



THE CHAT

December 2023 VOL. 53 #4

General Meeting 11th Annual Member Slide Show December 21, 2023 7:30 PM

Select your favorite nature photos and/or videos to share with the group at the Dec. 21 meeting. Any interesting, beautiful, or fun photos or short videos of birds, other animals, plants, nature scenes, etc. are welcome.

Don't be shy - all skill levels will be appreciated. Remember that everyone starts by picking up a camera (or phone) and figuring out how to capture nature.

Guidelines:

- Entries must be received no later than Dec. 14.
- Plan your presentation to be 5 minutes or less, as time is limited. If stories accompany your entries, reduce the number of entries to be sure you meet the time limit.
- Include captions if you want them to appear on your photos/videos during the presentation.
- If there is a certain order for the photos, be sure to make that order clear when you submit them.
- Entries cannot be accepted at the meeting.
- Submit your photos/videos to Sue Powell (jabirusue@comcast.net) in one of these ways:
 - Send them as email attachments.
 - Put them in a PowerPoint or Keynote presentation and send the file.



Hooded Merganser photo by Matt Lee

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- Put them on a website (e.g., Google Photos) and send the link. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing them.

Sue Powell

The 2023-2024 Monthly Meetings will be held in person and on Zoom. Join us in the Chandler Ballroom of the [Corvallis Community Center](#) located at 2601 NW Tyler Ave. in Corvallis.

Doors open at 6:30 PM followed by a business meeting at 7:00 PM. The program begins at 7:30 PM and lasts about an hour.

ASC members who provided their email address with their membership dues will receive an invitation and instructions the week of the presentation. Programs are posted on the [ASC website](#) after the meeting. Meetings are open to the public. Email audubon.corvallis@gmail.com for more information about accessing the program.

Thanks to Eric Preston for guiding our Zoom meetings and Program Committee member Mai Kiigemagi for booking guest 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

Birding Tour to be Ruffled at December Meeting

Nature in Flight Tours has donated a half-day birding tour to our December raffle table. Even though our monthly raffle had been discontinued, this very generous gift from Nature in Flight owner and manager Spencer Mair has caused us to recreate our popular raffle for this special ASC member slideshow meeting.

Many of you know Spencer from his years on the ASC Board of Directors and as the founder of OSU's Bird Nerds group. We're thrilled Spencer identified a need in the mid-Willamette valley for a nature tour company and has founded this exciting new company. Thank you very much, Spencer, for your generous half-day tour donation.

Do you have a bird-related piece of art, a book, or perhaps a bird feeder you'd like to donate to this holiday meeting raffle table? Home-baked goods or a nice bottle of 'bird label' wine would also be very welcome. Perhaps if you've been enjoying our meetings via Zoom, you might like to attend this popular annual meeting on Dec. 21. We hope to see you.

Sally Shaw, Former Book and Raffle Table Chair



Spencer Marr of Nature in Flight Tours

A Chat with Jim Fairchild

When Jim Fairchild announced his plan to retire from the role of Conservation Chair, I asked him if he would be willing to tell our readers more about himself and his work with the Audubon Society of Corvallis. We volleyed emails earlier this fall, and what follows is a brief history of Jim's accomplishments as a leader of our organization.

Inspired by his family to join ASC, Jim has spent decades dedicated to our mission of advocating for responsible public policy protecting wildlife and habitats in the Willamette Valley and beyond. He served as Conservation Chair for

a decade over several periods since 1985, when his son Karl was born, in the mid-2000s, and from late 20-teens. Jim also served as Chapter President for 5 years.

Do you have a Spark Bird (the bird that got you into birding), and what is it?

I would say rather that I had a sparkler! Karan brought her love of birds into our relationship long ago. As we began considering building our home on her family property, I remember band-tailed pigeons often flying up from a spot just down from the headwaters of Alder Spring. We share that water source during their season here, and many dozens now feast on cracked corn, helping fertilize our forest. I helped Karan and our son keep daily attendance records for the property--which meant I had to learn all the other birds too.



Caption: Karl Fairchild (Left), Jim Fairchild (center), Ulo Kiigemagi (right). Photo by Karan Fairchild

How and when did you get started with ASC?

Karan and I started attending program meetings as her parents Ulo and Virve Kiigemagi were enjoying the interesting monthly presentations and regular field trips. Virve was helping with the refreshment table, so Karan pitched in with publicity. It has been a very welcoming group.

What drew you to be the Conservation Chairperson?

A confluence. Several community friends had to work outside the limits of their local Sierra Club group on forest protections in the Willamette National Forest, and came to ASC looking for support, beside what Oregon Natural Resources Council (now Oregon Wild) could offer. Western snowy plovers were also in dire straits on the Oregon coast and ONRC was rallying support to seek a federal listing for this species. Conservation advocacy wasn't a priority for ASC at the time, but its leadership encouraged me to step forward over which I had concerns. I got to work with some of Oregon's most remarkable environmental advocates. That was another spark.

Are there any projects you have enjoyed working on? What are they?

Those early efforts were memorable. The listing effort for snowy plovers was successful. Look where they are today. We weren't able to permanently halt a timber sale of a nearly millennium-old Douglas-fir Forest but helped establish a congressionally designated Research Natural Area of a super old-growth Douglas-fir ecosystem near Gordon Lakes. And those friends lobbied successfully to establish two wilderness areas in Oregon's western Cascades. There was helping publicize a multi-media slide show and lecture on old-growth forests on campus (4 synchronized carousel slide projectors!), and a twice-capacity evening presentation on protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil development. And helping to coordinate and erect an experimental Vaux's swift roost tower in Albany.

What does ASC mean to you?

A fifty-year-old service organization, led by volunteers and focused on wildlife and habitat, can bring together generations willing to gather, educate, and inspire their friends, families, and community.

Find us online



<https://auduboncorvallis.org/>



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



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

Where do you see the organization going from here?

The interests and aspirations of its volunteers continue to lead its way.

What are some arising issues in the local community?

They aren't different than when I started college here a half-century ago—continued human population growth, waste disposal, clean air and water, and a stable and safe environment for all beings. The only difference now is the scale and urgency of these challenges.

Implementing what we know we can do now to reduce the human impacts driving climate change is front and center. We know how to better protect the air and water from extractive industries and pollution from our cycle of consumption and waste. We might dream and innovate our way into the future, but conserving on our way to that future is more expedient...and a far more rational approach. We can and must do both.

Thank you, Jim, for taking the time to chat with me, and for your years of leadership and representing us. Your dedication is an inspiration to us all.

Jake Keen, Chat Editor

Conservation News

I am very grateful to our Chapter members and leadership over the decades for supporting my conservation advocacy work across a spectrum of issues. I have especially appreciated assistance and guidance from elder members Homer and Meg Campbell, Elzy and Elsie Eltzroth, Chris and Kate Mathews, Fred Ramsey, and many Board members and Chapter presidents from Sue Haig to Dave Mellinger.

I also look forward to the emergence of a new generation of conservation leadership, and their response to the growing impact of humans on birds and all wildlife and their habitats. Increased urbanization puts those increased threats at our very doorsteps, and all along the way to our places of work and play. In learning how we each can reduce our impacts on wildlife and habitat near home, we also learn how to act farther afield and advocate for better living conditions for wildlife, even around the globe.

I also look forward to the rekindling of local partnerships across municipalities, schools, businesses, and non-profits that seek to better those living conditions for all the creatures affected by our collective footprint.

In the short term, I plan to continue representing our Chapter interests at forest plan revision meetings for the OSU MacDonald-Dunn and the Corvallis watershed, report back on those issues, and will assist our incoming conservation leadership as best as I can.

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Chair

Volunteer With the Bird Nerds

The Bird Nerds Club at OSU is planning Lights Out window strike surveys for spring migration, and they need interested volunteers to help with surveying. Lights Out is a nationwide initiative started by the National Audubon Society to bring awareness to light pollution and how it affects birds through collisions. The Bird Nerds Club at OSU plans to conduct surveys around Oregon State's campus to collect bird specimens that have collided with windows and use the data gathered from these surveys to advocate for changes for the university and Benton County as a whole. All interested parties should contact Lights Out Coordinator, Jayshaun Talbert at talberja@oregonstate.edu.

Jayshaun Talbert

61st Annual Corvallis Christmas Bird Count

The Corvallis Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be held on **Tuesday, December 19, 2023**. Everybody is invited to join, and participation is free.

The Corvallis CBC is part of an organized, continent-wide survey that documents every bird seen or heard 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 count is coordinated by the National Audubon Society, and results can be found at (<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>).

This all-day event is an excellent opportunity for novice bird watchers to join with seasoned veterans and learn more about identifying and finding local birds. Half-day participants and home-feeder watchers are also welcome. If you live within the count circle (see below), have home feeders, and can watch them for at least one hour on the count day, we especially encourage you to participate. Some counts, particularly in Canada, are mostly made up of home-feeder watchers.

The Corvallis count circle has a 7.5-mile radius centered near the Corvallis airport and is divided into 13 sections. A link to a map of the count circle is posted on the ASC website on the Bird Surveys page. A team of 3-6 individuals will be assigned to each section. Leaders for each section will make arrangements with the rest of their team for a meeting place and time (usually 7:00–7:30 AM) on the day of the count. Participants should bring cold and wet-weather gear, binoculars, a spotting scope (if you have one), and snacks. Notepads, a clipboard, and recording devices are necessary to document the count.

We will gather at Woodstock's Pizza on Kings Boulevard for the countdown meeting starting about 5 PM. Food and drink can be ordered there.

You may submit your paper checklist, email copy, or eBird checklist at the countdown meeting. Send all count data to Matt Lee (sueandmatt@comcast.net). Matt will compile all the information and submit it to the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count and post it on the ASC website. Bev Clark 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, contact Bev (clark.bev9@gmail.com).

Bev Clark and Matt Lee

Bird Names for Birds

The American Ornithological Society has been working to find a way to address harmful and exclusionary names of bird species since 2021. In early November the AOS announced that some English Names of Bird Species will soon be changing. The updated names are an effort to address past wrongs and engage more people in activities related to

the study of birds. The AOS will also be updating the process by which English names are selected for species. Approximately 80 species that occur in North America will be the focus of name-changing efforts in early 2024.

In the [statement found here](#), AOS Executive Director and CEO Judith Scarl Ph.D. shared, “As scientists, we work to eliminate bias in science. But there has been historic bias in how birds are named, and who might have a bird named in their honor. Exclusionary naming conventions developed in the 1800s, clouded by racism and misogyny, don’t work for us today, and the time has come for us to transform this process and redirect the focus to the birds, where it belongs.”

Jake Keen, Chat Editor

Sustainability News

The annual Sustainability Report has been released by the City of Corvallis. The period covered in the report is from July 2022 to June 2023. The full report can be read at this link:

<https://archives.corvallisoregon.gov/public/ElectronicFile.aspx?dbid=0&docid=3854074>

The City of Corvallis Organizational Greenhouse Gas Inventories Report, released every two years, can be read at this link:

<https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/publicworks/page/organizational-greenhouse-gas-inventories>

Suzanne Ortiz, Sustainability Committee

Hesthavn News

Volunteering at Hesthavn

Work parties are scheduled week-to-week to avoid bad weather. In the winter that means cold rainy days; in the summer that means extremely hot days. So, on Mondays the decision is made of when the work party will be. The upshot of this is if you would like to participate in work parties (please do!), contact me (raydrapek@gmail.com) and I will put you on my volunteer email list and let you know when the work parties are. Alternatively, you could check the “Hesthavn Nature Center” Facebook page where I post work parties as events. I also let our Audubon Society of Corvallis web page coordinator know about work parties, so you probably can find them there as well.

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

Field Trips

Multi-Day Field Trips

2024 Field Trips

The Audubon Society of Corvallis is planning a full slate of field trips for 2024. We already have leaders from last year’s trips scheduled for 2024: Rogue Valley, Malheur NWR, Summer Lake, and Bandon in the Fall. Bandon in the Spring, Klamath, Steens, and the Willows were among the trips canceled by COVID-19, and they were not run when trips resumed last year. Please think about leading one or more of those trips next year. You could even invent your own field trip.

Fred Ramsey, Field Trip Coordinator

Second Saturday Field Trip

December 9th (8 AM Noon)

We will 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 toward 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! Free and open to the public, but registration is required. Sign up at: CorvallisAudubonSecondSaturday@gmail.com. Led by Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess. The weather may alter plans.

Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess

Community Notes

Benton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Annual Winter Native Plant Sale 2023-2024. Order online for pickup on February 24, 2024 at the Benton County Fairgrounds.

<https://bswcd.square.site>

Deadline December 31. Grant Opportunity for Educators. K-12 teachers and informal educators working in Benton Co (including Corvallis, Philomath, Monroe, Blodgett and Alsea) are eligible to apply for up to \$500 in 2024 to support efforts that benefit students and the environment of Benton Co. Funding may be used for projects that enhance natural resource conservation efforts. For more information:

<https://www.bentonswcd.org/for-educators-grant-opportunities>

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library & OSU Extension Master Gardeners

Tuesday, December 5, 12-1 PM. Seed Library – Growing Lecture.

“Growing Microgreens and Sprouts.” Presenters: Jill Farrow and Jennifer Klammer. Sponsored by CBCPL and OSU ExtensionFree.

Corvallis-Benton Co. Public Library and OSU Extension Master gardeners; Main Reading Room, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Elakha Alliance

Tuesday, December 5, 6-8 PM. Webinar. “Sea Otter Heroes – The Predators that Saved an Ecosystem.” Guest speaker: Patricia Newman, author and environmentalist. To register for webinar:

<https://www.elakhaalliance.org/event/sea-otter-heroes-the-predators-that-saved-an-ecosystem/>

Benton County Historical Society Corvallis Museum

Friday, December 8 at 10:30 AM. “Seeing Injustice: First Meal and the Art of Julie Green.” Speakers: Kirk Johnson and Theo Downes-LeGuin. BCHS Museum, 411 SW 2nd St, Corvallis.

A Call for Volunteers

The Audubon Society of Corvallis is recruiting volunteers for open positions. Board members are happy to provide training, so it is okay if you are not an expert. Consider if you may be a good fit for one of our open positions:

Assistant Tech Coordinator - Help with running our monthly membership meeting Zoom webinar.

Facebook Coordinator - This person posts on our Facebook page daily to publicize upcoming events and educate our community.

Field trip leaders - This person facilitates planning and leads individual trips.

Volunteers for Hesthavn Nature Center and Grounds - Outdoor work including mowing, invasive species removal, and other repair/maintenance projects.

Education Team Volunteers - Activities may include leading bird walks, teaching kids about birds and nature, making presentations, and staffing a table at events.

Contact us at audubon.corvallis@gmail.com for general inquiries about how to get involved!

Nikki Cross

Oregon State University

Friday, December 8, 4-5:20 PM. Lecture. "The Role of Forests in Nature-based Climate Solutions. Bev Law, OSU Professor Emeritus. Room 302, Learning Innovation Center (LINC), 165 SW Sackett Place, Corvallis. Sponsored by OSU CAS, CFDBPP and Departments of FWCS & FES.

Marys Peak Group Sierra Club, CBCPL, Spring Creek Project, CSC, OSU/SLSC

Tuesday, December 12, 7-8:30 PM; Champinefu Lecture Series "Winter Storytelling: Indigenous Stories of Place." Members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and their invited guests. Free. CH2M Hill Alumni Center, 725 SW 26th St, Corvallis.

Sponsored by Marys Peak Group, Sierra Club. Corvallis, Benton County Public Library, Spring Creek Project, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and OSU School of Language, Culture and Society.

No registration required.

The Arts Center

Through December 30, 2023. "Some Things are True." Joe Batt and Nancy Watterson Scharf. Main Gallery, The Arts Center, 700 SW Madison Avenue, Corvallis. For information:

<https://theartscenter.net/some-things-are-true-joe-batt-nancy-watterson-scharf/>

Suzanne Ortiz

Board Meeting Summary

November 9, 2023, 7:00 PM

Present: Ray Drapek, Bev Clark, Jake Keen, Jim Fairchild, Karan Fairchild, Dave Mellinger, Jayshaun Talbert, Dodie Wilson, Suzanne Ortiz, Bill Gellatly, Phyllis Bailey, Mark Baldwin, Carolyn Peterson, Mai Kiigemagi.

The meeting was called to order by Dave at 7 PM Approval of Oct. Board meeting minutes was moved by Bill, seconded by Carolyn. Approved.

Co-President: Karan brought up the OAC request for chapters to be involved in the Bird-Friendly Communities effort. Jayshaun will attend the Zoom meeting.

Program Committee: The member slide show will take place at the Dec. 21 meeting. Everyone is encouraged to submit their slides and videos to Eric Preston by Dec, 14.

Treasurer: It's time to renew Quickbooks. The price has gone up, but non-profits can get a discount. Quickbooks is still the preferred accounting system.

Education: On Nov. 15 a group of pre-schoolers and their parents will have a tour of the barn at Hesthavn. Dodie will set up activities, Ray and Phyllis will host.

Chat: Suggestion to include an article about the changing of bird names away from using people's names.

Conservation: There was a public comment extension for the Elliott forest management plan, which Jim signed on for ASC. Revision of the MacDonald-Dunn forest management plan is further delayed by their modeling effort, putting public comment on the initial plan into mid-January. The ASC public records request (transaction level revenue and

expenses for the city watershed) has not been met, though has already been paid. Bill suggested pleading to people with influence in city matters and offered to talk with his neighbor and former mayor Biff Traber about this.

Jayshaun, the new conservation chair, introduced his idea for a Lights Out campaign for the OSU campus, to help save the lives of birds, especially during migration. He is looking for volunteers who will walk mapped-out routes and gather data on birds found. This data can help direct policy-making for the reduction of light pollution.

Renaming committee: 57 responses have been received, About 50% say don't change the name. Nikki will give a full report at the Dec.14 Board meeting.

Diversity: The MLK Day bird walk is being co-sponsored by the Sustainability Coalition. Jayshaun suggested contacting the Black Student Union for publicity.

Hesthavn: Ray is happy to have two new volunteers. There was discussion of the phone and internet service provided by Century Link, but apparently, they will only talk to Fred Ramsey. Some trees on the creek side of the barn may need to come out. Ray will get an estimate.

Membership: Bill is taking over the role of chair as of now and will coordinate the annual appeal campaign.

Christmas Bird Count: Bev is looking for a volunteer to take on organizing the post-count dinner. A potluck doesn't seem very feasible, so the most likely plan is to meet at a restaurant. Bev will ask for a volunteer at the general meeting.

New business: Bill brought up the idea of having author Douglas Tallamy do a talk in Corvallis, possibly being co-sponsored by several organizations. Dave Eckert is looking for volunteers to talk about birds to middle school students during a field trip to Marys Peak in early June. The Willamette Valley Bird Symposium is Feb. 3. ASC will donate \$500, as usual, and have a table.

Next Board meeting Dec. 14, 6:30 PM, at Dodie Wilson's house.

Bill moved to adjourn; Ray seconded. Adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Mai Kiigamagi, Acting Secretary

Open Board Meetings

ASC Board of Directors meetings are open to all ASC members; 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 the ASC website for the location and time.

Membership Corner

Welcome New Members!

Annette Mills

Richard Hoyer

Ann Ferris

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, field trip locations, volunteer work parties, as well as ZOOM links. Send an email to the administrator Karan Fairchild at 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 bgellatly@msn.com.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Bill Gellatly, Membership Chair

Chat Articles

The Chat Editors welcome articles from all members of the Audubon Society of Corvallis. Please submit articles to the Chat Editor by the fourth Monday of the month, unless another date is indicated in the Chat calendar. Submit text and photos to: chateditors@gmail.com.

Calendar

General Meeting Speaker Schedule

Dec. 19: Corvallis Christmas Bird Count

Dec. 21: Member Slide Show

Dec. 31: Airlie/Albany Christmas Bird Count

Jan. 18: Alan Contreras, A History of Oregon Ornithology

Feb. 15: Dana Ross, Threatened and Endangered Butterflies

Mar. 21: Ann Eissinger, Great Blue Herons

Apr. 18: Nikki Cross, Birding in the Digital Age

May 16: Carina Kusaka, Tufted Puffins

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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; \$150 for Patron Level; and \$250 for Benefactor Level.

Interested in volunteering?

Please let us know:

volunteerasc@gmail.com