



# Eagle Eye

Volume 34, Issue 1

Newsletter of the Central Oregon Audubon Society

Spring 2004

**FROM THE PRES...**

## **Amazing Animals**

by Gayle H. Parlato

### **EARTH DAY PRODIGY 2004**

Late afternoon, Earth Day, 2004. An extraordinary happening occurred at the Red-tails & Ravens Wildlife Ranch that inspired amazement and wonder in me. While puttering around the garden, I happened to look over at my pond just as Osprey was making its dive for its daily catfish dinner. As soon as Osprey hit the water, a male Canada goose pounced on the raptor, plunging it underwater and holding it there for several seconds! The female goose was also sitting on the water nearby. There was no nest, eggs, or goslings at the pond at this time. Two weeks ago, another pair of Canada geese had, for the third year in a row, successfully hatched six goslings on the goose-nesting platform and since left the area. Why, then, did this new male goose attack an Osprey?

I rushed over to the edge of the pond to "rescue" the barely-alive Osprey as it floated over to shore. Of course, it was frightened of me, so began to drift back out onto the water. Again, the goose attacked it, causing it to climb onto the bank, regardless of my presence. I picked up the raptor and put it in a quiet area to observe. I determined that it needed medical attention, if it was to have any chance of survival. At this writing, 24 hours after the freaky event, it was still alive at Sky Veterinary Hospital, but with the possibility of a spinal cord injury.

In all my years of watching wildlife, I have never seen anything like this! **HAPPY SPRING!**

## **COAS supports study aimed at reducing wildlife mortality on Highway 97**

by Simon Wray



Every year significant numbers of deer and other wildlife are killed by vehicles on highway 97. Approximately 200 deer die in the 50 mile stretch from the Hwy 58 junction to Bend, and it is anticipated that future development and increased highway capacity will see a concurrent rise in wildlife mortality and a decrease in human safety. In recognition of these concerns, a coalition of agencies including ODFW, ODOT, USFS, BLM and Deschutes County, along with various private groups have come together to search for solutions. A vital step will be a major study to better understand how the deer population moves across the landscape and how the highway affects that movement. Funding is presently being sought to meet the estimated \$700,000 needed to complete the research, and COAS has pledged a modest sum in support of this effort. Results from the study are expected to identify methods and tools to reduce wildlife mortality, improving driver safety, and provide critical information to decision makers that will help them shape future development with wildlife in mind.

### Wings Over Central Oregon

#### *Migratory Bird Celebration*

May 8 Drake Park, Bend

May 17 Museum at Warm Springs

May 22 Crooked River Park, Prineville

Information:

Gayle @ 388-1546

<http://users.bendnet.com/coaudubon/wings.htm>

*Central Oregon Audubon on the Web*  
<http://users.bendnet.com/coaudubon>

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Wings Over Central Oregon  
Details inside

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**Field Notes:** Vacant  
**Rare Bird Alert:** Dean Hale, (541) 388-1770

**UPCOMING C.O. AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIPS**

**Burns-Malheur NWR** May 1, 2004 Visit Malheur NWR for the day. Refuge HQ to Page Springs.

**Iron Mountain** July 3, 2004 Day trip to Iron Mtn. with CO Native Plant Society.

**Canyon Creek Meadows** July 24, 2004 Day trip to Canyon Cr. Meadow with the CO Native Plant Society.

**Bonney Butte** Sept-Oct 2004 Day trip to Bonney Butte to observe hawk migration at the International Hawk Watch site. Date to be selected later.

**Green Ridge** Sept-Oct 2004 Day trip to Green Ridge east of the Metolius R. to observe hawk migration. Date to be selected later.

To sign up for or obtain more information on these trips, contact:  
Dave Ledder 541 383 7646 [dyledder@bendnet.com](mailto:dyledder@bendnet.com)  
Kim Boddie 541 389 3613 [kcboddie@bendnet.com](mailto:kcboddie@bendnet.com)

To include your name on the CO Audubon Society trip notification E-Mail list, send your E-Mail address to Dave Ledder at [dyledder@bendnet.com](mailto:dyledder@bendnet.com)