



THE CHAT

November 2021 VOL. 51 #3

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 11/18/21 on ZOOM at 7:00 pm Dr. Jamie Cornelius Wandering the earth with nomadic finches: Lessons learned about facultative migrations



Birds are the harbingers of spring as migrants move north and begin singing. These north-south waves of billions of birds are familiar to most of us, but there are many birds for whom north-south is not always the way. Nomadic and irruptive species live lives of flexibility - responding to less predictable fluctuations in food that can vary in timing or location. How do these birds cope with such uncertainty? What strategies in behavior or physiology do they have to survive when things go wrong? Dr. Cornelius will share some of what she's learned about life as a wanderer from Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, goldfinches, Zebra Finches, and more.



Dr. Cornelius is an Assistant Professor of Integrative Biology at Oregon State University. After earning her PhD at University of California, Davis she spent time at research institutions around the world,

including the Max Planck Institute of Ornithology in Germany, St. Petersburg University in Russia, and the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica. She currently studies how birds adapt to unpredictable changes in the environment, including during food shortages, storms and predation.

In normal times, 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 new volunteer Eric Preston for guiding our Zoom meetings, and Program Committee members Mai Kiigemagi and Mikaela Lea for coordinating and scheduling.

Next Month's Program:

December 16 - Member Slideshow - Share your photos of wildlife, and the best of nature! **Contribution deadline 12/12/21**

Mikaela Lea, Program Committee

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ASC Website, Social Media

Our website manager Sue was traveling as we wrote this issue of the CHAT, so look for new insights from her next month. 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. Explore other pages to participate in our November bird coloring contest, volunteer options, and much more. 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](https://www.facebook.com/corvallisaudubon).

Nancy Demasi, ASC Facebook

Audubon Corvallis Instagram

Check us out on Instagram at [auduboncorvallis](https://www.instagram.com/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

Conservation Report

We regretfully note the passing of longtime ASC member and Conservation Committee member and Chair John Gaylord. Indefatigably cheerful, John took on quite a few conservation issues and projects for ASC, with a record of positive results. We will miss him.

On November 2, the Benton County Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing on the Coffin Butte landfill expansion conditional use permit application submitted and amended by Republic Services. At earlier advisory Council hearings, public concerns ranged from a public road closure and traffic rerouting plans, increased landfill footprint, elevation and noise, exponentially increased intake from an expanded "regional" service area beyond earlier plans, deferral of a planned and permitted disposal cell while commercial rock quarry export continues, hydrologic and contaminant concerns, justifying taking additional volume as other regional landfills close, and when this landfill will close where all our waste will go. Hats off to ASC member Joel Geier for his research and contributions towards community dialogue on this issue.

Meetings on the fate of the Elliott State Research Forest continue. Details are emerging of plans to create a separate agency or quasi-public corporation (yes, they exist and are governed by state rules) that would own the Elliott. Draft Oregon legislation is being developed by DSL and OSU that will create its structure, representation, and governance. There are refinements, particularly regarding Marbled Murrelets, also happening on the Elliott Draft Habitat Conservation Plan, which could be released for public comment before year's end.

Locally, the cutting of cottonwoods and ash trees in the Willamette Greenway portion of the Trysting Tree Golf Course has raised the ire of some. The land is owned by OSU, overseen by the OSU Foundation, but run by a private corporation headed by a major donor to the Foundation. In continuing to diminish riparian features here, there may be a violation of the golf course's conditional use permit, and within that, a potential role for ASC to help protect recognized significant riparian habitat.

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair

Field Trips

Second Saturday Field Trips

Resume November 13

The first Saturday morning local field trip since the pandemic began will be November 13. 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!

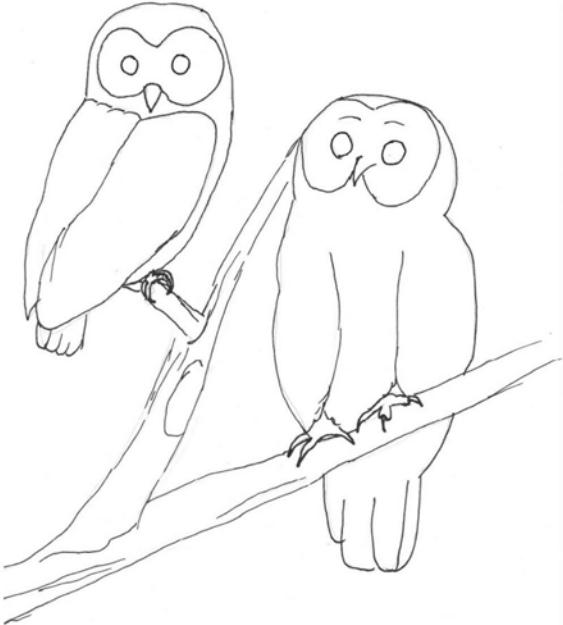
We still need a new weekend field trips chair or co-chairs, ASAP to begin transitioning with and learning from our amazing coordinator of 50 years of fantastic birding trips, Fred Ramsey. Please help us continue the tradition!

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-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

Announcing ASC's Second Annual Connect with Nature Bird Coloring Contest, Going NOW, Nov. 1 - 30, 2021

This contest is for "artists" of all ages, split into 4 groups for children from ages 2 to 17, and 1 for adults. Once again, we invite our whole community to reflect on the beauty of nature, show artistic creativity, have fun coloring, and learn about this year's four featured local celebrity birds: California Quail, Great Blue Heron, Anna's Hummingbird, and an unspecified owl. Contestants are urged to personalize their entry by answering "What do you like about this bird?"



Owl Species

You pick: Barn owl, Barred owl, Spotted owl, Screech owl or creative owl

Name / Nombre: _____ Age /anos: _____

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

The 4 drawings will be posted on the ASC website (auduboncorvallis.org) along with contest rules, bird photos, and how to enter. Materials will be available in both English and Spanish.

Electronic distribution saves money for our all-volunteer, non-profit group, but we don't want anyone in the community to be excluded. There are several ways to get your entry form and favorite coloring page:

1. Download it from the website
2. Email us at asc.educationteam@gmail.com and we will snail mail them to you, or
3. Stop by for copies from our project partner at the Corvallis Office Max Print Center, 1834 NW 9th St. Thanks to our friends at Office Max led by Store Manager Layla Montes.

Have fun, and when you are happy with your art, either scan it AND the entry form or photograph them with your phone. Email both to the address above. Or, snail mail it to us at PO Box 148, Corvallis, Oregon 97339 by November 30.

Winners will be announced and certificates of artistic merit mailed by mid-December to those who provide their address. Prizes will be awarded to winners in each of the 5 age groups.

Thanks to the team of Education Volunteers who are stepping up to bring this fun event back in 2021: Mikaela Lea (Contest Coordinator), Phyllis Bailey, Tricia Bowlby, Karly Hall (last year's winner), Liz Hogan, Mai Kiigemagi, Dale Mitchell, Sue Powell, Meika Vingelen, and Dodie Wilson.

Liz Hogan, ASC Education Team volunteer

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

California Wild Grape: Autumn Fruit Bonanza

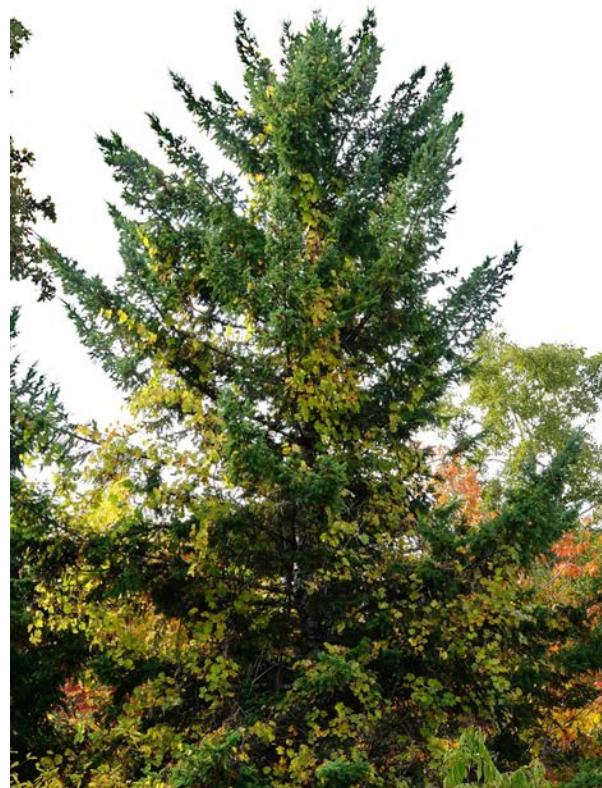


Fig. 1. California Wild Grape growing in Douglas-fir.

When using native plants, one is always tempted to violate the strictly native label. Everybody does it, but we should be intentional about what we are doing. I use a number of non-natives selected to provide some resources for birds and insects to add to the mix. This mainly applies to hummingbirds, though there are a few trees and shrubs from California and southwest Oregon that I have planted for general attraction for birds. One of these is California Wild Grape, *Vitis californica*, whose range reaches at least to the Roseburg area. I planted this for its potential to produce large quantities of fruit in the autumn and it has met that objective, while also providing entertainment seeing which birds eat the fruit in any given year.

California Wild Grape (CWG) is a riparian species that does best with reliable water. Most of my plants are planted above the immediate riparian zone but seem to easily tap into the hyporheic zone below. I have planted some on drier sites and these have done well after I spent a couple of summers providing an occasional big dose of extra water to help them establish. Plant descriptions say that CWG grows to 30-35 feet in height, but mine are generally much larger than that. The plants grow into adjacent trees and spread extensively throughout the canopy (Fig. 1, 2). This adds extra physical structure to the landscape. Clearly, a plant this size isn't suitable for every garden.



Fig. 2. Ripe fruit of CWG.

Since we are beyond the northern edge of the range and we live in a cooler site, CWG fruit ripening varies over a month or so. After cooler summers, only

part of the crop ripens in late October. However, after the warm summer we just endured, fruit started ripening in late September. Interestingly, as the weather suddenly cooled, ripening of the remaining fruit slowed markedly.

A variety of birds consume CWG; Thrushes, mainly American Robin, but also late Swainson's and arriving Hermit Thrushes and Varied Thrush. We have seen Band-tailed Pigeon at times and Cedar Waxwings are common, as are Pileated Woodpeckers (Fig. 3) and Northern Flickers. The Pileated start checking the fruit in August, often settling for Chokecherry until CWG ripens. When a number of birds are feeding, the whole canopy shakes. What we do for entertainment!

W. Proebsting, text and photos



Fig. 3. Pileated Woodpecker consuming CWG fruit.

Text and Photos by William Proebsting

Hesthavn News

Work is continuing on improvements to the nature center. Visitors will recall that there have been two information kiosks, one in the upper parking lot and another next to the barn. In the interest of reaching out to our Spanish-speaking neighbors, we plan to double our kiosk space and have the same information available in Spanish. The display box for the kiosk down by the barn has been moved to the wall of the barn next to the new ramp and a second box has been attached there as well. A roof has been added to the ramp to provide cover for people reading the displays

and to keep sunlight from causing the displays to fade too quickly. There is a landing at the top of the ramp, and the whole structure has a back-porch feel to it. As the project is still being finished and still looks like a construction site, I will provide photos next month after we've cleaned things up. Meanwhile, in the upper parking lot a second kiosk, like the first one, is being constructed. Photos of that will also be available when completed.

I have a cautionary note for anyone planning to hike the trails at Hesthavn. A snag next to Paula's trail snapped off at about 15 feet above the ground. It landed in the fork of another tree and now dangles over Paula's trail. This is a good 18-inch diameter snag and would hurt ... a lot ... if it landed on someone's head. I put some pink ribbon across the trail and it is effectively closed for now. An arborist will be coming to clear things up, hopefully soon.

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

November 7, Weeding work party. (There are always blackberries to dig up.)

November 21, Barn and yard work party.

December 5, Weeding work party.

December 12, 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.

Community Notes

KBAS Invite to Wildfire Program

Audubon Society of Corvallis members are invited to a free Zoom presentation on Wildfires and Forest Resilience in Eastern Oregon by Ariel Cowan (Oregon State University Extension Regional Fire Specialist), Tuesday, November 9, at 7 PM.

Klamath Basin Audubon Society invited ASC members to join in the Zoom presentation, when OSU's Ariel Cowan will talk about the role of wildfires and natural resilience in forests east of the Cascades. Pre-registration is required by Monday, November 8. You can register now at: [Klamath Basin Audubon Society](http://KlamathBasinAudubonSociety) (klamathaudubon.org) or call 877-541-2473.

Kathy Larson

Publicity Chair for KBAS programs

Winter Wings

Get ready for a 2022 Winter Wings Festival like no other!



Winter Wings brings together birders and photographers to learn and explore with top notch professionals and enthusiastic local guides. The Klamath Basin is renowned for its massive wintering

population of Bald Eagles, but is prime habitat for many other raptors including owls, and a diversity of waterfowl.

The 2022 Festival will feature Richard Crossley, author of the Crossley ID Guides and co-author of Ornithery: For Your Mind, Body, and Soul. For our photography keynote we are excited to have Jennifer Leigh Warner, conservation wildlife photographer. Join us for an extensive array of field trips, workshops, presentations, and receptions that highlight the wonders of the Klamath Basin in winter.

On Friday, Feb. 18th we will have several presentations on the status of Klamath Basin wetlands and partner initiatives.

Dates: Friday, February 18, 2022 through Sunday, February 20, 2022

Host site: Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech), 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, Oregon, 97601

Website: www.WinterWingsFest.org

Registration opens in mid-Dec. on date TBA

For information call 877-541-BIRD (2473) or email to info@winterwingsfest.org

*Diana Samuels,
Klamath Basin Audubon Society*

Corvallis Sustainability Coalition

It's important to protect and sustain habitat for wildlife. For ASC members it starts with our stewardship role at Hesthavn Nature Center. Within our extended nature community, ASC members can also volunteer to help restore native habitat, establish pollinator gardens, or maintain habitat by joining work parties sponsored by other groups who are stewards of natural areas.

Information about the scheduled work parties can be obtained by checking out the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Conservation Volunteer Calendar. Hesthavn Nature Center work projects are listed, along with volunteer opportunities posted by other partner groups. Note that many groups schedule planting events during the winter months. You can also check out the home web sites for volunteer opportunities sponsored by the Greenbelt Land Trust, CSC Water Action & Natural Areas Teams, Institute for Applied Ecology, Benton

County Soil & Water Conservation District & the Native Plant Society if you wish to get onto their mailing lists.

Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Conservation Volunteer Calendar
<https://sustainablecorvallis.org/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-calendar/>

Suzanne Ortiz

Message from Malheur Friends

Greetings Corvallis Audubon,

Last night there was an unexpected feline at the volunteer RV park. They caught it, but we can't have domestic cats at home in the Refuge. Now, I have a stray kitten curled up in my lap hoping to find her a suitable home.

My reflection is that you just never know what the day will bring. In the best of times, you have the resources and capacity to prepare for the worst, hope for the best, and remain flexible to whatever comes your way.

It is in this spirit that non-profit organizations like ours engage in strategic planning. We began this process ourselves in spring of 2021 and I am proud that we are creating and using tools designed to create stronger organizational structure and direction, but also to build in adaptability as the Refuge and its needs evolve.

As our Friends and Followers, your support is critical to our ability to do this work and plan for the future of our organization and of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. You just never know when a metaphorical kitten will show up!

As always, thank you for being a Friend.

*Janelle L Wicks
Executive Director
Friends Of Malheur Refuge*

Board Meeting Summary

October 14, 2021

Present: Phyllis Bailey, Ray Drapek, Karan Fairchild, Jim Fairchild, Mikaela Lea, Dave Mellinger, Susan McNutt, Suzanne Ortiz, and Carolyn Peterson

VP/Program Committee – Mikaela. Monthly speakers listed in CHAT. Zoom webinars continue.

Committee Reports:

Education – Mikaela. The coloring contest will run Nov 1-30. Prizes \$25/per winner for 6 winners. Pages this year have birds only so people can add habitat. Everything will be bilingual. Office Depot will have materials on hand, otherwise people can print their own sheets. Judges include 2020 contest winner, Karli Hall. WWFD will be in person and online.

CHAT deadline November 22 (notice date change due to Thanksgiving!!)

Conservation – Jim Fairchild – noted passing of John Gaylord, longtime ASC member and volunteer. Ongoing meetings with Advisory Councils on various activities. More details in the Conservation Report in this CHAT.

Publicity/Social Media – Mikaela would like more flyers available to advertise.

Hesthavn - Ray reported ongoing projects and volunteers working.

Old Business – Suzanne Ortiz is in the process of getting a committee to write a diversity statement.

New Business – South Corvallis Butterfly Garden project (pollinator garden) needs volunteers. Contact Dave Mellinger directly if you want to help.

Next Board meeting November 11th Location TBA (see ASC website)

Susan McNutt, Board Secretary

Statements on Diversity/Inclusion and Land Acknowledgements

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

We want to extend an invitation to any of our members who are interested in joining the collaborative process to contact 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

Debby de Carlo

Carol Kirk

Ramesh Sagili

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, Liz Hogan, Mikaela Lea, Christina Linkem, Susan McNutt, Suzanne Ortiz, William Proebsting, Diana Samuels, Jamie Simmons, Caryn Stoess, Naomi Weidner, and Janelle Wicks

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

Nov. 7 Weed work party, 10-2 at Hesthavn
Nov. 11 ASC Board Meeting on Zoom, 7 pm
Nov. 18 ASC General Member Meeting, 7 pm
Nov. 21 Barn and yard work party, 10-2 at Hesthavn
Nov. 22 December 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



White-breasted Nuthatch photo by Matt Lee

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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Christina Linkem	cmlinkem(at)hawaii.edu
Suzanne Ortiz	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Phyllis Bailey	pbgrebe2004@yahoo.com
Dodie Wilson	dgwilson802(at)gmail.com

Chairpersons

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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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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/>



<https://www.facebook.com/CorvallisAudubon/>



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