



THE CHAT

September 2022 VOL. 52 #1

In-Person is Back!

The 2022-2023 monthly meetings will be both in-person and available on Zoom! They will be held in the [Corvallis Community Center](#) at 2601 NW Tyler Ave. in Corvallis. At 6:30 PM there is a social gathering, the program begins at 7:00 PM and lasts about an hour.

COVID-19: Please do not attend Audubon Society of Corvallis in-person meetings or events if you have a known exposure to someone with COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19, if you are sick yourself, or have other reasons to quarantine. We encourage mask wearing and will have some available at the general meeting if you need one. Remember, mask wearing is not just for you, but helps protect your friends and neighbors.

The in-person meetings will also be available on Zoom. ASC members who provided their email address with their membership dues will receive an invitation and instructions the day before the webinar. Members can view the presentation on their computers or phones at home. A few days following the meeting, the link to the recording will be posted on the ASC website (Homepage and Monthly Meetings) and will be available until the next meeting. Meetings are open to the general public, although space is limited. Email audubon.corvallis@gmail.com for information about accessing the program.

ASC General Meeting 09/15/22 on Zoom at 7:00 PM Greater Sage Grouse: The Canary in the Sagebrush By Kelly Hazen



*Greater Sage-Grouse,
photo by Matt T. Lee*



*Photo by Vince
Patton, OPB*

Like canaries in a coal mine, Greater Sage-Grouse are indicators of the health of the sagebrush environment and its plant and animal inhabitants. Wildlife biologist Kelly Hazen, who monitored leks in Oregon, will share information about the sage-grouse natural history and Oregon's Adopt-A-Lek program. She coordinated the

citizen-scientist volunteer program from 2013 to 2017 in remote southern Malheur County. Her talk will include Sage-Grouse biology and new 2022 data.

Greater Sage-Grouse (GSG) are chicken-sized birds that are found in 13 western U.S. states and three Canadian provinces. At dawn in spring, the courting behavior of male birds is spectacular. They fan their pointed tail feathers, inflate yellow air sacs on their breasts, and burble their availability to interested females. Habitat fragmentation and development have caused severe declines for this dramatic bird.

Kelly has been an avid birder for over 40 years and says, "Wherever I live or wherever I travel, I enjoy taking advantage of the local birding opportunities." Early work started in Burns, Oregon in 1993. Kelly studied the huge flocks of Arctic white geese that migrate through the region each spring. In the winter of 2011-2012, a rare Snowy Owl established a foraging territory just a few miles from Burns. Kelly Hazen jumped on this rare opportunity to collect data about the owl's diet and foraging behavior.

You can find the sound recording of the May Zoom meeting by Jonathan Valente about research on the [Marbled Murrelet here](#).

Thanks to Eric Preston for guiding our Zoom meetings and Program Committee member Mai Kiigemagi for setting up speakers. We need another volunteer or two to help with our program committee! Please contact us at the website noted above to help Mai and Eric!!

Mai and Eric, Program Committee

In This Issue:

Monthly Meeting Notes	1
ASC Website and Social Media	2-3
Conservation Report	4
Field Trips – Second Saturday	4-5
Education News	5
Diversity & Inclusion	5-6
Hesthavn News	6-7
Community Notes	8-10
Board Meeting Summary	10-12
Membership Corner	12

ASC Website/Social Media Eagle Eyes Help Keep the Website Accurate

Recently, a person emailed Matt Lee, who chairs the Bluebird Trail, with a question. A group of Western Bluebirds had visited their yard, and they could see silver and colored bands on the legs of two of the birds. They were curious if they should report the bands and what the colors meant.

Before providing the link on the ASC website for reporting band numbers, Matt found that the link was corrupted. I contacted the Bird Banding Lab, and they were grateful for the notice. I am also grateful that I was notified of the problem as there are 29 pages on the website and I wrote most of the text. Human as I am, an occasional grammar, spelling, or other mistake may occur! I can correct it easily if you let me know.

FYI – the website has a subpage under the Birding tab for whom to contact if you see a rare, injured, abandoned, or banded bird.

<https://auduboncorvallis.org/injured-birds/>

Sue Powell, Website



A Western Bluebird male with a federal aluminum band and a white local band, photo by Matt Lee

Explore ASC and Discover Volunteers

In fact, all ASC members are volunteers, unlike some Audubon chapters that have paid staff positions. The generous donation of hours, expertise, and interest is what allows us to meet our mission to educate the public about birds, other wildlife, and their habitats; advocate for responsible conservation; and provide opportunities to connect people to nature.

Often other people outside the organization donate services that are beyond members' expertise. An example is Ricardo de Ycaza, a native of Panama who has a background in biology and public policy. He provided the Spanish translations for our kiosk signs at Hesthavn. We are happy that our signs now say what we meant since a Spanish translation app that we used earlier made a few humorous errors.



OSU PhD student Ricardo de Ycaza – photo by Ocean Nexus Center

In May 2021, OSU student Olivia Ogzuc contacted Sue Powell in search of a project to meet a class assignment. Her background in science and passion for art led her to create ten original drawings to enhance the Ray's Trail guide brochure. She has

moved on in molecular biology but said the brochure drawings were one of the highlights of her college education.



Pacific Chorus Frog – artist Olivia Ogzuc



Chestnut-backed Chickadee – artist Olivia Ogzuc

Sue Powell, ASC Website

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).

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

Don't let your inability to do everything undermine your determination to do something for the cause of your country. - Cory Booker

Spotted Owl

On August 23rd the US Fish and Wildlife Service closed the public comment period on identifying the range of issues they should consider (called scoping) as they begin plans to implement the widespread lethal removal of barred owls on federal lands. This EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) will study the effects of the proposal, and those of reasonable alternatives including no taking no action, and within the required review process. Lethal removals at the experimental level have demonstrated some measures of success, with a limited hope of extinction within the foreseeable future. Audubon comments, while first clearly acknowledging ethical concerns of killing members of one species to benefit another, include the need to consider reclassifying these owls as "endangered", that habitat needs for older and larger contiguous suitable landscapes in the long term hold greater importance to species persistence, and that continued monitoring and ongoing external review are needed to assure efficacy of a lethal control program. Those comments also acknowledge that state and private forest land management has an inseparable function in the conservation of this species.

OSU MacDonald-Dunn Research Forest

After taking more than two years developing a revised Forest management Plan for the OSU-owned MacDonald-Dunn Research Forest, the College of Forestry has now restarted a planning process, separating a faculty plan development committee from an invited stakeholder advisory committee. Those two

independent committees should be informed by several planned "community listening sessions," the first to happen 31 August.

<https://cf.forestry.oregonstate.edu/our-forests/mcdonald-dunn-forest-plan>

As an identified stakeholder representing our Chapter interests, I will do my utmost to influence the Plan outcome, and to raise concerns. The first is that these and other college research forests are envisioned to produce net revenue for general college operations. This has led to repeated violations of previous plans when increased logging is used to make up college revenue shortfalls, either during an economic downturn (2008), or to cover capital improvement cost overruns (new Peavy Hall). Both these events led to greatly increased logging on the MacDonald and Blodgett Research Forests, entirely compromising those plans. My second? Given this history, will the College incorporate stakeholders and community concerns, and then abide by its own Plan? This is a public asset for the benefit of both the university and the state of Oregon, and I believe the public should be able to pursue legal remedy when the College can't abide by its own terms of management. See Oregon Revised Statutes 352.002, 392.025, 352.039

Please feel welcome to contact me on these and other issues you care about,

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair

Field Trips

Second Saturday Field Trip

September 10, 2022 (8AM - 12 PM)

We'll meet at the shelter in Willamette Park (east 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! Registration required; free, open to the public, face coverings required

CorvallisAudubonSecondSaturday@gmail.com to sign up. Led by Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess. Weather may alter plans.

Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess

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

Yes, 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 potential 2022 trips to Bandon, Klamath Basin, Rogue Valley with Shakespeare, Malheur NWR, Summer Lake, and the Wallows, 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 audubon.corvallis@gmail.com

Education News

Kalapuya Gaw-Ni

(Kalapuya Trail through the Woods)

Wednesdays, September 28-November 30th.
4:30-5:45 PM

Students ages 9-14 are welcome to join us on *Kalapuya Gaw-Ni* trail through time and place this Fall to discover the Kalapuya way of life in the Willamette Valley. We will explore different local natural areas to understand key plant and animal resources. Students

will participate in hands-on Math, Science and History using the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde curriculum. Students will build a replica canoe and test if it floats. They will also explore the population dynamics of deer and investigate key plant resources for their value as food or tools. Class will include storytelling, *Chinuk Wawa* vocabulary, and hands-on activities. We will begin with a retelling of the Kalapuyan Creation Story and a hands-on investigation of the Great Flood 15,000 years ago. We will then explore the importance of wetlands, salmon, fire, plants, and sacred lands (Mary's Peak). Finally, we will travel forward in time to gain an understanding of key events of history in the 1800s with broken treaties and Oregon becoming a state in 1859.

Each week's class will be held at a different natural area or park to investigate key components of local ecology. Please email asc.education@gmail.com for lesson locations and registration.

Program lead by Meika Vingelen.

Classes will utilize the key curriculum including: Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde curriculum available online at

<https://www.grandronde.org/services/education/>

This is Kalapuyan Land

<https://fiveoaksmuseum.org/this-is-kalapuyan-land-learning-materials/>

Talking Stones

<https://eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3322/Talking-Stones-Brochure?bidId=>

Historical Background knowledge from The Kalapuyans by Harold Mackery Ph.D

Additional Nature Resources include Field Guides for plant, and animal identification.

Meika Vingelen, Education

Diversity & Inclusion

In an effort to encourage conversations about equity and diversity, the ASC Committee on Diversity and Inclusion wants to share recent correspondence from the National Audubon Society. The 8/23/2022 email was from Andrés Villalon, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging (EDIB) Team Leader of the NAS. If you want

additional information, check the NAS website for their Statement on EDIB and for links to EDIB News.

<https://www.audubon.org/about/edi>

As some of you may have already heard, National Audubon Society's Chief Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Officer, Jamaal Nelson, recently stepped down from his role due to the sickness of a loved one. Our hearts are with Jamaal at this time.

The search process for a new Chief EDIB Officer will take place over the coming months. Until a new Chief EDIB Officer is identified, I am leading Audubon's EDIB team. The EDIB team remains energized and deeply committed to our internal and external EDIB initiatives.

One such effort is to provide consultation to a Board Task Force that will examine the name and the legacy of John James Audubon. This initiative is integral to the organization's mission to root itself in equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging and the need to interrogate our present decisions through the prism of the Audubon that we would like to become in the future.

Seattle Audubon recently announced that they would be removing "Audubon" from their name. We respect the Seattle chapter's autonomy in representing themselves to the community that they serve, just as every Audubon chapter can and does.

The National Audubon Society is still in our process and has not yet made a decision about our name, so I wanted to let everyone know more about the process, where things stand, and what to expect.

A Board Task Force was formed earlier this year and is responsible for making a recommendation about whether or not to change National Audubon Society's name to the entire National Audubon Society Board.

To make that recommendation, the Task Force is executing a scope of work that will provide 4 key inputs: historical research, engagement data, and legal and financial analyses.

The historical research explores John James Audubon's biography; the organization's origin story; the legacies of both the individual and the organization; and the frameworks that institutions can leverage to engage with these histories.

An engagement firm will design and execute a process to listen to where people are, gather feedback,

understand the impact of any potential decisions, and provide data and analysis. Key audiences, including staff, donors, members and volunteers, will be engaged in that process.

After considering these inputs, the Board Task Force will present their recommendation to the full Board at the February 2023 Board meeting. At that time, the Board will embark on a decision-making process regarding the Audubon name.

The timeline of this project reflects the enormous scale of the decision. This work must be grounded in the history, current state, and future impact of the Audubon name and the extent to which that name reflects our identity and organizational mission. Recognizing that this decision will affect every single chapter, the Task Force is committed to taking the time to gather input and analysis from all parts of the Audubon network between now and December 2022. Updates will be shared as progress is made.

If you have questions, please contact Audubon Chapter Services [National Audubon Society] by email chapter_services@audubon.org or telephone 800-542-2748. We are here to help Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. ET.

Andrés Villalon, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging (EDIB) Team Leader of the NAS

Note that local members of Audubon Society of Corvallis can direct questions to members of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee:

Suzanne Ortiz, audubon.corvallis@gmail.com;
Dave Mellinger, dmell3.14159@gmail.com; and
Ray Drapek, raydrapek@gmail.com

Suzanne Ortiz

Hesthavn News

Hesthavn Interpretive Signs - ¿Hablas español?

Hesthavn has gone bilingual!

Thanks to Ricardo de Ycaza (see earlier article under ASC Website/Social Media), Hesthavn's interpretive signs are now in Spanish as well as English. Currently

working toward his Ph.D. in public policy at Oregon State University, Ricardo generously translated the signs, allowing ASC to serve a wider audience even when the Nature Center is not staffed. The signs are large and easy to read, and they include many colorful photos and drawings.

Translating the signs was the last step in a process I started in early 2020 when I noticed that the two outdoor display cases at Hesthavn—one in the upper parking lot and one near the Nature Center—were empty. I thought they could be put to good use if they showcased information about Hesthavn, so I designed two interpretive signs in English and had them printed and installed that summer. Duplicate cases were built in 2021 to display Spanish versions of the signs.

In the upper parking lot, the English and Spanish signs welcome visitors and entice them to descend the hill to find treasures hidden from above. These include the Nature Center, the native plant garden, walking trails, feeder stations for birds, and nesting boxes for songbirds, bees, and bats.

from the roof for watering plants in the dry season, and installing a waterless, composting toilet.



Por fin, ¡disfruta!

Sue Powell, website

Hesthavn Work-Party Schedules

Sunday September 4, 10 AM to noon. Weed work party. We will have to see what most needs to be done this day. Unfortunately, there's always plenty of invasive weeds to work on.

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 open to our guests during daylight hours.

Directions to Hesthavn at 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.



The signs on the south wall of the Nature Center describe restoration, conservation, and sustainability efforts demonstrated at Hesthavn. Thanks to the huge volunteer effort to reclaim damaged meadow, forest, and stream habitats, the transition from horse farm to native vegetation has welcomed new animals and other species. Maintenance practices are chosen to reduce impacts while saving water, time, and money. These practices include using on-site vegetation debris to add nutrients to planting beds, storing rainfall run-off

Fine Selection Of Books At Our September ASC Meeting!

Our ASC Book and Raffle Table is back and will be loaded with a fine selection of fiction and non-fiction for you to choose from at our September meeting. For those of you who missed Jonathan Slaght's reading at Grassroots, there will be a copy of his heavily acclaimed *Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl* on our table as well as raven researcher Bernd Heinrich's personal memoir *Racing the Antelope: What Animals Can Teach Us About Running and Life*. For fiction, we'll offer four of Steve Burrows' engaging British birder murder mysteries.

And, our popular raffle is back!! For just \$1.00 a ticket you'll be able to take a chance to win a some Surprising Thing to either take home or not (just donate it back to us). Remember that the sale of raffle tickets pays for our meeting room rental each month. We're looking forward to seeing you all again.

Sally Shaw, Book & Raffle Table

Community Notes

Benton to Go!

The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's Waste Prevention Action Team has launched a new program this summer called Benton to Go! The pilot program currently has 9 Benton County restaurants/markets that will sell reusable containers, or vouchers for the containers, that can be used to carry your takeout orders or your restaurant leftovers.

Here's how it works:

TAKE OUT: Community members buy in with a one-time \$7 container purchase from any of the participating restaurants or markets listed on the website. You can also purchase a voucher for a future container.

RINSE: Rinse the Benton To Go container after use

RETURN: Exchange the container at any participating restaurant for a new sanitized container or get a voucher for future use.

As of 8/22/2022, the following are the participating restaurants/markets:

- Ants on a Log Café
- Common Fields
- Murphy's on the River
- New Morning Bakery
- Old World Deli
- Pacifica Seafood Market
- Squirrel's Tavern
- WiseCracks Café
- The Woodsman Restaurant (Philomath)

<https://sustainablecorvallis.org/what-we-do/action-team/s/waste-prevention/benton-to-go/>

Great Blue Herons nesting at Coffin Butte: An update and call for volunteers in 2023

"Remediation" is a word that we conservationists are often asked to accept when wildlife habitat gets in the way of development, whether for industrial, commercial, or residential uses. The idea is that yes, some habitat will be permanently lost, but "compensatory" habitat will be constructed or "improved" to compensate for that loss. The implied promise is that the compensatory habitat will be preserved, in perpetuity.

But what happens when remedial habitat itself is targeted by a later stage of development? This is the situation that we now face with Coffin Butte landfill, 10 miles north of Corvallis. And unfortunately, a nesting colony of Great Blue Herons - known as a "rookery" or "heronry" - has wound up in the crossfire.

A very brief history

Prior to the 1940s, the gentle topographic saddle between Coffin Butte and Tampico Ridge was blanketed by prairie and oak savanna, with riparian growth along the natural streams that flowed both east and west to join Soap Creek. With the onset of World War II, the U.S. Army requisitioned the land from the Rohner family, Swiss immigrants who grazed dairy

cows on the slopes. The army began to quarry rock from the base of Coffin Butte and used a small area on the west side of the saddle to dump waste from Camp Adair. In 1975, Valley Landfills Inc. purchased the site, and began to develop it into a municipal landfill.

This remained a small-scale facility until the 1990s when VLI launched much more ambitious plans to develop the site. Several small ponds fed by seepage from the butte were in the way of these plans. To compensate for the destruction of those ponds, the company scraped out a new, remedial wetland out by the highway. They put up a wooden sign labeling it "Toketie Marsh," taking the name from a Chinook word meaning "pretty." Soon afterward, VLI was purchased by Allied Waste, an Arizona-based company.

South of the remedial wetland, on land zoned as "forest conservation," the company planted hybrid poplars as part of a facility for treating toxic-laden leachate (think "compost tea" but much nastier) seeping out from the landfill. The poplars, together with a reverse-osmosis facility, were supposed to pull toxins out of the leachate, leaving water clean enough to release straight into the downstream environment. It didn't work as designed. Instead the company now ships leachate to the Corvallis wastewater treatment plant in a steady stream of blue tanker trucks. But the poplars are still there.

Herons arrive

In 2000, local birders noticed a surprise. As I wrote in the Chat field notes that summer,

"An improbable choice of nesting site by Great Blue Herons at Toketie Marsh ... gave area birders a unique chance to observe these birds through the summer. On 7-1, Carolyn Paynter watched an adult feeding 3 young in a very crowded nest. By 7-16 the juveniles could be seen hunting inexpertly around the edges of the marsh."

As this new colony increased, eventually the herons shifted to a stand of tall Douglas-firs south of the growing landfill. By 2018, up to 20 adult herons could be seen flying in and out of the conifers during nesting season. At our house just south of the landfill, we could see the adults flying overhead all day as they flew to nearby wetlands to forage, then flew back to feed their nestlings.

By 2020, the "remediation" poplars had grown taller, with a closed canopy, and herons also began to nest there. At least 13 pairs nested there in 2021, apparently successfully as by June neighbors began to notice young birds foraging alongside adults in the local fields and pastures of Soap Creek Valley.

A new threat emerges

Even as those young herons began to forage on their own last June, big changes were brewing. Republic Services an even larger garbage company that bought out Allied Waste -- submitted a proposal to massively expand the landfill with a new lobe bulging south across Coffin Butte Road. This new lobe would have towered high above the heron nesting areas both in the conifers and in the poplars, blocking the flyway in between.

After local conservationists expressed concerns about impacts on herons, ODFW commented, recommending three years of professional surveys, as well as restriction of landfill activities within 1/4 mile of the active nesting areas, during the critical breeding period from February through June.

This year, herons returned to the poplars to nest by 7 Mar, when Priya Thakkar noticed a heron carrying a stick to a nest. By 12 Apr I counted at least 12 nests that were occupied with adults incubating or brooding on the nest. By 20 Apr adult herons were perched near the nests, but not on them -- usually a behavior indicating that eggs have hatched and the young are 3 to 4 weeks old. Joy Shreyer from Silverton noted several adult herons perched around the nests on 14 May.

However by 25 May the heronry was abandoned. Questions posed to statewide and local birding lists, as well as a neighborhood list, have indicated that juveniles have not been seen in the nest, as would be expected as the young got close to fledging. Nor did we see regular flights of adults over our house in mid-late May, nor were there any reports of juvenile herons in nearby fields.

What happened?

It seems likely that this heronry failed, sometime between 14 May and 25 May. But without more information, we can only speculate as to what really happened. Unseasonably wet, cool weather during

May could have impacted nestling survival rate. High numbers of young Bald Eagles hanging around the landfill through spring, drawn there by exposed garbage and gull flocks, may have also opportunistically preyed on heron nestlings. Was disturbance a factor? Neighbors noticed that a large stockpile of fill dirt near the heronry was being excavated, bringing trucks and other heavy equipment into the buffer zone recommended by ODFW. In a July public meeting, a company representative stated that they considered this to be "normal" activity, and they did not have any special protocols in place regarding activities in the heron buffer zone.

We've learned that the company did hire a biological consultant to perform monthly surveys of both this poplar rookery and the older rookery in the conifers. The company spokesman said that results of those surveys would not be reported until 2025, upon completion of the 3-year survey period mandated by ODFW. Even if the company releases the data sooner, it might not explain what happened this year, as the consultant was only contracted to visit once per month.

How can you help?

For future years, clearly there's a need for independent monitoring of this heron colony to provide better insight into causes of success or failure. The nests are normally viewable from safe parking spots within the public right-of-way along Coffin Butte Road.

There's also a need to monitor other heronries in our area. According to Dr. Ann Eissinger, who has worked for years on colonies in the Puget Sound region, the nesting Great Blue Heron population in the Willamette Valley is very poorly understood, both in terms of numbers of breeding birds, and the stability of existing colonies.

Dr. Eissinger has kindly shared the protocol that volunteers use for monitoring rookeries in Washington. In a nutshell, it involves making regular visits to watch heron nests (from an unobtrusive location, such as a parked vehicle), preferably at times of day when herons are most likely to be feeding young, then spending at least one hour watching the nests.

If you're interested in helping to monitor heronries in 2023 - either at Coffin Butte or at another site where access is feasible - please contact me at

joel.geier@peak.org, and let's see if we can do better for the herons next year!

Joel Geier

Board Meeting Summary

August 4, 2022

Karan Fairchild opened the meeting at 6:30 PM, outside Hesthavn

Present: Mark Baldwin, Bev Clark, Jim and Karan Fairchild, Matt Lee, Susan McNutt, Suzanne Ortiz, Sue Powell, and Carolyn Peterson.

May Board meeting minutes were approved as revised.

President – Discussion for future Board meetings to be in person or Zoom led to decision to meet 6:00 PM Sept. 8th in person at Hesthavn, then decide later about fall and winter meetings.

The question of changing bylaws to remove term limits was tabled for the time being.

VP/Program committee – Several people volunteered to take Zoom training at CCC to be back-up for Eric. Volunteers who will be trained include: Carolyn Peterson, Karan Fairchild, Mark Baldwin, Mai Kiigemagi and maybe Dave Mellinger. If anyone else would like to learn, they can contact Eric Preston.

Mai's message: 1) Eric has gone through the training on Zoom at C3 and has said he will be able to train others soon. We need a few back-up tech people for times he can't be there. 2) People can see the list of programs for the year on the website under Monthly Speakers. It will also be in the Chat. 3) Speakers will continue to receive tote bags as a thank you.

Treasurer – statements are received through the mail. Carolyn reported approximately \$58,000 on hand. She will pay the \$3,000 for insurance soon. An issue with the IRS is in process of being resolved.

Secretary – thank you to those who write reports and send online

Committee and team reports

Education – Mai's message: 1) Eric has gone through the training on Zoom at C3 and has said he will be able to train others soon. We need a few back-up tech people for times he can't be there. 2) People can see the list of programs for the year on the website under Monthly Speakers. It will also be in the Chat. 3)

Speakers will continue to receive tote bags as a thank you.

News from **Dodie Wilson** - July 20-21: five volunteers went to the Benton County Girl Scout Camp at Rock Creek. We had over 100 girls ranging from grades 1-6. The theme was wildflowers so we taught the girls about the interconnection of flowers with the 3 species of hummingbirds that can be found in Oregon: the Rufous, Anna's and Calliope. We gave them stickers of the Anna's hummingbird made by local artist, Casey Cruze. On Saturday July 23, Meika and I attended the Benton County Historical Museum for their family day from 10-2. We brought several of our bird specimens and the younger children could try and identify which birds were swimmers, walked on the ground, hunted prey, etc. There were over 100 children and their families that came by. We also gave away more of Casey Cruze's stickers which was a hit! We don't have any outreach planned for the rest of August into Fall, but surely things will pick up.

Conservation - Jim Fairchild recommended a book he is reading – "*Sagebrush Collaboration: How Harney County Defeated the Takeover of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge*" Peter Walker, Oregon State University Press, 2018. He also mentioned ongoing participation with Forest Management, OSU Forestry, McDonald Forest and Stake Holder groups on behalf of ASC.

Publicity/Social media – Sue Powell noted that the ASC website is visited 30-50 times per day and she continues to monitor heavy numbers of "hacking" attempts.

Hesthavn – Ray Drapek: 1) Barn staining – has been completed. 2) Yellow archangel – Aubrey Cloud, working with the Mary's River Watershed Council conducted an herbicide spraying of our Yellow Archangel patch on the west side of the creek. Upon last inspection the YA did indeed take a hit, but more sprays will be needed. 3) Fluorescent light fixtures – It's a subtle repair job, and one that possibly nobody noticed, but the ballasts were going out on several of the fluorescent light fixtures in the barn causing buzzing and sometimes flickering lights. Volunteer Karl Hartzel once again risked life and limb to climb up and replace those ballasts. 4) Kiosk display boxes – new cork backing in three out of the four kiosk display boxes. Need to finish right hand box by the parking lot.

5) Youth Volunteer Corps – We will have a total of 4 YVC work parties this summer; one to go. We have had between 6 and 10 kids per work party. We are sometimes limited in what we can have them do since we can't have them running power tools and on hot days we need to confine the work to indoors or at shady locations. We've gotten some weeding done, some cleanup around the tool shed, some watering of plants, and some help with the kiosk display boxes. For the last work party hope to be painting the floor in the barn. 6) Work parties – mostly consisted of just me and Kim. The lawn has kept growing far later into the summer than it normally does and so lawn mowing has probably been the lion's share of our efforts since May. Bought a refurbished lawn mower. 7) Parking –situation has been pretty stable this summer. People are mostly paying attention to our signs.

Field Trip Notes -SAT, SEP 10 (8 AM-12 PM)

AUDUBON FIELD TRIP: Led by Duncan Evered & Caryn Stoess @ Willamette Park

Meet at Willamette Park Shelter, east end of SE Goodnight Ave

Registration required, free, open to the public, face coverings required

Contact:

CorvallisAudubonSecondSaturday@gmail.com

Bluebird Trail – Matt Lee reported that nesting season is winding down. He checked 4 boxes with nests recently. There are around 200 boxes being monitored, but not all have Bluebirds. He hopes to have a report compiled for the November Chat.

Sustainability Coalition – Annette Mills of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition will provide materials on sustainability to ASC for a table display at the monthly-in-person ASC meetings. (per Suzanne Ortiz)

Diversity and Inclusion – Committee (Suzanne Ortiz, Ray Drapek and Dave Mellinger) continue their outreach to community groups. This includes looking for opportunities to publicize conservation and environmental education efforts by local groups. The committee will use the National Audubon Society Birdability checklist for accessibility to Hesthavn Nature Center to determine what recommended actions we have complied with, what is possible, what will require a grant application, etc. The completed checklist will be presented to the ASC Board. Annette Mills of the

Corvallis Sustainability Coalition will provide materials on sustainability to ASC for a table display at the monthly-in-person ASC meetings.

Old business – Mark Baldwin explained the venue situation and the Board voted not to participate in the Audubon Photography Awards Traveling Exhibition this year.

Sustainability Coalition – Suzanne Ortiz noted Members of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee (Suzanne Ortiz, Ray Drapek, and Dave Mellinger) continue their outreach to community groups. This includes looking for opportunities to publicize conservation and environmental education efforts by local groups. The committee will use the National Audubon Society Birdability checklist for accessibility to Hesthavn Nature Center to determine what recommended actions we have complied with, what is possible, what will require a grant application, etc. The completed checklist will be presented to the ASC Board.

Annette Mills of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition will provide materials on sustainability to ASC for a table display at the monthly-in-person ASC meetings.

New Business – Carolyn Peterson is holding a group meeting on August 22nd for the formation of a committee to restart planning weekend field trips.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*Revised Minutes submitted by 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 Member

Elizabeth Dickey

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, mail to: 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, Ray Drapek, Duncan Evered, Jim Fairchild, Karan Fairchild, Joel Geier, Mai Kiigemagi, Susan McNutt, Suzanne Ortiz, Sue Powell, Sally Shaw, Jamie Simmons, Caryn Stoess, Andrés Villalon, and Meika Vingelen

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 and photos to: chateditors@gmail.com.

Calendar

- Sept. 4: Work Party, 10 AM to noon (Hesthavn)
- Sept. 8: Board Meeting
- Sept. 15: Kelly Hazen, Greater Sage-grouse: the Canary in the Sagebrush (CCC, Zoom)
- Sept. 25: Chat Deadline
- Oct. 13: Board Meeting
- Oct. 20: Manuela Huso, Effects of Wind Energy Generation on Bats and Birds
- Nov. 17: Worth Mathewson, Band-tailed Pigeons
- Dec. 15: Member Slide Show
- Jan. 19: Ram Papish, Wildlife Art on Interpretive Signs
- Feb. 16: Fred Ramsay, Birds of Mongolia
- Mar. 16: Marina Richie, Belted Kingfishers
- Apr. 20: Don Boucher & Lisa Millbank, A Yard Full of Native Plants, Birds, Bugs and More
- May 18: Bob Beschta, Trophic Cascades

Board and Member meetings may have to be cancelled or changed to ZOOM due to pandemic challenges, so please check out our [website](#) for the latest scheduling info.



Band-tailed Pigeon 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

Board Members

Phyllis Bailey	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Mark Baldwin	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Bev Clark	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Suzanne Ortiz	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Marge Popp	audubon.corvallis@gmail.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	Kelly Collins, Naomi Weidner	chateditors(at)gmail.com
Christmas Bird Count	Bev Clark, Matt Lee	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Conservation	Jim Fairchild	alderspring@peak.org
Corvallis Sustainability Coalition	Suzanne Ortiz	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Education Team Co-coordinators	Meika Vingelen, Dodie Wilson	asc.educationteam@gmail.com
Field Trip - local	Duncan Evered, Caryn Stoess	CorvallisAudubonSecondSaturday@gmail.com
Field Trip - regional	Vacant	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Hesthavn	Ray Drapek	raydrapek(at)gmail.com
Historian	Marcia Cutler	marciafcutler(at)comcast.net
Membership	Paul Adamus	adamus7(at)comcast.net
Publicity	Sue Powell	Website.auduboncorvallis@gmail.com
	Facebook - Nancy DeMasi	media.audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
	Instagram - Vacant	media.audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Refreshments	Becky Garrett	becky.bittern(at)yahoo.com
Sales Table	Sally Shaw	shaws(at)peak.org

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/>