



THE CHAT

September 2021 VOL. 51 #1

Due to the global Coronavirus pandemic, ASC will slowly restart in-person programs and meetings. But our policy changes with pandemic status and restrictions. So, for the latest info, please visit our website at auduboncorvallis.org.

ASC General Meeting

Tentatively Scheduled 9/16/21

The ASC Board decided at their August 12 meeting to return to in-person monthly member meetings this September IF we can meet at the First Methodist church in Corvallis. But unfortunately, COVID rates have increased steeply in the meantime. So, as of the day this newsletter is finalized, we don't know if we will be able to safely meet in person September 16.

We have a wonderful speaker lined up for that date, one of our chapter's founding members and field trips coordinator for 5 decades, Fred Ramsey. He has some treasured photos and stories from the hundreds of field trips he guided over the years and is ready to share.



Dr. Fred Lawrence Ramsey, Field Trip Leader Extraordinaire

IF we can't meet in person, however, we need a new volunteer to help us keep in touch via ZOOM. ASC is happy to cover the costs, but we need someone with the expertise to help us reach out to our members! Please contact us at audubon.corvallis@gmail.com. If you can help, even for just a few months.

In normal times, meetings are held the third Thursday of each month from September through May. We want to keep the sharing, learning and inspiration going, but health and safety are priorities in these times.

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ASC Website, Social Media

The [website](#) is updated as soon as there is new information about any aspect of ASC. For instance, once a decision is made about whether to conduct the Monthly Meeting and Guest Presentation in person or via Zoom, it will be noted on the website homepage. Also, as soon as public Education events are scheduled, they also will be added to the What's Happening calendar. Be sure to check out the other pages and enjoy the many bird photos!

Sue Powell, Website Manager

Corvallis Audubon Facebook

Be sure to keep up to date and be inspired by joining our ASC Facebook page. Just "like" us for the latest news and pictures of wildlife that affect our local area. Feel free to post about what is happening in your neighborhood, street and back yard. Let's stay connected. Join us on Facebook at [CorvallisAudubon](#).

Nancy Demasi, ASC Facebook

Audubon Corvallis Instagram

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

Christina Linkem, ASC Instagram

Conservation Report

Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion

Republic Services, the Arizona-based firm providing refuse and recycling disposal locally, is seeking permission from Benton County to expand the Coffin Butte landfill southward, growing a ridgeline connection between Coffin Butte and Tampico Ridge to its south. This would also require vacating Coffin Butte Road as a public thoroughfare. A planned Sept. 7th public meeting before the Benton County Solid Waste Advisory Council has been postponed for additional review of information being provided by Republic Services. According to County Development Director Greg Verret, Staff plan to recommend rejection of the permit due to public comments already received, and Republic Services has asked for a 45-day extension to provide additional information to amend their application.

Besides potential adverse impacts to a known heron rookery (which should be protected by state rules), the landfill expansion will provide additional space for waste materials from an expanded region of western Oregon and southwest Washington. In 2020, less than 12% of waste came from Benton County, with Marion & Washington contributing almost half the annual amount, and Linn, Lincoln, Clackamas, and Columbia counties are also major contributors. The proposed expansion will add Multnomah County (Portland).

Local efforts towards sustainability and a "greener" economy fail the litmus test when Benton County displaces wildlife and county travel routes too in exchange for dump fees. Offering a pass to other counties will not encourage them to clean up their own waste streams. Does "Waste Welcome Here" fit your vision of Benton County? If not, tell the County Solid Waste Advisory Council and County Commissioners.

Santiam State Forest Lawsuit Status

As a co-plaintiff objecting to post-fire logging of designated complex forest burned in the Santiam Canyon last year, the judge ruled against our request

for a preliminary injunction (which would immediately stop logging in the timber sales in question), but gave our side several wins. The court recognized: 1) our standing to sue, 2) that individual timber sales are final orders and thus subject to challenge (which has not been done before), and 3) that those timber sales must be consistent with both the annual operating plan and the overall forest management plan (FMP). ODF and its other respondents argued that such consistency is discretionary, that individual activities need not follow science or even the science applied in the FMP, and further added that the policy-setting Board of Forestry is only advisory to ODF. We believe these arguments are objectively false, and still await our day in court.

The bigger win? Since our filing, the Santiam District has not planned timber sales in a designated complex forest and has dropped portions of sales that included complex forest stands. Not quite an admission of guilt...

Elliott State Forest Planning

The OSU College of Forestry has spent nearly two years (and money mostly not their own) developing a forest research plan for the Elliott, ~80,000 acres of Coast Range forestland, just inland of Reedsport and Coos Bay. The plan is in anticipation of OSU being gifted the land by the Division of State Lands (DSL).

Then in early August the College of Forestry Dean and the Director of DSL announced that OSU is no longer considering it necessary to directly own and manage the Elliott forest. They gave no hint of what they have in mind regarding ownership. One source more familiar told me ownership would remain in state hands, but stranger things continue to happen.

Marbled Murrelet



Marbled Murrelet, photo by Rich MacIntosh, USFWS

The recent state uplisting to endangered status means all state agencies with land within the range of murrelet nesting must begin developing conservation strategies for the species. The above state agencies have HCPs (Habitat Conservation Plan/Incidental Take Permits) under development with USFWS that would count towards this, but they must be adjusted to account for the now recognized risk of extinction of this species within the foreseeable future. Certainly, planning to offload the Elliott Forest to a non-public entity would be counter to any murrelet protection.

Climate Change

There's nothing I could add to what was made abundantly clear by the 6th IPCC Assessment Report, AR6, Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis:

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>

Our human population can and must take actions now to avert the worst potential outcomes of climate change. Those with means enough should choose to reduce their carbon footprint, if only for the sake of the many others with fewer choices. Here's one of several easy online guides:

<https://cotap.org/reduce-carbon-footprint/>

Ongoing Conservation Advocacy

Forest removals are one of the largest terrestrial contributors to atmospheric carbon, even while standing forests—the older the better—globally absorb and store CO₂ at an unmatched rate, no more so than in the Pacific Northwest...but only if we can leave them alone.

Although wildfires reduce carbon absorption, stored carbon is not greatly reduced unless post-fire logging and associated reforestation roadbuilding and plantation forestry follow. The west Cascades megafires of 2020 have brought on much of this redirected "recovery," as older and natural forests on public lands are replaced with tree plantations. This is one reason why ASC joined other groups in suing Oregon's Santiam State Forest managers for timber sales which include thousands of acres of complex forests designated to retain those characteristics.

Forest thinning also greatly reduces stored carbon, though they can sometimes recover much of their CO₂ absorption ability. Still, thinning focuses future growth onto happy, healthy, harvestable trees, thereby further reducing current and future forest carbon capacities. This new paradigm has spread across our federal, state, university, county, and even onto municipal watershed and land trust lands.

The cost of replacing naturally functioning forests with revenue-generating stands of trees becomes stark indeed when we begin weighing the planetary effects of transforming forest carbon into cash.

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair

Field Trips

Weekend Field Trips Need New Chair

After 50 years of leading field trips for ASC, the time has come for me to pass the baton. This has been a difficult decision. The field trips have been a source of great love, excitement, comradeship, and learning.

Huge thanks and kudos to all who have participated over the years, and especially to those who have co-led and driven vans. Without them - Jim Faulkner and Tom Penpraze in particular - the trips would have been hard to do.

ASC was born on a field trip. I hope that field trips will remain an integral part of ASC's offerings. How they will be structured will be up to those who choose to step forward and lead them. Whomever that may be should know that I will stand ready to help out in any way I can.

*Fred Ramsey,
Former Weekend Field Trip Chair*

2022 Extended Field Trips Will Not Occur Unless Pandemic Situation is Resolved and We Get a New Chairperson

We are still not in a position to plan for ASC's multi-day field trips as they entail long rides in enclosed passenger vans. COVID conditions don't allow that yet.

If that situation changes, we will plan for 2022: 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 by checking our website. Suggestions are always welcome.

Second Saturday Field Trips Are Still CANCELLED Until Further Notice

We'll be back out there with groups as soon as it is safe to do so, hopefully this fall. Take care!

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

Caryn Stoess & Duncan Evered

Consider a Dragonfly Field Trip

Watching Other Winged Wildlife

Uh oh, you didn't get out of the house as early as you had hoped. The day is now hot, and the birds are scarce. If you are close to water, you're in luck because there are other spectacular fliers that are active all day—specifically dragonflies and their close cousins, damselflies!

These winged jewels are members of the insect order Odonata. They have long, thin, colorful bodies, two pairs of transparent wings, and very large eyes. There are 4,000+ species of odonates worldwide. North America has 400, and Oregon has 93.

One morning in early August, Dale Mitchell invited several other ASC members to look for dragonflies at Cheadle Lake in Lebanon. Dragonflies are fast, but Dale is adept at quickly identifying even a flyby. After an hour, we had spied at least seven species and observed their various strategies for catching prey: perching to scan the area, skimming the water to snag a meal, or continuously patrolling the creek and lake edges.

Blue Dashers were the most common species we saw. Males have a vibrant blue body, yellow-striped

thorax, and green eyes. Females are browner and have red eyes.



Blue Dasher male (top) and female (bottom). Photos by Matt Lee.

The larger Black Saddlebags have distinctive dark blotches on their wings near the body, which makes their body appear extra wide.



Black Saddlebags male. Photo by Matt Lee.

A pair of Widow Skimmers politely perched so we could examine them closely and take photos. They have a larger head and body than most dragonflies, and their wings have a dark band near the body and a white band in the middle.



Widow Skimmer male. Photo by Teri Engbring.

We missed the striking Flame Skimmer as well as all damselflies. But, like bird watchers, we can always go back and try to add to our species list!



Flame Skimmer male. Photo by Sue Powell.

Cheadle Lake is located about 20 miles east of Corvallis. To reach the lake's north entrance from Hwy 20 in Lebanon, turn east on Russell Drive for 0.5 mile, and then continue to the right (south) on River Drive for another 0.5 mile. The lake is undergoing an ambitious restoration to transform a former log mill and pond for public recreation use and wildlife habitat. Shaded benches are available lakeside. For picnic benches, return to Hwy 20 and drive east for 2 miles to Cheadle Lake Park.

Cool Facts

- excellent eyesight, covering nearly 360 degrees
- can fly up to 38 mph and 85 miles/day
- hover and fly backwards, like hummingbirds
- evolved 150 million years before birds
- largest lived 300 million years ago, had a 26-inch wingspan

Cheadle Lake -

<https://www.ci.lebanon.or.us/parks/page/cheadle-lake>

Oregon Dragonflies - odonata.bogfoot.net

Sue Powell

Hesthavn News

Work Party Volunteers Needed

We have resumed weekend work parties at Hesthavn, twice a month, and are making progress. We cannot let up on summer weed-control activities. As conditions become drier and plant growth starts to slow, we can

also address other problems with more time to catch up.

It can get hot at Hesthavn in the summer. If you come, bring lots of water! We don't have a potable water source on site, but volunteers with access to the building are welcome to use the filtered water in a dispenser I keep in the barn. We'll take it nice and slow with lots of breaks. If you have a serious sting allergy you might want to wait until later in the fall before coming to a work party. Drop-ins are always welcome, but it helps if you contact me to say you're coming. Please bring your mask and plan to continue to social distance until everyone is safe.



September & October Hesthavn work party schedule (all from 10 am to 2 pm, Sundays):

September 19: Weed work party

September 26: Barn and yard work party

October 10: Weed work party

October 24: Barn and yard work party

Check the [ASC website](#) or the [Hesthavn Facebook](#) page for up-to-the-minute info

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

Our Trails Are Still Open to Enjoy Nature

Hesthavn's trails and outdoor facilities are still open to our guests during daylight hours, as long as you

observe social distancing and wear a mask within 6 feet of others.

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.

Education News

Due to increased COVID numbers, the ASC Education team will not be running any programs this fall. But next month we will tell you about a fall coloring contest, similar to what we did last November. So, keep watching this column and the ASC website for news.

Students will be heading back to school this month and so will a few of the educational birds housed at Hesthavn. ASC Education Co-Chair Meika Vingelen has joined the staff at Muddy Creek Charter school, teaching a first-grade class. Her students will be learning about a key bird species each month throughout the year, safely (for students and birds) utilizing specimens from the Hesthavn museum collection. Hopefully, other classes will get a similar opportunity. We are excited to connect, support, and inspire these young students.

*Meika Vingelen and Dodie Wilson,
Education Co-Chairs*

A Volunteer's Perspective

I remember my introduction to birding. I was 8 years old and away from home at summer camp. A counselor was walking us somewhere and I noticed a little bird and asked her what kind of bird it was. I still hear her reply in my head. "How should I know? Go look it up! There are books in the office." And I did. The book was huge and full of amazing pictures. I was instantly hooked! The bird was a mourning dove, and I still love them. My mom sent me to sleep-away camp from ages 8-14. I only remember that one counselor's name, Rickey. I volunteer with Audubon Society, forever hopeful that I'll inspire one little kid!

Nancy Demasi

Backyard Spotlight

The ASC Education Team thanks all those who so generously participated in our Backyard Spotlight corner in the Chat last year. We need more inspiring stories for this year! Please send your short story and a couple of photos (if possible) about how you provide a supportive environment for wildlife in your yard to: chateditors@gmail.com.

We would love to see what you are doing. Thanks.

Phyllis Bailey, Backyard Spotlight Coordinator

Gardening for Birds

Pacific Madrone:

Captain of the Western Wood



Flowers and fruit of Pacific Madrone

Growing up in central Washington, any tree was pretty exotic, but imagine my reaction to seeing Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) for the first time, especially in southwestern Oregon where it is abundant. Orange bark, dark green evergreen leaves, large clusters of white flowers followed by orange to red fruit in late fall. Bret Harte, writing during the California gold rush, wrote a paean to madrone, 'Madroño'

(<https://www.telelib.com/authors/H/HarteBret/verse/completepoetical/madrono.html>), describing the plant much better than I.

The name varies regionally. Madroño is a Spanish term for a related Mediterranean species but applied to Pacific madrone as well as (superficially) similar trees in Latin America. Madrone is used in California and Oregon, madrona in Washington and Arbutus in British Columbia.

Madrone is not easy to grow and is not suited to every garden but give it a try if you have the space and site. Best on poor, well-drained soil, preferably sloped with plenty of sun and space to spread. With too much water, any of a variety of root pathogens will colonize and kill the tree. This is the main reason madrone is not grown in nurseries.



Anna's Hummingbird feeding on madrone flowers

Another set of problems appeared in the 1990's with the rise of a foliar pathogen that kills the otherwise evergreen leaves during the winter. I had a nice set of madrones at my place until the advent of this disease. Now the trees are quite scruffy looking in the winter. Upon new growth in the spring, however, they recover their appearance for the season. We live in the sheltered Oak Creek valley where foliage stays wet longer, enabling disease colonization. Thus, on ridges or in other areas with better air drainage, madrone foliage is generally healthy, so the trees look good and grow well. For instance, at Bald Hill, a mile down the

road where the terrain opens up, the madrones are much healthier than at my place.



Cedar Waxwings eating madrone fruits

Besides being difficult to grow, Pacific madrone is messy. We say that a good bird garden is messy, and madrone certainly provides a good foundation for that feature. Although it is an evergreen, older leaves are shed. Being a sclerophyll, or hard-leaved, a large madrone will annually shed piles of crunchy, brown leaves that are slow to decay. To compound the mess, as the trunk and branches grow in diameter each spring, the old surface layer peels and sheds. On a quiet day, one can hear the old layer popping as it tears, rolls up and drops.



Black-throated Gray Warbler using madrone

Madrone seedlings are often available through the Benton SWCD plant sale. They are a year-old, so small and easily transplantable. Plant them carefully, water them in and then forget the water.

It may seem as if I have given only an equivocal endorsement for growing madrone, but heed Bret

Harte, madrone is a splendid tree given the right conditions. It is wonderfully ornamental and characterful and will be used by a variety of birds, especially seeking the fruit in the autumn.

Article and photos by William Proebsting

Community Notes

Shop Wild Goose Nature Store at Finley

For the past 16 months, the Wild Goose Nature Store at Finley NWR has been closed to the public due to COVID precautions. Online sales have been available for the past year but recently, Fish & Wildlife Service has granted permission to open the nature store by appointment only.



Wild Goose Nature Store is a non-profit, run by volunteers of the Friends of the Willamette Valley NWRC. It carries nature books, field guides to birds, mammals, insects, trees & shrubs as well as, books by local authors specializing in wildflowers, mushrooms, hiking areas, geology and other points of interest. The store carries nature related books for children of all ages, puzzles, games, stuffed animals (from beavers to bald eagles) and finger puppets. For gift ideas, there are earrings, hat pins, novelty socks, T-shirts, caps, quilted tableware and wall hangings, mugs, and even chocolates (after a calorie-burning hike). See photos

here for a sample of our inventory.



To make an appointment, please contact secretary.friends@gmail.com, and the store manager

will contact you to answer questions and set up a day and time for your visit.

*Diane Young, Secretary, Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Photos by Lena Proebsting*

Testimony of a Wild Goose

Shopper:

As a frequent shopper and fan of the Wild Goose Nature Store, I can attest both to the high quality and wide selection of gifts. I especially love the bird earrings, Lena's gorgeous quilted potholders and table runners, children's books and the most complete stock of field guides in the area! I can shop here for year-round and holiday gifts, knowing that my dollars help to support education and outreach at our local wildlife refuges, and all who pass through there.

Teri Engbring

Board Meeting Summary for August 12, 2021

Mikaela will introduce September General meeting speaker, Fred Ramsey, and run the September meeting, for Dave. Fred will present on ASC field trips. There will NOT be refreshments if the meeting is held in person. Suzanne will get masks and hand sanitizer if the meeting can be held at the Methodist Church. Teri will ask in the CHAT for someone to run Zoom meetings until we can meet in person. Bev Clark will manage the Sales table.

Teri said the July 22 Girl Scout camp "Birding Trail" program was a big success. It was held safely outdoors with around 60 participants, kids to adults. Meika Vingelen produced a wonderful program, delivered by six ASC Education volunteers. ASC will follow state guidelines. No education programs will be held inside for now, and we should limit the number of people to 8 or fewer outside, wearing masks if in close contact.

Teri announced that Kelly Collins offered to transition with her to CHAT editor this fall.

Suzanne needs calendar information by 15th of each month so the Sustainability Coalition can create a calendar for the GT.

Sue Powell reported she is dealing with lots of hacking on our website. Nancy Demasi will continue working on our FB page, though she is moving to Portland this month.

Matt Lee will prepare a Bluebird Trail report for the October CHAT.

Ray noted the Corvallis Youth Volunteer Corps worked 2 hours a week at Hesthavn from June 21 to August 20. Ray will look for a builder for the new kiosk to hold signs in Spanish. Parking signs seem to be working well. Sandwich boards can be modified to be more stable. Sue Powell found SP&B in Corvallis to make affordable, durable 18 X 18 metal signs.

Placement of a new diversity statement on website and/or other topics concerning diversity and inclusion was deferred to the next Board meeting, which will be September 9 at Hesthavn at 6:30 p.m.

Susan McNutt, Board Secretary

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.

Membership Corner

Welcome New Members

James Zeller (wife is already a member)
Margaret-Rose Leung
Phil Sollins
Matthew Tom
Robert Williams
Carrie Ebner
John Morris

General Membership Renewal Information

For membership renewal online go to the ASC website (<https://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) and request to be added.

Have You Changed Your Contact Info?

If you have moved recently or changed your email/mail addresses, please update your information by emailing it to adamus7@comcast.net.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Paul Adamus, Membership Chair

Contributors to this Chat

Paul Adamus, Phyllis Bailey, Don Boucher, Kelly Collins, Nancy Demasi, Ray Drapek, Teri Engbring, Matt Lee, Susan McNutt, Sue Powell, Fred Ramsey, William and Lena Proebsting, Jamie Simmons, Meika Vingelen, Naomi Weidner, and Diane Young

Chat Articles

The Chat editors, Teri Engbring, Kelly Collins, 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.

Thanks to new volunteer Kelly Collins for offering to help as a CHAT Editor! We will transition gradually over the next few months.

Calendar

Sept. 9 ASC Board Meeting, 7 pm

Sept.16 ASC General Member Meeting (?)

Sept.19: Hesthavn Weed work party, 10-2

Sept. 23: Submission deadline for October CHAT

Sept. 26: Hesthavn Barn and yard work party, 10-2

Board and Member meetings may have to be cancelled due to pandemic challenges, so please check our website for the latest scheduling info.



Black Turnstone, taken at Waldport marina Aug. 22, 2021 by Matt T. Lee



Common Murres (and baby "Mini-Me") taken at Yaquina Head Aug. 22, 2021 by Matt T. Lee

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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

Find us online



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