



# *Audubon Society of Corvallis* *the CHAT*

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November 2005

VOL. 35

#3

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## **General Meeting**

November 17, 7:30 – 9:00 PM  
First Presbyterian Church

**Condor Tales: What I Learned in  
Twelve Years with the Big Birds**  
*A presentation by Sandy Wilbur*



Sanford R. "Sandy" Wilbur worked with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 34 years, including 15 years with the endangered species research and recovery program. From 1969 to 1981, he was the principal researcher and recovery team leader for the California Condor project. He was the lead author of the first condor recovery plan, and he wrote the captive breeding program that led to the recent condor recovery efforts. His program is based on his recent book, *Condor Tales: What I Learned in Twelve Years with the Big Birds*. Using color slides and reading from *Condor Tales*, he describes some of the reasons that condors became endangered, and some of the complications that arose in the fight to save the birds from extinction.

A native of Oakland, California, Sandy has lived in Gresham, Oregon since 1981. He and his wife Sally operate SYMBIOS, a publishing and environmental consulting business.

*Susan Haig*

## **Directions**

The chapter meeting is at the meeting hall of the First Presbyterian Church (take the elevator upstairs), 114 SW Eighth Street. As usual, the meeting will be preceded by a social period, with refreshments, beginning at 7:00.

## **Merlin S. "Elzy" Eltzroth**

1922 – 2005



*Elzy and deer friend, provided by Elsie Eltzroth*

This issue of the Chat is dedicated to one of our most beloved members and leaders, Elzy Eltzroth, who died on October 7, 2005, after a courageous battle with heart disease. Following a 29-year career in the Air Force, during which he served as a decorated fighter pilot, Elzy and Elsie settled in Corvallis in 1971. In the subsequent 34 years, Elzy pioneered techniques in raptor rehabilitation, lobbied for greater protection for non-game birds, served as founding President of Oregon Field Ornithologists,

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### **Elzy: continued from front page**

co-founded the Corvallis Audubon chapter and served as President and Chat editor. He originated the Secret Witness Fund to help apprehend those who kill or injure wild animals, published *Checklist of the Birds of Oregon, Birding in Corvallis*, and numerous articles on birding, and served the cause of conservation in many, many ways. And his warmth and enthusiasm inspired us all. I will never forget his welcoming greeting, when Kate and I attended our first ASC meeting nearly 28 years ago. He made it clear that we had found a new home. And last spring I was honored to be the one who presented Elzy with the first Homer Campbell Award, honoring a person for local conservation efforts. Elzy, you were truly one of a kind, and your many friends are grateful to have known you.

*Chris Mathews, President, ASC*

## **ANWR Update**

### **Senate Energy Committee votes to open ANWR to drilling, Senator Smith changes his vote**

On October 19, the US Senate Energy Committee voted to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling as part of a broad budget bill to fund the federal government. Republicans attached the Alaskan drilling plan to the budget bill in order to avoid filibustering, and claim the drilling plan can be part of the budget bill because it will raise an estimated \$2.4 billion.

The bill is scheduled to go to the Senate floor in late October and to the House in early November.

Senator Gordon Smith, who has voted against drilling in the Arctic in the past, has stated that he will vote yes on this bill because there are other provisions in the bill that he approves of. He has recently made claims that drilling in ANWR is not the "lightning rod" it once was in Oregon. Senator Smith will be a key vote on this bill. His contact information is below.

### **Oregon Representatives**

Senator Gordon Smith (Republican—OR)  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-0001  
Phone: (202) 224-3753  
Fax: (202) 228-3997  
E-Mail : <http://www.senate.gov/~gsmith/webform.htm>

Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat—OR)  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-0001  
Phone: (202) 224-5244  
Fax: (202) 228-2717  
E-Mail: <http://www.senate.gov/~wyden/contact.html>

Rep. Peter DeFazio (Democrat — CD 4)  
2134 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington DC, 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-6416  
Toll-free: 1-800-944-9603 (from Oregon only)  
E-Mail: [peter.defazio@mail.house.gov](mailto:peter.defazio@mail.house.gov)

Rep. Darlene Hooley (Democrat — CD 5)  
2430 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5711  
Fax: (202) 225-5699  
<http://www.house.gov/hooley/contact.html>

## **Help Wanted**

### **Have your name placed on a volunteer roster**

Critical to the success of Audubon Society of Corvallis is the willingness of our members to pitch in when help is needed. Most prominent is the large number of ASC members who routinely turn up for Ray Drapek's Saturday Hesthavn work parties. ASC needs help in other areas as well, and we would like to give all members an opportunity to get their names on a roster of possible volunteer workers. Here are some examples of help that is needed:

- The chairs of the Education and Outreach committees often need help, for instance, staffing an Audubon information table at events such as Da-Vinci Days or local farmers' markets.
- Treasurer Judy Hays has asked for a few members with financial or accounting experience to work with her as a Finance Committee for our chapter.
- The organizers of the Christmas Bird Count may need help arranging the post-count supper.
- Ray can always use more help, as Hesthavn work parties will be needed for some time to come.

If you would like your name placed on a volunteer workers' roster, please sign up at a general meeting, or contact me by e-mail ([mathewsc2@comcast.net](mailto:mathewsc2@comcast.net)) or phone (754-1172). Give your name, e-mail address, most convenient phone number, and an indication, if you have a preference, of the type of help you can provide. Then wait to be called!

*Chris Mathews, ASC President*

# Membership Alert

## Local members: Don't miss a single Chat issue!

The mailing label on your newsletter contains some important information that could save you from missing an issue of the Chat. Above your name is a three-letter code, which indicates your membership category, and your membership expiration date. This date is the last date that the newsletter will be sent to you, although if you are a National member, you will be contacted well before then for renewal.

- NAS designates that you are a member of the National Audubon Society.
- LCL designates that you are a member of the local chapter (ASC) only.

Local-only members should send dues (\$20 for an individual or \$25 for a family) to the Audubon Society of Corvallis, at P. O. Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339, in advance of the expiration date. I sometimes forget to send out renewal cards.

Local-only members getting the Chat by e-mail will get a notice by email. Please renew at that time.

*Amy Schoener*

## Field Trip Schedule

Nov 12	Saturday morning local birding 7:30 AM
Nov 19	Fern Ridge Wildlife Area 7:30 AM
Dec 10	Saturday morning local birding 7:30 AM
Dec 20	Corvallis Christmas Bird Count—contact Marcia Cutler

### Second Saturdays:

Our second Saturday morning local field trip meets at the Avery Park Rose Garden parking area at 7:30 AM. This field trip is especially interesting for beginner birders and new birders to Oregon's mid-valley area. We spend a lot of time identifying local birds by sight and song. We visit the valley National Wildlife Refuges—Finley, Baskett Slough, and Ankeny as well as other birding areas throughout the year. Field trip leader is Paula Vanderheul 541-752-0470, [vanderp@peak.org](mailto:vanderp@peak.org).

### Full day birding:

On the full day trips we carpool, sharing gas cost with the drivers. Everyone is to bring a large lunch, drinks, binoculars, spotting scope, warm clothing, sturdy shoes, and rain gear. We meet at 7:30 AM at the Benton Center parking lot at 757 NW Polk, which can be reached by turning east on Polk at the corner of Polk and 9th street, where Borders Books is located.

The Fern Ridge Wildlife Area (November 19) has diked ponds for ducks and shorebirds. We will be walking the diked ponds during most of our visit. We meet at the Benton Center parking lot at 7:30 AM to car pool. We should return by 4:00 PM. Contact Paula Vanderheul for

questions at [vanderp@peak.org](mailto:vanderp@peak.org) or 541-752-0470.

### Spring weekend birding:

March 17-19	Bandon Coast
April 21-23	Klamath Basin
May 5-7	Rogue Valley with Shakespeare play "UP"
May 18-21	Malheur NWR

Sign-up sheets and trip information will be available at the general meetings, or contact Paula Vanderheul at [vanderp@peak.org](mailto:vanderp@peak.org) 541-752-0470.

*Paula Vanderheul*

## Avery House Nature Center Events

Registration: stop at the Corvallis Environmental Center at 214 SW Monroe in downtown Corvallis, or go to [www.peak.org/~ecenter](http://www.peak.org/~ecenter).

### Mushroom Hike: Sunday, November 5, 12

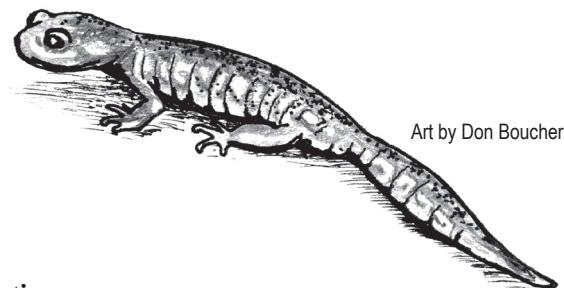
Did you know that mushrooms are actually a very small part of an organism that can cover hundreds of square feet? With the help of mycologists, or mushroom scientists, learn about different kinds of mushrooms that grow in our area and the truth behind which mushrooms are safe to eat!

Mushroom Hike #1: November 5, 1:00-2:30 at Mac-Donald Forest Peavy Arboretum

Mushroom Hike #2: November 12, 1:00-2:30 at Beazell Forest in Kings Valley

### Salmon Walk: Saturday, November 19

See the amazing sight of gigantic Chinook salmon migrating up the Alsea River—up close and personal! We'll spend time observing salmon with special glasses to help see them more clearly, and also learn about how water quality, streamside ecology, and the things we do everyday affect salmon habitat. 1-2:30 at Clements County Park.



### *Ensatina*

*A salamander native to Western Oregon forests*

# Field Notes

September 27 through October 24, 2005

Typical cool fall weather prevailed for most of the period, with showers alternating with sunny but mostly cool days, often with morning fog. Big-leaf maples and oaks were turning color and dropping leaves by mid-October. A few straggling southbound migrants were noted, but none so far were unusually late in comparison with past years. Meanwhile wintering birds including geese, swans, diving ducks, raptors, shrikes, kinglets, and northern sparrows continued to show up.

**Abbreviations & Locations:** NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; p.obs. - personal observation. Cheadle Marsh and McFadden Marsh are at Finley (NWR) south of Corvallis. E.E. Wilson (Wildlife Area) is north of Adair Village along Hwy 99W. Coffin Butte is the butte north of the landfill and across the highway from the main portion of E.E. Wilson. Middle Ridge is s. of Lebanon. Pioneer Villa wetlands are in s. Linn Co. along I-5. Toketie Marsh is the remedial wetland for Coffin Butte landfill.

## Inland Reports

A flock of **Greater White-fronted Geese** flew over Tangent 1 Oct (Neil Holcomb). One was at the Philomath sewage ponds 7 Oct (Noah Strycker).

An apparently injured **Tundra Swan** that was at McFadden Marsh last month (and may have summered over) was found lying dead near the blinds 3 Oct, apparently of natural causes (N Strycker). Six fall migrants were at Baskett Slough NWR 23 Oct (N Strycker, Karl Fairchild, Michael Dossett, Jessie Leach).

Forty **Wood Ducks** were at the Philomath sewage ponds 4-7 Oct, increasing to 50 by 11 Oct (N Strycker). Four **Gadwall** were on a quarry pond on Stahlbusch Island 25 Oct (Rich Armstrong). Small flocks of **American Wigeon** continued to show up, including five on Big Lake in the Cascades, and 50 on Stahlbusch Island by 25 Oct (R Armstrong). The count of **Northern Shovelers** at Philomath sewage ponds swelled to 210 by 17 Oct (N Strycker); 40 **Green-winged Teal** were there by 23 Oct (Joe Fontaine). A few more **Northern Pintail** showed up at scattered locations, but numbers remained small thru the end of the period.

A **Canvasback** at Philomath sewage ponds 14 Oct was joined by two more 17 Oct (N Strycker). Two showed up on Stewart Lake 22 Oct (M Dossett); three were there 24 Oct and four were on a Stahlbusch Island pond 25 Oct (R Armstrong). Two **Redheads** were at the Philomath sewage ponds 4-17 Oct (N Strycker), with a third there 12 Oct (R Armstrong).

38 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at Stewart Lake by late Sep, increasing to 90 by 20 Oct (Jamie Simmons). A female **Greater Scaup** at Philomath sewage ponds 7 Oct was swimming near a **Lesser Scaup** for convenient comparison (N Strycker). The scaup flock there included three **Greater Scaup** 11 Oct, and about twenty on 23 Oct, surprisingly with no **Lesser Scaup** on the latter date (N Strycker; J Fontaine).

A **Surf Scoter** showed up on the Philomath sewage ponds 7 Oct, and four were there 11 Oct (N Strycker) with one remaining 12 & 14 Oct (R Armstrong; N Strycker). Six more were on Big Lake in Santiam Pass 12 Oct (Randy Campbell). Three **White-winged Scoters** were at Foster Reservoir 22 Oct (Jeff Harding). By then **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were also beginning to show up at Foster Res., presumably migrating down from the higher-elevation lakes in the Cascades where they breed. A well-described female **Red-breasted Merganser** on the ponds at Pioneer Villa 12 Oct (Randy Campbell).

On 11 Oct a **Ruffed Grouse** on Middle Ridge s. of Lebanon stood in the road while Raylene Gordin came to a stop, grabbed her binoculars, and got out for a better look. Raylene reports that the grouse did not move until she got back in her car and began to roll forward. The degree to which grouse will sometimes trust in their camouflage can be amazing!

Up to four **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Stewart Lake throughout

the period (J Simmons).

Migrant grebes made a good showing at low elevations this month, including two **Horned Grebes** and two **Eared Grebes** at the Philomath sewage ponds 11 Oct (N Strycker), four **Horned Grebes** and one **Eared Grebe** there the next day (R Armstrong), and four **Eared Grebes** there 22 Oct (N Strycker et al.). Two **Western Grebes** were on the Willamette River near downtown Corvallis 3 Oct (N Strycker), one was near Peoria 29 Oct (R Campbell), and singles were at the Philomath sewage ponds 11, 17, & 23 Oct (N Strycker; J Fontaine).

In the Cascades, a **Horned Grebe**, an **Eared Grebe**, and seven **Western Grebes** were at Big Lake 12 Oct (R Campbell).

A large flock of **Double-crested Cormorants** has gathered again this year in the Fischer & Stahlbusch Island area, with over 100 at the pond along Hwy 34 just w. of the Corvallis bypass by 20 Oct (R Armstrong).

Three **Great Egrets** at Cheadle Marsh were a highlight of a field trip for the 4th grade class from Inavale Elementary on 6 Oct.

A **Turkey Vulture** was regular around the Highland Ave. cemetery in n. Corvallis through 6 Oct. Three soaring south over Poison Oak Hill near E.E. Wilson 8 Oct were the last ones I saw or heard of this season.

A late **Osprey** flew by Peoria 20 Oct (R Campbell). A **White-tailed Kite** was at the prairie overlook at Finley NWR 18 Oct (Steve Gordon), where more should be gathering in the coming months. Two adult **Bald Eagles** interacting over the Willamette River at Snag Boat Bend 13 Oct were a spectacular sight for the Inavale 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade classes 13 Oct.

An adult **Sharp-shinned Hawk** perched at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 7 Oct later soared with a second (R Armstrong). At Bill & Lena Proebsting's house on Oak Creek, **Cooper's Hawks** flushed **California Quail** into windows three times in early Oct, resulting in two mortalities, only one of which the hawk retrieved.

The Proebstings also saw a **Red-shouldered Hawk** fly over 22 Oct, the first they have seen there. On 5 Oct Wayne Hoffman spotted another **Red-shouldered Hawk** along the S. Fork Alsea River, where there have been several reports in recent years.

A convocation of 10 to 12 **Red-tailed Hawks** were in a cut grain-field along Decker Rd. near Inavale 27 Sep (Karan & Jim Fairchild). The first **Rough-legged Hawk** of the season showed up at Finley NWR 18 Oct (S Gordon).

A **Merlin** glided over our place on the lower slopes of Poison Oak Hill 12 Oct. A **Peregrine Falcon** flew by the Spring Creek Apartments on Technology Loop 22 Oct (Don Boucher, Lisa Millbank). A **Prairie Falcon** at Cheadle Marsh 14 Oct captured a **Mallard** drake in mid-air (M Dossett). This is likely the same Prairie Falcon that was around Finley in late September; it was seen there again 18 Oct (S Gordon).

On 11 Oct Joshua Gentry and about 20 instructors and students at the Corvallis Outdoor School saw 75 **Sandhill Cranes** fly over Camp Tadmor (along McDowell Creek Rd. s. Lebanon), within an hour after Pat Waldron saw flocks totaling 150 fly south over her place e. of Scio.

Stragglers from the fall shorebird passage included a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Toketie Marsh thru 3 Oct (p.obs.), and a **Western Sandpiper** at Finley NWR 24 Oct (Ryan Kepler). Wintering shorebirds began to show up including the first two **Dunlin** at Mike Lippsmeyer's wetland in se. Polk Co. 19 Oct. A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was at Toketie Marsh 3 Oct; by 20 Oct ten were feeding there alongside of twelve **Wilson's Snipe** (p.obs.).

Three **Herring Gulls** were at Baskett Slough NWR 23 Oct (N Strycker et al.).

Linda Campbell was hearing a **Barred Owl** in the Marys River Estates neighborhood w. of Philomath for about a week, as of 14 Oct. Jamie Simmons continued to hear a **Barn Owl** from his nw Corvallis yard frequently thru 22 Oct.

On 5 Oct a **Western Screech-Owl** roosted in a tree outside Aaron Liston's laboratory in Cordley Hall on the OSU Campus, until a squirrel

drove it off. Michael Dossett found a **Northern Pygmy-Owl** at Finley NWR 4 Oct. A **Burrowing Owl** returned to its wintering location along Creek Drive near Halsey 20 Oct (R Campbell).

An **Anna's Hummingbird** began to visit Bill & Lena Proebsting's garden along Oak Creek in late Sep, after the Rufous Hummingbirds departed. A female checked the fuchsias in Neil Holcomb's Tangent yard 2 Sep. The male of the pair at Andrea Foster's place in nw Corvallis started doing his display dives 26 Oct; this species can nest as early as late Jan in our region.

A late **Western Wood-Pewee** was along Oak Creek 2 Oct (B & L Proebsting). A **Black Phoebe** was back at the Monroe sewage ponds 22 Oct (N Strycker et al.).

On 20 Oct Randy Campbell found a **Loggerhead Shrike** on the e. side of Ward Butte in Linn Co. 20 Oct. The first **Northern Shrike** reported this season was at Finley NWR 24 Oct (R Kepler).

Two large, pale **Horned Larks** were atop Marys Peak 22 Oct (N Strycker et al.). Late migrant swallows included about six **Tree Swallows** were over Cheadle Marsh 6 Oct (Inavale 4th graders, p. obs.), and thirty **Barn Swallows** at Ankeny NWR 23 Oct (N Strycker et al.).

Jamie Simmons noticed one to two **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** were consistently around his neighborhood this month, perhaps a further sign that conifer-loving species are expanding their domain in nw Corvallis.

**White-breasted Nuthatches** have been mostly quiet or absent from Stewart Lake since the young fledged in Jun, but were heard there again 6 Oct (fide J Simmons). One also showed up at Rich & Nanette Armstrong's feeder near Forest Dell Park 9 Oct, perhaps a sign of fall shifts in territory.

Two late **House Wrens** were at Forest Dell Park 6 Oct (N & R Armstrong). By 20 Oct **Winter Wrens** began to show up at lower elevations away from breeding habitat. A **Marsh Wren** was at Philomath sewage ponds 17 & 22 Oct (N Strycker).

**Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** continued to show up at low elevations, often forming mixed flocks with chickadees and other hardy species such as **Yellow-rumped Warblers**.

Six migrant **Western Bluebirds** were atop Marys Peak 11 Oct (p. obs.). A flock of up to 16 was regular atop Middle Ridge thru the end of the period, joined by a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 1 Oct (R Gordin).

The last date that I heard a **Swainson's Thrush** at our place was 8 Oct, but Darrel Faxon was still hearing nocturnal migrants over Thornton Creek in the Lincoln Co. Coast Range thru 13 Oct. A **Hermit Thrush** was near Finley HQ 16 Oct (Tim Janzen).

**American Pipits** continued to show up, including small flocks at Finley 20 Oct and over Inavale School 25 Oct.

A few Inavale 4th graders also got to see **Yellow-rumped Warblers** moving thru trees at Cheadle Marsh 6 Oct. The first fall report of the northern (**Myrtle**) form of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was one at Jackson-Frazier Wetland 29 Sep (R Armstrong).

A late **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was at Finley NWR 7 Oct (M Dossett). Bill Proebsting noticed a pulse of migrant **Townsend's Warblers** at Oak Creek 4-10 Oct, with one or two almost every time he looked. On 12 Oct a **Palm Warbler** paid another brief visit to our yard near E.E. Wilson, visiting the same trees that one favored last fall. The last **Common Yellowthroats** were noted 7 Oct at Philomath sewage ponds (N Strycker) and Jackson-Frazier Wetland (R Armstrong).

Atop Marys Peak 11 Oct, I saw a **Savannah Sparrow** which was larger and more cold-toned than the usual birds for our area, likely a migrant from farther north.

**White-throated Sparrows** visited Bill & Lena Proebsting's Oak Creek garden 8 Oct onward. Bill saw another in the sw part of MacDonald State Forest 23 Oct; Michael Dossett noted one at Finley HQ 16-24 Oct. Golden-crowned Sparrows continued to show up, including some atop Middle Ridge 1 Oct onward (R Gordin). A male **Slate-colored (Dark-eyed) Junco** visited our yard near E.E. Wilson 12 Oct.

Several **Evening Grosbeaks** were on Middle Ridge periodically

from early Oct onward (R Gordin). A male visited a feeder in the Forest Dell neighborhood 24-25 Oct (N & R Armstrong).

A **praying mantis** munching on the remains of a **woolly bear caterpillar** was one of the more exciting finds by Inavale 4th graders on a field trip to Cheadle Marsh 6 Oct. Steve Gordon noted many **Striped Meadowhawks** (dragonflies) there 18 Oct.

Mike Lippsmeyer saw 12 **elk** including a large bull just nw. of E.E. Wilson 20 Oct, likely the same herd that E.E. Wilson staff have been seeing recently. Wayne Hoffman found a road-killed **Spotted Skunk** in the Upper Lobster Valley 5 Oct.

## Coastal Notes

Five **Brant** were under the Yaquina Bay bridge 27 Sep (p. obs.); Range Bayer suspects these were summering birds rather than fall arrivals which are due later this month. A **Eurasian Wigeon** drake was with an **American Wigeon** flock on Yaquina Bay, and 15 **Harlequin Ducks** were between the jetties 16 Oct (Randy Moore, Jamie Nelson, Suzanne Bythell-Austin).

**Surf Scoters** and **White-winged Scoters** continued to increase off Boiler Bay thru early Oct, joined by a few **Black Scoters** 14-15 Oct (Phil Pickering; W Hoffman). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** and a **Red-breasted Merganser** were with the scoters off Spanish Head 18 Oct (P Pickering). The regular wintering **loon** species (**Red-necked, Pacific and Common**) as well as **grebe** species (**Horned, Red-necked, and Western**) continued to increase along the coast thru the period; a **Clark's Grebe** was also seen at Boiler Bay 22 Oct (W Hoffman).

A sea watch at Boiler Bay 15 Oct yielded eight **Pink-footed Shearwaters**, nine **Buller's Shearwaters**, and 30 **Sooty Shearwaters**, as well as four **Pomarine Jaegers** and three **Parasitic Jaegers** (W Hoffman). **Short-tailed Shearwaters** continued to be seen in small numbers, which should increase as winter approaches. 250 **Brown Pelicans** were still off Boiler Bay 22 Oct (W Hoffman).

Shorebirds at Siletz Bay 9 Oct included 40 **Black-bellied Plovers**, three **Semipalmated Plovers**, four **Marbled Godwits**, and a juvenile **Red Knot** (N Strycker, Nate Richardson, Devin Allphin). Another juvenile **Red Knot** was at Yachats 13 Oct (Diane Pettry).

A **Rock Sandpiper** joined the **Black Turnstones** and **Surfbirds** along the rocks of the south jetty of Yaquina Bay 16 Oct, while four **Marbled Murrelets** were on the water (R Moore et al.).

A loose flock of 500 **Bonaparte's Gulls** flew s. past Spanish Head 21 Oct (P Pickering). Good numbers of **Heermann's Gulls** were seen thru the end of the period. A **Thayer's Gull** was at Yaquina Bay 16 Oct (R Moore et al.). Five **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were off Spanish Head 18 Oct (P Pickering).

Roy Lowe photographed a **Tropical Kingbird** along the estuary trail at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport 24 Oct. A stray **Swainson's Thrush** of the eastern, "olive-backed" form showed up in Lincoln City 3 Oct (P Pickering). **Townsend's Warblers** were among the highlights of a canoeing field trip through Siletz Bay NWR led by Dawn Gafe 14 Oct (fide N Holcomb).

## Next issue

Please let me know about your observations by 22 Nov.  
Joel Geier, 38566 Hwy 99W, Corvallis, OR 97330-9320  
Telephone: (541) 745-5821 or 745-5020  
e-mail: jgeier@attglobal.net

## Hesthavn Workshop

### First Art & Nature for Kids workshop

On Saturday, October 8, the first Art and Nature for Kids workshop was held at Hesthavn. Influenced by the natural beauty and the broad palette of colors and materials available to them, kids drew, painted, and etched things in nature that inspired and excited them. The range of work and creative energy let loose were awe-inspiring.

The workshop will be offered on an ongoing basis starting next spring. Notice will appear in upcoming issues of The Chat.

*Leslie Green*

## Thanksgiving Bird Count

### Right around the corner, Nov. 24

The annual Thanksgiving bird count is approaching. Although not as well known as some other bird counts, the Thanksgiving bird count has been around since 1966. For more information, contact Dr. John G. Hewston, Natural Resources Building, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA 95521. (707) 822-5288.

*Dr. John G. Hewston*

## Christmas Bird Count

### Corvallis: Tuesday, December 20

Everybody is invited to join us for the 44th Corvallis Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Whether you are a beginner or experienced CBCer, every set of eyes and ears is needed to help tally all the birds within a 7.5 mile radius of the Corvallis airport. The Christmas Bird Count is an organized continent-wide survey that documents every bird seen on a given day from sunrise to sunset. Since the turn of the 20th century, the Christmas Bird Count has contributed to the knowledge base of wintering birds in North America.

The count is an all-day event open to anyone wishing to participate. This is 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 their yard to participate. 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.

Participants over the age of 19 need to pay a fee of \$5.00 to cover National Audubon's costs of printing the results. As in the past, the Corvallis count circle will

be divided into 13 units, with a team of 3-6 individuals assigned to each section. 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, and snacks for the day. A notepad and pencil, field guides and a thermos with something hot are always good ideas, as well.

If you are interested in participating or would like further information, please contact me at 752-4313 or e-mail me at [marciafcutler@comcast.net](mailto:marciafcutler@comcast.net).

*Marcia Cutler*

## Refuge Photo Contest

### Submit your favorite refuge photo

The National Wildlife Refuge Association and Swarovski Optik are jointly sponsoring the 2005 Refuge Photo Contest, a digital photo contest to showcase America's national wildlife refuges. Images of birds, mammals, insects, fish, plants, people, or refuge scenery can be uploaded to the NWRA website through December 15, 2005. Photos must have been taken in national wildlife refuges. First prize is a full digiscoping outfit from Swarovski Optik, and there are many other prizes. To enter the contest or receive further information, visit: <http://refugenet.org/contest/ContestHome.html>.

*Chris Mathews*



On October 5, this Western Screech owl was roosting in a *Liquidambar* tree outside my 4<sup>th</sup>-floor lab in Cordley Hall. It was there from at least 10 AM until 2 PM, when it was chased away by a Western Gray Squirrel.

*Anthony Shireman*

## Baseball is for the Birds

### A short pun-story

After a Little Stint in the minor leagues, Bill McKay made it to the Baltimore Orioles. Since he was Swift and not a power hitter he tried a Little Bunting and it worked.

He practiced until he was black and Blue Bunting so much. He tried Varied Bunting, some fast and some Snow Bunting. It became Common for him to Reed-Bunting books and people would find him Lazuli Bunting between games. In order to not become Rustic Bunting was part of every practice and he tried never to get a Gray Bunting. He even talked his wife Indigo Bunting with him.

In a game against the Blue Jays he had a Lark Bunting with 2 Shrikes and won the game. He became so famous against the Cardinals in the Series that people came just to see McKay's Bunting.

And when he was elected to the Hall of Fame he had himself Painted Bunting!

*Rich Armstrong*

## Oregon Audubon Meeting

The OAC Meeting was held October 21 – 23

### The OAC selected the following as its 2006 priority issues:

The Endangered Species Act: The Oregon Audubon Council recognizes that the decline of wildlife populations and wildlife habitats must be reversed. We support full implementation and reauthorization of, and strengthening amendments to, state and federal Endangered Species Acts.

Klamath Basin wildlife habitat: The Oregon Audubon Council recognizes the need to protect the inherent ecological values of Klamath Basin wildlife habitat, as well as compatible economies, cultures and quality of life.

Wildland forest habitats: The Oregon Audubon Council advocates for protection of the remaining wildlife forest habitats on public lands. We recognize that biological diversity and long-term forest productivity are threatened due to the continuing destruction and degradation of wildlands, forest ecosystems, including old growth forests, roadless areas, and wilderness areas.

Decisions were also made regarding collaborative funds and the awarding of grants.

## Contributors to the Chat

Susan Haig, Chris Mathews, Paula Vanderheul, Don Boucher, Marcia Cutler, Anthony Shireman, Rich Armstrong, John Hewston, Leslie Green, Amy Schell, Joel Geier, and Amy Schoener.

Chat distribution: Fran Gates, Alberta Pierce, Eleanor and Ken Kidd, Joan Siegienski, and Joe Fontaine.

## Siskiyou Field Institute Classes

Join the Siskiyou Field Institute for exciting classes this fall and winter

### Fall Fruitters I & II: Mycology in SW Oregon

**Nov 11 & 12 and/or Nov 13 & 14, Ashland**

Join fungi experts Eric McEwen and Ron Hamill in an exploration of the diverse species of Siskiyou fungi. Learn how to identify common mushrooms, including some edibles. The first two days will be geared toward beginners and the second for those who are more experienced. \$90 per session or \$180 for both.

### Winter Ecology

February 17 – 18, Ashland

Strap on some snowshoes and explore the winter world of Mt. Ashland! Naturalist Kristi Mergenthaler will lead us in discovering the ingenious ways plants and animals adapt to a life in the cold and snow. We'll practice winter plant identification and learn how to interpret animal signs. Moderately strenuous snowshoeing. Okay for beginning snowshoers! \$60 per person

For more information, or to sign up for a class, call 541-592-3777 or go online at [www.thesfi.org](http://www.thesfi.org).

*Amy Schell*



Art by Don Boucher

*American Wigeon*

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*the CHAT*

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**Calendar**

Nov 12 Mushroom hike\*  
Nov 11-14 Fall fruiters mycology\*  
Nov 12 Saturday morning local birding 7:30 AM - noon\*  
Nov 17 November general meeting 7:30 PM\*\*  
Nov 19 Fern Ridge Wildlife Area birding 7:30 AM\*  
Nov 19 Salmon walk\*  
Nov 22 Submission deadline for field notes  
Nov 24 Thanksgiving Bird Count \*\*\*  
Nov 24 Submission deadline for December Chat  
Dec 10 Saturday morning local birding 7:30 AM – noon\*  
Dec 15 Refuge photo contest deadline\*\*\*  
Dec 20 Corvallis Christmas Bird Count\*\*\*  
Jan 13-16 Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival  
\*see page 19  
\*\*see front page  
\*\*\*see page 22

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