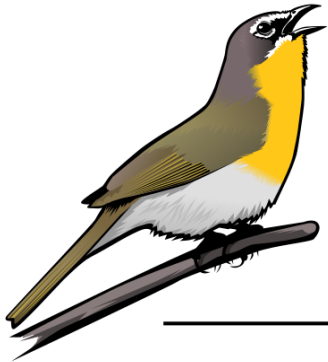


**From:** Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance [chateditors@219045914.mailchimpapp.com](mailto:chateditors@219045914.mailchimpapp.com)  
**Subject:** The Chat Newsletter: May Edition  
**Date:** May 7, 2025 at 3:55 PM  
**To:** [jabirusue@comcast.net](mailto:jabirusue@comcast.net)

MA



# THE CHAT

MID - WILLAMETTE BIRD ALLIANCE

May 2025, Vol 54 #1

## General Meeting

### Northern Saw- Whet Owls: Population Shifts During Migration?

Presented by  
**JayShaun Talbert**  
**May 15, 2025**



Northern Saw-Whet Owl, Photo by Sue Powell

Northern Saw-whet Owls (NSWOs) are elusive, nocturnal raptors that serve as important indicators of ecosystem health, yet much remains unknown about their migration patterns and population dynamics, especially in Oregon. This presentation shares findings from a pilot study focused on Oregon NSWOs.

presentation shares findings from a pilot study focused on Oregon NWOs during the fall migration season, conducted as part of an undergraduate thesis. The research combines traditional capture methods, such as mist netting with an emerging technology: Playback Recording Devices (PRDs). This is the first known application of PRDs for studying owl species, offering a novel approach to monitoring vocal activity while minimizing disturbance.

The study aims to collect vital biological data (age, sex, body condition) from captured individuals and to evaluate the efficiency of direct capture methods in comparison to PRD-based acoustic monitoring. By exploring population shifts across the forests within the Willamette Valley, this research contributes to a better understanding of how NSWOW distribution reflects habitat quality and broader ecological changes, including those driven by climate change. The findings will inform land management strategies and improve long-term monitoring protocols for nocturnal migratory birds.

Jayshaun Talbert is an undergraduate student in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences at Oregon State University, specializing in avian migration and conservation. He also serves as Conservation Chair for the Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance. His current research centers on the migration behavior and population dynamics of Northern Saw-whet Owls (NSWOs) in Oregon. His primary interests within the wildlife field encompass avian population dynamics, movement ecology, and reproductive ecology. He's had the privilege of being a part of several avian projects including seabirds, raptors, songbirds, sage-grouse and more. Outside of his research and coursework, he's involved with different wildlife organizations on campus and serves as the Student Liaison for the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society. When he's not doing anything wildlife-related, you can find him out adventuring with his friends, reading, watching movies, or recording episodes for his media analysis podcast.

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

#### Table of Contents

- [Hesthavn News](#)
- [Education News](#)
- [Field Trips](#)
- [Community](#)
- [Board Meeting](#)
- [Membership](#)



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.

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!



## Nominations for '24 - '25 Officers and Board

The Board of Directors of the Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance (formerly Audubon Society of Corvallis) offers the following slate of candidates to serve in the 2025/2026 term, which begins at the summer board meeting. The slate of board member nominees is elected by the members at the May General Meeting.

### **Co-Presidents:**

Dave Mellinger has been a member of MWBA since 2000 and a Board member most of that time. He's currently Co-President, was Vice-President for four years and has served intermittently as MWBA Conservation Chair over the last two decades. He's also a professor at OSU, working in Corvallis and at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, where he studies sounds of whales and other marine and terrestrial species.

Karan Fairchild has been involved with the Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance for over 30 years. She's served in many capacities during that time, including Co-President, Member-at-Large, Secretary, and fundraising chairperson. She instigated the successful Birdathon fundraisers, and has also served on the bylaws, nominations, Homer Campbell Award, and Hesthavn committees, and in several other functions. Past duties also include bluebird trail, sales table, fair

boots, and publicity. She and her husband Jim have done a local Christmas Bird Count for over 35 years and did a Breeding Bird Survey in the Coast Range for over 25 years.

**Vice-President:**

As nobody has stepped up to take the full vice-president role, we are improvising with Co-President Dave Mellinger hosting meetings, and a committee of volunteers helping to find and book speakers for the 9 monthly member meetings. Thanks to Mai Kiigemagi for setting up speakers for the programs and Eric Preston for providing Zoom expertise for the meetings!

**Secretary:**

Annie Lamas is the current secretary for MWBA. She currently works for Institute for Applied Ecology as an Ecological Education Coordinator. In this role, she manages the Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly captive rearing lab at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and assists with other EE projects. She has lived in Oregon for four years and is originally from California. Her favorite birding spot in Corvallis is Finley NWR and her favorite bird is the Loggerhead Shrike.

**Treasurer:**

Carolyn Peterson is completing another year as MWBA Treasurer with rave reviews. After raising two sons, Carolyn retired after nearly two decades as a CPA. She moved to Corvallis from Sherwood, Oregon with her husband Curt in 2014. Relocating to Corvallis was a return to her 1980s home while a Geology graduate student at OSU. Carolyn has enjoyed observing birds since childhood.

**Board-members-at-large:**

Phyllis Bailey has lived in Corvallis for almost 26 years and has been a member of MWBA since 2000. She is a nearly life-long birdwatcher with a deep appreciation for the natural world and is a retired teacher. She has served on the MWBA Education Team for the past twelve years, participating in Winter Wildlife Field Days, Girl Scout Day Camps, and education events at various schools and in the field, and has served on MWBA's board for several years. She looks forward to continuing to spread our message of protecting, promoting, and preserving wildlife through her MWBA activities.

Dodie Wilson has served in many positions for MWBA over the years. She has volunteered for the Corvallis Schools Naturalist-in-Residence program where she co-taught a program on birds. In 2001 Dodie received a Masters in Wildlife Science from OSU and has worked in various positions doing bird, amphibian, and small mammal surveys. Dodie is involved with the education and conservation efforts of MWBA and is co-chair with Meika Vingelen of our very active Education program.

Mark Baldwin has lived in Corvallis since 1987. He has been an active member of MWBA since retiring in 2013, and as a Member-at-Large of the Board and Vice-President. An avid birder, he has participated in many MWBA field trips (including a month with Fred's team in Australia) and enjoys travel & birding with his wife, Carla. For 25 years, he taught Applied Technology at Crescent Valley High School and was co-founder of the school's FIRST Robotics team. Photographing birds and other wildlife, and time with kids and grandkids, highlight his life now. He is active with the weekend field trip committee and is leader of the Malheur field trip coming up in May.

Bev Clark has been an active member of the Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance for many years and has served in many capacities. She is an avid birder and a pilot. She currently co-chairs the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count and is active on the MWBA weekend field trips committee. She will be leading the field trip to Sumner Lake in June.

Suzanne Ortiz has been a member of Audubon chapters in the San Francisco Bay Area, in New York City and in Corvallis. She served as the MWBA membership chair from 2012-2019, currently is on the MWBA board, and is the liaison to the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. She coordinates the Open House hours at Hesthavn Nature Center during Natural Areas Celebration Week, volunteers for community outreach events, contributes to the Community Notes in the Chat and has served as the organizer for the April multi-day field trip to the Rogue Valley.

Marge Popp has lived in Corvallis since 2006 and has been an MWBA member for much of that time. She has loved birding ever since 2000, when a friend in Astoria showed her a bird through binoculars. She especially enjoys the congenial nature

showed her a bird through binoculars. She especially enjoys the congenial nature of birding. She participates in several local community building activities and advocates for local news, responsible local government, and accountable corporate presence. She has attended many field trips over the years and is a big fan of the community cohesion that MWBA fosters. She has an MBA from UC Berkeley and spent much of her fifty-year career in Information Technology. She has enjoyed becoming more involved with MWBA initiatives.

**Alternate Board-member-at-large:**

Spencer Mair grew up in California and started bird watching at a young age. Every winter his parents would take him to see the ducks and geese at the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge. His passion for birds grew from there. He has helped on several bird related research projects including banding birds at the Big Sur Ornithology Lab in Big Sur California. He has been a part of conducting Long-billed Curlew nesting surveys around the Malheur Wildlife area; he has conducted point count surveys on century old farms and was involved with Project 2020 conducting bird surveys all over Oregon. He has participated in Winter Wildlife Field Days, several bird-a-thons, Christmas Bird Counts, bird festivals, and bird conferences throughout the years. He was the idea maker behind the OSU Bird Nerds. He owns his own bird watching business here in the Willamette Valley.

*Karan Fairchild, Co-President*

## **Recruiting for a Newsletter Editor**

Now recruiting for the volunteer position of Newsletter Editor! The Chat is an important communication tool for our organization to engage our members and community members.

What's involved with this position?

The Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance board meets once per month in Corvallis. At meetings our leaders share upcoming events, news, volunteer opportunities, and other information that the Newsletter Editor collects, organizes, proofs, edits, and publishes monthly. The Editor will use internet-based software to perform tasks. The software is well supported with online help and tutorials.

*Jake Kee*



# Hesthavn News

**Gutter covers** – After years of risking my neck to climb up a tall ladder to clean the gutters at Hesthavn I finally got smart and asked the MWBA board if I could get some gutter covers installed. They, of course, said yes. The gutters on the creek side of the barn are high up and I had to climb a tall ladder to get to them. Then there was the water tank on the Southwest side of the barn that I had to lean out over to get to the gutters. The gutter covers are now installed, and hopefully I won't be risking my neck ... at least for that ... after this.

**Conversations School Visitors** – On May 22 the Crossroads Conversation School paid a visit to Hesthavn. They offer basic English conversation to women who are temporarily in Corvallis while either they or their partners participate in OSU graduate or visiting scholar programs. I took them on a quick tour of the barn, and they hiked the trails.

**Pump Issues** – Hesthavn uses a rainwater collection system to collect water for our native plantings on the property. Rainwater collected on the roof of the barn is stored in a tank next to the barn, and then the water is pumped up to a water tank at the top of the hill. From there, water can be gravity-fed to about 7 spigots scattered in different places on the property. We've been having problems with the pump lately. The pump wiring must be on the fritz, because it keeps blowing 30-amp fuses. This is probably the result of critters and corrosion in the ground-level pump box. Jim Fairchild and Ken Vandehey will be checking the pump box out to see if they can fix the problem. If they succeed, we will be able to manually turn on the pump to get water up into the upper tank. But there is a second part to the problem, and if we can fix that, then we won't need to manually turn on the pump. For this second part, the pump box might need to be rebuilt/redesigned. A shut-off switch that indicates a full upper tank is no longer functioning. Jim Fairchild thinks that fixing this will probably be a job for a plumber.

**Mason bees** – If you visit Hesthavn. Check out the mason bee box that is on the south wall of the barn. This is the box with a bunch of holes poked into a block of wood. Mason bees are solitary, and so they don't form hives like the honey bee. The solitary female lays eggs in these holes. They lay an egg, then they leave a dab of pollen for the larva bee to feed on, and then they put in a clay plug. They repeat the process until they fill the hole with eggs, pollen, and plugs. Right now, the bees are busily laying eggs, and you can watch them coming and going from

the bees are laying eggs, and you can watch them coming and going from the bee box. In early June, I will have to remove the block with holes. If it stays out past June, then parasitic wasps become a problem.

**Veterinary volunteers** – On May 17, students from the Pre-Veterinary Medical Association at Oregon State University will be coming out to participate in a work party. The goal of the association is to give members volunteer opportunities to develop experience and passion for animals and the environments they live in. Many thanks to them in advance for their help!

*Ray Drape*

## Education News

On Saturday, April 19th, MWBA volunteers attended Planet Palooza, an annual celebration of Earth Day put on by Corvallis Parks and Recreation at the Corvallis Community Center. Several organizations had lots of fun activities for the kids. At our station, kids could make a pine cone suet feeder to take home. The event was capped off with a Nature Parade at the end, with people, young and old, wearing very creative masks marching to drumbeats around the park. Thanks to Suzanne Ortiz and Mai Kiigemagi for helping with this event.

In May, we will be attending Family Fun Night on Friday, May 2nd from 5-7 PM. The theme is Flower Power, so we are going to have a Hummingbird Migration game for the kids to play. In celebration of Natural Areas Celebration Week, we will be having an Open House at Hesthavn Nature Center from 12-2 PM each day from Monday, May 5th to Friday, May 9th. There will be volunteers on hand to give a historical overview of the property and lead tours. Come join us! On May 13, a group from the Academy for Lifelong Learning will be visiting Hesthavn for a tour. On May 14 and 15, 4th-grade classes from Adams Elementary are coming to Hesthavn for a field trip. Each day, the children will spend the morning sampling and learning about the macro-invertebrates that inhabit Oak Creek, using a dichotomous key to identify native trees and shrubs on a trail around the property, dissect owl pellets, and learn about bird songs. And finally, on Saturday May 31st, we will once again be participating in Get Outdoors Day at Peavy Arboretum. This is a well-attended event with lots of fun activities for kids. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these upcoming events, please contact Dodie Wilson at [asc.educationteam@gmail.com](mailto:asc.educationteam@gmail.com).



## Field Trips

### Second Saturday Field Trip

**January 11<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto: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! The weather may alter plans.

*Duncan Evered and Caryn Stoess*

### Malheur Field Trip 2025

Our annual field trip (53<sup>rd</sup>?) to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge will be May 17<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>. The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge was created in 1908 to protect a “breeding ground for native birds.” The refuge and the surrounding areas are some of the most important stopover spots for migratory birds on the western flyway. The timing of this trip should coincide with the arrival of many songbirds, including warblers and numerous other species. We should also see many waterfowl and shorebirds, though it will be at the latter part of that migration, so the large flocks may have moved on.

As we travel east on Saturday, we will make several stops looking for birds we may not see elsewhere on our trip (Green-tailed Towhee, Calliope Hummingbird). We will arrive at the Malheur Field Station, our home base for the next three

nights, in time for dinner. We will be sleeping in one of the dorms. Evening and early morning walks nearby are fun. A pre-breakfast visit to Refuge Headquarters is also a nice way to start the day.

The itinerary for the next two days will depend on water levels and where birds are being seen. With the melting of a large snow pack, there is much more water in the area than in recent years. Suitable habitat is spread out, so waterfowl and waders will likely be spread out more than in dry years.

We will spend one day, likely Sunday, exploring the northern part of the refuge. We will look for Burrowing Owls, Ferruginous Hawks, Golden Eagles, and an assortment of passerines, shore birds, and waterfowl. The second day we will head south to P Ranch, Page Springs, Frenchglen, and the Diamond area to look for Bobolinks, Yellow-breasted Chats, Orioles, flycatchers, and more. On Monday we will have a family-style dinner at the Diamond Hotel - always a treat.

On the last day, we will check out the area near Burns for remaining Snow Geese, Long-billed Curlews, and more Sandhill Cranes. Lunch will be at Sage Hen Hill and will include a short hike that will bring us Mountain Bluebirds, Brewer's Sparrows, and possibly a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. We should be home between 7 and 8 PM.

The trip is full at this time, but there is a waiting list. If you want to be added to this list please email Fred at [flramsey5@comcast.net](mailto:flramsey5@comcast.net).

*Mark Baldwin*

## Community

### **Corvallis Benton County Public Library**

Saturday, May 17th, from 9:30 AM to 12 PM. Public Seed Library: Warm Season Crop Clinic. Free. Co-sponsored by CBCPL, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition with educational support from Benton Co. Master Gardeners and OSU Extension Service- Benton Co. Belluschi Wing, CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

### **Corvallis Sustainability Coalition**

Saturday, May 3rd to Sunday, May 11th. Natural Areas Celebration Week. Celebrate our local natural heritage with walks, hikes, tours, workshops and open houses. Sponsored by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Natural Areas Action Team and partner organizations. For events calendar click [here](#).

organizations. [For events calendar click here](#)

<https://sustainablecorvallis.or/16<sup>th</sup>-annual-natural-areas-celebration-week/>

## **Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex**

Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, from 7 AM to 10 AM. Early Morning Spring Birding. Join naturalist Rich Hoyer for a spring birding experience in search of some of the 250 birds at the Refuge. West side of McFadden Mash, WL Finley National Wildlife Refuge. Free. [For more info, click here](#)

[https://friendswvnwrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/EarlyMorningSpringBirding5\\_24\\_2025.pdf](https://friendswvnwrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/EarlyMorningSpringBirding5_24_2025.pdf)

## **Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Willamette Valley Broadband, OR**

Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 PM to 6 PM. "Climate Change in Oregon: The Present and Future Economic Costs." A Broad Talk with Ernie Niemi, president of Natural Resource Economics. Free. Sponsored by Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Willamette Valley Broadband, OR. CBCPL, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis.

## **Luckiamute Watershed Council**

The LWC and Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership have launched a website that lists resources when help is needed with beavers concerning plugged culverts, flooding, tree or crop damage, and provides alternatives to trapping. It also has information on how to coexist with beavers on the landscape, how beavers benefit the land and water, and how to promote beaver habitats. [Click here for more info](#)

[https://www.mwbeaverpartnership.org/?mc\\_cid=e4ad3ace05&mc\\_eid=e072b6d608](https://www.mwbeaverpartnership.org/?mc_cid=e4ad3ace05&mc_eid=e072b6d608)

Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, from 8 AM – 12 PM. Spring Bird Walk at J2E Tree Farm. A leisurely-paced nature walk for beginning or seasoned birders. Registration required. Co-supported by the Benton Soil & Water Conservation District and the Friends of the LWC. J2E Tree Farm. [To register click here](#)

... ..

<https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/spring-bird-walk.html>

## Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club

Wednesday, May 28th from 7 PM - 8:30 PM. 2025 Liz & Bob Frenkel Hiking and Environment Series: The Downtown Willamette River Parks. Zoom presentation by David Eckert. Free. Co-sponsored by Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library and Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Water Action Team. [To register click here](#)

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_uPOXLuw\\_SkGkc2UGtbEWOW#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uPOXLuw_SkGkc2UGtbEWOW#/registration)

## Native Plant Society

Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM. "*Fritillaria gentneri*: A biography." Presenter, Alex Kurowski, Oregon State University. Free. Sponsored by Native Plant Society. Cordley Hall, Room 2602, OSU campus, 2701 SW Campus Way, Corvallis. [To register for zoom access click here](#)

<https://oregonstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/WGsCk3iXQO61ekRg9sFwvQ>

## NAACP

The Linn Benton Chapter of the NAACP dedicated a new drinking fountain with ADA and a station for water bottle fill-ups. It is located on the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Monroe Avenue in Corvallis (on the riverfront side of 1<sup>st</sup> St). The water fountain honors the late Calvin O.L. Henry, co-founder of the Linn Benton Chapter of the NAACP and a former OSU College of Education faculty member.

## Oregon State University

Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, from 7 PM. Earth Words: The Pacific Northwest's Premier Environmental Writing Showcase. Free. Sponsored by the Oregon State University College of Liberal Arts, PRAX and Spring Creek Project. [To register for tickets click here](#)

<https://prax.universitytickets.com/w/event.aspx?id=1772>

Saturday, May 17th, doors open at 12 PM. Annual latwa ina Pow-Wow. Free community event featuring Indigenous dancers, singers, and a marketplace. Gill Coliseum, 660 SW 26<sup>th</sup> St, Corvallis. [For more info, click here](#)

<https://indigenous.oregonstate.edu/pow-wow>

Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, from 1 PM to 3 PM. “Building Bridges: Local Tribal Histories and a 1970s Sweathouse Lodge.” Robert Kentta has worked for over 30 years conducting research and establishing cultural resource protection, cultural, and historical materials for the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians. Free. Village Church Chapel, 7234 NE Arnold Ave, Adair Village.

## **Seven Capes Bird Alliance**

Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, from 6 PM - 7:30 PM. “Birding the Oregon Coast: Birds of Surf and Sand.” Presentation by Roy Lowe. Part 1 of the 2-part webinar series, which will focus on sea and shorebirds – how to identify birds, where to look for them, and the best times of the year to go birding. Sponsored by Seven Capes Bird Alliance, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, and Oregon Birding Association. Free but registration required. [Click here for more info & to register](#)

<https://www.sevencapes.org/birdingtheoregoncoast>

Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6 PM - 7:30 PM. “Birding the Oregon Coast: Birds of Forest and Field.” Presentation by Dawn Harris, MSc. The webinar will focus on essential tips for identification, including markings, sounds, and behaviors of songbirds, hummingbirds, raptors, etc. Sponsored by Seven Capes Bird Alliance, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, and Oregon Birding Association. Free but registration required. [Click here for more info & to register](#)

<https://www.sevencapes.org/birdingtheoregoncoast>

## **Willamette Grange**

Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, from 10 AM – 2 PM. “Mother’s Day Flower Festival” Bouquets for Mom and garden plant starts. Free. 27555 Greenberry Rd Corvallis.

*Suzanne Ort*

**Board Meeting**

## **Thursday, April 10, 2025**

Present: Mai Kiigemagi, Carolyn Peterson, Karan Fairchild, Dodie Wilson, Ray Drapek, Jayshaun Talbert, Dave Mellinger, Jim Fairchild, Dodie Wilson, Suzanne Ortiz, Annie Lamas

Meeting called to order 7:05 PM

Approval of last month's meeting notes

- Amounts for cost of field trips was inaccurate (needs to be fixed before submitting)

### **President**

- Annual report submitted!
- Frontiers in Ornithology – will we be doing sponsorship?
  - o Karan sent an email to Doug Robinson
  - o Scheduled for early October
  - o Jayshaun willing to go
- Our Instagram person is moving to Portland – so we need someone to take over
  - o We can make an appeal at the general meeting
- Dodie signed us up for Planet Palooza (Earth Day celebration)
  - o April 19<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)

### **Program committee**

## **Program Committee**

- Next meeting will be with Roy Lowe talking about birds of the Columbian Andes
- Will start looking at speakers for next year
- May 13<sup>th</sup>
  - o Visitors to Hesthavn to see the site
  - o Academy of Lifelong Learning visitors: 1:30-3:30 PM
- Dave Eckert on “Lost creeks of Corvallis” coming up in May as well
- Karan has been approached by multiple people about having books and artwork at meetings
  - o We would be open to it as long as folks are willing to
  - o There was also a suggestion to give the speakers a tote bag or other token of appreciation and potentially having a photo taken with the president, as a way to thank the speakers for giving their talk at the meeting.
  - o Dodie can take the photo, Dave will present the tote bag.
  - o We could also advertise the speaker and publicly thank them afterwards on social media (Instagram or Facebook).
  - o Could we have a collaborative field trip with the Bird Nerds and GLT?
    - Jayshaun to advertise the social media position, can also advertise ideas and be the mediator between us and the Bird Nerds

## **Treasurer**

- IRS recognizes us as MWBA now!
- Budget for next year starts July 1<sup>st</sup>
  - o Let Carolyn know if anything needs to be changed or if you have a request

## **Education**

- Tomorrow is STEAM night at Katherine Jones Elementary
  - o Pine cone suet feeders
  - o Adaptation matching game
- March 15<sup>th</sup>: last winter wildlife field day in Independence
  - o Winter wildlife field day events this year have seen high attendance!
- April 19<sup>th</sup>: Planet Palooza
- May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Family fun night
  - o Theme is flower power, likely do something with hummingbirds or seed eaters
- Mid-May: Adam's fourth graders coming to Hesthavn
  - o Macro-invertebrates and owl pellet activity
- Natural areas celebration week: first full week of May
- GLT having a bird walk at Little Willamette



- Mary's Peak middle school field trip
- Museum day in June at the museum in Corvallis

### **Chat**

- Deadline is usually Monday after the meetings
- Dodie will do a write-up of winter wildlife field day
- Suzanne will do one on the 2025 Sustainability Fair and Town Hall

### **Conservation**

- Need to schedule a meeting with Oregon Audubon Council to bring bird-friendly city idea to Corvallis
- Will be at sustainability fair chatting with folks about light pollution, bird-friendly neighborhoods, cities, etc.
- Working on presentation/research poster for Saw-whet work
- NWFP: Jim would like to submit a comment from our chapter
  - o If anyone has comments he will send out a word doc
- Jim hasn't had a chance to work on comments from Coffin Butte landfill yet
  - o Suzanne will let the board know when the letters are due
    - For info on timelines: <https://www.bentoncountyor.gov/coffin-butte-landfill/>
    - To post a written email comment for the Benton County Planning Commission: [publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov](mailto:publiccomment@bentoncountyor.gov)

- Marge is pushing to start the testimony now, get everything written up. She would like a sense of who will be providing a testimony, Suzanne is there to spread the word about when submissions are due.
- Initial public comments should be sent to the Benton County Planning Commissioner

## **Hesthavn**

- Previous estimate of the gutters was \$4,500, Ray didn't respond, he got a call a week later and they lowered the cost to \$1,500– unreliable
- Northern Willamette Valley Gutter gave a more reasonable estimate of around \$1,600
  - They'll clean and put gutter guards on all the gutters
  - Ray given the okay to let this work happen
- Going to get an estimate for someone to paint the fascia of the barn
- Handicap path
  - Could we get an estimate to make the parking space accessible so they don't have to cross through mud to get to the bridge?
  - We could use Claudia's donation for this
  - There was someone who did some concrete work in the past, perhaps we could find them to fix this path
- Is meeting still occurring on April 2<sup>nd</sup>?

- Might hold off for now
- Wants to do research on “bird-ability”
- We need to be deliberate when deciding to tackling these problems, it might be better to take more time to think about this before taking premature action
- Regarding handicap path, we could get crushed gravel and drive a compactor over it?
  - A small group could go to Finley to look at their paths, specifically Woodpecker Loop

### **Field Trips**

- Klamath trip has officially been cancelled
- Rogue Valley has 12 people signed up, 1 driver
  - Looking for someone to step up as another driver
  - Trip capacity is 16 people. Group has paid for 16 tickets to attend the Shakespeare Festival and we are hoping to fill the trip
  - Last weekend in April

### **Publicity**

- Changes are being made to the website, updating our logos hiding everywhere
- Name should be changed with annual report as well
- Can we hire someone to help us with that?
  - We have a small pot of money that we could use to update our logos

## **Sustainability**

- Tomorrow is sustainability fair and town hall
- May 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> natural areas celebration week
  - o Open house from 12-2 all 5 days
    - People are needed for the open house! Usually 2 is good. Education Team and other members are welcome to participate

## **Scholarship committee**

- Happy to give the money to someone at OSU
- Mark sent an email to Doug about the best way to go about it

## **Nametags**

- Annie, Suzanne, and Jayshaun will be getting nametags

## **Stoneybrook Lodge visit to Hesthavn**

- Kate Mathews sent an email to Suzanne to ask if we would be interested in doing an activity
  - o Bluebird trail, bluebird ID, talk on raptors, talk on CBC, visit to Hesthavn were some suggestions
  - o It would make sense to do this as an A.L.L. thing as a collaboration
  - o Ray could do a talk on water, knows a lot of the Stoneybrook folks
  - o Suzanne will write back that Rav is interested in giving a tour of

Hesthavn

### **New business**

- Should we send a thank you to Nikki for her time?
  - o Maybe a certificate or a note? Suzanne can bring a card for us to sign
  - o Dave will do an announcement of the card and that we are looking for a new Instagram person

### **Next month's meeting**

- Mai can host
- April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

Meeting adjourned: 8:27 PM

*Annie Lama*

## **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

[https://www.mwba.org/membership/](#) and renew via PayPal. To renew by check, 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](mailto: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](mailto:chateditors@gmail.com).

[View email in browser](#)

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