



# THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS CHAT

NOVEMBER 2016

VOL. 46 #3

## NOVEMBER 2016 PROGRAM:

### DO BIRDS HELP TREES GROW IN MANAGED FORESTS?

#### Lessons from a long-term experiment in the Oregon Coast Range

Chintimini Senior Ctr:  
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis  
Thursday, Nov.17, 7-8:30 pm

Professor Matt Betts holds an Institute for Working Forest Landscapes (IWFL) Research Professorship at OSU. Matt grew up and received his education in Canada. Years ago, Matt worked on a massive clearcut in northern Canada that was being heavily treated with herbicides and replanted to a single tree species. This experience motivated him to find out if there wasn't a better alternative. Thus, as an IWFL professor, he is seeking to establish a Forest Biodiversity Research Network (FBRN) at Oregon State. His goal is to connect professors across disciplines working in the field of forest biodiversity to develop a research agenda for conservation.



Matt Betts

At our November meeting, Matt will describe a study that he and his colleagues have been conducting in the Oregon Coast Range that examines the influence of 'intensive forest management' on biodiversity. Intensive forest management involves use of herbicide to facilitate Douglas fir tree growth, but it tends to reduce bird abundance and diversity in early stages of plantation growth. This study seeks to answer the following questions: whether (a) birds have a strong influence on herbivorous insect abundance and subsequent tree growth, and (b) whether those potential effects are influenced by intensive management. In other words, do birds provide an ecosystem service by reducing herbivores, and are these services affected by how intensively we manage a system?

Social hour begins at 6:30, with the chapter meeting starting at 7:00 and the program starting about 7:30.

Bill Proebsting, Vice Pres. & Program Chair, [proebstw@gmail.com](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com)

## NEXT MONTH'S ASC PROGRAM:

December 15: Members Slide Night. Bring a few slides from this year's travels or backyard adventures and spend five minutes sharing your experience.

## ASC GENERAL MEETINGS

THIRD THURSDAYS AT CHINTIMINI SENIOR CTR:  
2601 NW Tyler Ave (& 27th) in Corvallis  
Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, 7-8:30 pm

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## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

### LOCAL MONTHLY SECOND SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS

Our Saturday morning local field trips meet the second Saturday 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](mailto:proebstw@gmail.com) or 541-752-0108 if you have questions. Check the Willamette Valley ListServ, <http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OR5>, 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 LOCAL FIELD TRIP:

November 12 Baskett Slough NWR. We will bird along Coville Road, check the Guadagno Trail, then swing around the north side of the refuge on Smithfield Road.

December 10 Location TBA

*Bill Proebsting*

### TENTATIVE 2017 ASC WEEKEND FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE:

Bandon/ Port Orford, March 3-5  
Klamath Basin, March 31 - April 2  
Rogue Valley, April 28-30  
Malheur NWR, June 1-4  
Summer Lake, June 23-25  
Wallowas, July 20-23  
Steens, August 10-13  
South Coast, August 25-27

On these trips, we travel in rental vans, stay in motel-style accommodations, and eat meals wherever we can get them. We share all expenses. There will be signup sheets at the Field Trip table at the ASC general meetings starting in December of this year.

If there are parts of Oregon you want to add to the schedule, please consider organizing a tour. Assistance in the planning and execution is available.

*Fred Ramsey*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### PORTLAND AUDUBON CHAPTER HELPS US ALL

Oregon boasts twelve local chapters of the Audubon Society. But only one chapter—Portland Audubon Society—is large enough to support professional staff. The expertise and time of this staff is a benefit to all Oregon Auduboners. Here is one example.

Jim Fairchild and I are occasionally asked for ASC endorsement of a letter to a government agency or news outlet. ASC bylaws allow the president and conservation chair (Jim), when they agree, to speak for the chapter in conservation-related matters. Recently we were asked to sign on to a letter written by Joe Liebezeit, Avian Program Conservation Manager for Portland Audubon. The

letter was addressed to Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior, and it concerns allocation of water rights in the Klamath Basin. We are all aware that Klamath water is over-allocated. The point made in the Liebezeit letter is that the Department of the Interior is granting water rights to agribusiness within the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuges, contradicting its mandate to protect wildlife. Application of pesticides to agricultural land, plus wildlife crowding on depleted wetlands, led to the deaths of an estimated 20,000 birds in 2014.

The letter also points out that the 1964 Kuchel Act provided for agriculture on wildlife refuges (Thomas Kuchel was a U.S. Senator from California). However, the Act allowed such provision only to the extent that is consistent with wildlife conservation. More recently, Section 5 of the 1997 National Wildlife System Improvement Act states: ".....the Secretary shall ensure that the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the System are maintained for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

By now most or all Audubon chapters in Oregon have endorsed the Liebezeit letter. We are indebted to Portland Audubon for having the resources to support eloquent and objective advocacy for conservation. The four-page letter is available upon e-mailed request to me.

*Chris Mathews, ASC President*

## THE 2016 ANNUAL APPEAL

It's time to kick off our end-of-year Annual Appeal! Each November we reach out to our members and friends and ask for your support for our many programs. You can designate a specific committee for your donation or give to our General Fund.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

On March 18, 2017 our Education Team will sponsor the third annual Winter Wildlife Field Day at W.L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge. This event has attracted 300 children each year to the Refuge to enjoy a daylong series of nature workshops and activities. Our enthusiastic WWFD team includes refuge staff, OSU students, Friends of Willamette Refuge Complex, Starker Forests, and dozens of ASC members.

Next spring our Education team will again collaborate with OSU and Corvallis Schools to offer aquatic ecology workshops to middle-school students. This hands-on stream science program is at our Hesthavn Nature Center on Oak Creek.

Our volunteers also work with scouting groups and other community organizations to provide interactive learning opportunities throughout the year.

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

Our Conservation Committee continues its important work to conserve and protect habitat and wildlife and to inform and educate our membership and extended community about the impact of global climate change. ASC continues as a partner organization of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.

### BLUEBIRD TRAIL COMMITTEE:

Our dedicated volunteers continue to play a key role in the conservation of the Western Bluebird.



### HESTHAVN NATURE COMMITTEE:

Our Nature Center thrives on the teamwork and support of volunteers and contributors to help maintain the Barn; museum, bird collection, meadows, riparian habitat and grounds.

### RENEWALS:

Members can use the donation envelopes to renew their memberships. Check above the address on your copy of the CHAT to see the date your membership expires. Every ASC member will receive a hard copy of our November 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 to renew your annual membership. You can also go the ASC website and use PayPal to donate or renew at: [www.audubon.corvallis.or.us](http://www.audubon.corvallis.or.us)

The success of our programs relies on your continued support and the enthusiastic contributions of our volunteers. Help us make 2017 another great year for ASC!

*Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Membership Chair*

### CBC BIRDING BY EAR PRIMER

**8 am - 11:30 am, Saturday, December 3**

Do you want to brush up on bird sounds before you participate in the next Christmas Bird Count? In this free, half-day field trip to McDonald Forest, we'll talk about how to notice and identify small birds hidden in the trees and brush. We'll also offer tips on estimating numbers of small birds that you can hear, but can't see.

Bring your binoculars and extra layers, and come prepared for rainy weather.

RSVP to Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank for details and meeting location: [donaboucher@gmail.com](mailto:donaboucher@gmail.com)

### CBC SET FOR DEC. 20, 2016

This year the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count will be held on Tuesday, December 20th, 2016. Everybody is invited to join us - and participation is free.

The Christmas Bird Count is an organized, continent-wide survey which documents every bird seen on a given day from sunrise to sunset. Having been held yearly since 1900, the Christmas Bird Count is a major contributor to the knowledge base on wintering birds in North America.

The count is an all-day event and an excellent opportunity for novice bird watchers to join with seasoned veterans and learn more about identifying and finding the local birds. Half-day participants and home feeder-watchers are also welcome. I would like to particularly encourage anyone with feeders in the count circle who can spare at least one hour to watch and report on their yard. Some counts, particularly in Canada, are mostly made up of feeder watchers. Even Eugene has about 30 feeder watchers compared to the 4-6 Corvallis usually gets, so there is room to grow in this area. Winter feeder watching can be quite rewarding as birds try to expend the least amount of energy to get the most amount of food.

The Corvallis count circle is a 7.5 mile radius centered near the Corvallis airport and is usually divided into 13 sections, with a team of 3-6 individuals assigned to each section. A link to a map of the count circle is posted on ASC's website under "Bird Counts." Team leaders for each section will make arrangements with the rest of their group for a meeting place and time (usually between 7:00 and

7:30 a.m.) the morning of the count. Participants should bring cold- and wet-weather gear, binoculars, a scope, if you have one, and snacks for the day. A notepad and pencil or electronic recording devices, field guides, camera and a thermos with something hot are always good ideas as well.

There will be a countdown potluck held after the count. Information on the countdown potluck will be given to all participants later and announced in the December Chat.

If you are interested in participating or would like further information, I will be happy to hear from you. My contact information is at the back of the Chat or on-line at the ASC website.

*Marcia F. Cutler, CBC Corvallis Coordinator*

### ATOP THE NESTBOX

The 2016 bluebird nesting season saw some localized differences, but the aggregate data were fairly typical, as follows:

Attempts.....	225
Failures.....	30
1st broods.....	127
2nd broods.....	64
3rd broods.....	2
Eggs laid.....	1127
Hatched.....	883
% hatched.....	78%
Fledged.....	765
% fledged.....	87%
Fledged/box.....	6

There were additional reports of nesting bluebirds without specific data.

My heartfelt thanks go to the bluebird trail monitors and other volunteers who continue to make this conservation program successful (39 years)!

*Raylene Gordin, Bluebird Trail Chair*

### EDUCATION NEWS

ASC volunteers are busily planning the third annual Winter Wildlife Field Day 2017 at Finley National Wildlife Refuge. Save the date: March 18, 10 am to 2 pm. This popular event draws over 300 guests each year for a variety of fun interactive games and learning stations, trails and wildlife. It's a fun adventure, exploring Nature with live birds, drawing, animal pelts and skulls, owl pellet dissection, guided bird walks, water critters, and more.

Thanks to our partners from the refuge staff and Friends group, students from OSU (including event chair Jeremy Felty and the OSU Bird Nerds), and Starker Forest, for their energy, ideas and dedication.

**More volunteers are still needed** March 18 for shifts from 2-6 hours. If you'd like to join this dynamic team for a fun day at Finley, please contact Teri Engbring at [chateditors@gmail.com](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com) or at the ASC General Member Meetings in coming months.

*Teri Engbring, ASC Education Team*

## HESTHAVN NEWS

Please consider joining our end-of-the-year volunteer work parties, which are noted on the ASC website, between 10 am and 2 pm. It's a great place to get outside and help out. Hope to see you there. Thanks.

Hesthavn Nature Center  
8590 NW Oak Creek Drive.

*Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair*

## FIELD NOTES

09/21/16-10/25/16

After one last heat wave brought temperatures above 90 F on 26 Sep, rain set in on 1 Oct and continued through the month. More than a foot of rain fell in Corvallis, making it the wettest October on record. Nearly half of it came in five days from 13-17 Oct as the remnants of Typhoon Songda came in off the Pacific. Sustained winds from that storm system pushed some normally coastal **loons, grebes, scoters** and **phalaropes** inland, to the delight of local birders. Despite the rain, temperatures were mild, generally staying well above 40 F in Corvallis through the period. Some native prairie plants continued to bloom through the period, including **Willamette Valley gumweed** (*Grindelia integrifolia*) and **Douglas' aster** (*Symphotrichum subspicatum*), even as mushrooms flourished and moisture-adapted creatures like **Rough-skinned Newts** and **Banana Slugs** became more conspicuous on forest trails.

**Abbreviations and locations:** NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, STP = sewage treatment ponds, WA = Wildlife Area. Cheadle Lake is in Lebanon. E.E. Wilson WA is north of Corvallis. Jackson-Frazier Wetlands is in north Corvallis near Cheldelin Middle School. Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) is along the Willamette River northwest of Albany. Philomath STP is south of Philomath and requires access permission. Teloh-Calapooia Park is in south Albany near Linn-Benton Community College, Talking Water Gardens is in NE Albany. Cabell Marsh, McFadden Marsh, and North Prairie are locations at Finley NWR. Snag Boat Bend is a separate unit of Finley NWR s. of Peoria.

## OBSERVATIONS

Several flocks of **Greater White-fronted Geese** passed over the Philomath area 27 Sep (Jim Fairchild). An adult **Snow Goose** flew over the Philomath STP in the company of **Canada Geese** 22 Sep (Hendrik Herlyn). **Cackling Geese** continued to arrive, with a fair-sized flock at Philomath 27 Sep (Hendrik Herlyn) and some over Corvallis that night (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). Four "**Dusky**" **Canada Geese** were near Airlie 15 Oct.

A few **Cinnamon Teal** lingered at the Philomath STP through 21 Sep, as numbers of wintering **Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Ducks,** and **Ruddy Ducks** increased (Hendrik Herlyn). 80 **American Wigeons** were on Cheadle Lake 23 Oct (Rana Foster). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was at the Philomath STP 15 Oct (Isaac Denzer).

A male **Canvasback** turned up at the Philomath STP 27 Sep (Hendrik Herlyn), and two more arrived by 10 Oct when two female **Surf Scoters** and at least three **Greater Scaup** joined **Lesser**

**Scaup** flocks, alongside several continuing **Cinnamon Teal** and a lone **Blue-winged Teal** (Hendrik Herlyn). A **Redhead** was there 14 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn). A **Long-tailed Duck** turned up on Philomath STP 14-15 Oct (Will Wright; Hendrik Herlyn; Adrian Hinkle). Ten **Surf Scoters** were there after more stormy weather 18 Oct (Isaac Denzer).

Twelve migrant **Eared Grebes** dove on Big Lake in the Santiam Pass area 26 Sep (David Irons). A **Horned Grebe** and an **Eared Grebe** were at the Philomath STP 22 Sep (Hendrik Herlyn). 24 **Western Grebes** joined these species as well as a **Pied-billed Grebe** there 2 Oct (Howard Bruner). Nine continuing **Eared Grebes** and three **Red-necked Grebes** were there 13-14 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn; Adrian Hinkle). On 23 Oct another **Red-necked Grebe** showed up in Philomath (Hendrik Herlyn) and one was on Suttle Lake just east of Santiam Pass (Craig Miller).

**Band-tailed Pigeons** feasted on ripe snowberries sw. of Philomath 2 Oct; two stayed there through mid-Oct and one remained along with 40+ **Mourning Doves** on 26 Oct (Jim Fairchild).

At least 100 **Vaux's Swifts** were over downtown Albany area 23 Sep, eventually settling into two chimneys at 2nd and Broadalbin (Jim & Karan Fairchild). A very late but well-described **Vaux's Swift** was over the Philomath STP 16 Oct (David Irons, Shawneen Finnegan).

On 29 Sep a **Sora** at Talking Water Gardens made several short flights, apparently "spy-hopping" (Jon Hazen). A **Virginia Rail** grunted there 12 Oct (Mike Unger). 200 **American Coots** were on Cheadle Lake 23 Oct (Rana Foster).

A **Killdeer** flock near Independence 15 Oct was accompanied by a larger bird, probably a **Black-bellied Plover** (Brandon Wagner). Sixteen more **Black-bellied Plovers** were along Bruce Rd. at Finley NWR 16 Oct (Pam Otley).

Shorebirds at the Philomath STP 21 Sep included six **Least Sandpipers**, three **Spotted Sandpipers**, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** and a **Greater Yellowlegs** (Hendrik Herlyn); all of these are species that can be expected in the area through the winter months. A migrant **Baird's Sandpiper** and **Western Sandpipers** were among the shorebirds at Cabell Marsh 26 Sep (Jacob Mathison). Six **Wilson's Snipe** flushed from a flooded field at Jackson-Frazier Wetlands 19 Oct when a dark Merlin cruised over (Lisa Millbank).

A **Red Phalarope** wound up on the Philomath STP after windy weather on 15 Oct (Adrian Hinkle, Chris Hinkle); by 18 Oct the count of phalaropes there increased to six (Isaac Denzer). This species is normally found offshore in fall and winter, but can get blown inland by sustained winds.

A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** was photographed at Philomath STP 22 Sep (Mark Baldwin). A **Glaucous-winged Gull** flew over Peoria 28 Sep (Greg Metcalfe); more were seen inland following the mid-Oct storms.

A **Common Loon** turned up on a new filbert-orchard irrigation pond near Sarah Helmick State Park 15 Oct (Mitch Ratzlaff; Bill Tice).

A few **American White Pelicans** were still at Cabell Marsh 26 Sep (Jacob Mathison) and 8 Oct (Bill Proebsting).

Three **Green Herons** were at Talking Water Gardens 12 Oct (Mike Unger). **Great Blue Herons** and **Great Egrets** were frequently seen stalking voles and other prey in soggy grass fields. A **White-faced Ibis** circled over the Philomath STP and landed briefly 15 Oct (Adrian Hinkle, Chris Hinkle), then was seen there again 16 Oct (Vickie Buck).



A few lingering **Turkey Vultures** were seen through the end of the period. A lingering **Osprey** was at Cheadle Lake 23 Oct (Rana Foster). A **White-tailed Kite** was on the North Prairie 24-26 Sep (Bill Proebsting; Jacob Mathison; Will Wright). An adult **Bald Eagle** flew over Lewisburg 16 Oct (Paul Adamus).

A female **Northern Harrier** that called in reaction to a **Merlin** at Jackson-Frazier Wetlands 19 Oct in turn inspired a **Red-shouldered Hawk** to start calling (Lisa Millbank). An adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** showed up at Mike & Karen Lippsmeyer's place s. of Independence 25 Sep, and continued through the period, occasionally spooking their chickens as it flew over. A **Golden Eagle** soared over the Pacific Crest Trail north of Santiam Pass 27 Sep (Jake Schas).

A **Barn Owl** called and a pair of **Great Horned Owls** duetted in north Corvallis 27 Sep (Don Boucher). A **Spotted Owl** was heard near McDonald Forest 27 Sep (Bill Proebsting). A **Barred Owl** roosted in Sally Shaw's back yard in south Corvallis 18 Oct (Molly Monroe). The first local report of a **Short-eared Owl** this season came from Airport Rd. south of Corvallis 2 Oct (Doug Robinson). A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** were calling sw. of Philomath by the end of the period (Jim Fairchild).

Three **Acorn Woodpeckers** in Teloh-Calapooia Park 20 Oct foraged in the treetops and occasionally flew out to catch airborne insects; they were still there 24 Oct, suggesting the establishment of a new colony (Jim Smith). A **Lewis's Woodpecker** was found in Philomath 25 Oct (Isaac Denzer).

A male "**Yellow-shafted**" **Northern Flicker** was in the Cheldelin neighborhood 18 Oct (Lisa Millbank). **Pileated Woodpeckers** sw. of Philomath hung upside down to feed on Pacific dogwood seed clusters 27 Sep (Jim Fairchild).

An immature **Peregrine Falcon** harassed a **Cooper's Hawk** over Tampico Ridge near Adair Village 25 Sep. A **Merlin** found its way into a hangar at Corvallis Airport 10 Oct (Ron Enck) and spent the morning in the rafters.

A **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was w. of Monmouth 24 Sep (Caleb Centanni). The timing of fall migration for this species is poorly understood as they become much less vocal after breeding season, and tend to slip away unnoticed. A well-seen but non-vocal "**Western**" **Flycatcher** (most likely **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** by range) was near Bald Hill 28 Sep (Bill Proebsting). A **Say's Phoebe** was near Airlie 4 Oct (Caleb Centanni).

Two **Hutton's Vireos** were at LSNA 24 Sep (Luckiamute Watershed Council field trip). A late migrant **Warbling Vireo** was in Peoria 29 Sep (Greg Metcalfe).

Flocks totaling 14 **California Scrub-Jays** in addition to 3 or 4 resident birds suggested migratory movement through Peoria 21 Sep (Greg Metcalfe). A flock of 92 **American Crows** were at Snag Boat Bend 25 Sep (Rana Foster).

Local reports of **Horned Larks** continued to be remarkably scant this month, with just one report of a single bird near Philomath STP 21 Sep (Doug Robinson), one report from Ankeny NWR (Harry Fuller), and reports of 3 to 8 larks in the Baskett Slough area (Roy Gerig).

Hundreds of **Barn Swallows** were still roosting in cornfields at Grand Island north of Salem 21 Sep (Mary Garrard, Bev Clark). A few at the Monmouth STP 14 Oct (Caleb Centanni) might have been pushed back in their migration by sustained southerly winds from the mid-Oct storm system.

Thousands of **Violet-green Swallows** foraged over Herbert

Open Space 20 Sep (Rana Foster). **Tree Swallows** were feeding low over the Willamette River at the Buena Vista ferry crossing 23 Sep, perhaps taking advantage of emerging aquatic insects (Charlotte Hottmann). 15 **Violet-green Swallows** foraged over the Philomath STP 14 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn, Isaac Denzer) and one straggler was there 23 Oct (Hendrik Herlyn).

Two **Mountain Chickadees** briefly appeared in the Highland Dell neighborhood alongside the resident **Black-capped Chickadees** 24 Sep (Tom Olson). Normally this species is found east of the Cascades crest, but occasionally a few wander into the Willamette Valley in fall and winter.

**Pacific Wrens** began to show up in bottomland habitat by 24 Sep when two were at LSNA. A **Marsh Wren** turned up in Peoria 19 Oct (Greg Metcalfe).

Wintering **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** began to arrive by 24 Sep when two were at LSNA. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** flocks were also gathering at low elevations by then. A **Wrentit** was on the south side of Adair Village 17 Oct (Richard F. Hoyer).

Five **Mountain Bluebirds** were along the Pacific Crest Trail north of Santiam Pass 27 Sep (Jake Schas). Five **Western Bluebirds** fed on red dogwood berries at the south Corvallis Co-op 2 Oct (Rana Foster).

Migrant **Swainson's Thrushes** continued to be heard sw. of Philomath through 27 Sep (Jim Fairchild) and through 29 Sep in NW Corvallis (Catherine Otto). A late migrant in Salem was seen 13 Oct and photographed 14 Oct (Jon Hazen). Two more late migrants were heard calling near Teloh-Calapooia Park 23 Oct (Jim Smith).

A **Hermit Thrush** turned up at LSNA 24 Sep. **Varied Thrushes** arrived at low elevations sw. of Philomath by 27 Sep (Jim Fairchild). Migrant flocks of **American Robins** were becoming more evident by 16 Oct when Paul Adamus noted over 100 in madrones and oaks near Lewisburg.

Flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** fed on berries near the First Alternative Co-op in south Corvallis 2 Oct (Rana Foster).

**American Pipit** flocks continued to increase in grass fields through the period.

Several hundred **American Goldfinches** flocked to sunflower plantings at E.E. Wilson WA by early Oct.

A migrant **Nashville Warbler** was in the south unit of LSNA 23 Sep. Several **Orange-crowned Warblers** were spotted on a field trip to LSNA 24 Sep; scattered reports continued through the period. **Common Yellowthroats** were still numerous at LSNA through 23 Sep; numbers decreased noticeably by early October but there were scattered sightings through the end of the period.

**Yellow-rumped Warblers** continued to return to the mid-Willamette Valley through the period. Both "**Audubon's**" and "**Myrtle**" types were noted regularly on the valley floor from 28 Sep onward. **Black-throated Gray Warblers** were scarce by the end of September. Two migrant **Wilson's Warblers** were still at LSNA 24 Sep.

Three migrant **Chipping Sparrows** were in a recently burned area at E.E. Wilson WA 4 Oct. Numbers of wintering "**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrows** continued to increase along with **Lincoln's Sparrows** and **Song Sparrows** in brushy habitat at E.E. Wilson WA. An unusual **Lincoln's Sparrow** with a distinct central breast spot was alongside a more typical individual in Peoria 19 Oct (Greg Metcalfe). A probable early-arriving **Swamp Sparrow** called at E.E. Wilson WA 4 Oct.

A **White-throated Sparrow** arrived near Teloh-Calapooia Park

## 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.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Jesse Laney  
Keith Martin & Caryl Uhler  
Cheryl Stevenson  
Nancy Stotz

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew your membership online go to:  
[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.

### 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 [listserv:alderspr@peak.org](mailto:listserv@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](mailto:ortizsv@gmail.com).

*Suzanne Ortiz, ASC Membership Chair*

29 Sep (Jim Smith). Individuals were also noted at Bald Hill 3 Oct (Bill Proebsting) and Jackson-Frazier Wetlands 19 Oct (Lisa Millbank). **White-crowned Sparrows** were noticed in new places as wintering flocks continued to arrive, along with more flocks of **Golden-crowned Sparrows** and **Dark-eyed Juncos**.

A lingering female-plumaged **Western Tanager** was near E.E. Wilson WA 26 Sep; a very late female was near Lewisburg 16 Oct (Paul Adamus).

Two **Western Pond Turtles** were at Snag Boat Bend 25 Sep (Rana Foster). Carol Hiler's backyard trail camera captured photos of three **Gray Foxes** in North Albany early on 11 Oct. **Rain beetles** were spotted in McDonald Forest and at Finley NWR 22 Oct (Bill Gerth; Howard Bruner).

In mid-Oct Gavin Lippsmeyer photographed two very large **earthworms**, 20 inches and 24 inches long, near Valzetz. These were likely examples of the **Oregon Giant Earthworm**, a native species that requires deep, undisturbed soils and is thought to be imperiled. Individuals can sometimes grow up to 50 inches (1.3 m) long!

**Next month:** Watch for more wintering raptors, sparrows and waterfowl arriving from the north, including swans and perhaps also shrikes. Please post your observations to the Mid-Valley birding list at [midvalleybirding.org](http://midvalleybirding.org), e-mail them to me at [joel.geier@peak.org](mailto:joel.geier@peak.org), send by post to 38566 Hwy 99W Corvallis 97330, or call (541) 745-5821 by 22 Nov.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### VISIT NATURE STORE AT FINLEY NWR

We encourage you to check out the wide selection of nature-themed gifts at the Wild Goose Nature Store at the Finley National Wildlife Refuge headquarters.

The store is entirely run by dedicated volunteers on weekends, open from 10 am to 4 pm, Friday through Sunday. They have a huge selection of field guides, tee-shirts, hats, jewelry, children's books, stuffed animals and finger puppets, mugs, pins, notecards and more. Many gifts are unique and handmade for a holiday treat.

Your purchases at the Wild Goose help support our conservation partners of the non-profit Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex. They use proceeds from store sales for education programs that include ASC's annual Winter Wildlife Field Day, which will be March 18, 2017.

Please stop by next time you are enjoying the quickly expanding population of winter migrants and year-round wildlife and trails at Finley NWR, just 10 miles south of Corvallis, between Highway 99 and Bellfountain Road.

*Teri Engbring*

## BALANCING PREDATORS AND PEOPLE:

### PREDATION MANAGEMENT IN THE WEST

**Sunday, November 13, 2016, from 7-8:30 pm at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library**

Some conservation groups want management to benefit mammalian predators. Other organizations favor lethal control. Human populations are expanding, as are carnivore populations, and the



*Photo by John Morgan*

landscape for wolves, bears, coyotes, and cougars is changing. Farmers continue to anxiously protect their livestock from mammalian predators, but they aren't the only ones concerned: people living in non-rural areas also have unwanted run-ins with carnivores.

Since at least 2004, Benton County has contracted with USDA Wildlife Services to kill predatory and nuisance wildlife via a U.S. Government trapper. Indiscriminate, non-selective, lethal methods are used, often killing non-target species and non-offending individuals. The lethal



tools that have been used are neck snares, steel-jawed leghold and body-gripping traps, calling and shooting, and poisons.

A review of federal government records from 2004-2014 reveals that federal agents in Benton County killed 738 mammals, including 456 coyotes, 95 beavers, 50 raccoons, 46 bobcats and over 3,000 birds. Yet last month, a scientific review of predator control studies found that preventing conflicts with wildlife using non-lethal deterrents was more effective than killing wildlife in response to conflict. How biologically effective are such high removal rates? How did lethal control policies become entrenched in the American west? What are the costs and benefits of current lethal policies and the agencies that pursue them? What are the proactive alternatives to prevent conflicts from happening?

Community members have proposed a Benton County Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program as a locally-controlled alternative to the U.S. government contract the county currently supports. They have been working with county commissioners to establish an educational program promoting proactive, non-lethal, approaches to human-wildlife conflicts. This program includes a brochure, a demonstration farm, a private predation management workshop, and an upcoming public presentation.

Author and predation management expert John A. Shivik, PhD, will give a free public presentation titled "Balancing Predators and People: A Look at Predation Management in the West." Dr. Shivik, who has over 20 years of experience with mammalian predators and the development of non-lethal techniques for managing predation, will share insights about the current state of predator management.

The presentation will take place on Sunday, November 14, 2016, from 7-8:30 pm at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. The presentation is being co-sponsored by Farmland LP, Chintimini Wildlife Center, and Cattail Creek Lamb.

*Randy and Pam Comeleo*

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## WILLAMETTE VALLEY BIRD SYMPOSIUM

**The 3rd annual Willamette Valley Bird Symposium will be held Saturday, January 21, 2017, at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center on the OSU campus from 9 am to 4 pm.**

The symposium is a day-long event bringing together professionals, students, and amateurs from the Willamette Valley to celebrate birds. The volunteer-staffed symposium was first held in 2015 and over 200 people each year from our community have been able to spend the day learning about bird research and conservation. The program features a keynote lecture, research presentations, demonstrations of avian research techniques, and a live raptor display from the Chintimini Wildlife Center.

For more information, go to the website:

[www.willamettevalleybirds.org](http://www.willamettevalleybirds.org)

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## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

### OCT 13, 2016 ASC BOARD MEETING

The October ASC board meeting was held at Teri Engbring's home instead of at Hesthavn due to stormy weather. The annual appeal letter will be written by Suzanne Ortiz and included in the November CHAT. A hard copy of the CHAT will be sent to all members. Teri Engbring reported that planning is underway for the Winter Wildlife Field Day on March 18, 2017. The board approved Conservation Chair Jim Fairchild and President Chris Mathews signing of letter to President Obama about Arctic NWR written by Alaska Wilderness League. The board approved including notice from Wild Goose Nature Store operated by Friends of the Willamette Valley NWR Complex in the CHAT. Suzanne Ortiz was thanked for all her work producing two fine brochures for ASC. Jesse Laney reported on the activities of the OSU Bird Nerds. ASC is sponsoring two interns that Finley NWR will be able to hire. The budget for 2016-2017 was approved. The November board meeting will be 7 pm, November 10th 2016 at Chris Mathews' home.

*Gail Nickerson, Secretary*

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS CHAT

Bill Proebsting, Chris Mathews, Suzanne Ortiz, Marcia Cutler, Ray Drapek, Teri Engbring, Raylene Gordin, Joel Geier, Gail Nickerson, Fred Ramsey, Randy & Pam Comeleo, and Don Boucher

## CHAT ARTICLES

The Chat editors welcome articles from all members of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. Please submit articles to the Chat editor by the final Thursday of the month. Submit text using Microsoft Word and photos to: [chateditors@gmail.com](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com)

## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CORVALLIS



*Brown Creeper photo by Matt Lee*

## CALENDAR

Nov 10	ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm, Mathews home
Nov 12	Half Day Field Trip to Baskett Slough NWR
Nov 17	ASC General Meeting at Chintimini Sr Ctr
Nov 22	Field Notes submissions due
Nov 24	December CHAT submissions due
Dec 10	Field Trip, location TBA

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; \$150 for Patron Level; and \$250 for Benefactor Level.

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

Interested in volunteering? Please let us know:  
[volunteerasc@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerasc@gmail.com)

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