



THE CHAT

November 2024 Vol 54 #3

General Meeting

Two Birds, One Story: Ravens, Sage-Grouse, and a Complicated Relationship, Presented by Richard Rich

November 21, 2024, 7:30 PM

Common Ravens and Greater Sage-Grouse are two birds among the most interesting and charismatic in western North America. The two species have a famously complicated relationship; as sage-grouse populations are declining across the range, raven numbers are skyrocketing, and ravens are prolific sage-grouse nest predators. Ravens and sage-grouse are two of the most well-studied birds in the West, but



we're still

learning new things about them. Richard will give an overview of both species, including ID tips and life history information. He will also share findings from some of his own research into raven-grouse interactions and surprising new evidence of undocumented raven behaviors.

Richard Rich is a master's student in the Department of Animal and Rangeland Sciences at Oregon State University. He is a member of OSU's Sage Steppe Habitat Team, whose mission is to advance research and outreach programs that promote healthy sagebrush ecosystems. His research focuses on interactions between Common Ravens and Greater Sage-Grouse and assessing sage-grouse nesting success in response to raven management methods in eastern Oregon.

This month, join us in the Alder Room of the [Corvallis Community Center](#) 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.

The 2024-2025 Monthly Meetings will be held in person and on Zoom. Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance/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 [MWBA/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

MWBA/ASC Member Slide Show December 19!

It's not too early to select your memorable photos for the MWBA/ASC member slide show!



Eagle nestling photo by Richard Hoyer



Black Oystercatcher photo by Tom Heath

Last year, six members regaled the audience with armchair tours of places or things they enjoy. Photos of dazzling Oregon birds and a prized dahlia were followed by raptor reminiscences, prairie-chickens and grebes with babies, a novel cactus garden, and Brazilian wild felines and gorgeous birds.

Don't be shy, nobody is a professional, and all photos are special. We are more than just birds, so share a little bit about yourself with your birding friends.

Since we don't know how many presenters we will have until after they have submitted their photos, I suggest you send 10-20 digital images. We have an hour total for the presentations. So, if we have lots of entrants, you can talk faster as you describe your photos!

The deadline for submission is Dec. 12. You may email them to me at [Sue Powell](#), send them to my Dropbox (I will send you the link), or drop them off on a thumb drive.

Need some help? Send me a note, and I'll do my best to make it easy for you.

Sue Powell

In This Issue:

General Meeting.....	1-2
Member Slide Show.....	2-3
Candidates' Conservation	
Voting Records.....	3-4
Christmas Bird Count.....	4-5
Sustainability News.....	5
Field Trips.....	5-6
Community Notes.....	6-7
Board Meeting Summary.....	7-8
Membership Corner.....	9
Calendar.....	9

Raffle Items Needed at December Meeting

We'll have some fun at our December 19 general meeting when our Raffle and Book Table lives again! In pre-COVID years, we enjoyed a monthly fundraising raffle at all our general meetings. However, currently, we have a raffle just once a year at our popular December meeting when members show pictures of birds and wildlife taken during their travels throughout the year. Raffle proceeds benefit Hesthavn's educational programming.

Do you have something to donate? Home baked Holiday goodies, bottles of wine, books, pictures, gift certificates - any items you think might interest our MWBA/ASC community are welcome. So far, we have bird feeders, hand-turned wooden bowls, and a children's book. Simply bring your items to the December 19 meeting. Please arrive before 6:45 PM so your items can be nicely displayed. If you cannot come to the December meeting, let me know and we can work out a plan to pick up your item(s) shaws@peak.org. Thank you.

Sally Shaw, MWBA/ASC sales table

Candidates' Conservation Voting Records

Here's some information on the conservation voting records of various candidates up for election in the Mid-Willamette Valley. Every legislative session, the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (olcv.org) compiles a score for each member of the Oregon House and Oregon Senate based on how they voted on a number of conservation bills. The (national) League of Conservation Voters (lcv.org) does the same for our members of the US House and US Senate. The scores are shown here, along with information about whether the OLCV has endorsed a candidate (**shown in boldface**).

- Higher scores indicate more conservation-oriented voting
- Some candidates don't have a score (shown with "none") because they weren't in the House or Senate

Oregon Secretary of State

Dennis Linthicum (R): 0% (in Oregon Senate)

Tobias Read (D): none; endorsed by OLCV

Oregon Attorney General

Dan Rayfield (D): 81% (in Oregon House); endorsed by OLCV

Will Lathrop (R): none

Find us online



<https://auduboncorvallis.org/>



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



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

Oregon State Treasurer

Brian Boquist (I, formerly R): 11% (in Oregon Senate)

Elizabeth Steiner (D): 86%; endorsed by OLCV

US House District 4 (Corvallis, North Albany, Philomath, areas west of Willamette River)

Val Hoyle (D): 100%; endorsed by OLCV

Monique DeSpain (R): none

US House District 5 (Albany, Lebanon, Sweet Home, areas east of Willamette River)

Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R): 31%

Janelle Bynum (D): 81% (in Oregon House); endorsed by OLCV

Oregon Senate District 5 (Philomath, western and southern Benton County, Lincoln County)

Dick Anderson (R): 36%

Jo Beaudreau (D): none

Oregon House District 10 (Philomath, western and southern Benton County, much of Lincoln County)

David Gomberg (D): 86%; endorsed by OLCV

unopposed

Oregon House District 15 (Albany, North Albany)

Shelly Boshart Davis (R): 15%

Terrence Virnig (D): none; endorsed by OLCV

Oregon House District 16 (Corvallis, Adair Village)

Sarah Finger McDonald (D): none; endorsed by OLCV

Michael Beilstein (Pacific Green Party): none

In addition, OLCV advocates a YES vote on Measure 116 (The People's Independent Commission) and a NO vote on Measure 118 (Oregon Rebate).

Dave Mellinger, Co-President

The 63rd Annual Christmas Bird Count

The 63rd Annual Corvallis Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be held Tuesday, December 17, 2024. There will be a countdown potluck held at the end of the day at the Corvallis Community Center (CCC). Ann Brodie and May Kiigemagi are spearheading this event. Chili and condiments will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. More information will be forthcoming.

Bev Clark is the coordinator for the CBC. Contact her at clark.bev9@gmail.com if you have not participated before and would like to.

Chili Feed and Potluck to follow Christmas Bird Count

December 17 is the date of this year's Christmas Bird Count. We will be reviving the Countdown Potluck! Everyone is invited to meet at the Corvallis Community Center (2601 NW Tyler) for dinner following the count. Chili will be provided (including a vegetarian option) along with coffee and tea. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share, and their own table service. The Chandler Ballroom and the adjoining kitchen have been reserved from 4 to 8 PM.

Mai Kiigemagi

Sustainability News

Corvallis Sustainability Coalition

The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition quarterly meeting was held on October 16, 2024, at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. Three presentations were made by representatives of local businesses and non-profits, with a focus on their sustainability practices. The CSC Food Action Team provided an overview of the projects including a presentation at the Corvallis Library about the Public Seed Library housed. The CSC Food Action Team coordinated with the CBCPL and Oregon State University Extension School to set up the Public Seed Library. To read more about The Action Team click here:

<https://sustainablecorvallis.org/what-we-do/action-teams/food/>

Access Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Guides:

ReUse Recycling Directory – Don't Throw Good Stuff Away

Corvallis Area ReUse Directory (site has searchable map), click to access guide:

<https://sustainablecorvallis.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/ReUse-Directory-2019-8.5X11.pdf>

Corvallis-Area ReUse and Waste Prevention Directories, click to access guide:

<https://waste-prevention.sustainablecorvallis.org/#>

No Food Left Behind – Corvallis – Food Use Resources, click to for more info:

<https://nofoodleftbehindcorvallis.org>

Garden Resource Guide, click to access garden resource guide:

https://sustainablecorvallis.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024_Garden_Guide-1.pdf

Suzanne Ortiz

Field Trips

Second Saturday Field Trip

November 9th (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](https://www.audubon.org/corvallis-audubon-second-saturday). 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 Historical Society: Corvallis Museum

Saturday, November 2 from 2 PM – 8 PM. “Día de Los Muertos – Community Celebration of Life. Music” with vendors, food, community altar. Sponsored with Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, The Arts Center, Casa Latinos Unidos, and the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center. BCHS Museum, 411 SW 2nd St, Corvallis.

Saturday, November 9 from 11 AM - Noon. Speaker William G. Robbins, Ph.D.; “T.J. Starker: Forester, Public Citizen.” Free. BCHS, Philomath Museum. 1101 Main St, Philomath. Click here to register

<https://secure.ggiv.com/for/bentoncountymuseum/event/starkerlecture/>

Corvallis Environmental Center

Thursday, November 14 at 7 PM. Wild and Scenic Film Festival. Whiteside Theater, 361 SW Madison Ave, Corvallis.

For prices click link <https://www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org>

For list of films click here

<https://wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/events/corvallis-environmental-center-2024/>

Heritage Museum

Thursday, November 14 from 2:30 PM -3:30 PM. Meet the Artist: Frances Stilwell. Heritage Museum, 281 S 2nd St, Independence, OR. Click here to register

<https://www.orheritage.org/events-1/meet-the-artist-frances-stilwell>

Exhibition on view through November 30, 2024. A selection of reproduced works created by artist Frances Stilwell for her book, Oregon’s Botanical Landscape: An Opportunity to Imagine Oregon Before 1800. Free. Heritage Museum, 281 S 2nd St, Independence, OR.

A Conversation with Frances Stilwell. Click here to view the conversation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPmjz7GMygo&t=253s>

Luckiamute Watershed Council and Benton County Parks

Sunday, November 3 from 9 AM - 11:30 AM and from 1 PM – 3 PM. Mushroom Day! Mushroom-themed activities. Walk the trails in Beazell Memorial Forest & learn basic mushroom ID (no collecting). Family-friendly event for beginners and all levels of mushroom knowledge and experience. Free. 37283 Kings Valley Highway, Philomath. [Click here to register](#)

Marys Peak Group Sierra Club, Spring Creek Project, OSU School of Language, Culture & Society, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Wednesday, November 6 from 7 PM to 8:30 PM. 2024 Champinefu Series. Molly Carney, Ph.D. presents "Cultivating Camas and Communities: Tracing People-Plant Relationships in the Willamette Valley." Learn how and why camas is a cultural and ecological keystone plant for the Kalapuya. Free. PRAX Detrick Concert Hall at OSU, 470 SW 15th St. Corvallis, OR. To register click here

<https://www.sierraclub.org/oregon/marys-peak/events>

Native Plant Society of Corvallis

Monday, November 11 from 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Presenter: Brooklyn Richards. Program: "Seeds, sex and survival: The plant-insect interactions of meadow checkermallow (*Sidalcea campestris*)." Free. Cordley Hall, Room 2602, OSU campus, 2701 SW Campus Way, Corvallis.

Oregon State University College of Liberal Arts, School of Language, Culture and Society

November 4 - December 13. Art Exhibition. Victory Chiamaka Obieke: Whispers of Home. Kidder Hall, Room 210, The Little Gallery. 2000 SW Campus Way, Corvallis, OSU Campus.

Through December 21, 2024. How to Carry Water. Thirteen artists and humanity scholars share their observations and questions about watersheds and alternative methods of witnessing the human relationship to water. Free. PRAX, Stirek Gallery, 470 SW 15th St, Corvallis. Click here for info

[https://events.oregonstate.edu/event/how-to-carry-water?
utm_campaign=widget&utm_medium=widget&utm_source=Oregon+State+University](https://events.oregonstate.edu/event/how-to-carry-water?utm_campaign=widget&utm_medium=widget&utm_source=Oregon+State+University)

Suzanne Ortiz

Board Meeting Summary

October 10, 2024, 7 PM

Members present: Dave Mellinger, Suzanne Ortiz, Jim Fairchild, Dodie Wilson, Karan Fairchild, Mai Kiigemagi, Phyllis Bailey, Bev Clark, Ray Drapek

The meeting, held at the home of Ray Drapek, was called to order by Dave Mellinger at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Co-President's Report: Karan Fairchild shared that we received an anonymous donation, through the Nature Conservancy, to help finance our name change.

A secretary is still needed. Karan is reaching out to various members for this position. Please think about this and if you have a suggestion for a candidate, let Karan know. Thank you.

The general meeting start time is listed as 7:30 for Zoom participants to be on board. The business meeting is short and it was suggested to move the start time to 7:20.

Fred Ramsey has sent out a call for the 2025 field trip season. He is asking for trip leaders and if there are other trips people would like to have added for this next year.

Treasurer's Report: There were 7 multi-day field trips with 70 participants during 2024. The books are in balance.

We book the Chandler Ball Room for our monthly meetings. We are displaced from there in the months that the City of Corvallis is using the room. We are moved to one of the smaller meeting rooms if this happens.

Education Committee Report: Dodie reported for Education that Family Fun Night occurs once per month at CCC. January is Nocturnal Night and MWBA/ASC has been asked to participate. More to come.

Conservation Committee Report: Conservation Chair Jayshaun Talbert is netting and banding Saw-whet Owls as part of a study he is involved in. We are invited to contact him for a songbird banding station outside Corvallis (Luckiamute State Natural Area) in the spring if anyone wants to observe.

Jim Fairchild has officially stepped down from the McDonald-Dunn Forest Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

Ray Drapek will be attending the annual OAC (Oregon Audubon Council) meeting, concentrating on conservation, in Salem, October 26-27th. A list of priority items our chapter considers important will be filled out as a survey by Ray and others before the meeting.

Hesthavn Committee: Ray will take a workshop on caring for mason bee larvae over the weekend. A homeschool group has asked to use the Barn for a classroom. The question is being investigated as far as insurance/liability concerns arise.

Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 17th. Ann Brodie and Mai Kiigemagi have reserved rooms at CCC to host a potluck at the end of the day. More details to come.

Seven Capes Bird Alliance will host a series called Between Forest and Seas as a webinar lecture series. Details to come.

Marbled Murrelet has been listed as a State Endangered Species.

Dodie offered to host the next Board Meeting on November 14th at 7 PM, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Bev Clark, Acting Secretary

Open Board Meetings

MWBA Board of Directors meetings are open to all MWBA 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 MWBA website for the location and time.

Membership Corner

General Membership Renewal Information

For membership renewal online go to the MWBA/ASC website (<https://auduboncorvallis.org/membership/>) and renew via PayPal. To renew by USPS, mail a check to MWBA, PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

Email Notifications/Meeting Cancellations

We encourage members to join the MWBA/ASC listserv to receive emergency email notifications about meeting cancellations related to weather conditions, updated information about MWBA/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 Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance/ASC. 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

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

Officers

Co-President	Dave Mellinger	dmell3.14159(at)gmail.com
Co-President	Karan Fairchild	alderspr(at)peak.org
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Treasurer	Carolyn Peterson	asc.treasurer.corvallis.audubon@gmail.com

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Bluebird Trail	Matt Lee	BluebirdTrail.corvallisaudubon@gmail.com
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Christmas Bird Count	Bev Clark, Matt Lee	audubon.corvallis@gmail.com
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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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The CHAT is published 10 times a year by the Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance/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