were noted in s. Polk Co. 21 Nov (SHz, RTe).

At least 100 **American Pipits** continued along De Armond Rd. thru 21 Nov (SHz, RTe). Another large flock was along Davis Rd. sw of Tangent 22 Nov (PLi, JLi). **Cedar Waxwings** were conspicuous through the beginning of Nov with ten in a Highland Dell yard 29 Oct (JuP, JrP) and dozens feeding on clustered wild-rose hips at EEW 3 Nov (JGe). Numbers dwindled noticeably by mid-Nov; in a nw. Corvallis yard the last noted were on 14 Nov (JSi). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** numbers near TCP increased noticeably around 4 Nov (JDS).

A late migrant **Vesper Sparrow** photographed at PSTP 15 Nov (WW) appeared to be from the intermontane subspecies rather than the endemic nesting subspecies. A very pale **Sooty Fox Sparrow** near EEW 5 Nov (JGe) may have been from one of the long-range migrant subspecies that nest in sw Alaska and winter mainly in s. California, rather than the darker subspecies that nest in British Columbia and winter abundantly at EEW and similar brushy sites in the mid-Valley. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was noted at the North Prairie overlook 6 Nov (VB, SHi). Typical numbers were present in EEW thru period. At least two **Swamp Sparrows** found their way to EEW by early Nov, including one heard in the s. end 28 Oct, 1

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Beth Boroson
Jenny Swanson
Ellen Watrous

THE 2015 ANNUAL APPEAL

Our 2015 ASC annual fundraising campaign is underway & we want to thank all of our members who have made donations or renewed their memberships. Envelopes were mailed in the November CHAT. Please take the time to donate to our programs, purchase a gift membership for family and friends, or renew your ASC membership. You can also use the link on the ASC website via Paypal to donate or renew: www.audubon.corvallis.or.us Your support is critical to making our Annual Appeal a success!

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, ASC Membership Chair

& 3 Nov (JGe) and one in the north end 7 Nov (GHa).

White-throated Sparrows included three at LSNA 28 Oct (JGe), one in a Highland Dell yard 29 Oct (JuP, JrP), several that challenged **Sooty Fox Sparrows** and **Song Sparrows** for their turn in a bird bath near TCP 31 Oct (JDS), at least 7 in the n. end of EEW 6 Nov (JGe), and one at Stewart Lake 23 Nov (JSi). A wintering **White-crowned Sparrow** flock turned up in TCP 11 Nov (JDS). **Golden-crowned Sparrows** were widespread thru the period,

Dark-eyed Juncos sallied after flying insects in balmy weather at EEW 28 Oct (JGe). Most wintering juncos in our area are from the "Oregon" subspecies; exceptions included a male "**Cassiar**" junco on Witham Hill 3 Nov (HH), and a "**Slate-colored**" junco in a nw Corvallis yard 31 Oct, 4 Nov and 15 Nov (JSi).

A group of up to 10 longspurs including several **Lapland Longspurs** were sw. of Tangent 22 Nov (LPN) thru e.o.p. (m.obs.). A **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was found with them on 26 Nov (RMO). At least two and possibly up to five **Snow Buntings** were in the same area thru e.o.p. (LPN; PLi, JLi; VB, SHi; MB).

Western Meadowlarks sang at the North Prairie overlook 6 Nov (VB, SHi), and again on 21 & 24 Nov (MG; PRz). A wintering flock of 50 to 60 foraged along with 200 **European Starlings** s. of EEW 13 Nov (JGe).

Pine Siskin flocks showed up in force this month. A flock of 40 feeding on teasel at EEW 3 Nov swelled to 150 by 13 Nov (JGe). A large flock "too big to count" was near TCP 4 Nov (JDS). Numbers at a s. Corvallis feeder swelled to more than 100 from 3-10 Nov (WFz). 30 in downtown Albany 10 Nov (JF). Large flocks were also widespread in nw Corvallis by mid-Nov (SHg; JSi).

Evening Grosbeaks were comparatively sparse with just a few reports of small numbers around Corvallis (e); in one nw Corvallis yard two on 28 Oct were the only ones for period (JSi).

In warm weather 1 Nov, **Pacific Chorus-Frogs** sang from ditch with standing water near EEW, and a large **dragonfly** (probably a darner sp.) was still out hunting mosquitoes.

The resident **Elk** herd was at the w. edge of the North Prairie 21 Nov (MG). A **Coyote** trotted across a field w. of there 15 Nov, and later a young **Bobcat** was seen near the Homer Campbell Trail (DBo, TEm, Neighborhood Naturalist field trip), likely the same one seen there a week earlier (PHo, SDR). Two very large **River Otters** dove and fed in the Calapooia River at TCP 17 Nov (JDS).

In a late report, last summer a **Gray Fox** vixen raised five young under a backyard deck all summer (AFo), not far from Dixon Cr. where one was seen mousing in July.

Colder weather as we head into December could continue to push more northern birds into our area, hopefully in time for the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count on 15 Dec. Please post your observations to the Mid-Valley birding list at midvalleybirding.org, e-mail them to me at joel.geier@peak.org, or call (541) 745-5821 by 29 Dec.

COMMUNITY NOTES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR INSIGHTS INTO GARDENING.

Each year the Benton County Master Gardener Association hosts Insights Into Gardening, a day-long series of seminars that routinely attracts more than 300 amateur gardeners. This year's event will be on Saturday, February 13, at the LaSells Stewart Center on the OSU campus.

For many years ASC has hosted a display table at this event. It provides a great outreach and education opportunity for Corvallis Audubon. For the past several years Kate Mathews has coordinated this event, designing the display table and scheduling times at the table for other volunteers. This year Kate and I will be out of town on February 13, at a family activity. However, Kate has expressed willingness to work with other volunteers, both in designing the display and scheduling times. If you would like to participate, please contact Kate at 541-



754-1172 or kate.mathews@comcast.net. Thanks for considering this request.

Shop Wild Goose Nature Store at Finley NWR for Holiday Gifts

Our friends at the Finley National Wildlife Refuge have a wonderful little gift shop that is loaded with unique Nature and wildlife themed gifts. Your holiday purchases can help to support the Friends group for the Willamette Refuge complex. Staffed entirely by volunteers, the store in the refuge headquarters building is open 10 am to 4 pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday. They will, however, be closed Christmas Day.

It has a large selection of field guides and books for adults and children, as well as jewelry, plush toys, puppets, tee-shirts, bags, socks, hats, travel mugs, figurines, and hand-made potholders and table runners. How about easy to use, weatherproof, light weight quick reference guides for everything from backyard birds to mushrooms for your stocking stuffers? These great gifts support local volunteers, education and conservation programs.

WINTER WINGS FESTIVAL

The annual Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls will be held Presidents Day Weekend, Feb. 11-14, 2016. It is one of the oldest and most popular wildlife festivals in the nation, right here in Oregon!

For information on the 2016 Winter Wings program, go to: www.winterwingsfest.org. Many of the field trips fill up in minutes, so you might want to be on the website when online registration opens on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 9 am PST. The program and schedule are on the website now.

Teri Engbring

JOIN CORVALLIS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT ON DEC 15

There is still time to sign up for the 2015 Corvallis Christmas Bird Count, which will be held on Tuesday, December 15. In particular, I am looking for anyone with feeders in the count circle who can spare at least one hour to watch their yard to participate.

The Corvallis count circle is centered near the Corvallis airport and includes most anyone who lives within the city limits of Corvallis and Philomath, areas south of Corvallis as far as Finley, and west to Bellfountain Rd. A portion of Linn County is also included from a bit north of Highway 34 south to Peoria. A link to a map of the count circle is posted on ASC's website under bird counts.

There will be a warm up potluck held after the count at the Tunison Fire Station, Information on the countdown potluck will be given to all participants.

If you want to join us or would like further information, email: marciafcutler@comcast.net or go to the ASC website.

Marcia F. Cutler

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

November 12, 2015 ASC Board Meeting

The Board voted to approve a \$400 donation to the Jan 30, 2016 Willamette Valley Bird Symposium. Ray Drapek hopes to schedule a Hesthavn Open House in May 2016. The next board meeting will be December 10th at Teri Engbring's house.

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 THIS CHAT

Bill Proebsting, Chris Mathews, Joel Geier, Jim Fairchild, Teri Engbring, Marcia Cutler, 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. Please submit text using Microsoft Word to:

chateditors@gmail.com

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS



Great Horned Owl photo by Sue Powell

CALENDAR

Dec 10	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Teri Engbring's house
Dec 12	Half Day Field Trip to Talking Waters
Dec 15	Christmas Bird Count
Dec 17	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini Senior Center, 2601 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis
Dec 29	Jan Issue Field Notes submissions due
Dec 31	Jan Issue 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.

Audubon Society of Corvallis
P.O. Box 148
Corvallis, OR 97339

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Audubon Society of Corvallis

www.audubon.corvallis.or.us

President.....	Chris Matthews.....	mathewsc2@comcast.net	541-754-1172
Vice President	Bill Proebsting.....	proebstw@gmail.com	541-752-0108
Secretary.....	Gail Nickerson.....	gbnickerson@comcast.net	541-754-0406
Treasurer.....	Fred Ramsey.....	framsey5@comcast.net	541-753-3677

BOARD MEMBERS

.....	Teri Enbring.....	engbring@hotmail.com	541-829-2601
.....	Linda Campbell.....	lcampbell@peak.org	541-929-9420
.....	Marie Martin.....	martinm2468@icloud.com	
.....	Spencer Mair.....	smwolfus@yahoo.com	
.....	Mark Baldwin.....	mark.baldwin2@comcast.net	
.....	Jim Philipson.....	parrphil@comcast.net	
Alternate.....	Will Wright.....	willwright26@q.com	541-753-4395

COMMITTEE AND COORDINATORS

Membership Chair.....	Suzanne Ortiz.....	ortizsv@gmail.com	917-273-4917
Conservation Chair.....	Jim Fairchild.....	alderspring@peak.org	541-929-4049
Christmas Bird Count.....	Marcia Cutler.....	marciafcutler@comcast.net	541-752-4313
Birdathon Coordinator.....	Karan Fairchild.....	alderspr@peak.org	541-929-4049
Historian.....	Marcia Cutler.....	marciafcutler@comcast.net	541-752-4313
Hesthavn Chair.....	Ray Drapek.....	raydrapek@gmail.com	541-754-7364
Publicity Chair.....	Juliana Masseloux.....	masselobj@onid.orst.edu	415-847-0738
Sales Table Chair.....	Sally Shaw.....	shaws@peak.org	541-757-2749
Refreshment Chair.....	Becky Garrett.....	becky.bittern@yahoo.com	541-757-7474
Bluebird Trail Chair.....	Raylene Gordin.....	gordin@centurytel.net	541-258-6625
Webmaster.....	Tom Haig.....	tomhaig@hotmail.com	541-231-6583
Chat Newsletter Editor.....	Teri Engbring.....	chateditors@gmail.com	541-829-2601
Field Notes Compiler.....	Joel Geier.....	joel.geier@peak.org	541-745-5821

EDUCATION TEAM:

Volunteer Support.....	Teri Engbring.....	engbring@hotmail.com	541-829-2601
Communication, Outreach, Grants.....	Jessica Brothers.....	educationaudubon@gmail.com	

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.

Printed on Recycled Paper