



# THE CHAT

January 2024 VOL. 53 #5

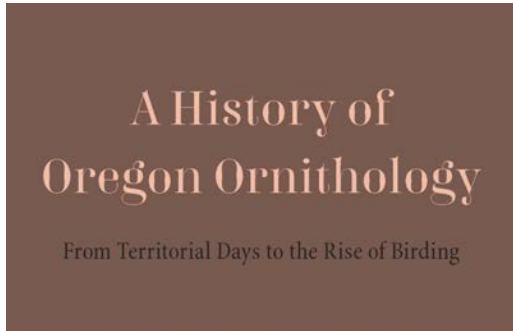
## General Meeting

### A History of Oregon Ornithology

Presented by Alan L. Contreras

January 18, 2024, 7:30 PM

Alan L. Contreras will present an unborring program based on his recent book, *A History of Oregon Ornithology*, and will bring copies to sell.



The program will cover the development of knowledge of Oregon birds from the Lewis and Clark expedition through the 1950s, then will focus on the development of birding as a hobby, pelagic trips, eBird, and other modern delights.

Alan is a fourth-generation Oregonian and a graduate of the University of Oregon and its law school. He is retired from a career on the fringes of higher education. He previously served on the boards of the Friends of Malheur and Malheur Field Station and currently serves on the McKenzie River Trust board. He has published eight books as author, editor, or co-editor with Oregon State University Press, plus several books with other publishers. Recent OSUP titles include *Collected Poems of Ada Hastings Hedges* (co-editor), *Edge of Awe: Experiences of the Malheur-Steens Country* (editor), and *Afield: Forty Years of Birding the American West*.



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](mailto:audubon.corvallis@gmail.com) for more information about accessing the program.

Thanks to Eric Preston for guiding our Zoom meetings and Program Committee Chairperson 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*

## A Message from Our Co-President Some Changes for the New Year

Volunteers are the backbone of the Audubon Society of Corvallis! With that in mind, I would like to thank two long-time retiring volunteers and introduce two new ones.

Paul Adamus has been ASC's Membership Chair for several years, keeping our member lists updated and taking care of many associated tasks. Bill Gellatly is now stepping into that role. Thank you, Paul and Bill!

Jim Fairchild has been Conservation Chair for many years (see December Chat) and will still be active on the Conservation Committee. Jayshaun Talbert will be the Chair and already has a Lights Out! project in the works. Thank you both, Jim and Jayshaun!

We have plenty of other volunteer opportunities, in the area of your choice! Please contact any of the board members listed on the back of the Chat for more information.

*Karan Fairchild, Co-President*


### In This Issue:

General Meeting	1-2
A Message from Our Co-President	2
Conservation News	2
61st Annual Christmas Bird Count	3
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion News	3-4
Hesthavn News	4
Field Trips	4-5
Community Notes	5-6
Board Meeting Summary	6-7
Membership Corner	7-8

OSU BIRD NERDS  
PRESENTS...


## LIGHTS OUT OSU

**What is it?**  
Lights Out is a nationwide program started by the National Audubon Society to bring awareness to light pollution and bird-friendly building practices through collecting data from dead birds that have collided with windows during migration



**The Plan**  
Collection surveys will start around the end of Winter Term then continue through Spring Term. Using the data collected, The Club officers will work on a proposal to submit to student government asking for money to purchase bird-safe window products for some of the buildings with the highest number of collisions.  
For any disability accommodations please email [talberja@oregonstate.edu](mailto:talberja@oregonstate.edu)

**Interested in being apart of the project? Scan the QR code below!**



## Conservation News

### 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](mailto:talberja@oregonstate.edu).

*Jayshaun Talbert, Conservation Chair*

## Find us online



<https://auduboncorvallis.org/>



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



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

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## 2023 Corvallis CBC Results Available in Mid-January

The National Audubon Society has held the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) for 124 years. The 2023 Corvallis CBC was held on December 19, and the results are still being compiled. Among the highlights this year were record-high numbers of several species, including Black Phoebe and White-breasted Nuthatch.

We'll present a more detailed account of the 2023 Corvallis CBC in the next issue of The Chat. If you can't wait that long, check the ASC website (<https://auduboncorvallis.org/bird-count-opportunities/>), where the complete results should be posted by mid-January. You can also view the results of this or any other CBC on the National Audubon Society CBC website (<https://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation/CurrentYear/ResultsByCount.aspx>).

*Matt Lee and Bev Clark*

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion News

### Nature Walk, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Audubon Society of Corvallis' Education Team and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team will be sponsoring a nature walk on Monday, January 15, 2024, from 12-2 PM with our co-sponsors from the Water Action Team of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. The nature walk will take place on the day that honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We will walk in the park on paths that border the riparian area and on the hill that overlooks Lamprey Creek and the park. We'll check out the "Peace Tree" planted in the drought-resistant landscaping near the Barn and a Ponderosa Pine that was planted in honor of Dr. King, Jr. by student volunteers from OSU.

We'll explore the restoration effort along Lamprey Creek that was undertaken by the Water Action Team of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition to repair the riparian natural habitat. We'll look for raptors and winter flocks searching for food on the lichen-covered tree trunks near the path.

Meet at the patio in front of the Barn that overlooks Dr. MLK Jr. Park. 4905 NW Walnut Blvd (just north of Elmwood). The nature walk is free and open to the public.

Contact: [audubon.corvallis@gmail.com](mailto:audubon.corvallis@gmail.com)

### Videos:

"Lamprey Creek Awakening". A short video of two Confederated Tribes at the blessing ceremony for Lamprey Creek that took place in 2016 on World Fish Migration Day. The video discusses the cultural significance of the lamprey to the Indigenous groups in the Willamette Valley as well as the research work undertaken at Oregon State University on

the Pacific lamprey. Water Action Team, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition video; 35 minutes. Click to watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owT8cqlMLA4>

“Dammed Oak Creek” video. Water Action Team, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition (9.24 minutes with 8 minutes filmed at the lower portion of Lamprey Creek). Click to watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=en9RsJERhI4>

*Suzanne Ortiz, DEI 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 about 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](mailto: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

In the pre-Covid years, ASC ran eight multi-day field trips: Bandon in March, Klamath in April, Rogue Valley in early May, Malheur NWR in mid-May, Summer Lake in early June, Wallowas in July, Steens Mountain in August, and South Coast in September. And we now plan to attempt all eight trips for 2024. Signup sheets for all trips will be available at ASC general meetings, or by email to [framsey5@comcast.net](mailto:framsey5@comcast.net).

Your sign-up should be accompanied by a \$25 deposit for each trip. You may also volunteer as a driver (slots available on the signup sheets), and drivers will not be charged for the regular trip costs. If the sign-ups are not sufficient to run any trip, it will be canceled, and any deposits will be refunded.

*Fred Ramsey, Field Trip Coordinator*

### Second Saturday Field Trip

#### January 13th (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](mailto: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>

## Oregon State Parks

Monday, January 1. First Day Hikes, 2024. 34 hikes in 31 Oregon State Parks. All are guided by a park ranger or volunteer. Free. Parking fees were waived on 1/1/2024. For a list of the [Oregon State Parks offering hikes click here](#)

## Native Plant Society of Corvallis

Monday, January 8, 7:30-9 PM. "Greenbelt Land Trust's Oak Creek Preserve – Habitat Restoration Sneak Peek." Presenter: Carolyn Menke, GLT Stewardship Manager. Cordley Hall, Room 2602, Oregon State University. In-person and by Zoom. [To register for Zoom click here](#)

## Corvallis-Benton County Public Library & OSU Extension Master Gardeners

Tuesday, January 9, 12-1PM. Gearing Up for Gardening. "The Good Guys and the Bad Guys – Native Plants and Invasives." Presenters: Michael Ahr and Sara Roberts of Benton Soil and Water Conservation District. Sponsored by CBCPL. Free. Main Reading Room, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Wednesday, January 10, 12-1. Random Review. An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us by Ed Yong. Reviewer: Scott Heppell. Sponsored by CBCPL. Free. Main Reading Room, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Tuesday, January 30, 12-1 PM. Gearing Up for Gardening. "Yes, You Can Grow Vegetables Without Irrigation – Dryland Gardening." Presenter: Darren Morgan, Nursery Manager, Shonnard's Nursery. Sponsored by CBCPL. Free. Main Reading Room, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

## Corvallis Sustainability Coalition

Wednesday, January 10, 4:30-6:30 PM. CSC annual meeting of partner organizations and volunteers. Learn about what the Coalition accomplished in 2023. Corvallis Community Center (C3) 2601 NW Tyler Ave, 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](mailto:audubon.corvallis@gmail.com) for general inquiries about how to get involved!

*Nikki Cross*

## Benton County Historical Society Museum

Wednesday, January 24 at 10:30 AM. "Vampires of Oregon: From Historical Photographs to a Reimagined Past."  
Presentation: Anna Fidler. BCHS Museum, 411 SW 2nd St, Corvallis.

Stories from In and Around the Museum. Four photographs of Ducks that winter in the Willamette Valley from the BCHS Museum's Duck Collection. [Click here to see photographs](#)

## Oregon State University

January 31 at 7 PM. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Keynote Address. Keynote speaker: Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor author, scholar & professor in the Department of African Studies at Northwestern University. Hosted by OSU Office of Institutional Diversity. LaSells Stewart Center, OSU campus.

## The Arts Center

January 16-February 29. Howland Community Open. The Arts Center welcomes artists of all ages and experience levels to bring one original work of art to display. [Click here for more info and to register](#)

*Suzanne Ortiz*

## Board Meeting Summary

### December 14, 2023, 6:30 PM

Present: Karan Fairchild, Dave Mellinger, Rachel Handy, Jayshaun Talbert, Jim Fairchild, Dodie Wilson, Suzanne Ortiz, Bill Gellatly, Phyllis Bailey, Mai Kiigemagi, Ray Drapek, Bev Clark, Nikki Cross, Jake Keen.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM, and the November Board meeting minutes were approved.

**Co-President:** Discussed changes to meeting start time and using Zoom during Winter meetings. The next meeting will start at 5:30 PM.

**Program Committee:** Sue Powell will host the December meeting with assistance from Dave and Carl. Next Month's presenter is Alan Contreras.

**Education:** Benton County Master Gardener Association has invited us to exhibit at the next Insights Into Gardening on Feb 10th. A raffle item is needed.

**Conservation:** The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has new regulations for drone use in parks. ASC will sign on to endorse regulations. The outgoing Chairperson requested that Jayshaun Talbert be appointed by the Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Lights Out OSU project is recruiting volunteers for an on-campus bird study, contact Jayshaun for more information.

The Oregon Audubon Council is planning to create bird-certified spaces. Guidelines are expected in the next year.

**Field Trips:** The Field Trip Committee is planning 8 trips next year. Sign ups will start soon. The committee needs drivers for trips, and is considering discounting costs for drivers.

**Renaming committee:** The committee met in November to discuss survey results. The committee decided to keep the survey open until the end of the calendar year and open it to the public. A full summary will be made at January's board meeting.

**Diversity:** The MLK Day bird walk, co-sponsored by Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, will be held on January 15th from 12 – 2 PM at MLK Park.

**Hesthavn:** The group of visiting preschoolers were able to enjoy the exhibits and library inside the Headquarters. One of the bat boxes is being rebuilt. New volunteers are helping with many of the tasks at the property.

**Membership:** The new chairperson is settling into the role. The appeal letter has been sent out and donations are tracking similarly to last year.

**Christmas Bird Count:** All sectors of the map have been covered. The group is encouraged to gather at Woodstock's after the count to share the results.

**Willamette Valley Bird Symposium:** Registration is now open. The event will be held on February 2nd and Jayshaun will be presenting.

**New business:** The Director of Ten Tiny Dances would like to work with us as a fundraising beneficiary in 2025. There are many exciting details to work out. Dave would like to work with Finley NWR to install a MOTUS tower to track birds as they migrate through the region.

Next Board meeting Jan 11th, 5:30 PM, at Dave Mellinger's house.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

*Rachel Handy, 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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:bgellatly@msn.com).

Thank you for your generosity and support!

*Bill Gallatly, 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](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com).

## Calendar

### General Meeting Speaker Schedule

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



*Tundra Swans photo by Tom Heath*



## 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	Rachel Handy	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Treasurer	Carolyn Peterson	asc.treasurer.corvallis.audubon@gmail.com

## Board Members

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Mark Baldwin	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
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Suzanne Ortiz	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
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Dodie Wilson	dgwilson802(at)gmail.com

## Chairpersons

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Bluebird Trail	Matt Lee	BluebirdTrail.corvallisaudubon@gmail.com
Chat Editors	Jake Keen, Naomi Weidner	chateditors(at)gmail.com
Christmas Bird Count	Bev Clark, Matt Lee	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Conservation	Jayshaun Talbert	talberja@oregonstate.edu
Corvallis Sustainability Coalition	Suzanne Ortiz	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
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### Interested in volunteering?

Please let us know:

[volunteerasc@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerasc@gmail.com)