



# THE CHAT

November 2020 VOL. 50 #3

**Due to the global Coronavirus pandemic, all ASC in-person programs and meetings through 2020 have been cancelled or postponed. But we are safely continuing online. For the latest info, please visit our website at [auduboncorvallis.org](http://auduboncorvallis.org).**

Kodachrome slides of nature and travel later, digital photography revolutionized his hobby!

## ASC General Meeting

(webinar via Zoom)

**Nov. 19, 7 pm – Bill Origer**

Hummingbirds and How to Photograph Them without Going to Costa Rica



*Photo by Bill Origer*

Bill has spent countless happy hours photographing hummingbirds and will be sharing his many years of experience and his favorite images. The presentation will include choosing cameras and lenses, techniques for capturing high quality photos, and methods for creating stunning images. He has a closet full of Nikon equipment and a huge semi-organized Lightroom Library.

He is a member of Gallery Calapooia in Albany, where his work is showcased. Bill's photography



In 1965, Bill Origer's interest in photography was ignited when he received a used Nikon camera at his high school graduation. Interest slowed during medical school and residency, but never

went away. Several darkrooms and a few thousand

mentors included Ansel Adams, Art Wolfe, Jim Alinder, Bob Ross (LBCC), and Grant Kay.

After practicing Family Medicine in Albany for 20 years, Bill spent another 20 years in medical administration/management for Samaritan Health. He currently works part-time teaching and supervising resident physicians.

**To join the meeting:** ASC members who registered their email address with their membership should receive a meeting invitation prior to the webinar. The programs will begin at 7:00 PM followed by a short business meeting, if needed. For more information, contact [Mark Baldwin](mailto:Mark Baldwin).

**December 17** ASC Annual Member Photo Show. Please send your completed PowerPoint slide show by December 10 to: [audubon.corvallis@gmail.com](mailto:audubon.corvallis@gmail.com). Include any descriptions or explanations for Mark to read.

Suggestions for future speakers are always welcome. Send them to [mark.baldwin2@comcast.net](mailto:mark.baldwin2@comcast.net)

*Mark Baldwin, Vice Pres. & Program Chair*

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## Presidents' Corner

### Vote! Vote! Vote! Information on candidates' conservation stances

One of the more important things you can do to support birds and other wildlife is to vote. Candidates' opinions on conservation vary widely and strongly affect how Congress, the Oregon Senate and House, and other elected officials approach conservation issues. Your vote can help support your view on conservation. **By the time you read this, it may be too late to mail in your ballot; you must drop it off at the county courthouse or a ballot drop box by Tuesday, Nov. 3rd at 8 PM.**

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV, and its Oregon counterpart OLCV) compiles a "scorecard" for each election that shows how our elected representatives have voted on environmental issues. The scorecard is summarized by a score from 0% to 100% indicating how much of the time the person made a pro-conservation vote. Higher scores therefore represent more conservation-minded voting. OLCV also issues endorsements of some candidates, which you can read about on their website, [olcv.org](http://olcv.org). Here are the most recent scores for the Democrats (D) and Republicans (R) currently running for office in and around Corvallis and Albany. Except where noted, the incumbent is listed first here; most candidates who aren't incumbents don't have scores because they haven't voted on bills yet.

#### *U.S. Senate election*

Jeff Merkley, D (100%) vs. Jo Rae Perkins, R (no score)

#### *U.S. House elections*

Peter DeFazio, D (97%) vs. Alek Skarlatos, R (no score)

Kurt Schrader, D (93%) vs. Ryan Courser, R (no score)

#### *Oregon Secretary of State election*

(no incumbent) Shemia Fagan, D (94%) vs. Kim Thatcher, R (6%)

#### *Oregon Senate elections*

Brian Boquist, R (11%) vs. Bernadette Hansen, D (no score)

Fred Girod, R (43%) vs. Jim Hinsvark, D (no score)  
(Sara Gelser, who represents Corvallis and Albany, is not up for election this year.)

#### *Oregon House elections*

Dan Rayfield, D (99%) vs. Jason Hughes, R (no score)  
Shelly Boshart Davis, R (25%) vs. Miriam Cummins, D (no score)

Mike Nearman, R (14%) vs. Sean Scorvo, D (no score)  
Marty Wilde, D (88%) vs. Katie Boshart Glaser, R (no score)

(no incumbent) Jami Cate, R (no score) vs. Paige Hook, D (no score)

*Co-president Dave Mellinger*

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## Our Website Connects You

Upcoming events, including the Connect with Nature Coloring Contest, are highlighted on the [website](#). Feel like getting some exercise while helping Ray Drapek maintain [Hesthavn](#)? Join one or more of the bi-monthly work parties. Or check the Conservation Volunteer calendar to find other opportunities. Did you miss our September or October speaker seminars? [Links to the recorded presentations](#) can be found on the Monthly Speakers page. Do you know a fledgling birder who might need some encouragement? Check out the Young Birders website on the [Birding page](#).

*Sue Powell, ASC Website*

Learn about what's new with ASC and share Backyard Spotlights, questions, photos and exciting bird sightings: at Audubon Society of Corvallis or tag us on [Facebook@corvallisaudubon](#).

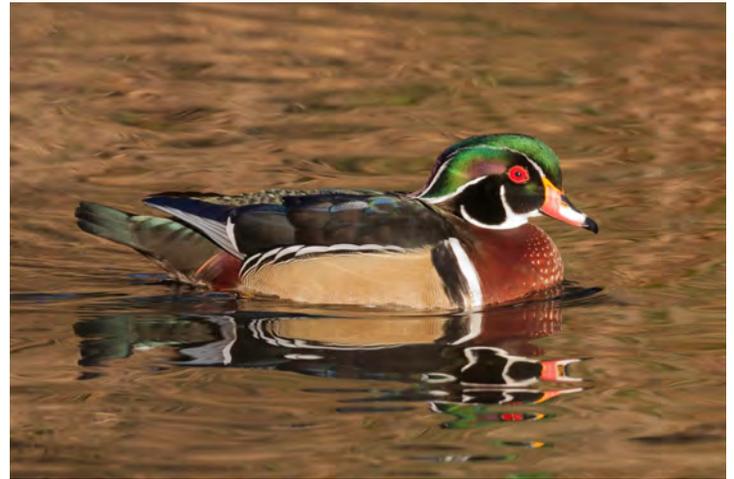
Want to see an inspiring video about Corvallis Audubon by our teenage board member, Kai Frueh? See it on [ASC's Facebook page now!](#)

*Kai Frueh and Nancy DeMasi, ASC Facebook*

Or check us out on Instagram: [@auduboncorvallis](#).

*Christina Linkem, ASC Instagram*

## Education News



*Photo by Matt T. Lee*

## Bird Coloring Contest Nov 1-30

We have a fun new way to help you unwind and experience our local wildlife at home this fall. Audubon Society of Corvallis is launching a Connect with Nature Bird Coloring Contest November 1st – 30th!

Color one of four realistic bird drawings, get it to us, and you could win an ASC prize plus, a beautiful 2020 Winter Wildlife Field Day patch (featuring a wood duck) and artistic merit certificate will be awarded to the first 400 participants. This contest is for all ages, split into four groups between ages 2 and 17, and one 18+ years.

We want everyone in our community to be able to reflect on the beauty of nature, show your creativity and artistry, have fun coloring, and learn about four featured local birds – American Goldfinch, American Kestrel, Pileated Woodpecker, and Wood Duck. We hope everyone will also personalize their entry by answering, “What do you like about this bird?” You can color any of these for fun, but only one entry per participant, please.

**To enter the Connect with Nature Bird Coloring Contest and to find more information, visit the ASC website [auduboncorvallis.org/](#)**



This is a safe, “socially distanced” event. Drawings, bird photos and contest rules can be found online and done remotely, which also saves money for this all-volunteer, non-profit group. But we don’t want to leave anyone out, so if you don’t have access to a printer, you can stop by our project partner at the Print Center in the Corvallis Office Max store, 1834 NW 9th St, for printed copies; or email [asc.educationteam@gmail.com](mailto:asc.educationteam@gmail.com) to be sent a printed version of the coloring pages and registration form. When you are happy with your art, please email a scanned copy or photo of your entry and the form to the same email, please. Or mail it to us at PO Box 148, Corvallis, Oregon, 97339.

Thanks to volunteers Dodie Wilson, Mai Kiigemagi and Dale Mitchell for agreeing to judge the entries. Winners will be announced, and patches mailed, to those who have given us an address, by mid-December. Thanks also to Mikaela Lea, Sue Powell, Liz Hogan, and Matt Lee for organizing this contest, and to Office Max Manager Layla Montes for her logistical support. Have fun!

*Mikaela Lea & Teri Enbring, ASC Education Team*

## Spotlight on Our Own Backyard Mini Wildlife Refuges

Happy autumn, everyone! Last month we discussed the importance of creating/dedicating spaces in our yards where wildlife can flourish. By using what we have already established: adding water features,

feeders, native or other attractive plant species for pollinators and birds, we can provide places for birds, mammals, and insects to rest, eat, and thrive. A huge plus is that by doing these things, we add to our own enjoyment and pleasure in our outdoor surroundings. Wildlife watching is fun!



We encouraged you to share what you have with others in our community through photos, drawings, poetry, journal entries that show or describe your wildlife-friendly space. For example, if you choose to share a photo, or photos, please accompany it (or them) with a description of the area and tell us what species come to your space.

Now, as to how to share your wealth with others: You may post photos on ASC’s Facebook page, Instagram page, or submit them to the Chat. Or you can do all three! ASC will not disclose your address or other personal information beyond what you choose to share in your submission. We encourage all of you to consider sharing your piece of wildlife heaven.

*Phyllis Bailey, ASC Education Committee*

# Hesthavn News

## Work Parties

All work parties are from 10 am – 2 pm

**Sunday, Nov. 8** Weed work party. We work on our perennial favorite (blackberries), or we may work on shiny geranium.

**Sunday, Nov. 22** Barn and yard work party. We'll be working from the usual checklist of tasks. There will probably be emphasis on fall activities such as raking leaves or clearing the gutters.

**Sunday, Dec. 6** Hesthavn weeds. More blackberries.

**Sunday, Dec. 13** Barn and Yard. Checklist again.

*Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair*

## Directions to Hesthavn

[8590 NW Oak Creek Drive, Corvallis](#). Take Harrison west from downtown Corvallis; after you cross 53rd, it becomes Oak Creek Drive. Pass Bald Hill farm and follow the brown signs for 'Nature Center.' Hesthavn will be on your left shortly before the end of Oak Creek Dr.

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## Conservation Update

### State Lands into Private Hands: An Elliott Research Forest Proposal by OSU College of Forestry

After years of public outcry for better protection, an area of the southern Oregon Coast Range, inland of Reedsport to Coos Bay that had been managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), is now held in public trust by the Oregon Division of State Lands (DSL) awaiting its fate. Nearly half of this 90,000-acre area remains in natural condition. Though the remainder is laced with logging roads and clear-cuts, the Elliott still supports important fish and wildlife populations and recreational opportunities largely

absent across the remaining heavily-logged and industrially managed 5 million acres of the Coast Range. Whether remnant or refuge, the Elliott is important to all of western Oregon.

Much of this acreage came into public ownership through foreclosures by coastal counties when homesteaders and land and timber speculators realized logging or living on this land would not be profitable. Publicly acquired lands no longer provided tax income for counties that expected state logging revenues to support their schools. Dependency followed.

Two years into their process, an advisory committee to DSL on the OSU Elliott Research Forest Proposal recently met virtually. Still unable to see the financials, the committee was asked to complete their work in the coming weeks so DSL could receive public comments prior to an ownership determination by December 8th. The hardest work remains. Find out more, and provide feedback before November 13th at:

[www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Pages/Elliott-Forest-Proposal.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Pages/Elliott-Forest-Proposal.aspx)

The biggest hurdle is governance of this public land. The College of Forestry offered itself as the final arbiter of any dispute or concern over activities in the Elliott, but no third-party monitoring, consultation, means of redress or litigation was offered. Local experience with the McDonald Dunn Forest shows that many kinds of recreation are welcome, but forestry concerns are outside public purview.

ASC and six other Oregon Audubon Chapters have requested the OSU College of Forestry cease logging and related activities until a planning process for all its dozen research forests can incorporate 21st century concerns—climate, carbon and unprecedented resource losses. There is hope this largest new College research forest can serve OSU as a reference from which industry forestry partners can compare their own success.

*Jim Fairchild*

## Field Trip Schedule

### Second Saturday Field Trips Are CANCELED Until Further Notice, but...

We hope to resume ASC monthly half day guided birding walks when these conditions can be met:

1. After Benton County is off the state COVID-19 watch list.
2. Meeting at 8:00 am in Willamette Park on Second Saturday AND Fourth Wednesday (to make up for smaller group sizes)
3. Group of 4 max., through advanced registration only
4. All participants must wear properly fitted masks at all times and maintain a minimum spacing of 6 feet from non-household members
5. All participants agree to present themselves in healthy condition and not under any state of Oregon quarantine requirements, and to agree to obey all group directions from the leader(s).

We need to obviously keep our group safe, but also make sure we are considerate and well-spaced from other park users.

[Check the ASC website and CHAT for updates.](#)

*Duncan Evered*

## Weekend Field Trips

### 2021 Extended Field Trips Will Not Occur Unless Pandemic Situation is Resolved

ASC's multi-day field trips ordinarily entail long stretches of riding enclosed in passenger vans. This is definitely taboo until COVID-19 has been defeated. If that rosy prospect occurs, we will plan on a full schedule for 2021: Bandon; Klamath Basin; Rogue Valley with Shakespeare; Malheur NWR; Summer Lake; Wallowas; Steens Mtn.; and a Shorebird Search. If not, we will try to find other venues and/or other transportation, so that we may enjoy this great state of ours. Stay tuned and keep up to date on our website. Suggestions are welcome.

*Fred Ramsey, Weekend Field Trips Chair*

## Bluebird Trail News



*Photo by Matt T. Lee*

The survival of the Western Bluebird in Oregon is more assured thanks to Elsie Eltzroth, who made it her passion. In 1977, there were only six known nesting pairs of Western Bluebirds in Benton County. Through her dedication and research, she had a local and national impact on the conservation of this once common songbird.

To honor her "Bluebird Lady" legacy, ASC Education volunteers are creating a Bluebird Trail display at Hesthavn Nature Center. Sincere thanks to the Benton County Historical Society for donating a large display case to house Elsie's collection. Kate Matthews, Dodie Wilson, and Sue Powell are working hard to turn Elsie's passion into a permanent exhibit.

We look forward to the day when we can safely open the Hesthavn Nature Center building to the public to share this and other exhibits and programs. We don't expect that to happen before next year, but will be happy to announce the future reopening on the ASC website and in this newsletter.

*Sue Powell*

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## Community Notes

### Winter Wildlife Field Day 2021 Info

We are looking at a "virtual" two-week event, March 1 – 14, 2021. It is too early to know what Corvallis

Audubon's role will be or how volunteers may be needed in March.

The Winter Wildlife Field Day normally held at the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge will be a "virtual" event in 2021. This means that most, but not all, educational activities of the event will be held online. Here's a few things you should know.

(1) Any member of Audubon who wants to get involved in the planning of WWFD 2021 is invited to attend the next (Zoom) meeting of the Planning Team, which will be held November 9, 2:30 – 4:30 PM. If you want to participate in the meeting, please send an e-mail to Samantha Bartling at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, so that she can put you on the list to receive the Zoom login code. Her e-mail address is

[samatha.bartling@fws.gov](mailto:samatha.bartling@fws.gov)

(2) We have not yet decided on a "theme" for WWFD 2021, but that will be determined at the next meeting, so if you have an idea, please attend the meeting or send your idea to Robert Murray, who is Audubon's representative on the WWFD Steering Committee. His address is [robert.murray@maine.edu](mailto:robert.murray@maine.edu)

(3) The educational content of WWFD 2021 will be designed for elementary school students in the 2nd – 4th grade, with older and younger siblings as the secondary audience.

(4) WWFD 2021, to the greatest extent possible will be a bilingual event, with all materials and activities accessible to both English and Spanish speakers.

*Robert Murray, ASC's WWFD Representative*

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## Board Meeting Summary for October 8, 2020

**Membership update given by Chair Paul Adamus**  
"ASC has 313 members compared to 351 at the end of January of this year. Since January, 24 new people have joined. We've continued our practice of sending an email reminder to each member within one month of when their membership is set to expire. Our current membership includes 8 student memberships, 80 Individual, 69 Family, 41 Supporting, 6 Benefactor, 5

Patron, and 6 Life. Income from dues in 2020 totals \$10,171.

An additional \$1,355 has been donated by members and \$1,050 has been donated by non-members. Of all donations, \$1,200 has been targeted for Hesthavn and \$465 for our Bluebird Trail Program."

Backyard bird count plans are in the works.

Coloring contest begins Nov 1 – See Education Column in this newsletter or ASC website for details  
Next Board meeting November 12th on Zoom.

*Submitted by Board Secretary Susan McNutt*

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## 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 Board meeting minutes or ASC website for location and time.

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## Membership Corner

### General Membership Renewal Information

For membership renewal online go to the ASC website ([auduboncorvallis.org/membership/](http://auduboncorvallis.org/membership/)) and renew via PayPal. To renew by USPS, mail a check to ASC, PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

### Email Notifications/Meeting Cancellations

We encourage members to join the ASC listserv to receive emergency email notifications about meeting cancellations related to weather conditions, updated information about ASC events, fieldtrip locations, and volunteer work parties. Send an email to the administrator (Karan Fairchild, [alderspr@peak.org](mailto:alderspr@peak.org)) and request to be added.

## Have You Changed Your Contact Info?

If you have moved or changed your email/mail addresses please update your information by emailing it to [adamus7\(at\)Comcast.net](mailto:adamus7(at)Comcast.net).

Thank you for your generosity and support!

*Paul Adamus, Membership Chair*

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## Contributors to this Chat

Paul Adamus, Phyllis Bailey, Mark Baldwin, Don Boucher, Nancy DeMasi, Ray Drapek, Teri Engbring, Duncan Evered, Jim Fairchild, Mikaela Lea, Christina Linkem, Susan McNutt, Dave Mellinger, Robert Murray, Sue Powell, Fred Ramsey, and Naomi Weidner

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## Chat Articles

The Chat editors, Teri Engbring and Naomi Weidner, welcome articles from all members of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. Please submit articles to the Chat editor by the fourth Thursday of the month, unless another date is indicated in the CHAT calendar the previous month. Submit text using Microsoft Word and photos to: [chateditors@gmail.com](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com).

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## Calendar

- Nov. 8** Hesthavn Weed Work Party, 10-2
  - Nov. 12** ASC Board Meeting on Zoom, 7 pm
  - Nov. 19** ASC Members Meeting on Zoom, 7 pm
  - Nov. 22** Hesthavn Barn and yard work party, 10-2
  - Nov. 23** December CHAT story deadline (early due to Thanksgiving holiday)
  - Dec. 6** Hesthavn Weed work party, 10-2
  - Dec. 13** Hesthavn Barn and yard work party, 10-2
- 



*Red-tailed Hawk photo by Sue Powell*

## Officers

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\*\* temporary until filled

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 students; \$15 for Chat-only subscriptions (email delivery only); \$50 for Supporting Level; \$150 for Patron Level; and \$250 for Benefactor Level.

## Interested in volunteering?

Please let us know:

[volunteerasc@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerasc@gmail.com)

## Find us online



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