



THE CHAT

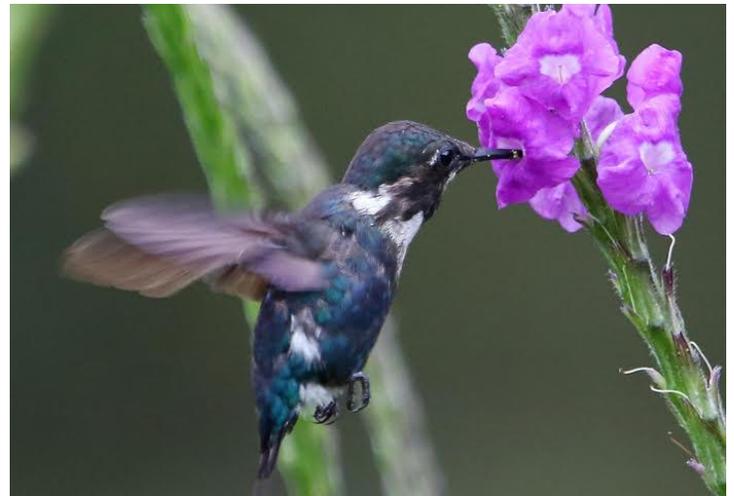
December 2021 VOL. 51 #4

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 12/16/21 on ZOOM at 7:00 PM Annual Member Photo Show

Select your favorite nature photos to share with the group at the Dec. 16 meeting. Any interesting, beautiful, or fun photo(s) of birds, other animals, plants, nature scenes, etc. are welcome. Plan your presentation to be 5 minutes or less. Email JPGs and captions for your entries to Mikaela Lee (asc.educationteam@gmail.com) by **Dec. 12**. Limit your entries to 20 photos per person, please.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and is open to the general public, although space is limited. Contact audubon.corvallis@gmail.com for information about accessing the program. See the ASC website [Monthly Speakers](#) for the list of January through May 2022 presentations.



Gorgeted Woodstar (Wildsumaco Lodge). Photo by by Sue Powell)



Horned Lark (Steens Mountain). Photo by Matt Lee

ASC member meetings are held the third Thursday of each month from September through May. Presentations on Zoom will also be held on the third Thursday. We want to keep the sharing, learning and inspiration going, but health and safety are priorities in these times. For login information, see our website at auduboncorvallis.org.

Thanks to Eric Preston for guiding our Zoom meetings, and Program Committee members Mai Kiigemagi and Mikaela Lea for coordinating and scheduling.

We're still open to speaker and program suggestions for future meetings.

Mikaela Lea, Program Committee

In This Issue:

Monthly Meeting Notes	1-2
ASC Website and Social Media	2
Corvallis Christmas Bird Count is Dec. 21	3
Airlie-Albany Christmas Bird Count is Jan. 2	3
Conservation Report	3-4
Field Trips – Saturday trips are happening	4-5
Education News	5
Gardening for Birds	6-7
Hesthavn News	7
Community Notes	7-8
Board Meeting Summary	8-9
Membership Corner	9
Contributors to this CHAT	9
Calendar	9

ASC Website, Social Media Pages from Coloring Contest Still Available

Although the ASC Coloring Contest ended on November 30, the coloring pages are still available for anyone to download through the end of December. Try all four of them and decorate your house with colorful Oregon birds! See the ASC website for more [activities](#) to entertain young and old kids.



Name / Nombre: _____ Age / años: _____

What do you like about this bird? (Que' te gusta del pajar?)

Reminder: for contact information to report injured, rare, banded, or dead birds, check the ASC website 'Birding' tab, then the '[Injured or Rare Birds](#)' subtab for email and/or phone numbers. We are at: auduboncorvallis.org.

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

Check us out on Instagram at auduboncorvallis. We NEED a new coordinator for our Instagram account. Please let us know at volunteerasc@gmail.com if you can fill this hole. Doesn't take much time. Thanks,

Christina Linkem, ASC Instagram

Corvallis CBC Scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021

This year the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count will be held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Everybody is invited to join us—and participation is free.

The Corvallis Christmas Bird Count is part of an organized, continent-wide survey that documents every bird seen on a given day from sunrise to sunset. It has been held yearly since 1900, making the count a major contributor to the knowledge base of wintering birds in North America. The National Audubon Society is coordinating the results

(<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>).

The all-day event 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. We especially encourage anyone with bird 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 home counters. Even Eugene had 119 feeder counters compared to the 6-8 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.

The Corvallis count circle has a 7.5 mile radius centered near the Corvallis airport and is divided into 13 sections, with a team of 3-6 individuals assigned to each section. A link to a map of the count circle is posted on the ASC website on the Bird Surveys page. 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 AM the morning of the count. Participants should bring cold- and wet-weather gear, binoculars, a scope if you have one, and snacks for the day. A notepad and pencil or electronic recording devices, field guides, camera, and a thermos with something hot are always good ideas as well.

There will be NO countdown potluck held after the count due to COVID 19 concerns. At the end of your count day, Bev Clark will be at the Corvallis Library (4-6

PM) to receive your countdown sheets. Alternatively, you can submit your information electronically to Matt Lee (sueandmatt@comcast.net). Matt will be compiling all the information, which will be sent to the national Christmas Bird Count and will also be posted on the ASC website. Bev will work with anyone who finds rare or unusual birds to have them properly documented.

If you are interested in participating or would like further information, my contact information is on the back of the Chat or on-line at the ASC website.

Bev Clark and Matt Lee

Airlie-Albany Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, January 2

The count circle includes Corvallis north of Crescent Valley High School, most of Albany, E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, Luckiamute State Natural Area, Ankeny NWR, southern outskirts of Monmouth-Independence, and more. If you'd like to participate for all or part of that day, especially if you enjoy walking in McDonald-Dunn State Forest, please contact Paul Adamus, adamus7@comcast.net

Conservation Report Coffin Butte

Our local Coffin Butte Landfill operator, Republic Services of Arizona (RS), is applying to Benton County to expand this regional landfill and allow an unlimited amount of waste annually, as the only one north of Lane County and west of the Cascades still open. ASC provided formal comment on two of the more direct adverse impacts to wildlife of the landfill and its expansion. In response, supplemental information was supplied by RS. Turnstone Environmental Services was contracted to conduct a preliminary review of two heron rookeries that would be impacted by this southward expansion across a vacated Coffin Butte Road. Whitewash, considered evidence of active use, was not found in the western rookery—the surveyor was not provided ready access by RS. Proposed mitigation or alternate use sites identified by Turnstone

included an abandoned rookery in N. Albany along the Willamette, and E.E. Wilson Wildlife Management Area. Herons are readily subject to unpredictable disturbance during nesting season, which is why their rookeries are afforded state and federal protection. It is also likely why herons have not already chosen to nest where ODFW regularly holds game hunts during the nesting season. Herons also regularly abandon rookeries as structural components degrade from their very presence. Yet Turnstone suggests that tree removals within active rookeries could improve productivity, without citation. This demonstrates precisely why ASC stressed the importance of an independent and credible wildlife consultant.

Less clear and compelling, prairie nesting bird species continue to decline. The reproductive success of western meadowlarks, streaked horned larks, and Oregon vesper sparrows, historically present both east and west of the landfill, is largely limited by nest predation. The landfill attracts a concentration of nest depredating birds, particularly corvids and gulls. Their increased abundance brings many more pairs of eyes ready for more variety.

ASC has previously testified regarding Corvallis wastewater effluent discharges into the Willamette River. RS has been unable to treat landfill leachate on-site, and so delivers it to Corvallis wastewater treatment facility. The much larger proposed landfill will produce much more leachate far into the future. If Corvallis agrees to treat more leachate, it and Benton County will be burdened with either treating common long-lived chemicals, such as PFAS, or delivering them into the Willamette River.

Meantime, at our recent fall Oregon Audubon Chapters Council meeting, the dozen Chapters around the state identified priority conservation issues where we lead and plan to make a difference in 2022. Overarching issues important to all were climate change, forest protections and regulatory reforms, the impacts of energy development projects, and the importance of diversity, equity and inclusivity in all of our Chapter activities. Next month I hope to provide more details of how ASC can help us all move towards these goals.

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair

Field Trips

Second Saturday Field Trip

December 11

The first Saturday morning local field trip will be December 11. We'll meet at 8:00 am at the shelter in Willamette Park (end of SE Goodnight Ave.) and tour the park. This four-hour excursion is free and geared to people with an interest in learning more about birds that can be found in the Corvallis area. All levels of expertise are welcome. Bring suitable hats, shoes, and rain gear, as well as water and snacks! Participation will be limited due to the ongoing pandemic and face coverings will be required. Please email CorvallisAudubonSecondSaturday@gmail.com to sign up. Led by Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess. Weather may alter plans.

Caryn Stoess & Duncan Evered

2022 Extended Field Trips on Hold Until Pandemic Situation is Resolved AND we Get a NEW Field Trips chairperson!

We still need a new weekend field trips chair or co-chairs, ASAP to begin transitioning with and learning from our amazing coordinator of 50 years of fantastic birding trips, Fred Ramsey. Please help us continue the tradition! Even if you can only coordinate one or two field trips a year, please step up so we don't lose this popular and invaluable program for ASC.

We are not yet planning any specific multi-day field trips. COVID-19 conditions don't allow that yet. If that situation changes, AND SOMEONE STEPS UP TO MANAGE THE PROCESS, we will plan for 2022 in: Bandon; Klamath Basin; Rogue Valley with Shakespeare; Malheur NWR; Summer Lake; Wallowas; Steens Mountain; and a Shorebird Search. If these don't work, we can 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 welcome to auduboncorvallis@gmail.com.

Education News

Introducing Connect with Nature Bird Coloring Contest Judges

The second-annual Connect with Nature Coloring Contest is wrapping up and our judges will soon make their decisions. There will be a variety of prizes for our first place winners in each age group, as well as a grand prize for the overall winner. But first, let's meet our judges!

We have three judges, Karli Hall, Catherine Mullins, and Susan Dornfeld. Karli was actually the first place winner for the 18 and up category for last year's contest. She was very excited when we asked her to join us for judging this year, as she is always looking for ways to get involved in the community between working full time, and being a student earning her associates degree. Karli is from the coastal town of Brookings and has been living in Corvallis since 2015.



This was Karli's winning entry last year.

Catherine is new to ASC and Corvallis, coming all the way from Southern California. Catherine now works

in the administration at OSU. This will be her first time participating in an ASC Education & Outreach project.

Susan has a long family history at ASC, as well as working with nature, and has been involved in many ways throughout her years with us.

We would also like to give a big thank you to OfficeMax and the Toy Factory. This is OfficeMax's second time helping us out, and we are very thankful we have them to work with us on keeping coloring pages available, as well as holding a display for us in their building. The Toy Factory put out a beautiful display to promote the contest, including our Connect with Nature Bird Coloring Contest tri-fold, birds, posters, books, and Toy Factory bird & nature merchandise.



ASC's Toy Factory window display

Another thank you goes to everyone who has worked on the Coloring Contest and put in so much time and effort. Thank you!

Mikaela Lea

Due to increased COVID numbers, the ASC Education team will not be running any in-person programs this fall. Keep watching this column and the ASC website for updates.

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

Gardening for Birds

Sparrows in Winter: Virtues of a Messy Garden

We have a few sparrows in our garden throughout the winter. Mainly Dark-eyed Juncos and Golden-crowned Sparrows (Fig. 1), as well as resident Song Sparrows and Spotted Towhees. A Fox Sparrow (Fig. 2) or two are usually around. White-throated Sparrows (Fig. 3) are regular visitors. Every couple of years Slate-colored Juncos (Fig. 4) will come through. It is always fun sifting through the action looking for something different.

As our gardens go into the dormant season, there is a lot of death and decay occurring. This is ecologically important and something that we determinedly ignore as a society with our inclination to tidy up. Decay recycles nutrients in the ecosystem thereby fueling an important suite of microbes and invertebrates. Sending dead plant material to the compost center or landfill knocks out an important pin supporting ecosystems.

We think of sparrows as primarily seed eaters, but they need invertebrates, as well. Maintaining last season's perennials and leaves in the garden provides cover for a variety of prey for the birds, as well as cover for the birds (Fig. 5). Across my garden projects, I start cleaning up the dead perennials after the New Year and usually finish in February. This schedule provides three or four months of foraging and protection. We always have hedges or thickets of mostly native plants nearby. As an ecological gardener, try to determine a way to use these materials in your landscape.



Fig. 1. Golden-crowned Sparrow



Fig. 2. Fox Sparrow



Fig. 3. White-throated Sparrow



Fig. 4. Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored ssp.)



Fig. 5. Dead perennials left for habitat.

Text and Photos by William Proebsting

Hesthavn News

December work parties (all from 10 AM to 2 PM on a Sunday):

December 5, Weeding work party, mostly working on blackberries and shiny geranium.

December 12, Barn and yard work party. We'll be working on basic maintenance tasks, which includes things like sweeping the barn and checking the mouse traps.

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.

Community Notes

Audubon's New Chief Executive Officer, Elizabeth Gray, Ph.D.

Dr. Elizabeth Gray has accepted the offer from the Audubon National Board of Directors to become the next CEO.

Dr. Gray began by studying homing pigeon navigation as an undergraduate and then spent time in eastern Washington State studying Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds for her doctoral thesis work. When the Yellow-headed Blackbirds did not return to their breeding marshes her second field season, Dr. Gray knew something wasn't right. This moment was a personal wake-up call and she decided to devote her career to conservation.

As a scientist and ornithologist, Dr. Gray has committed her life to working with communities and partners at the local, state, national and international levels to protect the planet. She joined Audubon from The Nature Conservancy, where she served in a variety of leadership roles, most recently as Global Managing Director for Climate. She spent thirty years in conservation—much of it in the field working directly on science-based conservation projects.

Dr. Gray has already begun to elevate Audubon's profile and the importance of birds at significant climate events like NYC Climate Week and the UN Climate Conference in Glasgow (otherwise known as COP26).

Dr. Gray will assume the role of permanent CEO immediately and she will be based in Washington, D.C.

Snow Goose Festival Is ON

Save the dates, January 27-30, 2022, for the 22nd Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway in Chico, California.

Grab your binoculars, download your bird app, pack a field guide, and get ready for 4-days of action-packed field trips led by experienced trip leaders. Join in the

search for winter birds of the Pacific Flyway in the Northern Sacramento Valley. This is one of the least explored and most amazingly diverse areas of California, with habitats that include rivers and wetlands, sweeping plains and grasslands, rolling foothills, and sheltered canyons.

The 2022 festival will focus on being outdoors, and offer only field trips, due to the ongoing pandemic. Registration starts in early December. For information go to: <https://snowgoosefestival.org/> or info@snowgoosefestival.org

In the meantime, Explore.org has added a new webcam at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge to see Snow Geese, Northern Pintails, and Greater White-fronted Geese in the thousands.

Lincoln City Audubon programs

December 8, 6:30 PM—Beyond the Beach: Oregon's Rocky Coast

Dave Fox (Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), Roy Lowe (retired USFWS and photographer), and Dick Vander Schaaf (The Nature Conservancy) will present a panel discussion on the ways special places along the Oregon coast are designated to be protected for the marine life that is dependent on them. Find out where these places are located and how to enjoy them in a responsible manner so their bountiful resources are available for generations to come.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/565828217855729>

January 12th, 6:30 PM: Beyond the Beach—Mysterious Undersea Kelp Forests

Oregon's Kelp Forests: Past, Present, and Future

Sara Hamilton, PhD student from Oregon State University and a subtidal ecologist, will fascinate you with descriptions of what Oregon's kelp forests used to look like, how are they doing today, and how can Oregonians influence what they will look like 100 years into the future? She is passionate about studying kelps and will share about current research conducted by divers on the southern Oregon coast, and about restoration and recovery of kelps in Oregon.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/439252887845715>

*Dawn Villaescusa, President
Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC)*

Board Meeting Summary

November 11, 2021

Present: Phyllis Bailey, Bev Clark, Kelly Collins, Ray Drapek, Jim and Karan Fairchild, Mai Kiigemagi, Susan McNutt, Suzanne Ortiz, and Dodie Wilson.

VP/Program Committee – Feelers out for future speakers!

Committee and Team Reports

Membership – Karan mentioned Paul Adamus is looking into sending reminder annual appeal/membership letters.

Education –

Coloring Contest – 4 entries received so far. Youngest 6 yrs and oldest 62 yrs. Expect more at the deadline.

WWFD – Need someone to lead this committee; to be formed soon.

CHAT – Kelly Collins will be the new editor.

Conservation – Jim Fairchild requested a vote that ASC sign on to a letter for US Fish and Wildlife candidate, Marsha Williams. Moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Hesthavn – Ray Drapek Dec 26 Search and Rescue will be using the parking lot. Ray will work on chapter NAS grant opportunities for matching funds for projects due Nov 19th. Report below:

1. Thanks to Karl Hartzell for replacing the ballast to one of the fluorescent light fixtures in the barn.
2. The widow maker tree next to Paula's trail has been removed and the trail is open again. Lorax Tree Care took care of it.
3. Barn staining - Apex Paint and Remodel hired. Start date depends on the weather, maybe before May 2022.
4. Composting toilet. Jim Fairchild replacing compost bin cover.

Field Trips – Possible local trip leaders. Fred Ramsey is willing to go along, but not lead.

New Business - Corvallis Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Dec 21. Bev Clark getting started. Matt Lee will continue as compiler.

Next Board meeting December 9 at Dave Mellinger's house.

Susan McNutt, Board Secretary

Statements on Diversity/Inclusion and Land Acknowledgements

The Audubon Society of Corvallis Board has formed a working committee to draft statements on diversity & inclusion; and on land acknowledgement.

Any interested ASC members is welcome to join the collaborative process by contacting us at audubon.corvallis@gmail.com

Committee members: Ray Drapek, Dave Mellinger, Suzanne Ortiz

Suzanne Ortiz

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

Julia Corbett, Erin Diabola, Adrienne Guy, Michael Lytton, Melinda Manore, Catherine Mullins, Ula Renetskis

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, Don Boucher, Kelly Collins, Ray Drapek, Teri Engbring, Jim Fairchild, Mikaela Lea, Susan McNutt, Suzanne Ortiz, Sue Powell, William Proebsting, Jamie Simmons, Caryn Stoess, Dawn Villaescusa, and Naomi Weidner

Chat Articles

The Chat editors, Kelly Collins, 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.

Calendar

December 5, Weeding work party
December 9, Board Meeting
December 12, Barn and yard work party
December 12, Deadline for submitting photos for this year's general meeting show
December 16, General Meeting-photo show
December 20, January CHAT submissions due

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

Officers

Co-President	Dave Mellinger	dmell3.14159(at)gmail.com
Co-President	Karan Fairchild	alderspr(at)peak.org
Vice President	Committee	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Secretary	Susan McNutt	daisidel@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Carolyn Peterson	chinstrapdreams(at)comcast.net

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Mikaela Lea	mikaelalea96(at)gmail.com
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Suzanne Ortiz	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Phyllis Bailey	pbgrebe2004@yahoo.com
Dodie Wilson	dgwilson802(at)gmail.com

Chairpersons

Birdathon	Karan Fairchild	alderspr(at)peak.org
Bluebird Trail	Matt Lee	BluebirdTrail.corvallisaudubon@gmail.com
CHAT Editors	Teri Engbring, Kelly Collins	chateditors(at)gmail.com
Christmas Bird Count		
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Conservation	Jim Fairchild	alderspring@peak.org
Corvallis Sustainability Coalition		Suzanne Ortiz audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Education Team		
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Field Trip - local	Duncan Evered, Caryn Stoess	CorvallisAudubonSecondSaturday@gmail.com
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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



<https://auduboncorvallis.org/>



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<https://www.instagram.com/auduboncorvallis/>