



THE CHAT

September 2024 Vol 54 #1



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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Conservation News

OSU Forestry Dean Confirms Logging Can't Stop

More than two years ago, in June 2022, I agreed to represent the interests of ASC on an external advisory body of community members on revisions of OSU's largest research Forest Plan. Many of ASC's community members use the MacDonald-Dunn Forest for recreation, but recreational planning is outside our advisory scope—even when logging fully subsidizes its free public recreational use.

Since the two-decade-old forest management plan began, our culture has learned much more about the importance of forests for maintaining air and water quality, supporting native plants and wildlife, storing moisture and carbon, and building forest soils. These values increase as forests age and diversify, even as trees die and decompose. But during half those two decades, driven by financial need, the College stopped following its plan, clearcutting more than a dozen larger areas in the Oak Creek area of the southern MacDonald Forest where those were expressly prohibited. Finally, another clearcut in designated spotted owl

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habitat that logged numerous centuries-old trees was the black eye that drove this plan revision and returned the College to plan compliance, if cutting one's way into a deficit is even possible.

Plan revision modeling began many months ago and has initially demonstrated that the College will see a significant decrease in "net revenue" regardless of which management strategy is emphasized. So this middle-ground appears to be a happy place, where income remains high, "reserved" forest acreage is not increased, and plan revision progresses. In July of this year, the College began logging west and uphill of Peavy Arboretum and Cronemiller Lake—popular recreation areas—cutting both understory and even some older overstory trees immediately adjacent to a current Reserve of 300-year-old forest, according to the College's inventories. Such an action precludes the expansion of this reserve, foreclosing another opportunity which has been identified across all envisioned management scenarios.

The College also refuses to supply GIS data that describe forest age classes, stand conditions, and features that others could use to model alternative strategies, such as the elimination of even-aged management strategies that are already heavily practiced in the PNW, or the consolidation of harvest methods within the landscape to decrease wildlife disturbance across it, and to decrease edge habitat for interior forest-dependent species.

Financial need is another baseline our Stakeholder Advisory Committee is told to accept without question. For many decades the College has come to rely on substantial "net revenue," annually approaching \$1 million in un-allocated income. Several, including myself, have questioned this need, and asked for an accounting of where this money will go, because that could help us find outside funding the College could use to offset the need for additional cutting. Even if the new plan reduces that net revenue in half, without a budget this is a slush fund, a cash cow, a goose that lays a golden egg.

And two years into the plan revision process, the College continues to log, to spray rather than mow roadsides as the cheapest alternative, yet not divulge why it needs to derive any extra income from this forest.

In all these planning issues, context matters. The Dean privately asked me, simply put, to 'stay in my lane,' but I just can't look outside the lines. Because of these and other factors, I will soon be submitting my resignation, and work to have other community advisory members press the College towards addressing worldwide forest issues with its research and teaching as it should: climate control, carbon sequestration, deforestation, clean air and water, biodiversity. It has taught logging for income for long enough already.

Jim Fairchild, Conservation Committee

Field Trips

Multi-Day Field Trips

End of the Season

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to put this year's trips together. To the drivers who braved tough weather conditions, the trip captains who led each excursion, the committee members who planned itineraries and organized agendas, and everyone who came together to enjoy birding, the outdoors, and our great State.

Jake Keen, Chat Editor



Steens Mountain field trip, August 2024. Photo by Suzanne Ortiz

Second Saturday Field Trip

September 14th (8 AM - Noon)

We will meet at the shelter in Willamette Park (east end of SE Goodnight Ave.) and tour the park. This is a free four-hour excursion geared toward people interested in learning more about birds found in the Corvallis area. All levels of expertise are welcome. Please register for this free event. Sign up at: CorvallisAudubonSecondSaturday@gmail.com. Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess lead excursions. The weather may alter plans. Wear comfortable shoes appropriate for walking paved and unpaved trails. Bring hats and rain gear, as well as water and snacks!

Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess

Community Notes

Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District

September 28 and 29 from 10 AM-6 PM. BCSWCD Native Bulb and Seed Sale at the Corvallis Fall Festival. Central Park, Corvallis. 650 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Corvallis Fall Festival

September 28 and 29 from 10 AM to 6 PM. Art booths, music, entertainment, festival food court. Free and open to all ages. Food court sales raise money for Benton County not-for-profit organizations. Central Park, 650 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis. Saturday Night Street Dance, headlined by Latin fusion dance band, Grupo Masato from 7 PM to 9:30 PM.

[For more info click here](#)

Elakha Alliance

September 22-28. Sea Otter Awareness Week. “Together We Thrive.” [For more info click here](#)

Luckiamute, Marys River, Calapooia, North Santiam, and South Santiam Watershed Councils

Monday, September 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. “There and Back Again: A Salmonid’s Tale to Restored Fish Passage in the Mid-Willamette.” Presenters: Collin McCandless (Calapooia WC), Jordan Perez (Luckiamute WC), Holly Purpura (Marys River WC), Shannon Richardson (South Santiam WC), Brandin Hilbrandt (North Santiam WC). Learn about the Mid-Willamette Valley fish passage work funded by the Department of Commerce & NOAA. Common Fields, 545 SW 3rd St, Corvallis.

The Arts Center

September 6-October 26, 2024. “Transformation & Reclamation.” Nebraska artist Lee Emma Running and Oregon artist and poet Daniela Naomi Molnar. Main Gallery, The Arts Center, 700 SW Madison Avenue, Corvallis. [For more info click here](#)

Suzanne Ortiz

Board Meeting Summary

May 9, 2024, 7 PM

Attending: Karan Fairchild, Jim Fairchild, Dave Mellinger, Ray Drapek, Bill Gellatly, Karl Hartzell, Mai Kiigemagi, Suzanne Ortiz, Carolyn Peterson, Sally Shaw, Jayshaun Talbert, Dodie Wilson

Call to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of May Board Meeting Minutes

Officer’s Reports:

Co-President: Karan brought a request for a donation from the group Valley Neighbors for Environmental Quality and Safety opposing the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) tendered by Republic Services. We’re concerned about precedent-making contributions of this kind. An article in CHAT will encourage members to support the effort directly. Suzanne was disappointed with the response of Republic employees about the effect that an approved CUP could remove the cap on annual intake at the landfill. There is no appearance of transparency.

Corvallis Community Center (CCC) has bumped us from the Ballroom for three upcoming meetings. We’ll simply meet in smaller rooms.

Carl Lucker, the technician for CCC, will be helping Eric with tech duties. Carl will join ASC and make this his contribution of time. Eric will still be involved with getting the speaker ready and notifying members of the Zoom information.

VP/Program Committee: Mai K. announced speakers for meetings through early 2025.

Sept. 19 Peter Moore- Albatrosses of Campbell Island

Oct. 17 Ann Eissinger- Great Blue Herons (Alder Room)

Nov. 21 Richard Rich- Sage Grouse and Raven Interactions (Alder Room)

Dec. 19 Member Slide Show

Jan. 16 Elakha Alliance- Reintroduction of Sea Otters (Alder Room)

Feb. 20 Vesper Sparrows- Joel Geier (Alder Room)

Mar. 20 Birds and Animals of the Andes Mountains- Roy Lowe

Apr. 17 Black-Backed Woodpeckers- Mark Kerstens

May 15 Lights Out Corvallis, or one of his other research projects- Jayshaun Talbert

Treasurer: The tax statement has been submitted. Carolyn expects the organization will exceed the ceiling for “short form” filing next year. One known bequest, when combined with gross income, will put us beyond that ceiling. Bill will contact and coordinate with Carolyn, Mai, and Jayshaun regarding dates for a meeting to create a long-term plan for student and community support. Those interested in this activity should reach out to Carolyn.

Committee and Team Reports:

Membership: Little activity at this time of year. Bill and Suzanne will piece together a picture of the size and turnover of our membership. Present processes will enable accurate tracking in the future.

Education: Dodie reported on events for Adams Elementary: a field trip in conjunction with Marys River Watershed, Marys Peak Alliance, and three high schools. She sees the high school students as another way to attract younger volunteers. Meika used a recording device to capture and display bird songs as part of a Music in Nature segment. Jayshaun is willing to use his listserv to attract even more volunteers.

Chat: [Jake not present] announces the next deadline will be 8/23.

Conservation: Jayshaun reported on colony sightings of Purple Martins at Fernridge Reservoir. He would like to capture and band a sample of these birds, but notes that they are increasingly wary, making netting less probable. Having more observation towers there could help. He is working with the Eastern Cascades group in Bend (Jeff and John) to conduct a breeding study for American Kestrels. Coordination from Pacific University, too. Lights Out will restart near the end of September. The last major study of Northern Saw-Whet Owls was conducted in 2000. Jayshaun will be working on a thesis that proposes night surveys at Fitton Green before, during, and after migration to get a sense of the seasonality and a three-year picture of population changes. He will be returning home to Ohio during the Christmas break.

Jim Fairchild reports that he expects a decision or refunding the fees charged for a FOIA request that was virtually unusable. He remains concerned about conflict of interests within the workgroup updating the management plan for the Corvallis (Watershed) Forest. This issue may result in his filing a suit on that conflict with the State Ethics Commission. Public outcry continues regarding logging in the MacDonald-Dunn Forest. A group calling itself Friends of

Mac-Dunn Forest is opposing the current plan, and updating the long-term plan appears to be stalled.

Publicity: [Nikki not present] Sue Powell has successfully migrated the website to Host Gator, and Karan has moved the ASC leaders' list to Google Groups.

Hesthavn: Ray reports having good groups of volunteers, getting rid of invasive plants. But he is also seeing risks of bees along the walking path, with one youngster getting stung. Carl was also stung about six times while working near the bridge. Suzanne recommends that weed pulling be done in the early morning while the bees await the heat of the morning air.

Field Trips: There were several successful trips this year, but concern remains about cancellations and small groups. Deposits are small and the feeling is that we've been historically lax in attempting to keep costs fair for those who do make the trip and pay more as a result.

Sustainability and DEI: Suzanne reported on the 2024 Native Plant Society of Oregon annual conference and the interest in ethnobotany topics discussed by one of the keynote speakers, Dr. David Lewis, from OSU. Dodie also mentioned that some teachers working with the Education Team had requested that Indigenous culture be included in our student presentations. Suzanne has purchased some books and wants to donate them to Hesthavn Nature Center for a small library on Indigenous culture for use by our Education Team volunteers and other ASC members.

Old Business: Discussions on the decision to rename included comments about trends seen nationally. Birding Alliance is being adopted quite widely. Salem has decided not to rename. Jayshaun agreed to contact the Bird Alliance of Oregon for guidance regarding our chapter getting donor funds to assist with the cost of renaming efforts. Suzanne and Jim will confirm who the contact person is at BAO [In follow-up emails, the contact was determined to be Ali Berman]. "Mid-Willamette Valley" is thought to make the name too long, and there was agreement that dropping the word Valley is acceptable. The name for our chapter would become Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance.

New Business: Mai mentioned receiving expense records for the Student Grant \$531.87 against a grant of \$500 and acknowledged the recipient's effort to stay very close to budget. She would like to see this program expanded to include more grants.

There is interest in having a potluck after the next CBC – tentatively from 5-7 pm on 12/17/24. Arrangements by Ann Brodie.

Ann Brodie has requested that we consider having another Open House at Hesthavn. Several dates were discussed – a Saturday or Sunday from 11 AM to 3PM was suggested for the event. Jayshaun believes there would be good interest from several OSU campus organizations.

Next Meeting: September 12 at 6:00 PM at Hesthavn.

Bill Gellatly, Membership Chairperson

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

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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