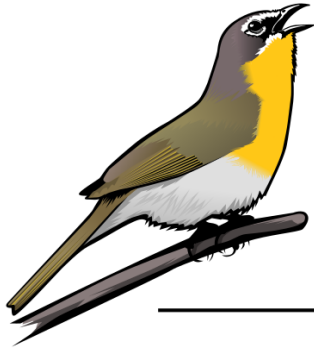


From: Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance chateditors@219045914.mailchimpapp.com
Subject: March Chat Newsletter
Date: March 2, 2025 at 10:00 AM
To: jabirusue@comcast.net

MA



THE CHAT

MID - WILLAMETTE BIRD ALLIANCE

February 2025, Vol 54 #6

General Meeting

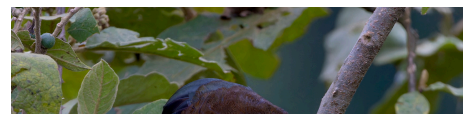
**The Spectacular
Birds of the
Colombian Andes
Presented by
Roy Lowe
March 20, 2025**



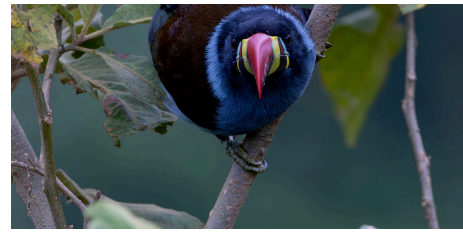
Red-headed Barbet
Photo by Roy Lowe

Take a visual trip to South America with photographer Roy Lowe. Roy visited Colombia in March of 2023 and the trip was concentrated in the mountainous region of Colombia but ranged from near sea level to 13,000' in the Andes Mountains. Colombia has the world's highest bird diversity with more than 2,000 species recorded. Roy's presentation will feature a myriad of colorful images of many of the birds encountered from awesome mountain-toucans, to brilliant tanagers, scintillating hummingbirds, secretive antpittas, and the bizarre but beautiful Andean Cock-of-the-Rock.

Roy Lowe is a resident of Waldport, Oregon, and an avid wildlife



photographer. He was employed with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for over 37 years. At the time of his retirement in 2015, Roy was the Refuge Manager of the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex. In retirement, he has worked with the Paulson Institute and World Wildlife Fund – Hong Kong to



Grey-breasted Mountain-Toucan
Photo by Roy Lowe

assist with training coastal wetland managers in the People's Republic of China and has been monitoring the Western Snowy Plover's return to Lincoln County, Oregon following a 39-year absence.

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 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 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!

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Conservation News

The Northwest Forest Plan Amendment and

Your Corvallis Watershed

Soon after the adoption of the federal Northwest Forest Plan, Siuslaw National Forest leadership, directed by Jim Furnish (who has since passed), recognized that these coastal forests need not be further clearcut, and restoration projects of upland forests could supply similar volumes of timber to the local economies AND fund aquatic, riparian and wildlife restoration projects to benefit public lands. Road systems can no longer support the more extensive required road systems, without more frequent, ongoing logging.

With a change in Siuslaw NF leadership, and considerable pressure from Corvallis to again have logging access to their own lands, in 2011 the Franklin Ridge Road was largely rebuilt, by opening a rock quarry upstream of a city water intake. Corvallis and Siuslaw have logged more than 350 acres above that intake, besides the road reconstruction and use in the last 15 years. Not surprisingly, water flows and stream sediments have made Griffith Creek water intake much less usable, with higher peak flows and now negligible late summer flow.

With recent snowfalls, I can see stripes of snow on the ground where “restoration” thinning has opened tree canopies enough to desiccate these regrowing forests in summer, destroying cover and foraging habitat for tree voles, flying squirrels, martens, and the owls that prey on them. As you travel west into Philomath, Franklin Ridge, and adjacent Alsea Mountain sit immediately left of Marys Peak. Topping out at 3000 feet above sea level, this still-ongoing thinning near the summit is also part of a spotted owl activity center.

The NWFP Amendment proposed alternative “B” would allow the Siuslaw NF to increase the amount of thinning within the Corvallis Watershed, both in previously clearcut areas and into younger, naturally regenerated mature forests. Exceptions would also allow post-disturbance logging, whether from wildfire, windstorm, or disease, in this designated late-successional forest. Farther away in dry forests of southern Oregon and east of the Cascades, after a century of failed fire management the Amendment proposes re-entering all forest acreages repeatedly every 15 years, as the Forest Service cannot accept wildfire as an essential ingredient to all of our forest ecosystems.

U.S. Forest Service workforce capacity has just taken a dramatic hit, implementing the vigorous new proposed direction in the Pacific Northwest is now unlikely in the next decade. Maintaining the current Forest Plan, while finally accepting and incorporating the sovereign rights and knowledge of indigenous tribes over its traditional timber industry partner paradigms would be the better path.

Comments to the draft Environmental Impact Statement are due March 17th, 2025. For more information please see: <https://oregonwild.org/analysis-northwest-forest-plan-proposal/>

Jim Fairchild, MWBA Conservatio

Field Trips

Second Saturday Field Trip

January 11th (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 for 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 the excursions. Wear comfortable shoes appropriate for walking paved and unpaved trails. Bring hats and rain gear, as well as water and snacks! Weather may alter plans.

DuncanEvered and Caryn Stoess

Multi-Day Field Trips

We start 2025 birding with a trip to the Klamath Basin wildlife refuges, March 14-16. There are still three seats available.

Early April (7-9) is our next trip, to Bandon on the south coast. The timing should hit the bloom of the coastal manzanita, and the arrival of Allen's Hummingbirds. On previous trips, we have logged Common and King Eiders, Emperor Goose, and a bewildering array of gull species. A perennial favorite is the Wrentit seen in downtown Bandon ... and heard everywhere. We visit birdy spots all down the coast - Yaquina Head at Newport, Beaver Creek, Seal Rock, Jessie Honeyman State Park, Winchester Bay, Coquille, Myrtle Point, Bandon, New River, Langlois Market, Port Orford, Charleston, and Simpson Reef for sea lions and Elephant Seals.

Dates for upcoming trips include:



The Rogue Valley: April 25-27
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge:
May 17-20
Summer Lake: June 13-15
Wallowas trip: July 17-21
Steens Mountain: July 31 – August 3
South Coast in mid-September



Trips usually have a wide range of expert observers who point out not only the birds but also butterflies, dragonflies, mammals, reptiles, flowers, and geology. Signup sheets for all trips will be available at MWBA general meetings and by email to framsey5@comcast.net. Signing up should be accompanied by a \$25 deposit for each trip - due one month before departure; payable to MVBA and sent to PO Box 148 in Corvallis, 97339. You may also volunteer as a driver (slots available on the signup sheets). Drivers will not be charged for the regular transportation costs. If signups are insufficient to run any trip, it will be canceled and any deposits will be refunded.

Fred Ramse

Community

2025 Sustainability Fair and Town Hall

The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition will host the 2025 Sustainability Fair and Town Hall on Thursday, March 13th. The CSC includes 350 partner organizations (MWBA is an engaged partner). Over sixty hands-on exhibits will be on display at the Fair from 5-7 PM. New Morning Bakery will supply a light spread of local foods and music will be provided by the Nick Rivard/Ben Woodman Jazz Guitar Duo. Both the Fair & Town Hall are free and open to the public.

The Sustainability Town Hall will take place from 7-9 PM. The theme of the Town Hall will be “Reciprocity.” The keynote speaker will be David Harrelson, Cultural Resources Department Manager of The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The title of his presentation is “Huy Huy –An Indigenous Approach Through Giving and Receiving.”

Advance registration is only required to attend the Town Hall. [Click here to register for the Town Hall](#)

the Town Hall.

Both the Fair and Town Hall will be held at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center on the OSU campus, 725 SW 26th St, Corvallis. For more info about the event, [click here](#).

Suzanne Ortiz, Sustainability Team

Community Notes

USFW and 37 partner organizations

Saturday, March 1 - 31. Winter Wildlife Field Days. The theme for 2025 is "Habitat is Home." Throughout March, WWFD's partner groups will be sponsoring lectures and nature presentations at various museums and nature centers. Field stations will take place at the WVNWR complexes and at community parks throughout the area including Albany, Corvallis, and Independence. Field stations will feature hikes, walks and a variety of hands-on activities, including crafts and science tables. For families and adults. Free. For more info on event dates and descriptions, [click here](#).

Benton County Historical Society Museum

Exhibit: "Put a Bird On It! Finley, Feathers, and Fashion" continues through October 12, 2025. \$5 entry fee and free to members, youth 18 and under, OSU and LBCC students with valid ID. Mary C. Verhoeven Gallery, BCHSM, 411 SW 2nd St, Corvallis.

On Thursday, March 20 at 9:30 AM, in conjunction with the exhibit and Winter Wildlife Field Days, Samantha Bartling will present a lecture, "Finley, Feathers, Legacy and the Land." Samantha Bartling, is USFW, Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Services Manager. BCHSM, 411 SW 2nd St, Corvallis.

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Saturday, March 1 from 9:30 AM - 12 PM. Public Seed Library – Early Season Seeding Clinic. Free. Co-sponsored with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, Benton Co. Master Gardeners, and OSU Extension Service - Benton Co; Belluschi Wing, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Thursday, March 6 from 1 - 2 PM. Public Seed Library presentation: "Simple Worm Bin Farming." Cynthia Dort of Dort Worm Farms. Free. Co-sponsored with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, Benton Co. Master Gardeners and OSU Extension Service - Benton Co. Main Reading Room, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Wednesday, March 12 from 12 - 1 PM. Random Review. Selina Heppell will review

Susan M. Haigs' book, "As the Condor Soars: Conserving and Restoring Oregon's Birds." Free. Main Reading Room, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Saturday, March 15 from 9:30 AM - 12 PM. Public Seed Library – Cool Season Crop Clinic. Free. Co-sponsored with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, Benton Co. Master Gardeners, and OSU Extension Service - Benton Co. Belluschi Wing, CBCPL 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

Wednesday, March 26, 7 - 8:30 PM. Virtual presentation. Liz and Bob Frenkel Hiking and Environmental Series: The South Corvallis Willamette River Parks. Gwendolyn Ellen, agricultural biodiversity consultant. Co-sponsored by the Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club and the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Water Action Team. For more info and to register, [click here](#).

Heritage Museum

Through May 31. "What Does the Fox Say? Exploring International Onomatopoeias." Explore how different cultures interpret animal sounds and learn how languages around the world have unique ways of hearing and describing the same sounds. Created by artist Torin Widhammer and former museum director Natascha Adams. Free. Heritage Museum, 281 S 2nd St, Independence, OR.

Native Plant Society of Oregon, Corvallis Chapter

Monday, March 10, 7:30-8:30 PM. Abby Neat, PHD candidate, Dept. of Botany and Pathology at OSU. "Investigating the role of host-associated microbial communities in *Pseudotsuga menziesii* seedling response to drought stress." Free. Cordley Hall, Room 2602, OSU campus, 2701 SW Campus Way, Corvallis. To register for the Zoom meeting, [click here](#).

Oregon State University

Wednesday, March 5 from 4-5 PM. Rooted in Resilience: Women in Agriculture. Ask Alumni Webcast. In celebration of Women's History Month. The Zoom meeting is co-hosted by the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and the OSU Alumni Association. For more info and to register, [click here](#).

Thursday, March 6 from 4-5 PM. Ava Howard, PhD. "Oregon white oak: Connecting physiological and ecological research and undergraduate education in a locally threatened ecosystem." Hosted by the OSU Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology, an College of Agricultural Sciences: Room 4001 Agriculture and Life Sciences (ALS)

College of Agricultural Sciences, Room 100 Agricultural and Life Sciences Bldg.,
Bldg.

Friday, March 7 at noon. Sara Palmer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Coquille Indian Tribe. “Interesting Questions in Interesting Times: Addressing meaningful problems in archaeology.” Hosted by the OSU College of Liberal Arts, School of Language, Culture and Society. Learning Innovation Center (LINC), 302, 165 SW Sackett Place, OSU campus, Corvallis.

Monday, March 10 from 7-8:30 PM. Provost’s Lecture by Céline Cousteau. “We Are One Human Tribe.” The subject of her lecture will be the intersection of nature and humans. Registration required. Free. Sponsored by the OSU Office of the Provost and the OSU Foundation. Detrick Hall, PRAx, 470 SW 15th St, Corvallis. There will be an online viewing option. For more info & to register, [click here](#).

Wednesday, March 12 from 3:30-5 PM. Paul Hessburg and Gordon Reeves. “The Dynamic Aquatic Landscape: A New Perspective and Approach.” The speakers will discuss how working with natural shifts can improve conservation and management efforts. Sponsored by the Starker Family, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and the OSU College of Forestry. In-person and Zoom. Starker Forests PFSC Room117. [Click here](#) to register for the Webinar.

Monday, March 17 at 2 PM. Ramesh Sagili. “Status of Honey Bee Health in the USA After Two Decades Since Reports of Colony Collapse Disorder.” Sponsored by the OSU Dept. of Horticulture. Agriculture and Life Sciences Bldg. Room 4000, 2750 SW Campus Way, Corvallis, OR

Suzanne Ort.

Board Meeting

February Meeting Notes

Present: Karan Fairchild, Annie Lamas, Dave Mellinger, Dodie Wilson, Mai Kiigemag Suzanne Ortiz, Raymond Drapek, Phyllis Bailey, Bill Gellatly, Mark Baldwin

Meeting called to order: 7:03 PM

January board minutes – approved

President

- Annual report due March 7th
- Please send updates to Karan ASAP
- Wants to include impact stories, what would we like to share?
- Suzanne will send Karan stories about Natural Areas Celebration
 - o If she can get numbers about what we've done, it's helpful to know in addition to scrapbook
- Ray will send volunteer hours about Hesthavn
- We can do up to three impact stories
- Dodie will send something from education
- Frontiers in Ornithology – could we send students from OSU to participate in activities?
 - o Maybe around \$100?
 - o Dave wants to earmark for attendees or registration costs
 - o Maybe we can contact Doug Robinson to see if he knows someone who wants to go?
 - o Not until October, so we have some time
 - o Sponsorship deadline is in a month (unsure for certain)
- We all need new name tags
 - o Dodie had some made for education
 - o Nice and clean design – only \$7

ACTION ITEMS: Please send Karan any updates to the annual report. Suzanne will send something about the Natural Areas Celebration; Ray will send volunteer hours from Hesthavn; Dodie will send something about education programs. Deadline is ASAP.

Program committee

- Joel Geier talking about Vesper Sparrows (February)
- Roy Lowe talking about birds of Columbia (March)
- Lots of people already reaching out about speaking next year!

Education

- Recently participated in WVBS
- Dodie redid the trifold, updated name and fieldtrips, added Winter Wildlife Field Day, included speakers through May
- Insights into Gardening (February 8th)
 - o Lots of handouts on gardening for birds, tracking hummingbirds vs other:

– well received

- Groups that have paid for Willamette Valley pamphlets before are not interested in providing them again, so once they are gone, we won't get anymore
 - o Usage of pamphlets dropped regarding where we could advertise
- Made a couple of connections with Insights into Gardening
 - o Bee atlas event coming up, they would like us to participate
- Albany Parks and Rec would like us to give a bird talk at their upcoming function
- Upcoming:
 - o Winter wildlife field day – four different parks: March 1st (MLK), March 7th (Lily Park), March 8th (Starker Arts), March 15th (Riverbend Park)
 - Nature bingo game
 - Bird ID game
 - o Invited to STEAM night at Katherine Jones Elementary on March 13th (same night as two other events)
 - o Suzanne can send emails to see if she can get volunteers for those events
 - o April, nothing scheduled yet
 - o Dates aren't set yet for 4th grade class, likely in May though

ACTION ITEMS: Suzanne will send an email out to inquire about volunteers for upcoming education events.

Hesthavn

- Contacted by guy who runs GI300 class (used to be major source of volunteer help)
 - o Only one student showed up to help!
- Gutters: been in contact with Ken about installing gutter protection
 - o Anyone who does work out there needs to fill out W9 form
 - o Leaf Filter Gutter Protection (visited site with Ray)
 - Price was over \$4500!
 - o Let Ray know if you know of any good gutter companies
- Accessible trail
 - o Three main questions:
 - Who could do it and how much would they charge?
 - What's the surface we want? Concrete, blacktop, etc.?
 - How do we get community buy-in to this project?
 - o It would be nice to also have a ramp or pad in the parking lot
 - o It might be necessary to have regular places for people to rest if the trail is accessible
- Mindful birding workshop

- It would be nice to have a place at Hesthavn for folks to sit and listen/look at birds
- Going to do some research locally about contractors who can do the work, will bring to a meeting in April
 - April 2nd at 7 PM at Ray's house or Hesthavn (very negotiable)
 - Would like to have some answers to above questions and try to drum up some help
 - We could come up with goals and rank them

ACTION ITEMS: Let Ray know of any local, reliable gutter companies.

Field Trips

- Cooperative half-day field trip with GLT
 - Would be a place where visitors don't often have access to
 - Not sure what time of year yet, but would be great to get the word out once we have more details
- Trips tend to run \$150-200
 - Rogue Valley tends to be a little more expensive
- Jamie Simmons is interested in driving for one of the trips

Sustainability

- First deadline is pictures of 2024
 - Scrapbook at town hall is about accomplishments for last year
 - Dodie with education - how many students participated (esp. pictures with kids)
 - Mai can include how many people attended general meetings
 - Deadline is 2/20
 - Pictures from work parties are good too
- Thursday, March 13th is town hall and sustainability fair
- May will be Natural Areas Celebration

ACTION ITEMS: Send photos for the scrapbook from 2024, highlighting events from education and number of speakers during general meetings. Deadline is Thursday, February 20th.

Membership

- Scholarship Committee (in progress)
- Doug Robinson mentioned at WVBS there is a fund set up for scholarships
- We could make a donation rather than set up our own scholarship
 - JayShaun was going to be on the committee

- JayShaun was going to be on the committee
- Could be a good way to get students established with us
 - o Students can give a small presentation during regular meetings in the break before the speaker so they have a chance to share their research projects?
- Mark will talk to Doug about what happened with money last year
 - o Also ask about process for donating
 - o He might be able to weigh in re: if we need another grant in tandem with OSU FLOCK program

ACTION ITEMS: Mark will reach out to Doug Robinson about how we contributed money last year and what it was used for.

Liability Waiver

- Carolyn got info from Dodie and Ray, emailed it to her son about the type of waiver we need

New business

- What are we doing about bird feeders regarding bird flu?
 - o Wiping down surfaces
 - o Mostly affecting waterfowl
 - o Cleaning feeders every other week

Next board meeting

- Many things going on Thursday, March 13th
- Proposing Wednesday, March 12th instead
 - o 7 PM @ Dodie's house

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 PM

Annie Lamas, Secretary

Membership

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 online membership renewal go to the MWBA 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 listserv to receive emergency email notifications about meeting cancellations related to weather conditions, updated information about MWBA events, field trip locations, volunteer work parties, as well as ZOOM links.

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

Chat Articles

The Chat Editors welcome articles from all members of the Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance. 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.

[View email in browser](#)

Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance · 1085 19th Ave SE · Albany, OR 97322-5374 · USA

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