



THE CHAT

February 2024 VOL. 53 #6



Taylor's Checkerspot Butterflies

General Meeting Conserving the Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Butterflies of Benton County and Beyond Presented by Dana Ross

February 15, 2024, 7:30 PM

Dana will provide an overview of the butterflies known from Benton County before going into greater detail about our local rare species as well as a few others found further afield in Oregon.

Dana is a lifelong Lepidopterist who transformed a childhood fascination with butterflies and moths into a professional career of documentation and conservation. Upon finding

kindred spirits and completing two degrees through the Department of Entomology at Oregon State University he settled into a freelance career working with various federal, state and private organizations. He annually monitors populations of Fender's blue and Taylor's checkerspot butterflies, conducts butterfly and moth inventories at important ecological sites, and teaches field-based short courses. When not in the field, Dana regularly frequents the Oregon State Arthropod Collection where he volunteers as courtesy faculty in the Department of Integrative Biology.

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.



Fender's Blue Butterfly



Dana Ross

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 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

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<https://auduboncorvallis.org/>



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Calling our flock!

We are looking for an Assistant Tech Coordinator to assist with running our monthly membership meetings online using the Zoom platform. Having our monthly speaker present both in-person and online via Zoom allows more members to participate from home and allows us to have a recording of each of our speakers.

Our full-time Zoom operator is seeking an assistant to fill the role when he is not available. Training will be provided! Our monthly meetings are held at the Corvallis Community Center on the third Thursday of the month.

Please email audubon.corvallis@gmail.com to volunteer for this position. Or stop by a meeting and see how the program is run!

Nikki Cross, Social Media



American Wigeon photo by Nikki Cross

Education News

Winter Wildlife Field Days

The annual Winter Wildlife Field Days are returning for the month of March 2024. ASC Education will be participating again with a table of activities for kids at Field Stations located at several of our Corvallis' parks. Keep an eye on our website for locations and dates of the Field Stations we will be attending. Hope to see you there!

Dodie Wilson, Education Chair



Conservation News

Lights Out Survey at OSU



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.

[Sign up form](#)

Jayshaun Talbert, Conservation Chair

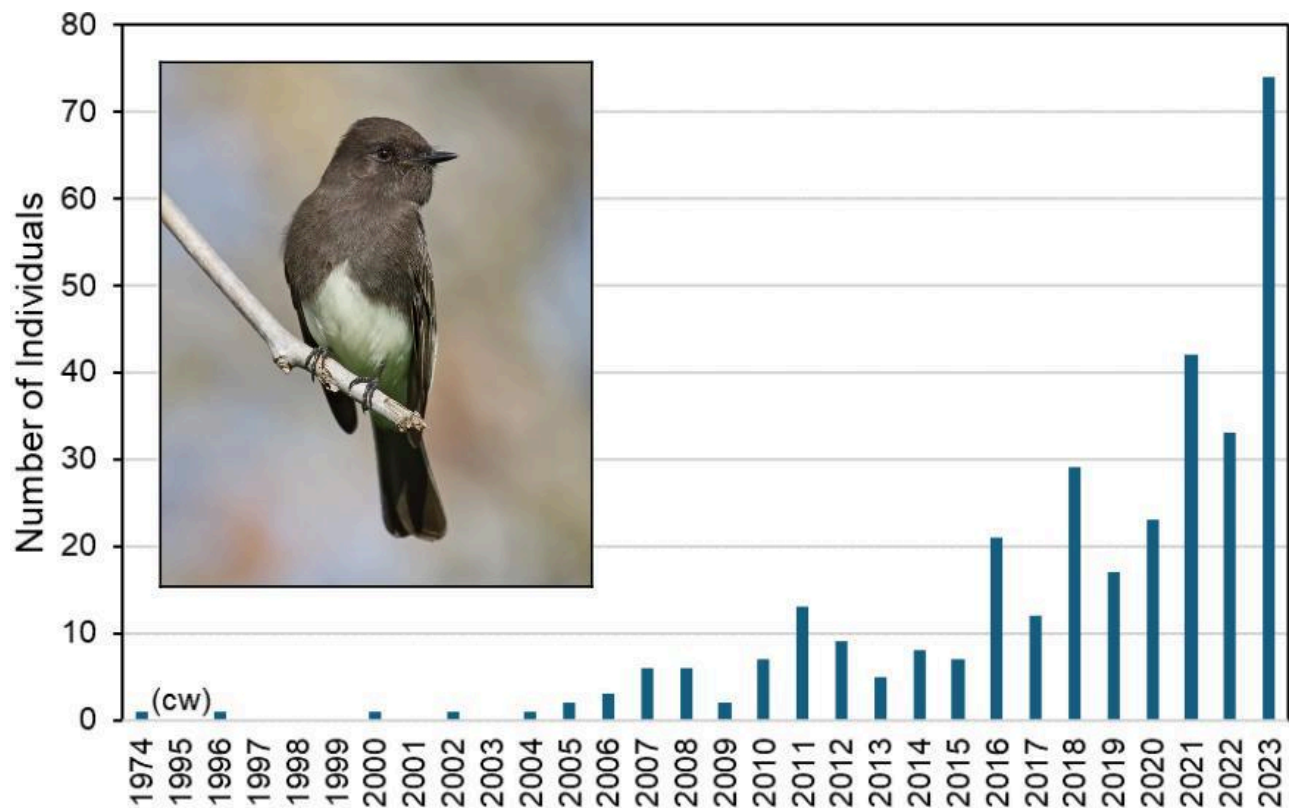
2023 Christmas Bird Count Results

The 61st Corvallis Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on December 19, 2023. The day began with intermittent rain, which ended by around 10 AM. The rest of the day was dry and mild. Temperatures throughout the day ranged from 41–57 degrees Fahrenheit, and winds were variable in direction and speed, with gusts up to 10 miles per hour. The 61 field observers and feeder watchers counted 92,531 birds of 126 species on the count day. For comparison, the corresponding numbers for the 2022 CBC were 83,976 birds and 121 species.

As is often the case for the Corvallis CBC, more than half of all birds counted in 2023 belonged to two species: Cackling Goose (36.2%) and European Starling (27.4%). The next-most abundant species were American Wigeon (3.9%), Green-winged Teal (2.9%), Mallard (2.4%), Canada Goose (2.1%), and Dark-eyed Junco (2.0%).

New records were set for the number of birds seen in several species, including Iceland (formerly Thayer's) Gull (312 vs. a previous high of 80), Glaucous-winged Gull (1,196 vs. 639), Merlin (11 vs. 10), White-breasted Nuthatch (120 vs. 99), and Black Phoebe (74 vs. 42).

The new high for Black Phoebe is consistent with the range expansion of this species in North America during the last half-century. Before the mid-1970s, Black Phoebes were found in the southwestern United States and as far north as northern California. Today, their range extends through western Oregon and Washington into southwestern Canada. The first Black Phoebe to make the Corvallis CBC was seen in 1974. They appeared sporadically in CBCs over the next three decades, but since 2004 they have been recorded each year and in generally increasing numbers.



Black Phoebes counted during the Corvallis CBC. None were seen during the years 1975–1994. In 1995, Black Phoebe was a count-week (cw) species. Photo by Matt Lee.

In the 2023 Corvallis CBC, two species—Mountain Quail and Pine Grosbeak—were seen during the count week, which ran from December 16–26, but not on the count day. Mountain Quail is no stranger to the Corvallis CBC, having been recorded during 26 previous counts. Pine Grosbeak, however, made the list for the first time. One individual was observed on December 18 near Willamette Park, in southeastern Corvallis, but it was not seen again.

To download a pdf of the 2023 Corvallis CBC results, visit the ASC website (<https://auduboncorvallis.org/bird-count-opportunities/>). 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

Sustainability News

Sustainability Fair and Town Hall

The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition is sponsoring two big events on Thursday, March 7th. The 2024 Sustainability Fair will be held from 5-7 PM and is free and open to the public. It's a great way to learn about the Sustainability Coalition's partner organizations and the important work they do. Immediately following the Fair, the Sustainability Town Hall will take place from 7- 9 PM. Advance registration is required to attend the Town Hall (no fee necessary). Both events will be at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center on the OSU campus. Audubon Society of Corvallis is an Engaged Partner of the Sustainability Coalition. Info about the Fair and about registering for the Town Hall will be posted on the CSC website. [For more info click here](#)

Suzanne Ortiz, Sustainability Team

Hesthavn News

Winter Damage at Hesthavn Is Minimal So Far

It was with trepidation that I visited Hesthavn after the most recent winter storms, but I was pleasantly surprised to see that except for a few branches that had fallen onto the trails the damage was minimal. The main building and the tool shed were unscathed. Some bird feeders had tipped over and we were missing a garbage can lid for some reason, but otherwise, infrastructure was untouched. We did have a very large tree fall over into the picnic area by the creek a couple of weeks ago, and I'm not sure what weather event that was associated with. There was a wood duck box attached to that tree. We'll have to find a new home for the wood duck box ... and we'll need to find some wood ducks to go along with it, since so far, I'm afraid that box has been unoccupied. Storms or no storms, in the next couple of weeks we will be having an arborist come visit the property and give us an appraisal of trees that could be damaging to the barn or be a fire hazard. We'll get an estimate of what it would cost to remove those trees and get that taken care of. Hesthavn is a valuable resource and we do want to take care of it!

Ray Drapek, Hesthavn Chair

Field Trips

Multi-Day Field Trips

2024 Field Trips

Daylight is increasing. Time to think about getting into the field to marvel at Oregon's wildlife. We begin with a trip to Bandon and the south coast on March 15-17. Friday starts at Newport with visits to state parks along the way south, with lunch at Jessie Honeyman SP; then continuing south through Coos Bay, to Coquille and Myrtle Point before settling in at Bandon. On Saturday we explore the many bird spots around Bandon before going south again for lunch at Langlois (world famous hotdogs!) and on to Port Orford. Sunday, we poke around Bandon again before heading for Charleston and Cape Arago, where Simpson Reef adds seals, sea lions and Northern Elephant Seal to our growing list. On our way back to Corvallis, we will stop at the south jetty of the Siuslaw River. This warmup trip looks for wintering seabirds, many getting ready to depart north or west. Past trips have logged some real rarities: Common and King Eiders, Yellow-billed Loon, and Emperor Goose.

The second trip, April 19-21, heads over the Cascades to the Klamath Lake basin. Then in May it is the Rogue Valley (with a night at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival), and what is usually the highlight of the season: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. June is for Summer Lake; July has a long, 5-day trip to the NE corner of Oregon; August for Steens Mountain; and September for another coastal trip, this one in search of shorebirds.

All trips usually have a wide range of expert observers who point out not only the birds, but butterflies, dragonflies, mammals, reptiles and flowers.

Signup sheets for all trips will be available at ASC general meetings, and by email to md.fieldtrips.corvallisaudubon@gmail.com. or flramsey5@comcast.net. Signing up should be accompanied by a \$25 deposit for each trip due one month before departure. 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 signups 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

February 10th (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. Signup at: CorvallisAudubonSecondSaturday@gmail.com. Led by Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess. The weather may alter plans.

Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess

Community Notes

Audubon Society of Lincoln City and Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition

Thursday, February 29, 6:30-8 PM. Webinar. Roy Lowe. "Feathers and Fronds: Exploring the Connection between Birds and Kelp." Sponsored by ASLC and OSCC. Free and open to the public. [For more info click here](#)

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library and OSU Extension/Benton County Master Gardeners

Tuesday, February 6, 12-1 PM. Gearing Up for Gardening. Todd Anderson, OSU. "Another Surprise! Growing Subtropicals in Oregon." Sponsored by CBCPL, OSUES Master Gardeners, BC Masters Gardeners. Free. Main Reading Room, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Tuesday, February 13, 12-1 PM. Gearing Up for Gardening. Joleen Schilling, Chemeketa Community College, Dept. of Horticulture. "Yes, Climate is Changing. Learning to Garden in a Changing Climate." Sponsored by CBCPL, OSUES Master Gardeners, BC Masters Gardeners. Free. Main Reading Room, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Tuesday, February 20, 12-1 PM. Gearing Up for Gardening. Kneque Chaffin, Home Grown Gardens. "We Can Also Grow Citrus!" Sponsored by CBCPL, OSUES Master Gardeners, BC Masters Gardeners. Free. Main Reading Room, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Tuesday, February 27, 12-1 PM. Gearing Up for Gardening. Janet Magedanz, BC Master Gardener. "Last Surprise! Garden Myths." Sponsored by CBCPL, OSUES Master Gardeners, BC Masters Gardeners. Free. Main Reading Room, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and CBCPL

Thursday, February 22, 12:00-2:30 PM. Meleah Ashford and Jennifer Klammer, BCMG. Public Seed Library Lecture: "Starting and Growing Peppers and Tomatoes." Sponsored by the CSC and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. CBCPL 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Saturday, February 24, 9:30 AM-12 PM. Public Seed Library Vegetable Garden Plant Clinic. Belluschi Wing, Sponsored by the CSC and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Luckiamute Watershed Council

Thursday, February 22 from 6:30-8:30 PM. George Krai. "Managing Vegetation for Beaver Coexistence." Sponsored by Luckiamute Watershed Council. [For more info click here](#)

National Audubon Society, The Cornell Lab and Birds Canada

February 16-19. Global Bird Count February 2024. Join the world in connecting to birds. [For more info click here](#)

Native Plant Society of Corvallis

Monday, February 12, 7:30-9 PM. Dan Luoma. "Wildflowers of Iron Mountain and Cone Peak." Cordley Hall, Room 2602, Oregon State University. In-person and by Zoom. To register for the [Zoom meeting click here](#)

OSU Center for the Humanities, College of Liberal Arts, School of Language, Culture and Society

Monday, February 12 at 6 PM. OSU International Film Festival. "Common Ground I: Oregon's Oceans; Common Ground II: Oregon's Ocean Legacy; Common Ground III: Oregon's Network of Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas." Free. Darkside Cinema, 215 SW 4th St, Corvallis.

OSU Giustina Gallery

January 3-February 29. Vistas and Vineyards Juried Show of *plein air* painting. Free and open to the public. Giustina Gallery at LaSells Stewart Center, 875 SW 26th St. Corvallis

Salem Audubon Society

Saturday, February 10 at 9:30 AM. In-person Workshop. "Exploring Raptors: Birds of Prey." \$10 per person. Gehlar Hall, Ankeny Hill Nature Center, 130 Ankeny Hill Rd SE, Jefferson, OR. [Click to register](#)

Tuesday, February 13, 6:30-8 PM. Larry Schwitters, 2023 National Audubon William Dutcher Award winner as Volunteer of the Year. "30,000,000 and Counting." Report on Vaux Swift monitoring through the years. Scottish Rite Center. 4090 Commercial St SE, Salem. [For more info and for Zoom link click here](#)

The Arts Center

Thursday, February 1, 5:30-7 PM. Jeff Leake and Bill Griesar, Ph.D. "The Neuroscience of Narrative." TAC Main Gallery, The Arts Center, 700 SW Madison Avenue, Corvallis. \$10. [To register click here](#)

January 30-February 24. Jeff Leake. Exhibit: "New Mythologies." Corrine Woodman Gallery, The Arts Center, 700 SW Madison Avenue, Corvallis.

Suzanne Ortiz

Board Meeting Summary

December 14, 2023, 6:30 PM

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

The meeting was called to order by Dave. December minutes were approved.

President: Karan requested that Dave write a proposal for a Motus Tower at Finley NWR, There is one at Ankeny NWR.

Program: Seeking another tech volunteer for general meetings. Nikki will write a blurb for social media. Feb. general meeting will be in the Alder Room due to event set-up in the Chandler Ballroom.

Renaming Committee: Nikki reported that 95 survey responses were received between Sept, and Dec. There were requests to analyze the data further by demographics such as age. Further discussion was tabled until Feb. Board meeting.

Hesthavn: Ray updated the group on recent happenings. He will attend the Non-Profit and Community Engagement Fair to recruit new volunteers. Bill has pieces of cedar fencing that could be used to make bird or bat boxes. Carolyn is attempting to cancel the internet service at Hesthavn.

Education: Upcoming events include the Willamette Valley Bird Symposium on Feb. 3, Insights into Gardening on Feb. 10, and Winter Wildlife Field Days during March.

Chat: Next deadline is Jan. 19.

Conservation: Jayshaun submitted a written report on new developments for Lights Out Corvallis. There was discussion on the proposed Muddy Creek photovoltaic panel array. The Board does not want to provide fiscal sponsorship for the group opposing the project or appear to be officially part of the group's campaign.

Diversity: MLK nature walk on Jan. 15, 12-2 PM at MLK Park.

Membership: Bill suggested a standard thank you letter to Pay Pal donors which would be sent electronically. Donations over \$100 will still receive a handwritten note.

Field Trips: Several trips are in the works including Summer Lake, Malheur, and Rogue Valley. Signup sheets will be available at the next general meeting.

Sustainability: The annual Fair and town hall meeting will take place on March 7 at the Alumni Center. ASC will have a table. This year's theme is The Arts. Natural Areas Celebration Week is May 5-12. Hesthavn will be open that week.

Next Board meeting Feb. 8 at 5:30 PM at Dodie's.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Mai Kiigemagi, 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

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

Feb. 15: Dana Ross, Threatened and Endangered Butterflies

Mar. 21: Alan L. Contreras, A History of Oregon Ornithology

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

May 16: Carina Kusaka, Tufted Puffins

Officers

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Interested in volunteering?

Please let us know:

volunteerasc@gmail.com