



THE CHAT

December 2024 Vol 54 #4

General Meeting

Member Slide Show and Raffle

December 19, 2024, 7:30 PM

Don't be shy – this is not a professional competition, and all photos are special. We are more than just birds, so share a little bit about yourself with your birding friends at Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance (ASC).

Since we don't know how many presenters we will have until after they have submitted their photos, you can prepare 10 to 20 digital images. We have an hour total for the presentations. So, if we have lots of entrants, you can talk faster! The deadline for submission is Dec. 12. Please send submissions to Sue Powell via email (jabirusue@comcast.net), 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.

The December 19 general meeting will also feature the annual raffle. Donations are already coming in! Some wonderful books (Amy Tan's *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*), handmade bird feeders, and hand-turned wooden bowls are waiting. But more items make it more fun! If you have something bird or wildlife-related to donate, please bring it to the meeting by 6:45 PM. Raffle items make nice gifts for the nature-lover in your life! Remember to bring cash or checks for your raffle ticket purchases. Only \$1 each, or 6 for \$5.

This month, join us in the Chandler Ballroom 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



Stapeia grandiflora, one of the beautiful cacti that Steve Cook presented at the 2023 slide show.

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

Conservation News

The 64th Annual Christmas Bird Count

The Corvallis Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. Everybody is invited to join, and participation is free. The Corvallis CBC is part of an organized, continent-wide survey that documents every bird seen or heard on a given day. It has been held yearly since 1900, making the count a major contributor to the knowledge base of wintering birds in North America. The count is coordinated by the National Audubon Society, and results can be found at www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count.

This all-day event is an excellent opportunity for novice bird watchers to join with seasoned veterans and learn more about identifying and finding local birds. Half-day participants and home-feeder watchers are very welcome. If you live within the [count circle](#), have home feeders, and can watch them for at least one hour on the count day, we especially encourage you to participate. A fillable form is available from Bev Clark (clark.bev9@gmail.com) for this purpose. Some counts, particularly in Canada, are mostly made up of home-feeder watchers.

The Corvallis count circle has a 7.5-mile radius centered near the Corvallis airport and is divided into 13 sections. A link to a map of the count circle is [posted on the ASC website](#) on the Bird Surveys page. A team of 3-6 individuals will be assigned to each section. Leaders for each section will make arrangements with the rest of their team for a meeting place and time (usually 7:00–7:30 am) on the day of the count. Participants should bring cold- and wet-weather gear, binoculars, a spotting scope (if you have one), and snacks. Notepads, a clipboard, and recording devices are necessary to document the count. The use of eBird is widely used and preferred to document bird sightings.

At 5 PM on the count day, we will meet for the “countdown” at the Corvallis Community Center, located at 2601 NW Tyler Ave. Chili and condiments will be



*John Criscitiello and Spencer Mair scout an area prior to the CBC.
Photo by Suzanne Ortiz*

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provided. Please bring a potluck item to share, as well as your own tableware and drinks. Hot coffee and tea will also be available.

A fillable pdf of the CBC checklist will be emailed to all participants. Counters who do not use eBird may print their checklist, fill it in by hand, and bring it to the countdown meeting, or type their entries into the pdf and email it to Matt Lee (sueandmatt@comcast.net). Matt will compile the data, which will be sent to the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count and posted on the MWBA (ASC) website. Bev will work with anyone who finds rare or unusual birds to have them properly documented.

If you are interested in participating or would like further information, contact Bev.

Bev Clark and Matt Lee

Annual Member Appeal Letter

The Audubon Society of Corvallis has had another busy year, and one of our most consequential activities has been to change our name to Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance! A full transition will take time, as we ferret out all the places where the change needs to take place, but our hope is that the new name will better reflect our geographic area, and bring in younger members and volunteers, while maintaining our Audubon connections across Oregon and across the U.S.

Along with producing our informative newsletter, we are growing our presence on social media and maintaining our necessary website, continuing our important Bluebird Trail program, staying current with state and local conservation issues, and are helping build a bird-friendly "Lights Out Corvallis" campaign on the OSU campus. We proudly offer our community a slate of interesting program meetings on a wide variety of topics. Plus we work hard to keep the Hesthavn Nature Center and Sanctuary in welcoming shape, fulfill requests for a variety of education programs, provide local and weekend birding field trips, and many other activities!

At the same time, we are continuing the activities that our members have been so supportive of over the years. These include partnering with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, and sponsorship of the Malheur Field Station, and the annual Willamette Valley Bird Symposium, which highlights student presentations and new aspects of avian research. And we are developing a small grants program for OSU students, to assist in their research.

All of this is possible only through the generous and inspiring donation of their time by volunteers—countless hundreds of hours!—along with monetary donations from our equally generous supporters. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation over and above your annual membership. You may designate your gift of support to any one or more of our

Find us online



<https://auduboncorvallis.org/>



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



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

programs. Together these help us bring our important mission to the wider community.

Thank you for your support, and good birding!

Field Trips

Second Saturday Field Trip

December 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 & Water Conservation District

Annual Winter Native Plant Sales. Online shopping is now open until February 24, 2025. For more info or to place orders click here

<https://www.bentonswcd.org/annual-winter-native-plant-sale>

Columbia River Maritime Museum

Long-term exhibit. Cedar and Sea Exhibit: The Maritime Culture of the Indigenous People of the Pacific Northwest Coast. Columbia River Maritime Museum. 1792 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR Click here for exhibit info

<https://www.cmmm.org/upcoming-exhibits.html>

Click here for fee info

<https://www.cmmm.org/visit.html>

Long-term exhibit. Ntsayka ilfi ukuk (This is Our Place). A collaboration with the Chinook Indian Nation to share Chinook maritime traditions and culture as lived today through the photography of Amiran White. Columbia River Maritime Museum, 1792 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR.

Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Registration is open for Malheur Connections taking place on January 23, 2025 at 4pm. Diane Teeman, M.S., M.A. will discuss the "History and Culture of Burns Paiute Tribe." The

presentation will include much of the history and culture of the Burns Paiute Tribe, its relationship with the land on which the Malheur NWR exists, and the future of cooperative management between the Burns Paiute and the USFWS. Click here to register <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ldOqgrzouGdTHMXe2et2tQsmQEgRbecgm#/registration>

Oregon State University, The Guistina Gallery

Exhibit closes January 8, 2025. Celestial Creatures. Exhibit explores the symbolism of wings and feathers. LaSells Stewart Center, OSU campus. 875 SW 26th St, Corvallis

Seven Capes Bird Alliance, Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance (ASC) , Coast Range Association, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, Wild Salmon Center

Monday, December 2 from 3-4:30 PM. Timber and Tides Webinar Series. Dominick DellaSala, PhD will talk on “Old Forests Do It Best as Natural Climate Solutions” Free. Registration required. Click here for info & to register <https://www.sevencapes.org/timberandtides>

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

Wednesday, December 4 from 7pm to 8:30 PM. 2024 Champinefu Series. Natchee Barnd, Ph.D., Univ. of Calif., Santa Barbara Ethnic Studies will present – “Lower Columbia River Art and Placekeeping: An Intentional Assertion of Indigenous Lands, Spaces & Relations.” Free, virtual.

For more info & to register, click here

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JuWnUNgJS_qrfD0L9PiUiQ#/registration

Suzanne Ortiz

Board Meeting Summary

November 14, 2024, 7 PM

Attending: Phyllis Bailey, Mark Baldwin, Bev Clark, Ray Drapek, Bill Gellatly, Mai Kiigemagi, Dave Mellinger, Suzanne Ortiz, Carolyn Peterson, Jayshaun Talbot, Dodie Wilson.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

VICE PRESIDENT: Mai Kiigemagi reported that Carl Lucker, the staff person at the Corvallis Community Center (C3) has taken a new job. C3 will be hiring his replacement, but it is not known if the new staff person will want to volunteer to assist MWBA (ASC) with the audio-visual presentations at the monthly meetings.

TREASURER REPORT: Summary provided by Carolyn Peterson. Carolyn has submitted paperwork to the State of Oregon that initiates the “assumed business name registration.” The State will send the forms that need to be completed and sent to the IRS. This step takes approximately 8-9 weeks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION REPORT: Dodie has changed our Facebook name to MWBA. She has participated in discussions with Anya Ballinger from the Benton County Historical Society about the museum exhibit related to bird conservation and fashion/feathered hats from the 1880s to the early 1900s. The exhibit will open in March 2025. Jayshaun Talbot, Marcia Cutler, and Dodie have agreed to be on the committee. They will determine what the museum would like MWBA to contribute.

Dodie reported that the Education Team will volunteer at Family Fun nights. The first event will take place on January 3 from 5-7 PM on the theme “Nocturnal Owls.” Jayshaun volunteered to work with the Education Team.

CHAT: In an email earlier today, Jake Keen asked about the payment to MailChimp; Carolyn will follow up with Jake on this.

CONSERVATION: Dave Mellinger acknowledged the passing of Bob Salinger, a dedicated and long-time advocate for conservation issues throughout Oregon.

Dave mentioned that he has recently become aware of a Motus Tower near Finley NWR; Bev will inquire at Finley HQ for more information about the tower’s location. In a follow-up email dated 11/16/2024, Bev Clark provided an update to the MWBA board from Sam Bartling. The NWR had indeed set up a Motus “test tower” determining where to place the tower. Following the test, a decision was made to place the Motus Tower at Pigeon Butte. They expect it to be in operation in the next 3-6 months.

Ray Drapek attended the OAC Conservation Meeting that was held on 10/26/2024 at Ankeny NWR. Ray presented a report at the meeting on MWBA’s conservation activities. He also reported on the status of the MWBA/ASC name change. He gave the MWBA board a summary of the 2024-2025 Priorities as discussed at the meeting:

- Priority #1: Oregon border wetlands. Discussed expanding “wetland” to an over-arching category beyond border areas (Malheur, Klamath, and Lake Abert).
- Priority #2: Forests – Federal (NWFP), State (Elliott) and private. All chapters are working on this. Paul Englemeyer, the TenMile Sanctuary Manager has offered to talk to Oregon Chapters on the 30 x 30 plan protecting 30% of Oregon by 2030); this will remain a Tier 1 Priority in 2025.
- Priority #3: Oceans and Coastlines. Includes rocky habitats, estuaries, and offshore wind. This will be a Tier 2 Priority.
- Priority #4: Imperiled Bird Species. Includes Western Snowy Plover, Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, Sage Grouse and Streaked Horned Lark. This will be a Tier 2 Priority.
- Priority #5: Reducing Avian Threats/Hazards. Includes window strikes, light pollution, drones, and cats; bird safe communities. Will be a Tier 2 Priority.

- Priority #6: Coexistence strategies (includes beavers). This will be a Tier 1 Priority.
- Priority #7: ODFW Reform and Funding. Discussions of commission members and the Oregon Conservation Strategy will be updated. This will be a Tier 2 Priority.
- Priority #8: Statewide Green Infrastructure Efforts and Floodplain Protection. Discussion included Gov. Kotek's housing bill; photovoltaic development in high-value farmland; Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program; and possible shutting down of HPAC (Housing Production Advisory Council). This will be a Tier 2 Priority.

Carly Chin has been hired as the Advocacy Program Coordinator at the Bird Alliance of Oregon; she encouraged chapters to participate in Lobby Day at Salem.

Jayshaun Talbot provided an update on the Lights Out program – there are no recent surveys and no pictures since April. The low numbers in the pilot program were contrasted with the higher numbers of strikes in previous years (anecdotal observations). Jayshaun will give a presentation on the pilot program at the WVBS in 2025.

Luckiamute Banding Station has invited a small group of MWBA members for a visit to the banding station. Jayshaun will coordinate the visit with Joan Hagar and Dr. Josée Rousseau. The group size will be approximately 15 people.

Jayshaun has offered to write up conservation activities and headlines for FB or the MWBA website. Jayshaun will contact Sue Powell about the website.

Jayshaun provided an update on the Saw-whet Owl Project. No one has done capture work on these owls in over 20 years. The initial pilot work was in Fitton Green but was moved to McDonald/Dunn Forest. Jayshaun will present his findings at an April ASC/MWBA general meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding the email forwarded to the MWBA board on 11/12/2024 by Jim Fairchild that included the text of a blog by Andy Kerr. Kerr is in favor of conservation groups changing their tax-exempt status from 501(c)3 to 501(c)4. Under this change, donors would not get a tax deduction for contributions to MVBA.

HESTHAVN: Ray Drapek reported that our hard-working volunteer, Susan Nicholas, will be leaving the area. Steve Cook's association with the GI-300 program ended a while ago and a new instructor took over. Ray is concerned about the continuity of the program. A young student (Madeline) has been volunteering and brought friends to one work party.

The solar composting toilet has a new paint job, courtesy of Ann Brodie, Madeline, and Ray.

Julie Gibson has planted \$500 of native plants on the Hesthavn grounds adjacent to the fenced area.

FIELD TRIPS: 2025 multi-day trips are being organized.

MEMBERSHIP: Bill Gellatly reported that the 2024 Annual appeal letter was mailed.

CBC: Bev Clark reported that the CBC will take place on December 17. She is assigning sectors to teams. The wrap-up dinner has been revived, thanks to Ann Brodie who reserved a room at the C3. The space has kitchen facilities. Ann and Mai Kiigemagi are coordinating volunteers who will bring chili for the main dishes. Attendees are asked to bring side dishes,

their drinks, and tableware and, if possible, to arrive early to help set up the room.

OLD BUSINESS - SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: Jayshaun reported that the committee will be focused on the spring 2025 OSU term. Carolyn P., Mai, and Jayshaun will work on the committee. Carolyn suggested a faculty member participate on the committee. Jayshaun will reach out to OSU research community members to ask if they want to participate.

OLD BUSINESS - NAME CHANGE TASKS REPORT: Karan has reached out to the Bird Alliance of Oregon. Carolyn has taken responsibility for the paperwork and submittals to the State of Oregon and the Federal government; Don Boucher has agreed to do a basic design and will help guide the project for the new MWBA logo. Don will research possible artists to confirm their interest in a commission for the project. Dodie W. and Jayshaun T. also said they could assist in finding an artist if their help is needed at a future date. Discussion of the type of banner was shelved until the board selected a design for the logo.

Next meeting will be held at Dave Mellinger's home.

Suzanne Ortiz, Acting Secretary

Open Board Meetings

MWBA (ASC) 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 (ASC), PO Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97339.

Email Notifications/Meeting Cancellations

We encourage members to join the MWBA 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 (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

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



Varied Thrush photo by Steve Reed

Officers

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Education Team Co-coordinators	Meika Vingelen, Dodie Wilson	asc.educationteam@gmail.com
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Interested in volunteering?
Please let us know:
volunteerasc@gmail.com