

May 2024 VOL. 53 #9

# **General Meeting Using Photography to Study Tufted Puffins and their Habitat on the Oregon Coast** May 16, 2024, 7:30 PM

Carina Kusaka is originally from Hawai'i and received a B.S. in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology from Colorado State University, where she studied behavioral and movement ecology of reptiles. Her PhD





research at Oregon State University (OSU) is focused on the Tufted Puffin, a Species of Greatest Conservation Need along the Oregon Coast.

Carina will present her master's work- researching tufted puffins on the Oregon Coast. Using a combination of field-collected data and aerial photographs over the past 30 years, she is conducting spatial analyses to examine changes in suitable breeding habitats over time and relating these changes to climate. She hopes this will better inform land managers on which conservation actions will be most effective. In the hopes of prioritizing outreach and education efforts, she is also writing and

illustrating a children's book, using tufted puffins as a flagship species to catalyze excitement about coastal ecology conservation.





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 <u>audubon.corvallis@gmail.com</u> 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

# Nominations for 2024-2025 Officers and **Board**

The Board of Directors of the Audubon Society of Corvallis offer the following slate of candidates to serve in the 2024/2025 term, which begins at the summer board meeting. The slate of board member nominees is elected by the members at the May General Meeting.

#### Co-Presidents:

Dave Mellinger has been a member of ASC since 2000 and a Board member most of that time. He's currently Co-President, was Vice President for four years, and has served intermittently as ASC Conservation Chair over the last two decades. He's also a professor at OSU, working in Corvallis and at the Hatfield

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Marine Science Center in Newport, where he studies sounds of whales and other marine and terrestrial species.

**Karan Fairchild** has been involved with the Audubon Society of Corvallis for over 30 years. She's served in many capacities during that time, including Co-President, Member-at-Large, Secretary, and fundraising chairperson. She instigated the successful Birdathon fundraisers, and also has served on the bylaws, nominations, Homer Campbell Award, and Hesthavn committees, and in several other functions. Past duties also include bluebird trail, sales table, fair booths, and publicity. She and her husband Jim have done a local Christmas Bird Count for over 35 years and did a Breeding Bird Survey in the Coast Range for over 25 years.

#### Vice President:

As nobody has stepped up to take the full vice president role, we are improvising, with Co-President Dave Mellinger hosting meetings, and a committee of volunteers helping to find and book speakers for the 9 monthly member meetings. Thanks to Mai Kiigemagi for setting up speakers for the programs and Eric Preston for providing Zoom expertise for the meetings!

### **Secretary:**

**OPEN** We desperately need a secretary- please consider volunteering for this role! Duties are taking notes at the board meetings (from September to May, plus one in the summer), writing up the notes, and sending them out to board members.

#### Treasurer:

Carolyn Peterson is completing another year as ASC Treasurer with rave reviews. After raising two sons, Carolyn retired after nearly two decades as a CPA. She moved to Corvallis from Sherwood, Oregon with her husband Curt several years ago. Relocating to Corvallis was a return to her stomping grounds of the early 80s when she was a Geology graduate student at OSU. Although not a "lister," Carolyn has enjoyed observing birds since childhood. She is also a key part of the team returning weekend field trips to ASC.

### **Board-members-at-large**

Marge Popp has lived in Corvallis since 2006 and has been an ASC member for much of that time. She has loved birding ever since 2000 when a friend in AZ showed her a bird through binoculars. She especially enjoys the congenial nature of birding. She participates in several local community-building activities and advocates for local news, responsible local government, and accountable corporate presence. She has attended many field trips over the years and is a big fan of the community cohesion that the ASC fosters. She has an MBA from UC Berkeley and spent much of her fifty-year career in Information Technology. She has enjoyed becoming more involved with ASC initiatives.

Phyllis Bailey has lived in Corvallis for almost 24 years and has been a member of ASC since 2000. She is a nearly life-long birdwatcher with a deep appreciation for the natural world, and is a retired teacher. She has served on the ASC Education Team for the past eleven years, participating in Winter Wildlife Field Days, Girl Scout Day Camps, and education events at various schools and in the field, and has served on ASC's board for several years. She looks forward to continuing to spread the Audubon message of protecting, promoting, and preserving wildlife through her Audubon activities.

**Dodie Wilson** has served in many positions for ASC over the years. She has volunteered for the Corvallis Schools Naturalist-in-Residence program where she co-taught a program on birds. In 2001 Dodie received a Master's in

Wildlife Science from OSU and has worked in a number of temporary positions doing bird, amphibian, and small mammal surveys. With her daughters off to college, Dodie has become more involved with the education and conservation efforts of ASC. Dodie and Meika Vingelen are the Co-chairs of our very active Education program. Karan Fairchild. Co-President

# Find us online











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

# **Renaming Update**

### Board Vote to be Held at Next Board Meeting

A board vote will be held during the Board Meeting on May 9th to decide on changing the name of our organization. As always, Board Meetings are open to the public. The meeting begins at 6 PM and will be held at Hesthavn, which is located at 8590 NW Oak Creek Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330.

For more context on this issue, read a letter from our Co-President Dave Mellinger in the October Edition of the Chat. Board Meeting Summaries are published in each edition of the Chat as well. For further reading, see the article from the National Audubon Society about the complicated history of John James Audubon and J. Drew Lanham's article, "What Do We Do About John James Audubon."

Jake Keen, Renaming Committee Member

### **Education News**

### Adams Elementary Students Will Be Visiting Hesthavn Again

As the weather is getting warmer, ASC Education is seeing an uptick in outreach as well as in-house programs. The first full week of May we will be hosting an Open House at Hesthavn as part of the Sustainability Coalition's Natural Areas Celebration Week. This will be May 6-10 from 12-2 PM. Later in the month, the Adams Elementary 4th graders are coming back to Hesthavn for a field trip. Over 2 days, 60 children will get to sample macroinvertebrates from Oak Creek, use a dichotomous key to identify native plants along the trails, see our specimen collection, and examine owl pellets. Then on June 1, we will be attending Get Outdoors Day at Peavy Arboretum from 9 AM-3 PM. ASC and other organizations will have lots of fun activities for kids. If you have an interest in volunteering for any of these events, please email Dodie Wilson at asc.educationteam@gmail.com.

Dodie Wilson, Education Chair

### **Conservation News**

### **Huge conservation wins in Alaska**

The Biden administration just took two steps that each protected huge areas of Alaska from damage: it protected 13 million acres of Alaska's North Slope from oil and gas drilling. Also, it blocked a huge new proposed copper mine and associated road in central Alaska.

The North Slope, the part of Alaska that slopes down toward the Arctic Ocean, is home to the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). Just over half of NPR-A is now closed to drilling for oil and gas. This is critical both for the indigenous communities that rely on the area for subsistence living and for the wildlife there - nesting birds, caribou herds, and many other types of flora and fauna - and it also provides a boost for combating climate change.

The other action was to deny permission to build a proposed road through Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve for access to build a huge new copper mine. Gates of the Arctic is a vast, pristine, roadless wilderness area

in central Alaska. The proposal would build a private industrial road through the heart of it, cutting across countless waterways and damaging subsistence hunting and wildlife habitats alike. In addition, a mine would probably have large impacts on the environment, not only from the mine pit itself but also from tailings from the substantial industrial activity of the mine.

Because these actions were done by Biden's executive actions, not by Congress, they can (and probably will) be reversed if Trump beats Biden in November.

Dave Mellinger, Co-President

# **Atop the Nest Box** Monitor Needed for the Bluebird Trail

The Bluebird Trail is a special project of the Audubon Society of Corvallis that was started in 1976. Its mission is to promote the conservation of Western



An adult male Western Bluebird with food in his beak perches on a nest box as a chick begs to be fed. Photo by Matt Lee.

Bluebirds (Sialia mexicana) by setting up nest boxes and monitoring them regularly during the breeding season, which runs from April through August. We currently have nearly 400 nest boxes at dozens of sites on public and private property in Benton and Linn counties. You can learn more about the Bluebird Trail here: https://auduboncorvallis.org/bluebird-trail/.

We are now looking for a volunteer to monitor several nest boxes a few miles north of Corvallis. No special birding skills are needed. Experienced ASC Bluebird Trail volunteers will offer one-on-one training for new monitors. If you would like to help, please contact Matt Lee at BluebirdTrail.corvallisaudubon@gmail.com or Nancy Hyde at nhyde@peak.org.

Matt Lee

# **Sustainability News**

### Visit Hesthavn During Natural Areas Celebration Week

Natural Areas Celebration Week 2024 will take place from Saturday, May 4 through Sunday, May 12. NACW is sponsored by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Natural Areas Action Team and their partner organizations. Click here to see the list of events

As part of NACW, ASC Education Team volunteers will be opening Hesthavn Nature Center to the public on Monday-Friday, from 12-2 PM. Visitors will be able to view the museum and specimens, including the Western Bluebird display that honors the teamwork of Elsie Eltzroth and the volunteers who spearheaded the revival of the Western Bluebird population in the Willamette Valley. The Nature Center grounds will be open from dawn to dusk, and visitors are invited to bring their lunches and enjoy the riparian and open meadow trails and the spring wildflowers. ASC Education Team volunteers will be on hand during the Open House.

Suzanne Ortiz, Sustainability Team

# **Field Trips**

### **Multi-Day Field Trips**

#### May is for the birds!

First off, our Roque Valley field trip is May 4-6. Our objective is to find birds of the California chaparral - Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, California Towhee, and Oak Titmouse. Another primary focus will be on the wealth of spring flowers. Top this off with a theater performance at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. A walk along Oak Creek for orioles, tanagers, and other spring migrants tops the trip.

Then, we visit Malheur National Wildlife Refuge on May 12-15. This is ASC's signature trip, witnessing the spring migration of waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds at one of America's greatest refuges.

Later trips include 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 more than birds, like butterflies, dragonflies, mammals, reptiles, and flowers.

Signup sheets for all trips will be available at ASC general meetings and by email to flramsey5@comcast.net. Signup should be accompanied by a \$25 deposit for each trip - due one month before departure; payable to ASC and sent to PO Box 148 in Corvallis, 97339. 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

#### May 11th (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 Historical Society**

Through July 13. Betty LaDuke. "Bringing the World Together: Paintings, Prints and Panels by Betty LaDuke." Moreland Gallery. Philomath Museum. 1101 Main Street, Philomath.

### City of Corvallis Public Works

"Water Efficient Plants for the Willamette Valley." Full-color guide covering trees, shrubs, bulbs, perennial, ground covers and ornamental grasses. Click here to download sections of the guide

### **Oregon State University Extension Fire Program**

Wednesday, May 2 from 11 AM-12 PM. Webinar. "Not all Flame Is the Same: Oregon's Diverse Fire Ecology." May is Wildfire Awareness Month and this webinar features a team of regional fire specialists who will share stories about how fire has shaped Oregon landscapes. Free. To register click here

### **Benton County Master Gardeners**

Saturday, May 4, 9 AM-3 PM. Benton County Master Gardener Association Annual Plant Sale and Clinic. Solar Barn and Floral Courtyard. Benton County Fairgrounds, 110 SW 53rd St, Corvallis.

### **Corvallis Sustainability Coalition**

Monday, May 6 from 4:30-6 PM. Sustainability Coalition Quarterly Gathering. Presentations by Andrea Myhre of Corvallis Housing First; Kate Dillon of 1972 Vintage and Gifts; Kirsten Miller of A Tuttle Consults/South Corvallis Food Hub; Molly Monroe of the CSC Natural Actions Team. Free. Corvallis-Benton County Library. 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

# Oregon State University College of Liberal Arts, Center for the Humanities and School of Language, Culture and Society

Monday, May 6 at 6 PM. OSU International Film Festival. "Rising Waters: Global Warming and the Fate of the Pacific Islands." Free. Darkside Cinema, 215 SW 4th St, Corvallis.

### The Arts Center and Oregon State University Art and Science Fellows

Tuesday, May 7 through June 1. Confluence II, featuring final projects of OSU Art and Science Fellows: Nicole Fronda, Ethan Makinster and Henry Pitts. For more info click here

# Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club, Marys Peak Alliance and **Corvallis-Benton Co. Public Library**

Thursday, May 9, 7-8:30p PM. Frenkel Environment and Hiking Series: "Imagining Marys Peak." Julia Johanas, USFS and Dave Eckert, Marys Peak Alliance, will discuss a draft of a Marys Peak Interpretive Master Plan. To register for the virtual event click here

#### **Greenbelt Land Trust**

Saturday, May 11 from 10 AM-1 PM. "Pollinators and Wildflowers – Family Day at Bald Hill Farm." Outdoor event for kids, grades K-5 and their families. Hands-on activity stations and opportunities to learn about local pollinators. Free. Preregistration is required. To register and obtain directions click here

#### **Luckiamute Watershed Council**

Sunday, May 12 and Sunday, May 19 from 8 AM -12 PM. Spring Bird Walks at J2E Tree Farm. Guided walk to learn how to identify birds in a variety of habitats including ponds, riparian areas, mixed hardwood and conifer forests, oak woodlands and upland prairie. For more info and to register

### **Corvallis Benton County Public Library**

Tuesday, May 14 from 6-7 PM. Stone Award Community Discussion: Gathering Moss by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Facilitator, Justin St. Germain, will lead a discussion of Gathering Moss. CBCPL, 2nd Floor Board Room, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis. For more info click here

# The Arts Center, in partnership with OSU Design for Social Impact Initiative and students from the OSU Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Mechanical, Industrial, Manufacturing Engineering

Thursday, May 16 through Saturday, June 29. Kathryn Cellerini Moore. "Glint, Glimmer, Glow." An exhibit inspired by the physics of solar wind that is powered by solar energy. TAC, Main Gallery, 700 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis. Click here for more info

## Corvallis Benton County Public Library, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, OSU Extension Service, Master Gardeners, Benton County

Saturday, May 18 from 9:30 AM-12 PM. Public Seed Library Vegetable Garden Plant Clinic. Bring your vegetable garden questions and check out the available free seeds. 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.

#### Corvallis Parks and Recreation

Saturday, May 18 from 9 AM-12 PM. Roots and Shoots (Community Park Beautification Event). Beautify Bruce Starker Arts Park and Natural Area by joining in to plant, mulch and weed. 4485 SW Country Club Drive, Corvallis.

## Oregon State University Biological and Ecological Engineering and College of Engineering

Tuesday, May 21. 6-7 PM. 2024 College of Engineering Dean's Distinguished Lecture. Mark Bransom, CEO Klamath River Renewal Corporation, "Klamath Dam Removal." LaSells Stewart Center, CandE Hall, 875 SW 26th St, Corvallis. For more info click here

## Oregon State University College of Liberal Arts and School of Visual, **Performing and Design Arts**

Wednesday, May 29, 12:15-12:45 PM. OSU Native American Flute Circle. Student Experience Plaza (SEC) at Memorial Union. 2251 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis.

Suzanne Ortiz

# **Board Meeting Summary**

April 11, 2024, 7 PM

Present: Phyllis Bailey, Ray Drapek, Karan Fairchild, Bill Gellatly, Jake Keen, Mai Kiigemagi, Dave Mellinger, Suzanne Ortiz. Dodie Wilson

The meeting was called to order by Dave. Minutes from the March Board meeting were approved.

President's message: Karan brought up and the board discussed the need for a secretary for ASC. Some suggestions to recruit one included, listing the position on an online Volunteer Job Board along with advertising on the My Impact website that Ray has used to secure volunteers for Hesthavn.

Also discussed was our continuing need for a listserve vs. mailing list, as means of managing membership list and communicating with the board and general membership. Bill mentioned that there are important pros and cons regarding having just one or both. Since we have until July 1 to decide on keeping or dropping listserve, we will take up the issue again before that time.

Upcoming board vote on ASC's name change was discussed. Board agreed to holding a secret ballot, with the options being "for," "against," and "abstain." Bill will create the ballots. A simple majority will decide the issue. The board will take up later whether we will include "doing business as" (DBA) as part of our official name. Dave will check our constitution to ensure we are within the limits of our authority to carry out this change and to make sure who is eligible to vote. Karan reiterated that every officer and board member should be at the meeting or assign a proxy to vote in their stead.

Karan said that Eric definitely wants help running the audio/visuals at general meetings. He wants to ensure that someone else can take over if he needs to be away.

**Treasurer**: Budget Requests are needed.

Program Committee: Mai reported that speakers are set for the rest of this year and are coming into place for next year. She also said that ASC has received checks from the Kidd family estate. Discussion ensued on ideas for allocating these generous funds. Ideas included:

- Funding bird surveys headed up by Doug Robinson;
- Upgrading parking, Ray's Trail, and ramp accessibility at Hesthavn;

- Funding creation of a video for ASC's website to show accessibility at Hesthavn;
- Funding long-term maintenance on the barn.

These will be discussed further and decided upon at a future time.

**Education**: Upcoming events participation include:

- Get Outdoors Day at Peavy Arboretum;
- Marys Peak bird information table in May and June;
- Adams Elementary School field day;
- OAC meeting via Zoom on education, to be attended by Jayshaun, May 2 and 3.

**Chat**: April 19th th is the next deadline

**Conservation**: Written report from Jayshaun Talbert, conservation chair:

Lights Out surveys to pick up next week as migration ramps up; Jayshaun needs a report from the education team to present at the OAC Zoom meeting in early May; OSU Bird Nerds club is seeking pledges in support of their fundraising birdathon taking place April 13-20. Promote at general meeting.

Bioblitz event at Ankeny NWR. Jayshaun is requesting a \$50.00 donation from ASC to help with snacks at the event.

Volunteers are needed to assist with American Kestrel surveys in Willamette Valley counties to ascertain beneficial placement of suitable nest boxes for the species.

After discussion, Suzanne moved and the motion was seconded, to give \$50.00 to support the Bioblitz program at Ankeny NWR. The motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed ASC signing on in support of the Great Basin Saline Lakes preservation effort. Bill moved to sign on, the motion was seconded, and the vote was a unanimous yes.

Renaming Committee: The Board is voting on May 9th at Hesthavn during the board meeting.

Field trips: Suzanne reported that the team met on March 28 and determined that more drivers are needed for the Summer Lake trip in early June. Overall, more participants are needed, as well as drivers, for most of the trips. One trip has been canceled due to lack of participants. To be reported on at May general meeting.

Sustainability: Suzanne reported on Natural Areas Celebration Week coming up soon. ASC will participate by opening Hesthavn each day during the week to provide visitors with environmental information and education.

**Hesthavn**: Ray showed the Board a sign he will be placing at Hesthavn designating it as important wildlife habitat. The tree removal at Hesthavn is going ahead as planned in the coming week. Mason bees are coming out of hibernation at Hesthavn. Ray has had volunteers coming to Hesthavn to help with weeding, general maintenance.

The May Board meeting will be held at Hesthavn.

Meeting adjourned.

Phyllis Bailey, 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 (<a href="https://auduboncorvallis.org/membership/">https://auduboncorvallis.org/membership/</a>) 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 <a href="mailto:alderspr@peak.org">alderspr@peak.org</a> 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 <a href="mailto:bgellatly@msn.com">bgellatly@msn.com</a>.

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: <a href="mailto:chateditors@gmail.com">chateditors@gmail.com</a>.

### Calendar

### **General Meeting Speaker Schedule**

May 16: Carina Kusaka, Tufted Puffins

### **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
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### **Board Members**

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Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Suzanne Ortiz audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
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Field Trip - local Duncan Evered, Caryn Stoess CorvallisAudubonSecondSaturday@gmail.com

Field Trip - regional Committee md.fieldtrips.corvallisaudubon@gmail.com
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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