



Audubon Society of Corvallis *the CHAT*

October 2008

VOL. 38

#2

General Meeting

Thursday, October 16, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church



A presentation by Molly Monroe

Canada geese have arrived in the valley and ASC is fortunate to have our very own Goose Lady, Molly Monroe, to tell us about the seven subspecies that make the Willamette Valley their winter headquarters. Bring your goose questions on Thursday, 16 October!

Molly is an OSU graduate and began her career working with endangered species such as the California Condor, Marbled Murrelet and Northern Spotted Owl. She began working with Canada geese in 1997 at a hunter check station and has become a skilled collar reader, allowing her to continue working with geese in the field. Her special interest is the



Dusky Canada Goose, and she has traveled twice to the breeding grounds on the Copper River Delta to assist in nest searches. She has been involved with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1999 and recently has become an assistant refuge biologist. Her career is now expanding into habitat restoration and songbird banding. Molly is an avid birder and active in several of the Audubon chapters in the valley.

Diana Brin

Directions

The chapter meeting is in the meeting hall of the First Presbyterian Church (upstairs), 114 SW Eighth Street. The meeting is preceded by a social period with refreshments, which begins at 7 pm.

Candidate Scores on Conservation

Since this is the last Chat before the election, let's see how the candidates have voted in the past. These scores were compiled by the League of Conservation Voters (for those who held national offices) and the Oregon LCV (for state-wide ones) from each candidate's most recent legislative session. High scores mean more votes for conservation:

see "Conservation Scores" on next page

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Conservation Scores *continued from front page*

U.S. President race:

Barack Obama (D): 96%
John McCain (R): 24%

U.S. Senate race:

Jeff Merkley (D): 95%
Gordon Smith (R): 37%

U.S. House races:

Kurt Schrader (D): 93%
Jim Erickson (R): no score available

Peter DeFazio (D): 93%
Mike Beilstein (Green): no score available

Oregon State House races:

Sara Gelser (D): 100%
Robin Brown (R): no score available

Now you can decide whom to vote for.

Dave Mellinger

Weakening the Endangered Species Act

As reported in last month's Chat, the Bush administration is trying to change the Endangered Species Act so that the US Fish & Wildlife Service and NOAA would no longer be responsible for reviewing possible harm to endangered species by government actions (for land and sea species, respectively). Instead, if an agency could potentially harm a species, such as by destroying habitat or food supplies, that agency itself would decide whether harm will occur. In other words, the foxes will guard the henhouse.

If this seems outrageous to you, PLEASE take a few minutes to write. The deadline for comments has been extended to Oct. 15. You can write via the web site StopExtinction.org, or by writing a letter to

Public Comment Processing
Attention: 1018-AT50
Division of Policy and Directives Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 222
Arlington, VA 22203

In a letter, mention Docket ID FWS-R9-ES-2008-0093. It also helps to send a copy of your letter to our representatives in Congress.

Dave Mellinger

NA Migratory Bird Count

A drizzly morning could have put a damper on this count, yet the tallies from 9 different parties came to 111 bird species and 5,018 individual birds. This is the second highest species number for the fall count since I've been compiler starting in 1995. Two new species were added: American White Pelican (3 still lingering at Cabell Marsh) and White-Throated Sparrow. And a Horned Grebe showed up for only the third time.

There were several notable misses: Vaux's Swift, Acorn Woodpecker, Western Meadowlark, Lesser Goldfinch and Wild Turkey (I had two walking down the sidewalk in front of my house about a week ago!).

I'd like to thank all the people who participated in the count.

Here are the complete results (new highs in bold):

Greater White-fronted Goose 50	Canada Goose 172
Wood Duck 45	Gadwall 3
American Wigeon 7	Mallard 223
Blue-winged Teal 2	Cinnamon Teal 12
Northern Shoveler 266	Northern Pintail 39
Green-winged Teal 30	Lesser Scaup 1
Hooded Merganser 11	Common Merganser 1
Ruddy Duck 19	California Quail 44
Pied-billed Grebe 11	Horned Grebe 1
Eared Grebe 3	White Pelican 3
Great Blue Heron 12	Great Egret 3
Green Heron 3	Turkey Vulture 96
White-tailed Kite 2	Bald Eagle 1
Northern Harrier 8	Sharp-shinned Hawk 5
Cooper's Hawk 3	Red-shouldered Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 31	American Kestrel 8
American Coot 279	Killdeer 49
Greater Yellowlegs 4	Western Sandpiper 4
Least Sandpiper 4	Pectoral Sandpiper 1
Long-billed Dowitcher 1	Wilson's Snipe 9
Red-necked Phalarope 2	Rock Pigeon 1
Band-tailed Pigeon 11	Mourning Dove 40
Western Screech-Owl 1	Great Horned Owl 6
Anna's Hummingbird 10	Belted Kingfisher 4
Red-breasted Sapsucker 2	Downy Woodpecker 8
Hairy Woodpecker 1	Northern Flicker 35
Pileated Woodpecker 7	Western Wood Pee-wee 1
Hutton's Vireo 5	Gray Jay 8
Steller's Jay 46	Western Scrub-Jay 53
American Crow 121	Common Raven 44
Tree Swallow 20	Violet-green Swallow 93
N. Rough-winged Swallow 1	Cliff Swallow 10
Barn Swallow 173	Black-capped Chickadee 146
Chestnut-backed Chickadee 43	Bushtit 39
Red-breasted Nuthatch 30	White-breasted Nuthatch 8
Brown Creeper 8	Bewick's Wren 35
House Wren 2	Winter Wren 5
Marsh Wren 11	Golden-crowned Kinglet 30
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2	Western Bluebird 16
Swainson's Thrush 65	American Robin 85
Varied Thrush 1	Wrentit 5
European Starling 311	American Pipit 2
Cedar Waxwing 410	Orange-crowned Warbler 3
Yellow Warbler 1	Yellow-rumped Warbler 8
Black-throated Gray Warbler 4	Common Yellowthroat 73
Wilson's Warbler 3	Yellow-breasted Chat 1
Western Tanager 3	Spotted Towhee 118
Chipping Sparrow 1	Savannah Sparrow 27
Fox Sparrow 10	Song Sparrow 253
Lincoln Sparrow 9	White-throated Sparrow 1

White-crowned Sparrow 28	Golden-crowned Sparrow 14
Dark-eyed Junco 73	Red-winged Blackbird 39
Brewer's Blackbird 302	Purple Finch 39
House Finch 56	Pine Siskin 2
American Goldfinch 487	Evening Grosbeak 35
House Sparrow 4	

Species Total: 111 Individual Total: 5018

Marcia Cutler

Field Trip Schedule

Monthly Year-Round Saturday Field Trips

Note the new meeting place for all future local Saturday and full-day trips! The Benton Center is at 757 NW Polk Avenue.

Oct 11: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

Nov 8: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

Dec 13: Meet at the Benton Center at 7:30 am

Our Saturday morning local field trip meets the second Saturday of every month at the Benton Center (757 NW Polk Avenue, Corvallis) at 7:30 am. This field trip is especially interesting for beginner birders and birders new 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. Contact Rich Armstrong richarmstrong@comcast.net 541-753-1978 with questions.

Midvalley birding discussion list

A free subscription email list posts local bird sightings and birding information. I post where the field trip will be going two days before the field trip date on this list. To subscribe, go to www.midvalleybirding.org and follow the instructions.

Full-Day Birding Schedule

Oct 18: Newport 6 am (Note special time!)

About three or four times a year we schedule full-day trips to the coast and other refuges within Oregon. On these trips we carpool, sharing the cost of gas with the drivers. Everyone should bring a large lunch, water/drinks, binoculars, spotting scope (if available), and layers of warm clothing, sturdy shoes, and rain gear. We meet at the Benton Center (LBCC) parking lot in Corvallis. Contact Rich Armstrong at richarmstrong@comcast.net or 541-753-1978 with any questions.

Spring 2009 Weekend Field Trips

Mar 20-22: Bandon Coast

April 17-19: Klamath Basin

May 1-3: Rogue Valley

May 28-31: Malheur NWR

June 12-14: Summer Lake/Ft Rock/Fremont NFS

Fred Ramsey leads all the spring weekend trips. Fred has been leading these field trips for ASC for over 35 years. He is an amazing field trip guide, sharing his knowledge about finding birds in their habitat and pointing out wild flowers, butterflies, mammals, and reptiles. The field trips fill up early in the fall. Sign-up sheets are available at the general meeting or email Paula Vanderheul with your requests. vanderp@peak.org

Please note:

The Rogue Valley and Malheur trips require deposits by February 28, 2009.

The Rogue Valley deposit is \$40 for the play. The trip date will be announced in future issues of the Chat after the Oregon Shakespeare Festival schedule has been posted.

The Malheur deposit is \$50. Each deposit must be made payable to Fred Ramsey at 3550 NW Glen Ridge Pl. Corvallis OR 97330.

Rich Armstrong

Art & Nature for Kids

Hesthavn Workshop November 2



The fourth Art & Nature workshop of the year for kids 6 to 11 years old will be held at Hesthavn on Sunday, November 2, from 1:00 – 3:00. Last August our small group, including two grandmothers, made a large outdoor mural that included birds, flowers, bugs – anything we could think of associated with trees. This beautiful art piece (see photo) began with trees painted with tempera, then oil pastel drawings on colored paper cut-outs added the many elements that inhabit trees.

The November class will include working with clay, another medium for kids to express their originality. The connection of art with nature will always be the theme of all our activities. Leslie Green brings her 40 years of art experience to this special event.

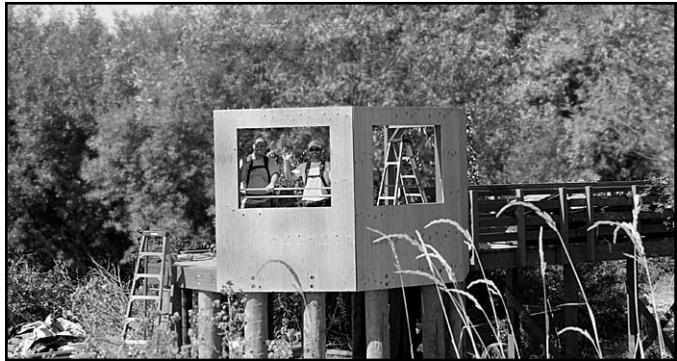
To register, please contact Elise at eelliottsmith@yahoo.com or 829-9021.

Leslie Green

Homer Campbell Trail News

Homer Campbell observation blind progressing

In this golden period of extended sunshine, designer and builder Ed Rust and his crew have been busy building the long-awaited observation blind at the end of the Homer Campbell Memorial Trail in the Muddy Creek riparian area of Finley Wildlife Refuge south of Corvallis.



This lovely octagonal structure features larger and lower windows for easier viewing by short people and those in wheelchairs.

Save the date!

On **Sunday, October 19th**, the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex is holding an Open House at all its refuges (Baskett Slough, Ankeny, and Finley). Various events are planned, including the official **Completion Ceremony for the Homer Campbell Memorial Trail and Observation Blind**. The time of the completion ceremony will be announced on our website and at the ASC October 16th General Meeting. It will be a day to celebrate and appreciate our local wildlife refuge system and to enjoy the newly completed boardwalk and observation blind - don't miss it! For more information, call Linda Campbell, 929-9420.

Linda Campbell

Field Notes

1 - 24 September 2008

September in Oregon can have the most perfect weather on the entire planet. This September very nearly achieved such perfection. Clear skies for weeks on end allowed plenty of sunshine, although average high temperatures were a few degrees higher than long-term averages, making a few afternoons a bit on the hot side. Nevertheless, western Oregonians don't complain about such things this late in the summer; we know what is in store for the next few months.

The month provided some exciting discoveries for those interested in rare birds. A Broad-tailed Hummingbird near Lebanon, a Magnolia Warbler in Corvallis, a Black-throated Sparrow at Finley NWR, an American Golden-Plover in Linn County, a Ruff at Ankeny NWR, three species of swift around Corvallis, and a Sanderling and Common Tern in Philomath were a few of the highlights. For those less interested in rarities afield, it is time to clean out and fill the feeders for those hungry fall and winter birds.

Abbreviations and Locations: m.ob. = many observers. Observer names are noted in parentheses after their reports. Observations without

a name (or with WDR) are the editor's. ASC indicates observations made by Audubon Society of Corvallis field trips. EEW = E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area north of Corvallis. ANWR = Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge in Marion County. FNWR = Finley National Wildlife Refuge, and includes Cabell, Cheadle, and McFadden marshes. STP = sewage treatment ponds; Philomath STP are off of Bellfountain Drive south of Philomath. Knoll Terrace STP are off of Elliot Circle in Corvallis. Stewart Lake is at Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis. Toketie Marsh is the remedial wetland for Coffin Butte landfill north of Corvallis, just off of Highway 99W. The Bellfountain Wetland along Bellfountain Drive south of Philomath is also sometimes called the Evergreen Mitigation Bank. The Diamond Hill Road wetland is in Linn County.

The first **Greater White-fronted Goose** of the autumn was at Cabell Marsh, 6 Sep, but flocks did not appear until 21 Sep (m.ob.). On 22 Sep, a flock of 65 were flying a couple thousand feet over the top of Marys Peak where they were just barely detectable. Imagine how many must pass over Corvallis without us ever knowing! An early flock of **47 Cackling Geese** flew over the Lippmeyer farm in Polk County, 21 Sep. Eight at Cabell Marsh, 24 Sep, were the first arrivals there.

Ducks began arriving in small numbers this month. A **Gadwall** at Stewart Lake, 12 Sep, was a rare treat for that site (J. Simmons). The first **American Wigeon** of the fall was a male at Philomath STP, 6 Sep, but numbers had not yet arrived. Ten **Ring-necked Ducks** arrived at Philomath STP, 10 Sep, along with one **Lesser Scaup**.

A **Mountain Quail**, quite the rarity away from the Coast Range, ventured into the College Hill area of Corvallis on 12 Sep (Todd and Susan Brown). An immature **Ruffed Grouse** was at Cabell Marsh, 24 Sep, where the species is rarely detected.

Eared Grebes arrived at Philomath STP, 9 Sep, when four were seen touring the south pond. One to four continued through the rest of the period. They are regular at the site, but often arrive about 10 days later than they arrived this fall. A single **Horned Grebe**, less regularly occurring than Eared Grebes, was at Philomath STP, 20 Sep (J. and K. Fairchild, WDR) and was joined by a second, 21-22 Sep.

Five **American White Pelicans** returned to Cabell Marsh by 2 Sep after a short absence. Numbers fluctuated from 1 to 11 over the next three weeks before dropping to zero by 24 Sep (m.ob.). As many as 10 **Great Egrets** foraged regularly in the drying wetland of Cheadle Marsh at FNWR throughout the period (R. Armstrong, m.ob.).

The fall migration of raptors got underway during the month, as did the migration of raptor wannabes such as Turkey Vultures. Small numbers of vultures moved through the area daily. A gathering of 100 **Turkey Vultures** in western Linn County, 1 Sep, (C. Whelchel) may have included some migrants but was probably mostly comprised of birds responding to local availability of mangled mammals in recently harvested fields.

Although shorebird habitat is usually in short supply locally, the passage of such species can still be of interest. An **American Golden-Plover** was at Diamond Hill Road wetland, 1 Sep (M. Nikas), for a rare fall record. A **Solitary Sandpiper**, rarer in fall than spring, visited the Philomath STP, 12 Sep. A single **Baird's Sandpiper** flew over Philomath STP, 8 Sep. At the Diamond Hill wetland, as many as 8 Baird's Sandpipers were present from mid-Aug through mid-Sep (R. Moore). Single **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at the Philomath STP, 16 and 21 Sep. A real local rarity was at ANWR, where a **Ruff** accompanied two Pectoral Sandpipers, 6 Sep (R. Gerig). The habitat at ANWR for shorebirds has been excellent this fall, especially at Pintail Marsh. Sixty-seven **Red-necked Phalaropes** were the high count at Philomath STP, 2 Sep.

Two adult **Eurasian Collared-Doves** along Airport Rd in Corvallis were accompanied by an immature bird, 3 Sep, which suggests the possibility of breeding this year. Collared-Doves are, as most know, not native to the United States. They have reached Oregon by expanding their range from Florida in about 20 years, a truly remarkable biological event.

Normally, Corvallis entertains a single species of swift, **Vaux's**

Swift. Our local Whiteside Theater attracted public attention when 3,000 swifts provided a great show as the swifts headed to roost in the theater's chimney during the first week of Sep (P. Vanderheul, m.ob.). Two other swift species were also encountered locally. Seven **White-throated Swifts** over Road 6021 north of the old-growth forest patch in McDonald-Dunn forest, 4 Sep (WDR, T. Robinson), were only the second county record. In addition, 12 **Black Swifts** were flying over Oak Creek Lab of Biology at the end of NW Oak Creek Drive in Corvallis, 30 Aug (G. Rompré).

A **Common Nighthawk** was still at Marys Peak, 9 Sep. A great surprise, and an apparent first Linn County record, was a male **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in Jeff Harding's yard in Lebanon, 6-10 Sep (see photo).

By mid-Sep, **Northern Flickers** were migrating. A **Yellow-shafted Flicker** was at EEW, 23 Sep. A **Lewis' Woodpecker** arrived rather early at Stewart Lake, 3 Sep (J. Simmons). Two more were near Lewisburg, 10 Sep (B. Altman). Three were at FNWR, 14 Sep (D. Boucher, L. Millbank).

Flycatchers leave the area early, well ahead of the cool morning temperatures typical of fall. **Hammond's Flycatchers** were still at Marys Peak, 9 Sep, as were 3 **Olive-sided Flycatchers**. A **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** was still at Willamette Park, 13 Sep (ASC). A **Western Wood-Pewee** continued at Cabell Marsh, 24 Sep.

Vireo numbers seemed low, with few concentrations of Warbling or Cassin's Vireos. However, two **Red-eyed Vireos** at Coffin Butte, 8 Sep, and one at Luckiamute Landing, 20 Sep, were interesting fall records (J. Geier). Arriving about the same time the last vireos departed were nine *arcticola*-type **Horned Larks** braving the bitter wind chills on Marys Peak, 22 Sep.

Some swallows head south early with the flycatchers and others are a bit harder. Four **Purple Martins** were still at Cabell Marsh, 2 Sep, and 1 was still present, 11 Sep. Numbers of **Violet-green Swallows** peaked at 2,052 on 12 Sep at McFadden Marsh; the last big movement of the species will probably occur during Oct. The last **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was noted 21 Sep at Cabell Marsh. Two hardy pairs of **Barn Swallows** nested very late; one pair near Lewisburg still had young in the nest 11 Sep (B. Altman) and a pair at the Lippsmeyer's farm in Polk County had young in the nest on 21 Sep.

A trek around McFadden Marsh produced 81 **Marsh Wrens**, 17 Sep, quite a high number. Many of the birds were still molting and lacked tails. The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** of the fall were two on Marys Peak, 22 Sep. Two **Townsend's Solitaires** were on Marys Peak, 9 Sep, where they occur annually in small numbers. A few days had moderate fall-outs of migrating **Swainson's Thrushes**, the largest of which was 53 birds at EEW, 21 Sep (J. Geier). The first **American Pipit** on the Valley floor was one at FNWR, 7 Sep. 48 were on Marys Peak, 9 Sep.

Following the good spring showing of **Nashville Warblers**, four reports from fall were quite above average and included singles at Willamette Park, 13 and 20 Sep (WDR), as well as two at Luckiamute Landing, 20 Sep (J. Geier); normally, Nashvilles are very rare on the Valley floor during fall, tending instead to visit second-growth habitats in the Coast Range. A **Magnolia Warbler** and a **Tennessee Warbler** were with one of the Nashville Warblers and a flock of chickadees at Willamette Park, 13 Sep. The Magnolia is probably the first Benton County record, while the Tennessee is about the fourth county record. The first **Yellow-rumped Warbler** of the fall was a Myrtle at Cheadle Marsh, 12 Sep. The first Audubon's was detected 21 Sep at Clemens Mill Pond. A **Townsend's Warbler** was detected in McDonald-Dunn Forest, 4 Sep, establishing a fall arrival date. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** lingered at EEW, 21 Sep (J. Geier).

Establishing about the third record for Benton County and first in fall, a **Black-throated Sparrow** was at Cabell Marsh, 14 Sep (D. Boucher and L. Millbank, see photo). An adult **Grasshopper Sparrow**

was at FNWR prairie, 3 Sep. Always a treat to see, **Lincoln's Sparrows** arrived at Cabell Marsh, 2 Sep. The first **Fox Sparrows** and the first **Golden-crowned Sparrows** of the fall arrived 9 Sep in Corvallis (R. Schwiebert) and on Marys Peak. The first **White-throated Sparrow** of the fall was a bit earlier than normal, 20 Sep, at Luckiamute Landing (J. Geier).

A **Slate-colored Junco** appeared in Corvallis, 23 Sep (J. Simmons), establishing a good fall arrival date.

Lapland Longspurs arrived ahead of schedule by about two weeks at Diamond Hill wetland, 10 Sep, when 5 birds flew over the site calling as they headed south (R. Moore, WDR). One was flying over Cabell Marsh the next morning. Perhaps the last **Lazuli Bunting** of the season was at Cabell Marsh, 14 Sep.

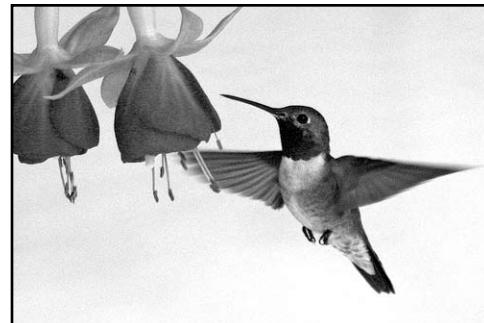
A late **Bullock's Oriole** was at Cheadle Marsh, 7 Sep; most Bullock's leave for southern locations by middle of Aug.

Pine Siskins were present throughout the period in small numbers, usually as singles flying overhead. The first sizable flock was 40 near Camp Adair, 24 Sep (J. Geier). A **Cassin's Finch** stopped briefly on top of Marys Peak, 9 Sep. Groups of **Evening Grosbeaks** were on the move in the second and third weeks of Sep, with several flocks of 30 to 40 birds being reported (m.ob.).

Next issue

Please send your reports for the next issue by 22 October.

W. Douglas Robinson
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Corvallis, OR 97331
(541) 737-9501
Douglas.robinson@oregonstate.edu



A **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** posed for dozens of photos at Jeff Harding's house near Lebanon, 6-10 Sep (photo by Cheryl Whelchel).



A **Black-throated Sparrow** stopped briefly at Cabell Marsh, 14 Sep, establishing the first recent fall record for the Corvallis area (photo by Lisa Millbank).

Hesthavn News

Work parties/Open House October 25 and November 22, 2008.

Work parties will be from 9 am to 1 pm. Join us for any of the time you may have available on these dates. We have invasive false brome to remove from the property. Bring gloves, water, and lunch. We have shovels and other garden tools.

Open house visitation will be on the same dates as the work parties. We could use a couple of volunteers to greet the public during the hours of 10 am to 1 pm. If you have questions or would be interested, please contact Paula Vanderheul.

Adopt a piece of Hesthavn!

Want to promote a culture of conservation action and create some lasting bonds with Hesthavn? How about adopting a plot of land at Hesthavn for your community service project? Hesthavn is offering you, your family, your school classroom, your scout troop, etc., responsibility for a patch of Hesthavn--removing invasives, planting natives, watering, nurturing, visiting over the years and witnessing the changes you made. This fall we have six plot areas already cleared of invasive plant species for ground preparation for fall planting of seeds. Or pick an area that needs clearing to start your experience of removing invasive false brome, reed canary grass, and brambles. Contact me for details. Paula Vanderheul vanderp@peak.org 541-752-0470.

You can get map directions to Hesthavn Nature Center which is located at 8590 NW Oak Creek Drive from ASC website at www.audubon.corvallis.or.us. The nature trail is open to the public every day of the week for visiting.

A volunteer email bulletin board that publishes work party dates and other events as they happen at Hesthavn Nature Center is available at www.corvallisaudubon.org/mailman/listinfo/hesthavn-news. The website has information on how to subscribe to the Hesthavn-news bulletin board.

Paula Vanderheul

Feeder Frenzy at KDC

Approximately 1,700 people attended Kids Day for Conservation at the Benton County Fairgrounds arena on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008. ASC's booth featured making bird feeders out of pine cones spread with peanut butter and rolled in bird seed. Passersby were also able to look at our specimens of common feeder birds. A food web game challenged some adventurous souls who created colorful patterns as they connected pipe-cleaner web strands between a Pine Tree, Douglas Squirrel, Northern Flicker, Cooper's Hawk, Coyote, Raccoon, Ants, Mushrooms and a Turkey Vulture and then saw what happened when someone tossed a burning cigarette butt into the forest. Does everything die? Maybe, or maybe not.

I'd like to thank Kate Mathews and Sandy Pepin for helping out at the booth – I couldn't have managed without you!

Marcia F. Cutler

Fern Ridge Field Trip

Eight Corvallis Audubon birders went on a great shorebird trip to Fern Ridge on September 20. Not only was the weather very good, but with the expert help of Dave Irons (one of the top birders in Oregon), all eight of us got excellent looks through scopes at Ruff, Stilt Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, a side-by-side comparison of Long-Billed & Short-Billed Dowicher, Black-Bellied Plover, Western & Least Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, and side by side Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs. And besides the shorebirds a Virginia Rail posed for scope views as did Snowy Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Western & Clark's Grebes, Green Heron, and many of the usual birds. It was an excellent trip! Our next all-day trip will be to the coast on October 18 – we will depart at 6 am to try to have a better chance at seabirds.

Rich Armstrong

The Big Sit

Birding's Most Sedentary Event!

Sunday October 12. Come and Join the Finley Flyers for a day of Birding. Contact Molly at 760-3813 for more details!

Rules of play:

1. Observations can be made from any area within the state/country you live or wish to represent.
2. Observations can only be made from within your pre-determined 17-foot diameter circle.
3. There's no limit to how many people can occupy one circle (other than the obvious spatial limitations). Bring some chairs. Have a picnic or barbecue. Welcome passersby and their contributions to your list.
4. If a bird is seen or heard from within the circle but is too distant to identify, you may leave the circle to get a closer look/listen to confirm the bird's identity. However, any new bird species seen or heard while confirming the original, can't be counted unless it's seen or heard from an "anchor" who stayed behind in your circle, or is seen by you when you return to your circle.
5. Tally the number of species that you observe.
6. Big Sit participants can work in shifts. No one person needs to be there throughout the whole Big Sit! The area can be left and returned to as frequently as desired, but you must be sure to return to the exact 17-foot diameter circle each time.
7. The same circle must be used for the entire Big Sit!
8. The Big Sit! will begin at 12:00 am midnight on October 12 and end 24 hours later.

Diana Brin

Volunteer Recognition

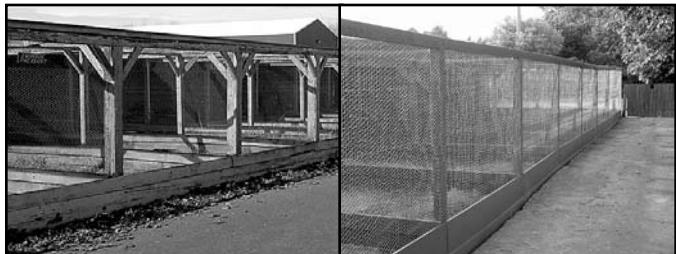
Eagle Scout Helps E.E. Wilson Birds

Ariel Wai is a Corvallis Eagle Scout who took on the job of repairing eight of the show bird cages at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area. At the September ASC meeting he gave a concise report illustrated with before and after pictures.

The wooden structures were dilapidated and unattractive. Ariel requested some financial help from ASC for materials. The design and labor were managed by Ariel and other Scouts with advice from Mike Moore, area manager of the E.E. Wilson property. Hopefully, the remaining cages will be similarly restored soon.

All the old wood was removed and a trench was dug to give more support to the lower outside wall. New wire was installed and the structure was painted. The ODFW team added new vegetation and the birds can now be seen in their improved homes.

Ariel was homeschooled and took classes from Corvallis High and Linn Benton community college, and recently receiving his GED. He will be spending a few months in Madrid, Spain to broaden his education, but plans to return to Central Oregon Community College in Bend to study Fire Science and Emergency Medical Services. I certainly hope he becomes a paramedic in Corvallis! Thank you, Ariel, and best of luck in your future plans.



Before

After

Photos courtesy A. Wai

Diana Brin

South Texas Birding Trip

Over 500 species of birds have been recorded in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, many that can be seen nowhere else in the United States. In addition to seeing many new birds in a variety of neotropical habitats, a trip to the RGV may present unpredictable vagrant species from Mexico (yes, chasing a rare bird alert with people who have flown in from all over the country for a once-in-a-lifetime US bird sighting.) I'm exploring the possibility of a group birding trip to South Texas sometime in early 2009. I have made contact with the field trip coordinator of the Travis Audubon Society in Austin and she was very enthusiastic about a shared trip. We are in the very early planning stages, but because this trip is only four months away, we can't drag our feet if we want it to happen this year. If you are interested and want to have a say as to specific dates,

type of lodging (rustic camp, cheap motel, birding bed and breakfast lodge), length of trip, how much territory we want to cover, etc. let me know. Gail Andrews, 745-5323, gailandrews@peak.org.

Gail Andrews

Get Paid for Energy-Saving Measures!

With winter coming soon, it's good to know that there are several state and federal programs that will provide you money for taking steps to save energy. Some things for which you can get cash back include

- installing a solar water heater
- purchasing Energy Star refrigerators, freezers, washers & dryers, and air conditioners
- weatherizing your home with insulation, weatherstripping, duct-sealing, etc.
- buying an energy-efficient heat pump or gas furnace
- installing solar-electric cells or other renewable energy sources

Find out more about all of these at Energy Trust of Oregon, <http://www.energytrust.org>.

Dave Mellinger

Nestucca Bay NWR Opening

On October 11, the Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge will be officially opened. The refuge opens at 9 am and the ribbon cutting happens at 10:45 am. Guided walks, a discussion of the history of the Nestucca Bay refuge, and a presentation on birdsong will follow in the late morning and early afternoon. For more information, see www.fws.gov/oregoncoast, or call 541-867-4550.

Karl Hartzell

New ASC Tote Bag

The situation is still critical with the world's waters filling up with discarded plastic bags. A number of important seabirds are in steep decline, due in part to the high levels of floating plastic that the parent bird provides to the babies. A number of cities and counties in Oregon are considering limiting sales and distribution of plastic, and some are proposing a plastic bag tax. The use of cloth bags will become ever more important as people take steps to eliminate the plastic blight worldwide. ASC has taken a lead in creating cloth bags for our members. Our last run of 100 bags is almost sold out, so another run is being planned with perhaps a different bird selected. Bags make a nice Christmas gift for friends, so please help our bird friends by buying and using a cloth shopping bag.

John Gaylord

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the ***CHAT***

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

Calendar

Oct 9: Board meeting
Oct 11: Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
Oct 11: Nestucca Bay NWR Opening
Oct 12: The Big Sit!
Oct 15: Deadline for comments on Endangered Species Act
Oct 16: General meeting, 7:30 pm
Oct 18: Full-day Newport trip, 6 am
Oct 19: Homer Campbell trail & blind completion ceremony at
Finley NWR
Oct 22: Field notes submission deadline for Nov Chat
Oct 25: Hesthavn work party/open house
Oct 30: Article submission deadline for Nov Chat
Nov 2: Art & Nature for Kids at Hesthavn, 1 pm
Nov 8: Second Saturday field trip, 7:30 am
Nov 22: Hesthavn work party/open house

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