



THE CHAT

Summer 2024 Vol 53 #10

General Meeting

Albatross Research on Campbell Island, New Zealand Subantarctic

September 19, 2024, 7:30 PM

Peter Moore worked as a seabird scientist for the Department of Conservation in New Zealand from 1987-2009 and traveled multiple times to Campbell Island to study penguins and albatrosses. He recently retired after 10 years working for the Institute for Applied Ecology in Corvallis.

In the 2023/24 austral summer Peter joined a 10-week expedition to Campbell Island to assess the current status of three species of albatrosses, particularly the Southern royal albatross, due to concerns that populations are in decline. The team conducted population surveys, marked birds with bands, loggers and satellite transmitters and took samples to detect the presence of avian influenza.

Peter's presentation will show some of the unique plants and animals that inhabit this remote nature reserve, including species that are now thriving since Norway rats were





eradicated in 2001. He will illustrate what it is like to travel to and spend time on the island, reflect on changes observed over a 36-year period, and present some of the findings from this year's seabird research.

The 2024-2025 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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A Year in Review 2023-2024

The busy volunteers of the Audubon Society of Corvallis have had a productive year! Some of our many activities and achievements are detailed below.

Eight general meetings were held both in person at the Corvallis Community Center, and on Zoom. The January meeting was canceled due to inclement weather. Speaker topics included Tufted Puffins, using eBird, endangered butterflies, and gardening for birds and bees.

Multi-day field trips were back for the second year. Rogue Valley, Malheur Wildlife Refuge, Klamath Basin, and Summer Lake were visited by adventurous birders. Trips coming up include the Wallowa Mountains, Steens Mountains, and the south coast.

The Education Team, led by Dodie Wilson, kept busy with many outreach activities including the Franklin School Science Night, OSU Master Gardeners Conference, Winter Wildlife Field Days (bird info and games at six different parks), Sustainability Fair, Hesthavn Open House during Natural Areas Celebration Week, field trip to Hesthavn by Adams School fourth

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<https://auduboncorvallis.org/>



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

graders, middle school field trip to Marys Peak, and Get Outdoors Day at Peavy Arboretum.

Jayshaun Talbert took the helm of the Conservation Committee, leading an initiative called Lights Out Corvallis, a research project designed to encourage ways to minimize bird strikes on lighted windows on the OSU campus. Jayshaun also represented ASC on the Oregon Audubon Council. Jim Fairchild continued to monitor forest related activities in the Corvallis Watershed and McDonald-Dunn Research Forest.

The annual Christmas Bird Count, chaired by Bev Clark and Matt Lee, was held December 19. 61 field observers and feeder watchers found



Karl Hartzel staffing the table at Get Outdoors Day

92,531 birds of 126 species. 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 Bluebird Trail, led by Matt Lee, is in full swing at the time of this writing. There are approximately 400 nest boxes that are currently monitored in Linn and Benton counties, by 35 monitors. This nesting season, six bluebird nests have fledged 3-6 chicks each, and as of last week there were another ten bluebird nests containing eggs or chicks.



Wildflowers at Hesthavn: Checkermallow (pink), Narrowleaf Mule's-ear (large yellow), Oregon Sunshine (small yellow) and Lance Selfheal (purple)

Ray Drapek and his team of volunteers continue to manage the Hesthavn Nature Center with weekly work parties, including student groups and the Youth Volunteer Corps. Also at Hesthavn, a proposed collaboration with the Marys River Watershed Council (MRWC) could include three sites to place log structures, consisting of six 30-foot logs in each, in an effort to improve instream habitat. Management of invasive plants in the riparian zone may also be included.

- Bill Gellatly assumed the role of Membership Chairperson following the retirement of Paul Adamus.
- Current members: 337
- Total amount of donations: \$9, 071
- Note: The amount of donations doesn't include several donations that will be used for special projects.

Suzanne Ortiz of the Sustainability Team and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion task force spearheaded several collaborative outreach events: the MLK Day bird walk (cancelled due to inclement weather), the Sustainability Fair table, and the Hesthavn Open House, held in conjunction with Natural Areas Celebration Week. ASC also provided financial support as a sponsor of the Sustainability Town Hall. Education Team members and other volunteers assisted with these activities.

As always, the Audubon Society of Corvallis is an all-volunteer organization, and we are very fortunate to have so many dedicated and hard-working volunteers. We are currently in need of a Secretary, whose primary duty is to take board minutes at the 10 board meetings per year, and distribute them to board members. This is a voting position. We also need a tech person to help run the Zoom part of our monthly meetings. And we are always in need of volunteers to help at Hesthavn or to work on education programs, conservation, bluebird trail, or any one of a number of areas.

Please see our web page, <https://auduboncorvallis.org/>, for possibilities.

Mai Kiigemagi and Karan Fairchild

Education News

ASC Education Happenings

At the end of May we welcomed the Adams Elementary School's 4th grade class to Hesthavn Nature Center. Over 2 days nearly 70 fourth graders sampled and examined Oak Creek's macroinvertebrates to determine stream health, used a dichotomous key to identify native plants, used binoculars to see and identify birds, played scavenger hunt bingo, and learned about plants and animals that were important to the native peoples of the Marys River watershed. Next on June 1st,



we participated in Get Outdoors Day at Peavy Arboretum. Kids of all ages tried to figure out which “bill” was best to pick up the various “food” in our Fill the Bill game. Fun times were had by all!

Finally, on May 30 and June 6, ASC participated in the 8th grade field trips to Marys Peak. The weather was lovely on both days with temperatures in the 70s. Nearly 400 8th graders from Linus Pauling and Cheldelin Middle Schools were led to several different stations by informative guides. The station topics included geology, botany, native culture, climate and weather, amphibians, and birds just to name a few. ASC volunteer, Dodie Wilson, led the bird station and talked to the kids about ravens. Several ravens made appearances over the 2 days of the field trip and one unlucky student had their sandwich stolen by a bold raven even though they were warned this could happen.

Thanks to the following volunteers for all their help with these events: Mai Kiigemagi, Meika Vingelen, Kate Rowles, Kate Matthews, Liz Hogan, Maynard Freemole, Karl Hartzel, John Wilson and Dodie Wilson. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dodie Wilson at ASC.educationteam@gmail.com

Dodie Wilson, Education Chair

Conservation News

Woodpecker Research Continues with ASC Support

The Audubon Society of Corvallis supports avian conservation research within the greater Corvallis community and beyond. This summer, ASC is supporting the research of graduate student Mark Kerstens at Oregon State University. Mark is a PhD student in the College of Forestry conducting research on Black-backed Woodpeckers in Dr. Jim River’s Forest Animal Ecology Lab. This research takes place in the dry pine-dominated forests near Crater Lake with the goal of understanding how to improve the management of unburned forests to aid in the conservation of this species. The Black-backed



Woodpecker is typically considered to be a post-disturbance obligate species and is particularly associated with recently burned forests, and to a lesser extent, forests experiencing mortality due to bark-beetle outbreaks. Despite the Black-backed Woodpecker’s well-studied association with recently burned forest, Mark’s M.S. research found that although nesting densities in unburned

forests are lower than in recently burned areas, these birds have similar rates of nest success, reproductive output, and juvenile survival between these two forest types.

Mark is expanding on this research for his PhD to study the factors that limit nesting in unburned forests. Specifically, he is examining whether habitat availability, potential food availability, or landscape-level movement patterns have the greatest constraint on breeding in unburned forests. The ongoing phase of this research for which field data is still being collected is on movement and landscape-level dispersal



patterns. To do this, Mark and his team locate Black-backed Woodpecker nests in the unburned forest, and when the nestlings are nearly ready to fledge, he climbs the nest trees and safely extracts the nestlings so that they can be banded, measured, and fitted with a radio-telemetry tag before being returned to the nest. He then uses a combination of aerial fixed-wing and ground-based telemetry the following spring to relocate tagged birds and determine their movement and breeding status.

Currently, it is the middle of the nesting season for Black-backed Woodpeckers and most mating pairs in the unburned forest are brooding nestlings by now, with expected fledge dates at the end of June / early July. Mark is still in the process of nest searching and had a successful trip to the field the first weekend of June with 6 undergraduate interns to locate nests. Although only 2 active nests with eggs were located during this initial search effort, the team found at least 7 additional potential breeding pairs that will be revisited June 18th – 19th to try and locate those pair's nests. Nest searching is much easier later in the nesting cycle when hungry chicks are loudly begging, and parents make frequent visits to the nest to provision their offspring! Once nests with chicks are identified, Mark can age the nestlings inside to determine the best time to return for banding/tagging, which takes place 2-4

days before the expected fledge date. The Audubon Society of Corvallis is supporting the travel expenses for Mark and his team to be able to travel to and from the field site this summer.

Mark Kerstens

Field Notes from Conservation Chair Jayshaun Talbert

- Jayshaun's raptor surveys have concluded with 3 sites with nearby cavities for American Kestrel nests. Nest monitoring will begin next year, but this preliminary data is very important.
- The first season of Lights Out OSU was a success with nearly 20 dead birds and 5 live birds found! Be on the lookout for an update near the beginning of the fall to find out if Jayshaun gets the money to treat windows on campus.
- The Oregon Vesper Sparrow Working Group has been working hard at monitoring the breeding OVSPs in the Corvallis area! So far over 10 nests have been found!
- Purple Martins are back and breeding down at Fern Ridge and Jayshaun was down there in the middle of June with some biologists from Klamath Bird Observatory collecting some critical data on their breeding population!

Jayshaun Talbert, Conservation Chair

Field Trips

Multi-Day Field Trips

Summer Trips Still Available

Steens Mountain (August 15-18), and the South Coast in mid-September are quickly coming up. Sign-up sheets for all trips will be available at ASC general meetings and by email to framsey5@comcast.net. Sign-up 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 sign up 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

August 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. 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

Ankeny Hill Nature Center & Salem Audubon

Saturday, July 27 at 11 AM. Oregon Odonata. Learn about Oregon's dragonflies and

damselflies. Presentation by Erin Forrester, a certified Oregon Naturalist. Free. Ankeny Hill Nature Center, Gehlar Hall, 130 Ankeny Hill Rd SE, Jefferson.

Benton County Historical Museum

Ends July 29, 2024. The Spirit Coalescent exhibition “illuminates the bond between the human experience and nature and how we learn our role, and heal from the elements around us. It is a common belief of many Indigenous tribes that the land itself is healing.” The art exhibit is related to the new musical commission by Franklin Piland, Julia Keefe, and Delbert Anderson for the opening weekend of PRax at OSU. Fred & Mary Brauti Gallery, The Arts Center, 700 SW Madison Avenue, Corvallis.

For more info <https://bentoncountymuseums.org/exhibits/spirit-coalescent/>

C3 (Corvallis Community Center), City of Corvallis

Thursday, August 8 from 6 PM – 8 PM. Free. Concert featuring The Joanne Broh Band. Chintimini Park adjacent to C3, 2601 NW Tyler Ave, Corvallis.

Corvallis Environmental Center

Thursday, July 11 from 6 PM – 8:30 PM. Sage Concert Series featuring Pa'lante and Ludicrous Speed. \$5-\$20. Starker Arts Park, 4485 SW Country Club Dr., Corvallis.

Thursday, July 25 from 6 PM – 8:30 PM. Sage Concert Series featuring The Incompatibles and Citizens of the Universe. \$5-\$20. Starker Arts Park, 4485 SW Country Club Dr., Corvallis.

Thursday, August 8 from 6 PM – 8:30 PM. Sage Concert Series featuring Brutal Bridges Band and DTW. \$5-\$20. Starker Arts Park, 4485 SW Country Club Dr., Corvallis.

Thursday, August 22 from 6 PM – 8:30–PM. Sage Concert Series featuring The Church Ladies and Space Neighbors. \$5-\$20. Starker Arts Park, 4485 SW Country Club Dr., Corvallis.

Oregon State University, LaSells Stewart Center

Monday, July 1 – August 23, 2024. Crowned Splendor. “A celebration of floral majesty and compelling intricacy of botanical beauty.” Free. Giustina Gallery, LaSells Stewart Center, OSU campus. 875 SW 26th St, Corvallis. For more info

<https://events.oregonstate.edu/event/crowned-splendor-art-exhibit-reception>

Oregon State University, Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture

Monday, July 15 from 11 AM – 1 PM. Open House and tour of OSU's learning laboratory for sustainable horticulture. Drop in to meet students and faculty, see vegetable production and honeybee demonstration hives. Scavenger hunt for kids. Free. Open to the public & families welcome. 843 SW 35th St, Corvallis.

Suzanne Ortiz

Board Meeting Summary

May 9, 2024, 7 PM

Present: Karan Fairchild, Suzanne Ortiz, Don Boucher, Bev Clark, Bill Gellatly, Mark Baldwin, Marge Popp, Karl Hartzell, Carolyn Peterson, Dodie Wilson, Mai Kiigemagi, Jim Fairchild
Joining the meeting later before Old Business decision items: Jayshaun Talbert, Nikki Cross, Jake Keen

Absent: Ray Drapek- proxy given to Suzanne, Sue Powell- proxy given to Nikki, Phyllis Bailey- proxy given to Dodie, Dave Mellinger- proxy given to Karan

Call to Order at 6:08 PM

Approval of April Board Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve by Bill, seconded by Dodie, and approved as submitted.

Officer Reports:

President: Karan names current positions vacant or in need of assistance or replacement: Secretary, Zoom presentation assistant, Chat layout, assistance with migration of website and listserve. She reminds all that the summer Chat deadline will be towards the end of June.

VP/Program Committee: Mai announces that most upcoming program speakers have been arranged, including the suggested Elahka Alliance (sea otter conservation advocacy) in January.

Treasurer: Carolyn brings the annual budget up for approval. She notes that Peak subscription rates recently jumped, increasing that expense line. The draft budget shared earlier via email included highlights for closer scrutiny. No amendments were suggested. Carolyn notes that the Finley internship support is no longer needed and has been removed. She reminds all that the budget can be amended later, as was done, for example, in financially supporting Dr. Doug Robinson's trail-based bird surveys. She will be away in a few days, but regular bills are paid automatically. Check payments for field trips should be earmarked.

A motion to approve the budget was made by Carolyn, seconded by Bill, and unanimously approved.

No Secretary to report.

Committee and Team Reports:

Membership: Software now seems to be more stable and secure. Bill had to deal with a payment made to him personally. PayPal payments still need some tweaking, but reports that generally all is working well.

Education: This is a very busy time of year. They will have ~70 4th graders split over May 28-29 for 2 hours of programs and lunch at Hesthavn, each day with 4-5 stations, including

macroinvertebrate sampling, macroinvertebrate sorting, a bird station, species found review, and include requested Kalapuyan plant names and indigenous uses. On May 30 and June 6, Dodie will lead a bird station for groups of middle schoolers at their Marys Peak field trip, focusing on the raven. The team will also help with the annual Benton County Girl Scout camp in mid-July; the theme this year is Music and Nature.

Chat Editor: Don explains the newsletter layout work, and a need for a backup person and training a replacement for his decades of work--on deadline ten times per year. Professional layout software costs have risen, and Google Docs use presents design and quality issues. Future options would be to purchase/subscribe to professional software, contract layout service, continue with Google or other freeware layout services, or shift to an email-based Chat subscription, such as Mail Chimp. Jake offers his assistance in sorting through these options, and including other Chat production team members in that conversation. (Noted later in the meeting, the summer Chat deadline for submissions is June 21st.)

Conservation: Jayshaun attended the annual Oregon Audubon Council Spring education meeting, and along with other Chapters was impressed with what ASC has going. Others are increasing summer activities, and are also working on Lights Out and Bird Friendly campaigns. They appreciate Jayshaun's OSU campus-based window strike sampling, which could provide evidence for window modifications and design on campus and beyond. He has identified a \$100K asset on campus he'd like to tap into, the OSU Sustainability Council. He is also engaged in the Oregon Vesper Sparrow Working Group and will be assisting with Bob's continued field surveys for that species. He has also adapted the East Cascades Audubon Winter Raptor Survey routes for summer surveys, and lending a hand in local kestrel nest box surveys in mid-June (folks are invited to join him). He will also be assisting in black-backed woodpecker fieldwork. Jayshaun also suggested that the Chat could contain a regular section on Conservation News. (Later in the meeting he also wanted to report the results of his campus club's Birdathon earnings and has another Bioblitz result to submit to Carolyn.)

Publicity/Social Media: Sue continues to work on migrating the ASC website to another server. One issue to resolve is the size of all the archived Chats. Nikki is assembling a legacy drive for all the ASC records, and another site for the archived Chats may be found through their explorations.

Hesthavn: In Ray's absence, people shared information about the recent OSU class use, and Karl and Bill mentioned maintenance work on the rainwater system and bat box blackening. I note here that Bill is replacing the wall-mounted heater plug-in cords with larger capacity, and longer cords.

Field Trips: Suzanne and Mark report on the recent Ashland field trip, and very satisfactory accommodations for the hearing disabled at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, which is equipped with hearing loop technology, tablets with the text of plays, and other technology. Thirteen people are going on the Malheur trip, and a dinner evening in Diamond will be resuming.

Sustainability Coalition/DEI Committee: Suzanne reports that the ongoing Natural Areas Celebration Week has netted inconsistent visitor numbers to Hesthavn, though one large group of families with young children regularly visits and loves Hesthavn. She also recently led a tour group of seniors, arranged from the Corvallis Community Center. She will hold her Sustainability Coalition report for another time.

Old Business: As offered last month, Bill distributed ballots he had printed on a motion tabled from last month. The motion reads, “Shall the currently composed Audubon Society of Corvallis be re-named to remove the reference to John James Audubon?” There was no further discussion. All 13 currently eligible members cast secret ballots for themselves or by proxy. The motion passed by 9 for, 3 against, and 1 abstention. In preparation for the summer meeting, Nikki will distribute suggested names gathered from earlier survey results by email.

New Business: Natural Areas Celebration Week is ongoing.

There was a request for project funding support from Mark Kersten who is studying Black-backed Woodpeckers, the same person Jayshaun will be assisting, and who will be presenting a program meeting next year. A motion to give \$500 was made by Mai, seconded by Suzanne, and approved by a majority vote.

Discussion followed regarding creating policies, systems, or criteria for granting project funding, publicizing availability, determining limits, etc. Karan asked that a committee be formed, and Mai, Carolyn, Bill, and Jayshaun volunteered. Further committee scheduling was not discussed.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, July 25th, Potluck beginning at 5:30 PM at Bill Gellatly’s home, further information to be provided.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM

Jim Fairchild, 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

Sept 19 Peter Moore, Albatross Research



*Elegant Brodiaea at Chip Ross Park in Corvallis.
Photo by Don Boucher*

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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Suzanne Ortiz	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Marge Popp	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
Dodie Wilson	dgwilson802(at)gmail.com

Chairpersons

Birdathon	Karan Fairchild	alderspr(at)peak.org
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
Education Team Co-cordinators	Meika Vingelen, Dodie Wilson	asc.educationteam@gmail.com
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Sales Table	Sally Shaw	shaws(at)peak.org

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