



General Meeting

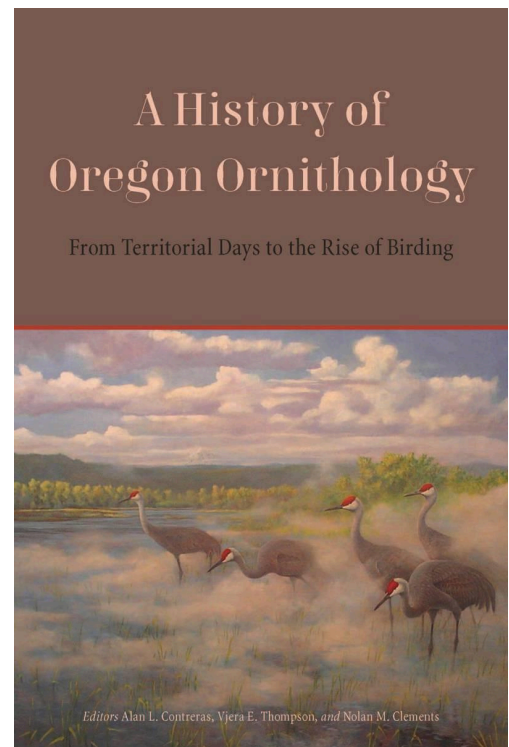
A History of Oregon Ornithology presented by Alan L. Contreras

March 21, 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 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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Education News

March Education News



a great way for kids to have fun while learning about science.

And finally, we will attend the Sustainability Fair on March 7 from 5:00-7:00 PM.

March is

turning out to be a busy month for ASC Education as we've been asked to attend a number of events. First up is Winter Wildlife Field Days. [Winter Wildlife Field Days](#) is put on by the Willamette Valley Refuge Complex and brings together a number of local environmental organizations to teach children about wildlife and conservation through fun and engaging activities at Field Stations located throughout the mid-Willamette Valley. ASC Education volunteers will be attending a number of these Field Stations located in parks throughout Corvallis with fun activities for school-age kids. Please join us at the Field Stations at these local parks:

Starker Arts Park, Saturday, March 2 from 2:30-5:00 PM

Lily Park, Friday, March 8 from 1:30-4:30 PM

MLK Park, Sunday, March 10 from 2:00-5:00 PM

Garfield Park, Tuesday, March 12 from 2:30-5:30 PM

Village Green Park, Tuesday, March 19 from 2:30-5:30 PM

Also, in March we will be attending Franklin Science Night on March 5 from 6-8 PM. This popular event is

Dodie Wilson, Education Chair

Conservation News

Oregon's groundbreaking land use laws stand front and center before the Legislative Short Session. Lawmakers are pushing back on the Governor's proposal to weaken these laws to allow shelter for Oregon's burgeoning unhoused population. The push-back is in part to protect remaining natural urban areas.

Setting aside land use laws also greases the skids for deep-water port development, offshore wind and wave energy development, and the conversion of exclusive farm use (EFU) lands for energy production facilities, such as those currently proposed in southwestern Linn County (Muddy Creek industrial photovoltaic facility). These projects can advance more quickly because residents and the concerned public lose mechanisms that allow their voice and participation in the decision-making process.

In recent years Oregon has annually lost over 50,000 acres of forest land to development, and 600,000 acres of farmland to conversion to industrial and other non-farm use, including EFU lands. This pace of loss will only increase with human population growth. Is this pace of loss sustainable?

Our land use laws do not prohibit a use change, only allow for thoughtful consideration involving residents and governments, staples of our democratic republic.

Those staples are further threatened locally, when county residents are denied a mechanism to address landfill concerns, such as when Corvallis Public Works does not report that its data demonstrate Rock Creek watershed stream water is periodically too turbid with sediment to treat or no longer present, downstream of a decade of forest thinning.

To take action:

- Friends of Gap Road Town Hall on Monday, March 18th, 6:00 PM, Harrisburg High School.
- Corvallis Public Works Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan Update Task Force, February 28th, 5:00 PM, Madison Ave. Meeting Room

Jim Fairchild

Find us online



<https://auduboncorvallis.org/>



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



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

Willamette Valley Bird Symposium

This annual event drew perhaps 200 birding enthusiasts and was every bit as good as the first one I attended several years ago. For those who have not attended this seminar, the format is to have a morning and afternoon Plenary Speaker, and several shorter presentations.

Tykee James is the co-founder of Amplify the Future, an organization based in Muckeystown, MD (<https://amplifythefuture.org>).

Mr. James opened the 2024 Willamette Valley Bird Symposium with “Building Bridges with Birds” - a definition of who birders are. His answer was that birders are people who share tales. His own stories described his “spark bird,” a Kingfisher, and paid tribute to the people who inspired him to combine his love of birds with an activism that would help introduce these passions to students and other community members. The underlying goal is to encourage people to “Get Out. Get Green. Get Paid.”

His trajectory as a birder started in Philadelphia and took him to Washington DC, where he was a staff member of the Wilderness Society and National Audubon Society, and where he led birding walks for Congressional staffers. He helped to organize the Bird Union at the NAS, and he co-founded the non-profit, Amplify the Future, whose goals include providing scholarships for BIPOC (black, indigenous and people-of-color) students. These new opportunities have the potential to stimulate a love for the outdoors and an interest in careers in conservation.

James described successful initiatives like the Philadelphia Library program that lends “birding daypacks” containing binoculars, maps, and bird guides. Note: More than 100 libraries in the US have started a similar program.

Morning Oral Presentations: Six of these “speed sessions” were dramatic, and chock-full of energy. Last up was our new Conservation Chair, Jayshaun Talbert. He spoke about his recent project, Lights Out OSU: A New Window Strike Initiative.

Afternoon Plenary Speaker: Geoff Hill, William P. Molette, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Auburn University.

“The Color of Birds: How the Power of Science Meets the Beauty of Birds” Geoff is no stranger to the birding community, and indeed, his list of accomplishments and writings is astounding. The topic of introducing red finches as a human-influenced case of unusual coloration through intentional selection was a fast tour of genetic analysis and organic chemistry. As he led us through hypotheses, experiments, and results, his stronger message was about how scientists continue to re-frame the questions. The first set of experiments seemed conclusive and were a compelling story for several years. As the research tools improved, the 16,500 genes were spelled out, and a gene referred to as CYP2J19 (which he pronounced as though it were a word in everyone’s vocabulary), the resulting work on mitochondria led to BDH1L - a gene description with everyday descriptions of astaxanthin and xanthophyll. As everyone knows, “x” gets a “z” sound in that corner of scientific language. I’m sure everyone attending ran home to Google “endoplasmic reticulum.” Geoff’s humor and lightheartedness were exceeded only by the humility of a scientist willing to question the accuracy of his own work.

Afternoon Oral Presentations: While I must admit to a ‘genetic predisposition’ level of interest in fires (my dad was a volunteer fireman in both Corvallis and suburban Portland), Mark Kerstens, (OSU Forestry) had a great perspective on the need for fire. His work includes a study of fire-associated birds, specifically those who opportunistically seek burned snags, and those whose migration paths can be dramatically expanded because of the lack of a healthy habitat. He noted the Black-backed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, and White-headed Woodpecker.

Closing out the afternoon was a panel, and of course the raffle giveaway. I know I’ll sign up again next year.

Suzanne Ortiz and Bill Gellatly

From the Membership Chair

During January, we had several renewals, some new members, and with your generosity, several gifts. There was a delay in making some changes to the Membership web page, and thanks to Sue Powell's quick work on the eve of a trip, I am now receiving information filled out online.

In the (possibly too fine) print there is a request that you also send me an email to let me know what the money is for (membership, donations, etc.). That step is requested in addition to filling out a form, going to PayPal, or writing a check and mailing it to Mai Kiigemagi.

This makes more of a difference for renewals. With a variety of levels of membership, the amount can easily be confused with a gift, especially if your membership is not expiring right away.

The good news is that I'm working on a revision to the page that I hope will allow new members' information to be added to the database in at least a semi-automated way. Reducing errors is always good. My typing skills are not what they used to be. The goal will be to have the same ease in translating renewal forms and gift forms to the information that can be posted.

I'll run some tests ahead of launching the changes. If you have any ideas or experience in making this kind of website improvement, I'd love to hear your ideas. I know the results I'm after, and I'd appreciate some assistance with best practices from web design.

Bill Gellatly, Membership Chairperson
bgellatly@msn.com

Sustainability News

Sustainability Fair and Town Hall

The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition will host the 2024 Sustainability Fair on Thursday, March 7th from 5-7 PM, featuring over 50 hands-on exhibits. The Sustainability Town Hall follows from 7-9 PM. Both events are free and open to the public. Advance registration is only required to attend the Town Hall. Light refreshments will be provided by New Morning Bakery and music will be provided by the Nick Rivard/Ben Woodman Jazz Duo.

The theme of the Town Hall will be "The Arts: A Portal to Sustainability." There will be three keynote presentations by Cynthia Spencer-Hadlock of The Arts Center, representing the visual arts; Carly Lettero of Spring Creek Project, representing the written and spoken arts; and Rose Holdorf of Tarweed Folk School, representing the practical arts.

Audubon Society of Corvallis is an Engaged Partner of the Sustainability Coalition and a sponsor of the event. Both events will be at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center on the OSU campus, 725 SW 26th St, Corvallis.

[For more info click here](#)

Suzanne Ortiz, Sustainability Team

Field Trips

Multi-Day Field Trips

2024 Field Trips

Our 2024 inaugural field trip goes to Bandon and the South Coast on March 15-17. Starting in Newport, we explore state parks south to Coos Bay, to Coquille and Myrtle Point before settling in at Bandon. 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's highlight is Simpson Reef where we find seals, sea lions, and Northern Elephant Seals. Key birds: Emperor Goose, Harlequin Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Allen's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe.



Horned Grebe photo by Matt Lee

The second trip, April 19-21, heads over the Cascades to the Klamath Lake basin where we visit three National Wildlife Refuges. The first day takes in Klamath Marsh NWR, and on day 2 we explore Lower Klamath Lake NWR and Tule Lake NWR just over the California line. Day 3 begins at Putnam Point on Upper Klamath Lake. Five grebe species gather here, with Western Grebes and Clark's Grebes performing their water sprints. Then a hike in nearby Moore Park before returning north. If our weather is cooperative, this will be the first opportunity to find butterflies - we have

recorded over 20 species in the past. Key birds: Common Goldeneye, Black-crowned Night-Heron, American White Pelican, Plain Titmouse.

Later trips are scheduled for the Rogue Valley (May 4-6); Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (May 12-15); Summer Lake (June 7-9); the Wallowas (July 17-21); Steens Mountain (August 15-18); and the South Coast in mid-September.

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. Your signup 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

March 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. Signup at:

CorvallisAudubonSecondSaturday@gmail.com. Led by Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess. The weather may alter plans.

Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess

Community Notes

USFWS William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge and Partner Organizations

March 1-31, Winter Wildlife Field Days 2024. "Worlds Unseen," explores minute microbes in the soil, to dragonflies in the sky. Bilingual and accessible nature adventures throughout March at multiple locations across the mid-Willamette Valley. All events are free and open to the public. [For event schedule and more information click here.](#)

Oregon State University

Friday, March 1, 12-1 PM. OSU Anthropology Lecture Series. Molly Carney, PhD. "Temporal and Spatial Scales of Plant Stewardship in the Willamette Valley, OR." Free. Sponsored by OSU College of Liberal Arts, School of Language, Culture and Society. Strand Agriculture Hall, 161, 170 SW Waldo Place, Corvallis

Wednesday, March 6, 4-5 PM. Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology Seminar. Michelle Nijhuis. "How to Talk About Conservation So People Will Listen." Free. Sponsored by departments of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences, College of Forestry, Forest Ecosystems and Society, Botany and Plant Pathology, Integrative Biology, and OSU Research Office. Free. Learning Innovation Center (LINC), 302, 165 SW Sackett Place, OSU campus, Corvallis.

Wednesday, March 13, 4-5 PM. Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology Seminar. Neil Carter, PhD. "Toward an Integrated Science of Human-Wildlife Coexistence." Free. Sponsored by Departments of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences, College of Forestry, Forest Ecosystems and Society, Botany and Plant Pathology, Integrative Biology, and OSU Research Office. Free. Learning Innovation Center (LINC), 302, 165 SW Sackett Place, OSU campus, Corvallis.

Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District

Tuesday, March 5, 5:30-8 PM. BCSWCD Annual Meeting. Guest speaker: Andony Melathopoulos, Pollinator Health Extension, Dept. of Horticulture, OSU. "Take a Walk on the Wild Side: The Remarkable Wild Bees of Benton County." Free. Corvallis Community Center (C3)
2601 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis. [Click here to link to his OSU Ext. Serv. podcast](#)

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library and Corvallis Sustainability Coalition

Tuesday, March 5, 12:30-2 PM. Public Seed Library Presentation. Andrew Still, Adaptive Seeds. "Garden Guidance for Harvesting and Saving Seeds." Free. Sponsored by CBCPL, OSUES Master Gardeners, BC Masters Gardeners. Free. Main Reading Room, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Saturday, March 16, 9:30-12 PM. Public Seed Library Vegetable Garden Plant Clinic. BC Master Gardeners will help plan your garden, select seeds and answer your vegetable garden questions. Free. Corvallis-Benton County Public Library and OSU Extension/Benton County Master Gardeners with educational support from OSU Extension Service-Benton Co. Belluschi Wing, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Audubon Society of Lincoln City and MidCoast Watersheds Council

Thursday, March 7 from 6:30-7:30 PM. Community Meeting. Zoom. "Beavers: The Beautiful Messes They Create and Our Creative Solutions." Presenters: Megan Garvey and Shea Fuller, The Wetlands Conservancy. [Click here to register for Zoom meeting.](#)

Native Plant Society of Oregon, Corvallis Chapter

Monday, March 11, 7:30-9 PM. "Gardening for the Bees (and the Birds)." David Kollen, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Free. Cordley Hall, Room 2602, OSU campus, 2701 SW Campus Way, Corvallis. [Click here to register for the zoom link.](#)

Luckiamute Watershed Council

Tuesday, March 12, 6:30-8 PM. Zoom Webinar. Sips 'n' Science. "Secrets of the River: The Weird and Wonderful Lives of Oregon's Native Freshwater Mussels." Speakers: Emilie Blevins and Jack Feters, Conservation Biologists, Endangered Species Program. Free. [Click here to register for the Webinar.](#)

Benton County Historical Society Museum

Wednesday, March 13, 10:30 AM. "Sap in Their Veins: Portraits of Loggers and the Trees They Fell." David Paul Bayles. Free to members; \$5 for non-members. BCHS Museum, 411 SW 2nd St, Corvallis.

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Wednesday, March 13 from 12-1 PM. Random Review. *The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human* by Siddhartha Mukherjee. Reviewer, Virginia Weis. Free. OSU. Main Reading Room, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

The Arts Center

February 27-April 11. Erin Robinson Grant. "Vivarium." Free. Corrine Woodman Gallery, The Arts Center, 700 SW Madison Avenue, Corvallis. Corvallis Community Center (C3) 2601 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis.

Suzanne Ortiz

Board Meeting Summary

February 8, 2024, 5:30 PM

Present: Mai Kiigemagi, Dave Mellinger, Karan and Jim Fairchild, Suzanne Ortiz, Rachel Handy, Bev Clark, Dodie Wilson, Phyllis Bailey, Bill Gellatly, Marge Popp, Carolyn Peterson, Jake Keen
The meeting was called to order by Dave. December minutes were approved.

Co-President: MOTUS tower at Finley? – still in discussion.

VP/Program Committee: Still looking for a tech savvy volunteer to assist Eric with Zoom. Plan to announce at next general meeting and Bill can help out for now.

Treasurer: ASC received notice about a bequest from Kidd Estate.

Secretary: Will be moving at the end of the month to Redmond.

Membership: Last 2 months; learning the system (Zoom, mail-in, chat). Some membership info missing. Shout out to Sue Powell for helping fix forms! Thanks to Jamie too! Working on fixing the breaks in the system.

Office Depot cards – thank you notes personalized with photos.

Education: Collaboration w/ Jayshaun for Kestrel nest box tours? See email from JT. Participated in WVBS this past weekend (Ann, Bev, Phyllis). February 10th, Insights into Gardening event; creating trifold about gardening for birds. March 5th, Franklin Science Night. Karan and Dodie are meeting next week to figure out specimens permitting renewal. Meeting soon with Dave Eckhart about details for Mary's Peak Middle School event happening at the end of May/early June. On May 28th and 29th Adams 4th grade classes visit Hesthavn.

Chat: Deadline for the next Chat is Feb 16th.

Conservation: Jayshaun (absent) report: Lights Out OSU presentation at WVBS big success! Our table was also nice, with lots of great questions. Emails to OSU Facilities and Services sent. Emailing with OSU staff about specimen storage. Contact with Chintimini Wildlife Center has been established for injured birds. LO surveys start March 1st. Need to connect with Carolyn about Conservation budget information; supplies needed to purchase for LO:

- Bird bags
- Vests
- Gloves
- Ziplock bags
- Sharpies
- Clipboards

Potential collaboration with Institute of Applied Ecology for volunteer opportunities for invasive species removal, lark surveys, etc. Any interest? Advertise on IG or Chat?

Wildlife Bill – ODFW. Moving forward/committee hearings. Anyone can contact reps about bill/comment. JT unable to go but very interested in ASC being a part of this discussion. Is anyone else interested in attending meetings?

Will be spearheading a Kestrel study over the summer with David. May occur soon if funding is acquired.

Jim report: The forest plan is still in progress. Watershed preliminary report sediment/turb: Feb. 3 intakes not functioning. FOIA request; slow going. Public records request is still ongoing.

Renaming Committee: Info breakdown from survey questions shared include age, membership longevity, and how long involved. 74 participants in the survey. Now need to decide how we want to move forward; the community has filled its role. Separate meeting to discuss next steps.

- Karan will share a checklist of items needed for a name change.
- Name change – also changing mission? Thoughts. Big cities vs. smaller communities
- Bird Alliance of Oregon offering a \$5000 donation for any name changes in 2024 from an anonymous donor.

Hesthavn: Heater repair is still underway. Working on the ramp next to the native garden. Took down bat box that was filled with wasp nests. Bill to assist; Rachel connected via email with the bat box expert to work together for repairs/installation.

Ray and Bill signed up for a non-profit fair and are looking for more young folks to join. Advertise on social media/Chat?

Field Trips: Set dates for Malheur field trip (2nd week of May), Summer Lake – June 7, 8, and 9.

Sustainability: The event is on March 7; registration is paid for a large table. Emails were sent out to the education committee. Working on something 'art related' for the table. Natural Areas Celebration May 5- 12.

DEI Committee: The MLK walk was canceled because of an ice storm; it will be rescheduled and announced in Chat. The nature walk will include shrub planting (has permission) with Dave. Attended Science Pub with Ashley and Christina. Highlighted the importance of communicating with people/community on projects. Asking for opinions, and input! Open discussion to share needs/wants. Stewardship vs. land management.

The Next Board meeting is TBD.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 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 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

Mar. 21: Alan 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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Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

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Karan Fairchild
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Chairpersons

Birdathon
Bluebird Trail
Chat Editors
Christmas Bird Count
Conservation
Corvallis Sustainability Coalition
Education Team Co-coordinators
Field Trip - local
Field Trip - regional
Hesthavn
Historian
Membership
Publicity

Refreshments
Sales Table

Karan Fairchild
Matt Lee
Jake Keen, Naomi Weidner
Bev Clark, Matt Lee
Jayshaun Talbert
Suzanne Ortiz
Meika Vingelen, Dodie Wilson
Duncan Evered, Caryn Stoess
Committee
Ray Drapek
Marcia Cutler
Bill Gellatly
Sue Powell
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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