



MAY/JUNE 2018  
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# Warbler

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Photos by Clay Showalter and Portland Audubon

## Summer Camp 2018: When Kids & Teens Inspire Us

by Ian Abraham, Youth Programs Manager

Long before the first week of camp begins, before the first camper arrives ready for a Portland Audubon summer, we begin to prepare for these marvelous adventures. In truth, we begin planning for the next year's summer camp before the current camps have come to an end, selecting inspiring destinations, exciting activities, and arranging a myriad of details to ensure each camp is the best it can be.

By far the single most important aspect of camp preparation is the intense, two-week training that we conduct every June for all summer camp staff, both seasoned veterans and new recruits. During our training, the summer seasonal staff of Environmental Educators, college-aged Interns, TALON members, and high school Counselors learn the ways in which we run Portland Audubon Summer Camps. We focus on creating a community of nature learning that is inclusive of all potential campers. We actively work together to develop ways to ensure that each week-long program is of the highest quality, as safe as possible, as FUN as possible, and has a huge helping of natural history so youth leave feeling more connected to wildlife, plants, and the magnificent planet we all share together. Each camp is developed to be science based and experiential to the core, where problem-solving and thought-provoking challenges are presented daily. We do all of this with one goal in mind: to facilitate truly enriching and inspiring experiences with the natural world for each camper.

Yet often times it is we who are inspired.

During staff training we discuss the impact of nature journaling, and engage our staff in a number of different techniques that include reflective writing, art with different mediums, nature mapping, poetry, and more. We discuss ways we can make journaling accessible for all learning types and camper backgrounds. As one can imagine, there is something quite amazing about a group of 12 third-graders sitting in the forest, silently crouched over their journals with pencils in hand, either drawing or writing about the day's happenings, chronicling what they saw, touched, ate, thought and felt. These journals help campers to preserve their memories for a lifetime.

What follows is one example of what can happen when a camper is given the opportunity to reflect.

### An Orca's Tale

by Reed Wester-Ebbinghaus,  
seventh grader on San Juan Island Adventure

*I recognize that Orcas are special, and if I had one story to tell them... it would be that of the history of humanity, a story very appropriate to tell due to their likeness to humans. I would tell tales of how humans had created powerful empires but were still always at the mercy of the seas. I would explain the story of the city of Atlantis and of how it was so suddenly destroyed the night the seas rushed in and reclaimed the land and the lives of many people. I would even tell of how merely a few drops of water can destroy the greatest human machine. They would laugh at the tale of the Titanic, for many humans could not*

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## We Are Grateful for You!

Spring is one of our busiest and most exciting seasons here at Portland Audubon. From volunteer work parties at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to asking folks to speak out for Double-crested Cormorants on East Sand Island, we spend every day working to inspire people to love and protect nature.

And none of it would be possible without you! Right now, our members and program participants are:

- Monitoring threatened Snowy Plovers on the north coast
- Volunteering for extra shifts at the Wildlife Care Center to add capacity for baby bird season
- Raising critical funds on our Birdathon trips
- Venturing out on bird song walks
- Restoring their backyards with native plants
- Going Lights Out at home to reduce light pollution
- Signing their kids up for summer camps

With spring migration comes a never-ending number of ways we can help give birds safe passage to their breeding grounds, protect their habitat, and make Oregon a healthy and beautiful place for us all to share.

We'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you for everything you do to take care of the forest, urban, mountain, grassland, ocean, desert, and wetlands habitats across the state. Oregon would truly not be the same without your giant hearts and love of nature.



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View this Warbler and many past issues in full color on our website! Go to [audubonportland.org/about/newsletter](http://audubonportland.org/about/newsletter) and enhance your enjoyment of our popular newsletter!



Audubon Society  
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# From our Executive Director

## Innovation & “Failing Harder”

by Nick Hardigg

Visitors to the offices of famed marketing firm Wieden+Kennedy are greeted by a curious wall mural: an assemblage of 119,000 pushpins spelling out the words “Fail Harder.” It’s obvious yet counterintuitive: innovation requires taking risks and being willing to sometimes fail. In the creative and ubercompetitive world of global branding, it’s understandable why a mantra to innovate and try new things, and even risk failure, has to be in your DNA.

But for a conservation group—where “success” can be synonymous with stopping change and saving nature—the need to embrace change and take chances might not be so clear. Our political, economic, and demographic landscapes keep evolving, and we must evolve as well. If Portland Audubon is to become increasingly relevant in the years ahead—and not isolated—then we’ll need to keep taking risks and trying new things. In the past year, our staff and board have been investing considerable time and energy to understand what it means to be an inclusive organization, to understand the barriers that challenge us from engaging an ever more expansive community of bird- and nature-loving people. You’ll see evidence of that increasing awareness in our support of the Portland Clean Energy Fund ballot initiative to combat climate change (see page 4), as well as our recent surveys of many communities for their views of Portland Audubon and the work we do.

We’re innovating with technology as well. In our Wildlife Care Center, we’ve installed RaptorMed, streamlining our recordkeeping and allowing us to better track outcomes



Tony Arnell, Katy Johnson, and the Development team upgraded our donation systems to save hundreds of hours of labor.

and trends in the 3,000 wild animals we see annually. For our biggest fundraiser of the year, Birdathon, we’re trying a new online system that will save us over 150 hours of staff time—no longer will we have to manually reenter every single donation between databases. For our free and largely volunteer-led Audubon Outings, we’ve begun using Meetup (meetup.com/Portland-Audubon-Outings)—a free service that’s introducing us to new people, helping to manage crowd sizes, and improving how we communicate with the public.

In some cases, innovation comes with hiccups. Change can be uncomfortable, have a learning curve, or have hidden benefits that don’t make the value clear to all. Tweaks may be necessary after launching a new service to make sure we’re meeting all our needs. The most important part of change is communication and trust. If you notice change in our programs or systems and have a suggestion to make them better, or question why we made a change, please let us know. We have to keep improving while also maintaining what’s great about Portland Audubon. Thank you for helping us to stay nimble and serve our community well.

## 32nd Annual Great Blue Heron Week Celebrating Green Infrastructure

May 30–June 10

**Wednesday, May 30, 9:45 am**  
**Great Blue Heron Proclamation,  
Portland City Council**

The proclamation kicks off a week of field trips to visit heron colonies throughout the Intertwine, the region’s system of parks, trails, and natural areas.

**Thursday, May 31, 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm**  
**Lecture by Dr. Tim Beatley, Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities, University of Virginia, and Director, International Biophilic Cities Program**

Dr. Beatley will share the work he and colleagues at the international Biophilic Cities Program have undertaken to encourage greater access to nature in cities and create ecologically sustainable urban ecosystems. Shattuck Hall Annex at Portland State University at SW Broadway and SW Hall Street. Sponsors: PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions, Urban Greenspaces Institute, and Moda Health.

**Friday, June 1, 5:30pm to 7:30pm**  
**Oaks Bottom Nature Walk and Restoration Update**  
**Leaders: Mike Houck**, Urban Greenspaces Institute, **Emily Roth**, Portland Parks and Recreation, and **Sean Bistoff**, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

Do some birding and learn about the city’s restoration plans for salmon and wildlife at Oaks Bottom and summertime closure of Springwater on the Willamette Trail. Meet at north end of Sellwood Park at SE 7th Avenue and SE Sellwood Boulevard (do not meet at parking lot off SE Milwaukie Blvd!).

**Saturday, June 2, 9am to 2pm**  
**Ride on the Wildside: Westmoreland Park to Leach Botanical Garden and Zenger Farm**  
**Leaders: Mike Houck** and **Leach Garden staff**

This 15-mile ride will start and end at the newly restored stream corridor and wetland at Westmoreland Park and ride the Springwater Corridor trail to Foster Floodplain Wetlands, Zenger Farm Wetlands, and Leach Botanical Garden. Bring bicycle and helmet (mandatory), water and lunch, and binoculars. Pre-registration required with Mike at [mikehouck@urbangreenspaces.org](mailto:mikehouck@urbangreenspaces.org). Meeting place and other details will be sent to registrants.



Great Blue Heron at Oaks Bottom. Photo by Mike Houck

**Sunday, June 3, 10am to 1pm**  
**Paddle the Willamette South Reach, Willamette Park to Elk Rock Island**  
**Leaders: Mike Houck**, Urban Greenspaces Institute; **Bob Sallinger**, Audubon Society of Portland; and **Jeff Caudill**, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

Explore Elk Rock island and nearby cliffs, home to Peregrine Falcons and unique flora. Paddle downriver to explore both banks of the Willamette River, the subject of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability’s River Plan/South Reach planning process. Meet at Willamette Park (SW Macadam at SW Nebraska) boat ramp no later than 9:30am to get your craft into the water to launch at 10am sharp!

**Monday, June 4, 7pm to 8pm**  
**Hérons at South Waterfront**

**Mike Houck** will set up a spotting scope on adult and young Great Blue Herons who will be about ready to fledge from their nests on the downstream tip of Ross Island. Bring binoculars and your own spotting scope if you have one. Go to the eastern end of SW Curry Street to the Greenway and walk south (upstream) on the Greenway to an overlook where Mike will have his scope set up.

**Wednesday, June 6, 8am to 11am**  
**Birding Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge**

Meet **Mike Houck** at Sellwood Park parking lot, SE 7th Avenue and SE Sellwood Boulevard (do not meet at parking lot off SE Milwaukie Blvd!). Bring binoculars and dress for the weather.

## FINAL NATURE NIGHT OF THE SEASON!



Seal Rock State Park. Photo by Adam Stunkel

**Hidden Oregon:  
Exploring the Obscure Gems  
of the Pacific Northwest**  
**with Ed Jahn of OPB’s Oregon Field Guide**  
**Tuesday, May 8 • 7pm**  
**Montgomery Park**  
**2701 NW Vaughn St.**

Join **Ed Jahn**, Executive Producer of Oregon Public Broadcasting’s *Oregon Field Guide*, for a visual journey and conversation on some of the state’s wildest and most far-flung places. *Oregon Field*



Photo by Tim Giraudier

*Guide* has spent 30 years exploring and reporting on the people, nature, wildlife, and environmental issues that have shaped our region. In that time, the show has been down well-worn paths as well as far off the beaten path (the crater of Mount St. Helens!). Ed and crew have collected an archive of spectacular video that gives Oregonians a fresh perspective on this place we call home. Ed invites you to join him for an evening of conversation about the wild places that define us, helping to inspire you to lace up your boots, get off the couch, and hit the backcountry again!

Ed Jahn is the Executive Editor for Science and Environment as well as the Executive Producer of OPB’s outdoor program, *Oregon Field Guide*, where he has served as a producer since 2000. Ed has earned the Edward R. Murrow award for his documentary work and has won 19 regional Emmy Awards in his career.

**Montgomery Park can be reached  
on bus lines 77 and 15.**

Call **503-292-6855** for more details! These are sure to be talks that will fill up fast, so we encourage you to grab your seat early! EXPRESS ENTRY is available by going to [bit.ly/NATURENIGHT](http://bit.ly/NATURENIGHT) (this is not an RSVP but gains you quick access to an event).

**Thursday, June 7, 6pm to 8pm**  
**Explore the Willamette River’s South Reach**  
**Leaders: Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability staff**

Meet at Willamette Park picnic tables south of boat ramp for a stroll with City staff along the Willamette Greenway Trail to the Sellwood Bridge. Learn about the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability’s River Plan/South Reach work, and provide staff with your input. Park entrance is at SW Macadam at SW Nebraska. Be sure to pay for parking and park in a car space, not a boat trailer space, or you will be ticketed! For more information: Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability at 503-823-7700.

**Friday, June 8, 10am to 11am**  
**Hérons at South Waterfront**

**Mike Houck** will set up a spotting scope on adult and young Great Blue Herons who will be about ready to fledge from their nests on the downstream tip of Ross Island. Bring binoculars and your own spotting scope if you have one. Go to the eastern end of SW Curry Street to the Greenway and walk south (upstream) on the Greenway to an overlook where Mike will have his scope set up.



# Portland Audubon Outings

Join a free, volunteer-led bird walk to one of our many fantastic natural areas. Please register through **Meetup**, a website/mobile application that facilitates bringing people with common interests together. Join by going to **meetup.com/Portland-Audubon-Outings** and clicking Join Us. You will find the full descriptions of these outings on the **Meetup** group. Contact Erin Law at [elaw@audubonportland.org](mailto:elaw@audubonportland.org) or call 971-222-6119 with any questions.

Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Beginners welcome!

**May 7 (Mon) 7am–11am**  
**Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge**

Leader: April Brown

**May 10 (Thu) 7:15am–12:30pm**  
**Columbia County Slough**

Leaders: Meg Ruby and Mary Ratcliff

**May 12 (Sat) 7am–5pm**  
**Butterfly Walk**  
**Lower Deschutes River**  
**(We will carpool)**

Leaders: Dan van den Broek and Dennis Deck

**May 16 (Wed) 7:30am–10am**  
**Cooper Mountain Nature Park**

Leaders: Kathryn van der Horst and Mary Ratcliff

**May 17 (Thu) 8am–11:30am**  
**Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve**

Leaders: Dick Demarest, Diane Harris, and Meg Ruby

**May 22 (Tue) Meet 7am for all-day trip**  
**White River Oak Woodlands and Rimrock Country**

Leader: Ron Escano

**May 27 (Sun) 7am–5pm**  
**Butterfly Walk**  
**Satus Pass, WA (We will carpool)**

Leaders: Dan van den Broek and Dennis Deck

**May 25 (Fri) 7am–11am**  
**Company Lake**

Leader: April Brown

**May 31 (Thu) 7:30am–11:30am**  
**Sandy River Delta**

Leaders: Mary Ratcliff and Kathryn van der Horst

**June 5 (Tue) 7am–11am**  
**Whitaker Ponds Nature Park**

Leader: April Brown

**June 6 (Wed) 8am–11am**  
**Powell Butte Nature Park**

Leader: Ron Escano

**June 9 (Sat) 8am–11am**  
**Sandy River Delta**

Leaders: Patty Newland and Nicki Dardinger

**June 12 (Tue) 8am–2pm**  
**Yaquina Head to Siletz Bay**

Leaders: Mary Ratcliff and Dick Demarest

**June 14 (Thu) 8am–5pm**  
**Mount Hood Lakes**

Leaders: Kathryn van der Horst and Karen Chaivoe

**June 15 (Fri) 7am–11am**  
**Company Lake**

Leader: April Brown

**June 19 (Tue) 7am–11am**  
**Washougal River Greenway Trail**

Leader: April Brown

**June 20 (Wed) 7am–11am**  
**Sandy River Delta**

Leaders: Linda Magnuson, Kathy van der Horst, and Diane Harris

**June 24 (Sun) 8am–11am**  
**Cooper Mountain Birds and Botany**

Leaders: Bonnie Deneke and Dan van den Broek

## Bird Song Walks 2018

**Mon–Fri, 7am–9am, various locations: FREE!**

Portland Audubon is proud to announce the 2018 season of weekday morning Bird Song Walks! From beginner to advanced birders, anyone who is fascinated by the sounds of birds will enjoy these walks. Take advantage of these volunteer-guided walks to the metro area’s prime spring migration hotspots. If you start with the earliest trips, you will become familiar with the common resident species’ songs and then keep pace with the migrant birds as they arrive.



Yellow-breasted Chat.  
Photo by Scott Carpenter.

Bird Song Walks begin at 7am and end at 9am. Leave whenever you like. Bring binoculars and a field guide, if you have them. Be sure to dress properly for the weather. Spring mornings can be surprisingly chilly.

Go to **trimet.org** or call **503-238-RIDE (7433)** for public transportation route information. For natural history information, maps, and directions for these natural areas, see the book *Wild in the City: Exploring the Intertwine*, available at Portland Audubon’s Nature Store.

### How to Register for Bird Song Walks

Please register through **Meetup**, a website/mobile application that facilitates bringing people with common interests together. Join by going to **meetup.com/Portland-Audubon-Outings** and clicking **Join Us**. You will find the full descriptions of these Bird Song Walks on the Meetup group. Contact Erin Law at [elaw@audubonportland.org](mailto:elaw@audubonportland.org) or call 971-222-6119 with any questions.

**Mondays May 7, 14, 21, 28**

**Tryon Creek State Natural Area**

**Leaders: Rick and Stephanie Wagner**

For more information about the location:

[oregonstateparks.org](http://oregonstateparks.org)

**Mondays May 7, 14, 21, 28**

**Gabriel Park**

**Leaders: Sarah Swanson and/or Max Smith**

For more information about the location:

[portlandoregon.gov/parks](http://portlandoregon.gov/parks)

**Tuesdays May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

**Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge**

**Leaders: Hailey Walls, Laura Whittemore and/or Mark Fitzsimons**

For more information about the location: [portlandoregon.gov/parks](http://portlandoregon.gov/parks)

**Wednesdays May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**Mt. Tabor Park**

**Leaders: Gerard Lillie, Meg Ruby, or Tom McNamara**

For more information about the location: [portlandoregon.gov/parks](http://portlandoregon.gov/parks)

**Thursdays May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

**Pittock Mansion**

**Leaders: Wink Gross and/or Diana Byrne**

For more information about the location: [pittockmansion.org](http://pittockmansion.org)

**Thursdays May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

**Rood Bridge Park**

**Leader: Steve Engel**

For more information about the location:

[hillsboro-oregon.gov/departments/parks-recreation](http://hillsboro-oregon.gov/departments/parks-recreation)

**Fridays May 4, 11, 18, 25**

**Kelley Point Park**

**Leader: Erin Law**

For more information about the location: [portlandoregon.gov/parks](http://portlandoregon.gov/parks)

**Fridays May 4, 11, 18, 25**

**Canemah Bluff Nature Park**

**Leader: Dan van den Broek**

For more information about the location: [oregonmetro.gov/parks](http://oregonmetro.gov/parks)

**Saturday June 9, 9:30am to 12:30pm**  
**City of Portland River Plan / South Reach Visioning Workshop**

The public is invited to share their ideas for the Willamette River South Reach’s future with community members and City staff. The project area stretches from the Ross Island Bridge (excluding South Waterfront) to and including the Dunthorpe neighborhood on the west side and Waverly Golf Course on the east. Workshop location TBA. For more information: Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability at 503-823-7700.

**Sunday, June 10, 10am to 1pm**  
**Ross Island Paddle**

**Leader: Mike Houck**

Enjoy a morning on the Willamette River, paddling through the no-wake zone on Holgate Channel, into Ross Island

lagoon, around Ross Island, and back to Willamette Park. In the lagoon we’ll see nesting Bald Eagles that took over what had been a large Great Blue Heron colony. The paddle is leisurely and suitable for beginning paddlers and families. You must provide your own life jackets and kayak or canoe.

Meet no later than 9:30am at Willamette Park Boat Ramp to unload and launch by 10am. Park entrance is at SW Macadam Avenue at SW Nebraska Street. Be sure to pay for parking and park in a car space, not a boat trailer space, or you will be ticketed! If you are renting a canoe or kayak from nearby Portland Kayak Company make sure you leave plenty of time to get your craft and be at Willamette Park at 9:30am sharp to put in. Portland Kayak Company: 503-459-4050, [www.portlandkayak.com](http://www.portlandkayak.com).



Great Blue Heron. Photo by Scott Carpenter



# Conservation

## Crows Falling From the Sky

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

On January 30, people walking in the King neighborhood of NE Portland witnessed a startling sight. As a group of crows flew westward across the city, birds suddenly began falling from the sky. Some were dead before they hit the ground. Others lay on the ground seizing and making distress calls before eventually dying. Dead and dying crows littered streets, sidewalks, and yards across at least a ten-block radius.

In all, a couple of dozen dead birds were collected, but we suspect that the toll was much higher. Reports indicated that there were many more dead birds over a larger area, and many birds would have fallen where they would be less likely to be found, such as backyards and rooftops. Additionally, many of the birds would have been scavenged by rats, cats, raccoons, opossum, and other nocturnal animals during the first night.

An event like this—dead and dying animals scattered across residential neighborhoods—has to be taken seriously. The concerns went far beyond the actual dead crows. Were the dead crows sick or contaminated in a way that could affect people, pets, or wildlife that came in contact with them? Was this the result of an intentional act that might be replicated, or an unintentional exposure that still presented an ongoing risk on the landscape? Local, state, and federal agencies, including the FBI, all responded to this situation. The public was instructed not to handle dead crows and to report any that they found. Portland Audubon added extra staff and volunteers so that sick or dead birds could be quickly removed from the environment.

It took two weeks before lab results came back, but the cause of death was identified: a neurotoxin called Avitrol®. The identification of Avitrol® was not a surprise; in fact it was what we suspected right from the beginning. The same product caused very similar events in downtown Portland and Bend in 2014, and was implicated in cities across the United States in recent years. What is surprising is that this product is even still on the market.

Avitrol® is a neurotoxin that is marketed a “humane” way to get rid of pest birds. The advertising suggests Avitrol® is simply a “frightening agent” and that birds that ingest Avitrol®-laced bait suffer seizures and emit distress calls that scare away other birds but suffer no pain. The small-print label, required by the EPA, and on-the-ground experiences in Portland and across the country tell a very different story.

Avitrol® is a restricted-use pesticide that can only be used by a certified pesticide applicator “due to acute oral and dermal toxicity and due to toxicity to birds and mammals.” The label also notes that most birds that react to Avitrol® actually die. Applicators are required to restrict the area in which Avitrol® is used from all people and pet access and maintain the restricted access until all affected birds are collected. However, one of the big problems with Avitrol® is that birds that ingest it often fly significant distances before the poison takes effect. Anybody who witnessed the crows in NE Portland falling from the sky, the contusions that they suffered as they slammed into the cement, or saw the dying crows lying on the ground twitching and screeching would be hard pressed to view this product as anything but cruel and inhumane.

The person who put out Avitrol® in Portland likely violated at least two federal laws: the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Federal Fungicide, Insecticide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). They caused the crows to suffer a cruel and inhumane death, and they put people, pets, and non-target wildlife at real risk of secondary exposure. Portland Audubon has put up a \$1000 reward for information leading to the identification of this person in Portland, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture continues to investigate.



Dead poisoned crows on the ground in residential NE Portland. Photo by Bob Sallinger

It is time, however, to go further. In 2000, the State of New York banned the use of Avitrol® in cities of over 1 million people. Other cities, such as Boulder and San Francisco, ban the use of all bird poisons within city limits. We are currently working with Commissioner Nick Fish’s office to investigate whether Avitrol® and other dangerous bird poisons can be banned in Portland, and in the next legislative session we will be working to pass legislation to address Avitrol® on a statewide scale. We are talking with groups at a national scale about what can be done to get this product taken completely off the market. This product is dangerous and inhumane, and puts people, pets, and non-target wildlife at risk. It has no place in our communities.

## We Need Your Help to Ensure the Portland Clean Energy Fund Initiative Makes the Ballot

Audubon Society of Portland is proud to be working alongside social justice and environmental organizations to put the Portland Clean Energy Fund\* (PCEF) initiative on the November ballot for voters to take local action and fight climate change while promoting social and economic equity in Portland.

The PCEF initiative would enact a 1% business license surcharge on the largest retail corporations in Portland and put those funds toward weatherizing homes, building rooftop solar, providing job training, growing local food production, and funding green infrastructure. A commission modeled after the Portland Children’s Levy would oversee proposals for the money and approve worthy proposals that provide these services to Portlanders who need it most.

PCEF is grounded in the community, crafted and led by groups representing the City’s communities of color, including Asian Pacific Network of Oregon (APANO); Verde; Coalition of Communities of Color; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP-Portland Chapter); Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA); and supported by conservation groups like 350PDX; Oregon Chapter of Sierra Club; Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility; and Portland Audubon. An additional 150 community organizations, businesses, and faith leaders have also endorsed it.

In order to make this happen we will need to collect more than 40,000 signatures from registered Portland voters



\*Formerly the Portland Just Energy Transition (PJET)

by July 6, 2018, and Portland Audubon is committed to doing our part.

- Help volunteer for this groundbreaking initiative!
- Sign up to collect signatures in your community or in teams. Contact **Micah Meskel** at [mmeskel@audubonportland.org](mailto:mmeskel@audubonportland.org) or 971-222-6128 to get involved (materials and training provided).
  - Come to Portland Audubon’s Nature Store to sign the PCEF initiative (Monday through Saturday, 10am–6pm, and Sunday, 10am–5pm).

This November we have an incredible opportunity to pass a ballot measure in Portland that will make a huge difference in the fight against climate change and social justice, but to do so we are going to need a huge grassroots effort in the coming months. So please sign up to help make it a reality.

For more information, including the full initiative text, checkout [bit.ly/PCEF2018](http://bit.ly/PCEF2018) (case sensitive).

## Plant Roots, Create a Habitat, Transform the World... One Yard at a Time

Audubon Society of Portland & Columbia Land Trust have teamed up to create a unique program that supports urban gardeners in their efforts to create natural backyard habitats. It’s through our collective efforts to revitalize urban landscapes that positive change is made. Together we make our cities a healthier place, for ourselves and for wildlife. Our community of Backyard Habitats is over 4,500 strong, and growing every day.



- We focus on the Five Elements of Backyard Habitat:
- Invasive Weeds
  - Native Plants
  - Pesticide Reduction
  - Stormwater Management
  - Wildlife Stewardship
- We currently work with sites throughout the cities of Portland, Gresham, and Fairview within Multnomah County, and Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, West Linn, Oak Grove/Jennings Lodge, Gladstone, Oregon City, Happy Valley, Damascus, and Wilsonville. If you live outside this area, contact us to join our waiting list and we’ll notify you as the program expands.

**Simply Enroll**  
We’ll send a technician over to assess your property, help you plan, and provide discounts for plants and materials. Learn more by visiting [backyardhabitats.org/apply](http://backyardhabitats.org/apply)!

More conservation issues need your help! Visit [audubonportland.org/issues/take-action](http://audubonportland.org/issues/take-action)



# Baby Bird Season: What You Need to Know

Spring marks the beginning of baby bird season, the busiest time of year at the Wildlife Care Center. Between April and August, the Care Center receives more than half of its intakes—most of which are baby birds.

“During baby bird season, we will go from getting up to five intakes a day to twenty or thirty per day. We see a massive volume,” said Wildlife Care Center Manager Lacy Campbell.

Some early nesters have already made their way into the Wildlife Care Center, including an Anna’s Hummingbird fledgling. This baby bird was found on the ground and brought in by a well-meaning individual who suspected that the bird had been abandoned. However, this was most likely not the case.

Most fledglings found outside the nest are not in danger, which is why every spring we ask people to brush up on what they should do if they encounter a baby bird they think might need help. Many folks are shocked to hear that, more often than not, the right answer is to leave the bird exactly where they found it.

Unless a bird is injured or we know for sure it has been orphaned, it is essential to leave it outside to learn from its parents. Removing young birds from the wild usually reduces their chance for survival and denies them the opportunity to learn skills they will need to thrive.

Knowing when to intervene can be challenging. While you may be inclined to care for a baby bird found on the ground, the majority of young don’t need human intervention.

**How do you know if a baby bird needs help?**  
Here are a few things to keep in mind:

**Most baby birds likely haven’t been abandoned**  
When you find a baby you think may be abandoned, odds are its parents are in the area.

“Adult birds don’t want to attract attention to their babies while you’re around, so they’re not there defending them like we think they should be,” said Campbell.

If you think the bird may have been abandoned, please keep in mind it can take several hours before parents return to the nest. Often parents will feed the youngster and then take off again so be aware that interactions can happen very quickly.

If you are afraid the babies have truly been abandoned or orphaned, call the Wildlife Care Center and be prepared to share a photo. Our trained experts will be able to advise you.

Clip out and save this useful flow chart!



This fledgling robin may spend a few days on the ground being tended by its parents. Photo by Heather Dawn

**Grounded baby birds are not necessarily in danger**  
It is normal for baby birds to spend time on the ground before they learn to fly. Many species, such as robins, scrub-jays, crows, and owls, leave the nest and spend two to five days on the ground before they can fly on their own. This is a vital part of the young birds’ development.

While on the ground, the birds are cared for and protected by their parents and are taught vital life skills (finding food, identifying predators, flying).

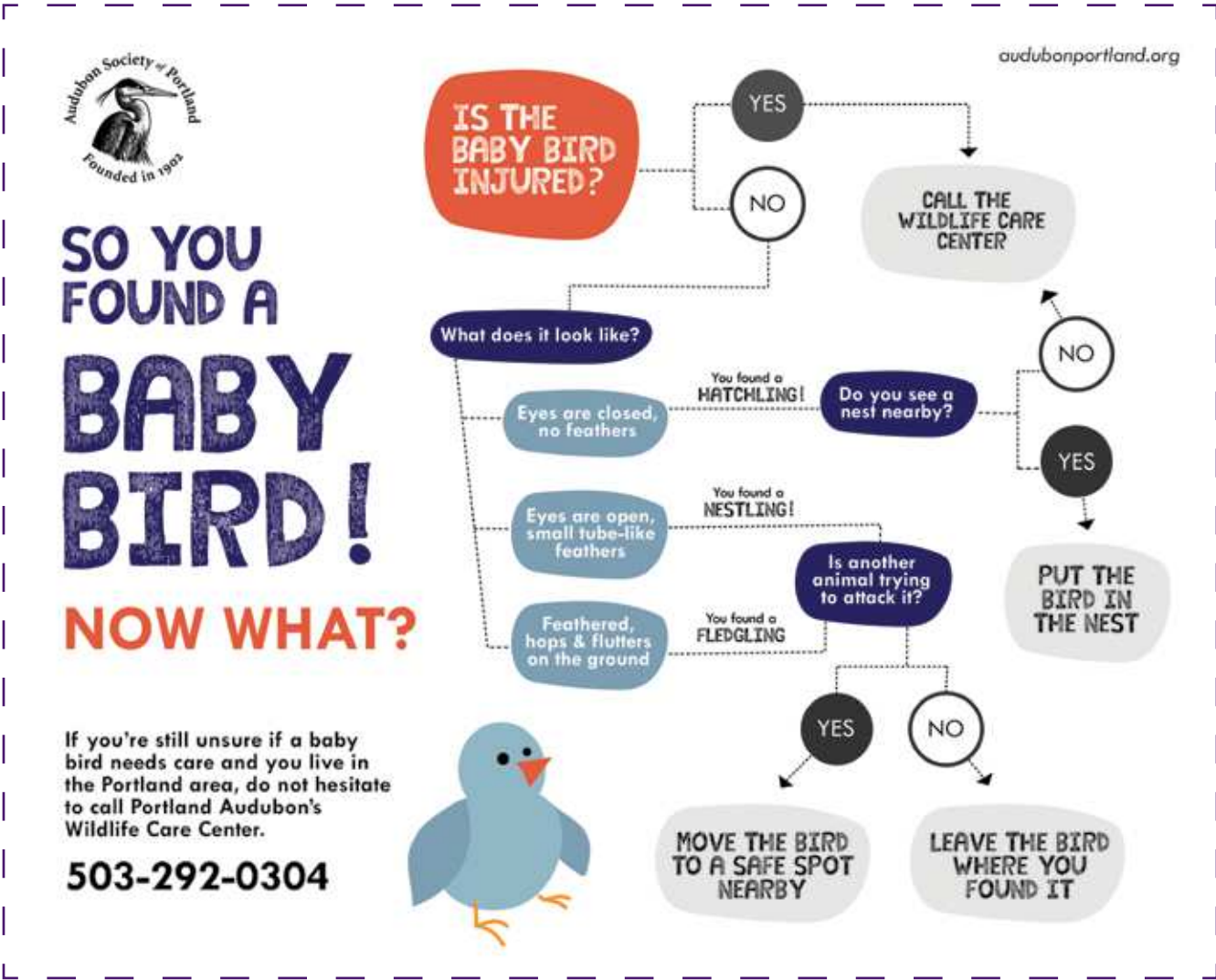
Exceptions: If a baby bird is in a high-traffic area like a walkway or road, or is in danger from pets, you can relocate it to a safe place nearby (within 50 to 100 feet) and remove any hazards in the area.

**Parents won’t reject babies that have come in contact with humans**  
In the event you need to relocate a grounded nestling to a safer place or back in its nest, fear not. Birds have a poor sense of smell and very strong parental instincts, which means they will usually continue caring for their young. However, adult birds are cautious after any type of disturbance and it may take several hours before they approach the nestling. During this period it is essential that humans not approach the nestling.

**Still not sure? Give us a call!**  
If you’re unsure if a baby bird needs human intervention, do not hesitate to call our Wildlife Care Center at 503-292-0304. We are open seven days a week from 9am until 5pm, and our experts will be happy to advise you.



Hungry chicks. Photo by Lauren Lark



## Take the Pledge to Keep Your Cats Safe at Home

by Steph Taylor, Community Organizer

Now that spring is here and baby birds will be leaving their nests and learning to fly, have you considered transitioning your cat to life indoors? According the Humane Society of the United States, about two-thirds of cats live indoors either all or almost all of the time. These indoor felines enjoy freedom from a laundry list of perils—diseases, parasites, automobile traffic, poisoning, our healthy population of urban coyotes, and simply getting lost.

Cat predation is also one of the most common reasons that birds are brought to our Wildlife Care Center. Each year our Care Center treats hundreds of birds that have been injured by cats. In fact some years as many as 40% of the wildlife seen at our Wildlife Care Center has been injured by cats.

Spring is when the highest number of cat-caught birds arrive at our intake desk. As sure as May follows April, baby birds leave the nest, sometimes in the clumsiest fashion. Many

will spend several days on the ground learning to fly, making them easy targets for free-roaming cats that find them easy pickings in all their fluffy clumsiness. One of the best way to protect baby birds **and** cats is to keep your cats safe at home.

Of course, the decision to keep your cat inside or out is deeply personal. But perhaps you attended our Catio Tour this fall, or have been following recent reports detailing domestic cats’ devastating impact on urban wildlife, and have been inspired to try giving your cat a new indoor lease on life. This spring, consider taking actions that protect both birds and cats.

**Take the Cats Safe at Home Pledge**  
Cats Safe at Home™ is a joint effort of Portland Audubon, the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, Washington County Animal Services, and Multnomah County Animal Services. We have a great website with lots of idea for how to keep cats safe and happy at home. If you are committed to the safety



of your cat and the lives of birds, please consider taking our Cats Safe at Home pledge and receive a free window decal that lets your neighbors know you are making the world a safer place for birds and cats: [catssafeathome.org/pledge](http://catssafeathome.org/pledge)



# Ecotours

We recommend booking early because trips often sell out. Deposit required to reserve your place. To register, please visit [audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult](http://audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult)

For registration questions:  
**Erin Law**, [elaw@audubonportland.org](mailto:elaw@audubonportland.org) or 971-222-6119.

For more information about any of our trips:  
**Dan van den Broek** at [dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org](mailto:dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org) or 971-222-6105 or **Erin Law** at [elaw@audubonportland.org](mailto:elaw@audubonportland.org) or 971-222-6119.

## Upcoming International Trips

### Northern Peru October 17–26, 2018

Explore the mountain cloud forests of Northern Peru, an area teeming with rare and endemic birds. On the same route we will be taking, a team from Louisiana State University broke the World Big Day record with 354 species detected in 24 hours. Come enjoy the incredible diversity of birds in this unique portion of Peru.



Sword-billed Hummingbird.  
Photo by Andy Morffew

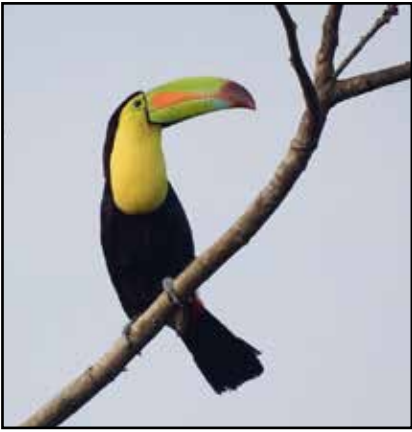
**Fee:** \$2,895 members / \$3,195 non-members

### Peru Extension: Cuzco, Sacred Valley, and Machu Picchu October 26– November 1, 2018

**Fee:** \$2,495 members / \$2,795 non-members

### Yucatán December 10–20, 2018

Join us on an exciting exploration of the biologically rich Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico. While we observe birds and other fauna, our excursions will be centered around a number of awe-inspiring archaeological sites in the heart of the Mayan Civilization.



Keel-billed Toucan.  
Photo by Mike's Birds

**Fee:** \$3,375 members / \$3,775 non-members

### Nicaragua January 26–February 6, 2019

Nicaragua is a relatively undiscovered birding gem in Central America. For a country slightly smaller than New York state, it has exceptionally high biodiversity and is home to over 700 bird species. We will explore a rich variety of habitats including lakes, rivers, cloud forests, and dry tropical lowlands.



Three-wattled Bellbird.  
Photo by Ryan Candee

**Fee:** \$3,595 members /  
\$3,895 non-members

### Jamaica February 9–17, 2019

Escape the cold, dark days of winter and join this unforgettable trip to the heart and soul of the Caribbean. White sand beaches, warm ocean breezes, turquoise-blue water... all this and more await you in this island paradise. Jamaica is home to 28 endemic birds and with a little luck, we will see them all!



White-tailed Tropicbird.  
Photo by Kansas Photo

**Fee:** \$2,995 members / \$3,295 non-members

## Upcoming Pacific Northwest Trips

More information available online at  
[audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult](http://audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult)

### Central Oregon June 28–July 1, 2018

Enjoy the summer in beautiful Central Oregon looking for local specialties! We will be working the different habitats of the area including sagebrush, shrub steppe, pine woodlands, and wetlands in search of White-headed, Three-toed, and Black-backed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Pinyon Jay, and Green-tailed Towhee.



White-headed Woodpecker.  
Photo by Seabamirum

**Fee:** \$845 members / \$1,000 non-members

### Grays Harbor Shorebirds September 14–16, 2018

This is one of the West Coast's best birding hotspots, where you can expect to see a bevy of shorebirds, and even some seabirds. Early September is peak shorebird migration time; we will look for Pacific Golden-Plovers, and even a Bar-tailed Godwit might turn up among the Marbled Godwit flocks in Westport.



Marbled Godwit. Photo by Bill Majoros

**Fee:** \$495 members / \$595 non-members

### Oregon Coast September 6–9, 2018

Go "behind the scenes" to learn more about the conservation initiatives taking place along the coast. We will explore the Elliott State Forest and Portland Audubon's Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary as well as visit the Hatfield Marine Science Center, Sea Lion Caves, and the Yaquina Bay State Recreation Area.



Yaquina head.  
Photo by Lessa Clayton

**Fee:** \$795 members / \$995 non-members

### Steens Mountain and Alvord Desert October 3–7, 2018

Steens Mountain is a spectacular natural area and especially beautiful in the fall. Rising to almost ten thousand feet high in the southeast corner of the state, it presides over alkali desert, oceans of sagebrush, and the wildlife-rich marshlands of the Malheur basin.



Steens Mountain eastside. Photo by Bureau of Land Management

**Fee:** \$895 members / \$1,095 non-members

### Looking for more travel opportunities?

Check out our Ecotours brochure online: [bit.ly/ecotours2018](http://bit.ly/ecotours2018)

**Fee includes:** Ground transportation, **double-occupancy** lodging, meals *except dinners*, entrance fees for planned activities and the services of your leaders. International trip fee does not include airfare.

A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible donation to the Audubon Society of Portland.

Portland Audubon's International Tours now include a Carbon Offset contribution that will go directly for the stewardship of our 150-acre Forest Park Nature Sanctuary. A flat fee of \$50 per person is included in the cost of these tours and will be used to maintain our trails, plant trees to help grow our native canopy, and sustain this special place for future generations. Thank you.

Portland Audubon tours are a lot of things, but one thing they are not are photographic tours... so please, no lens over 400mm unless approved beforehand by trip leader.



HOW TO REGISTER

1. Register and pay online. Visit [www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult](http://www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult) for class descriptions and registration instructions.

or  
2. Contact Erin Law, Adult Education Coordinator, at 971-222-6119 to register by phone.

Most classes are held in Heron Hall, located in the Audubon Society of Portland Interpretive Center, 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland 97210.

Questions? Contact Erin Law, [elaw@audubonportland.org](mailto:elaw@audubonportland.org) or 971-222-6119.

Check our website for upcoming classes not listed here!  
[audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes](http://audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes)

Bird Journals for Enjoyment

No art experience needed. Each class is complete in itself with a focus and exercises.

Instructor: Jude Siegel  
Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members, per session  
Limited to 16 participants per session

Design Elements for Your Bird Journal Pages  
May 5 (Sat) 10am–3pm: class in Heron Hall

Birds in the Field  
June 16 (Sat) 10am–3pm: class in Heron Hall

Beginning Birding

May 25 (Fri) 7pm–9pm: class in Heron Hall  
May 27, June 3 (Sun) 8am–11am: local field trips

Instructor: Laura Whittemore  
Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members  
(class with field trip, limit 14)  
\$14 class only



Bewick's Wren. Photo by Scott Carpenter



Black-headed Grosbeak. Photo by Scott Carpenter

Birding by Ear

Instructor: Laura Whittemore  
Fee: \$115 members / \$145 non-members, per session  
Limited to 14 participants per session

Migrants  
May 9, 30 (Wed) 7pm–9pm: class in Heron Hall  
May 12, 26, June 2 (Sat) 7am–10am: local field trip

Nesting  
June 6, 20 (Wed) 7pm–9pm: class in Heron Hall  
June 9, 16, 23 (Sat) 7am–10am: local field trip



Song Sparrow. Photo by Scott Carpenter

Introduction to Bird Language: A Path to Awareness

July 8 (Sat) 8am–3pm: local field trip

Instructor: Mark Fitzsimons  
Fee: \$60 member / \$80 non-member  
Limited to 14 participants



Yellow Warbler. Photo by Mick Thompson



Black Turnstone. Photo by Molly Sultany

Fall Shorebird Identification

July 26 (Thu) 6:30–8:30pm: class in Heron Hall  
July 28 (Sat) 7am–5pm: local field trip

Instructor: John Rakestraw  
Fee: \$95 member / \$115 non-member  
Limited to 12 participants  
\$14 class only

Summer Camp 2018 at Portland Audubon

Here are a just a few of the camps we'll have this summer!  
To see all of our camp sessions, visit [audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/camps](http://audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/camps)

Grades  
9th–12th

Counselor in Training Program  
June 18–21

Learn valuable leadership skills and begin a career in the field of Environmental Education. After this four-day training, you will be able to sign up as a Counselor for a minimum of two weeks this summer. Get an introduction to the art of tracking, birding, and wilderness awareness. Learn the tricks of the Environmental Education trade, including storytelling, camp songs and fun outdoor games. By the end of the program, you will have the tools you need to become an excellent and effective Camp Counselor. This program is selective and based on experience. We love to have former campers back as counselors! Current Adult and Child CPR certification is required for participation.  
Please call 971-222-6120 for an application form



Grades  
4th–5th

Learning to Fish & Feast (Overnight Wed–Fri)  
Week 3: Jul 9–Jul 13

You cast your bait into the cold waters of a mountain lake. As you patiently wait, you feel a bite on your line and focus on the challenge that has begun. You hope it will end with you holding a beautiful fish in your hands.



We will fish and feast by visiting local lakes to learn the basics of angling, and then on Wednesday we'll venture to the Columbia River Gorge for a two-night adventure staying at the secluded group camping site at Beacon Rock State Park. The Gorge is a perfect jump-off spot for fishing some of the stocked lakes in the area. We'll even keep some of the fish that we catch and teach you how to clean and cook a delicious dinner.

Pick up/Drop off Location: Upper MacLeay Park  
Fee: \$375 members/\$395 non-members

To register, go to [audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/camps](http://audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/camps) for online registration or to download a registration form.

Grades  
6th–8th

Herpetology 103  
Week 10: August 27–31

Become an expert on the fascinating world of amphibians and reptiles as we learn the ways of a true Herpetologist. Overturn rocks of local Oregon streams, and plunge your hands into the cool runoff from Mt. Hood as we search for some of the most elusive amphibians in the world. Learn how to identify Red-legged Frogs, Coastal Giant Salamanders, and many snakes of the Pacific Northwest. We'll spend two nights at the secluded group camp site of Beacon Rock State Park exploring all of the "herptiles" that the Columbia River Gorge has to offer.  
Pick up/ Drop off Location: Wallace City Park  
Fee: \$375 members/\$395 non-members



Grades  
1st–2nd

Gnome Homes  
August 20–24

Step into the world of the fabled Gnomes of the Pacific Northwest as we explore the mystery and folklore of these mythical creatures. Prepare yourself to scour the forest searching for the elusive woodland Gnomes, build homes to attract these little creatures, and make your very own Gnome hat.  
Pick up / Drop off Location: Audubon House  
Fee: \$315 members/\$335 non-members



Audubon East Explorers at Portland Arthur Academy

Go to [saturdayacademy.org/catalog/audubon](http://saturdayacademy.org/catalog/audubon) to register, or call Saturday Academy at 503-200-5858.

Grades  
2nd–3rd

Let's Go Birding July 9–13

Learn how to identify and appreciate the wonderful, colorful birds that call Portland home. Spend time learning how to use binoculars to search out our feathered friends, and build your own bird feeder to take home and attract them to your own yard. Take time with your new flock to create various art projects to complement your new bird knowledge!  
Fee: \$320 members or non-members



# Field Notes

by Harry Nehls

## The Dynamics of Breeding Songbird Territories

In Oregon, local breeding birds begin returning to their nesting territories while the spring migration is still passing northward. Adult males do not migrate as far as females and take every advantage to return to their nesting sites as soon as possible.

Among songbirds, the males arrive on their nesting territories several days before the females. By the time the females arrive most territories are established and are strongly defended. In most cases it is the size and quality of the nesting territory, not the male defending it that determines where the female is going to nest that year. Of course, the older, most aggressive males defend the most desirable nesting territories.

The territorial songs of the male bird proclaim that he has staked out a territory and will defend it. The female searching for a nesting territory hears the singing male and checks out the territory. If it is not up to her standards she moves on, leaving it for a less choosy or inexperienced female.

During the nesting season, territorial males begin singing about a half hour before daylight. For the first hour or so the songs are loud and persistent. In some woodlands this

morning chorus is so overwhelming that it is difficult to identify any single singer.

Singing becomes subdued but still persistent to about 8:00 am, when it drops off significantly. The males continue to defend their territories throughout the day but sing only intermittently.

Why this early morning explosion of sound? During this period unmated birds wander through the woods looking for unused territories, or for breeding birds that have lost their mates. Lost mates are usually replaced within one or two days. Most of the unmated birds spend the remainder of the day in nearby areas away from the nesting territories.

Although the territorial male strongly defends the female and its territory, “floater” males regularly sneak behind the defending bird to mate with the female. As a result the defending male is often not the parent of the young produced.

In a healthy breeding population all available breeding territories are used. In good years the breeding range expands, with even marginally good territories defended; in poor years it contracts, with only the best territories being used. Even in the best years not all of the population nests. Up to 30 to 35 percent remain as unmated floaters.



Song Sparrow. Photo by Ray Walton

Most of these floaters are birds in their first breeding season. Others are birds in poor health or those not motivated enough to compete. Songbirds are capable of nesting their first spring season, but most are incompetent breeders and often fail. Many of the floaters may only nest during the best years, and some individuals never attempt to breed at all.

## Sightings

While migrant birds in spring may be observed as early as mid-February, most pass through Oregon during the last week of April and the first week of May. During that period thousands of birds can be seen in a day, including species that are seldom seen at other times of the year. The numbers drop rapidly during May, but many birds are still moving north to mid-June.

On March 11 a bright male **Rufous Hummingbird** was at Courtney Appleyard’s feeder in Lake Oswego for the first report in the Portland area. The next day Lona Pierce reported one in Scappoose. Martin Jaqua reported the first female Rufous on March 27.

**Tree Swallows** are the first migrant swallow flocks to be found in Oregon. It is said that they migrate early to defend their nesting sites before other cavity nesters claim them. On February 13 a large flock was seen over Hagg Lake south of Forest Grove. A major swallow movement in late February brought **Violet-green, Rough-winged, Cliff, and Barn Swallows**. On March 26 Jim Danzenbaker reported a male **Purple Martin** at its nest site at Ridgefield NWR.



Rufous Hummingbird. Photo by Scott Carpenter

On March 14 Andy Frank reported a **Mountain Bluebird** and three **Western Bluebirds** at Powell Butte Park in east Portland. The next day Art Clausing saw a **Vesper Sparrow** there.

Throughout the spring a **Harris’s Sparrow** was seen among a sparrow flock north of the Troutdale Airport. On March 10 Justin Cook photographed a **Common Redpoll** at nearby Company Lake.



Western Bluebird. Photo by Hayley Crews

An immature **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found March 4 along the Crown Zellerbach Trail in Scappoose Bottoms. It may be the bird that wintered at Commonwealth Lake in Beaverton. On February 22 Bob Flores reported two **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** at Ridgefield NWR.

Most unexpected was the **Slaty-backed Gull** Colby Neuman found February 18 on the docks at Rainier. Nick Mrvelj and Philip Kline got several excellent photos.

## Volunteer of the Month: Devon Rehse

by Abby VanLeuven, Environmental Educator

Nearly 40 years ago Devon fell in love with Great Blue Herons. She hadn’t paid much attention to birds before then, but the spectacle of a magnificent heron flying so close was the catalyst for her love of birds and wildlife. This love ultimately brought her to a Portland Audubon Open House, where she thought it would be “very cool” to get a tour of the Wildlife Care Center. When she found out that not only would she be able tour the WCC but also volunteer there she immediately expressed an interest to Deanna Sawtelle, then our Volunteer Manager. Deanna warned her that she would be cleaning out cages and prepping mice for bird meals, but Devon replied, “I don’t care! I get to work with fabulous wild birds! I’ll clean all the bird poo you need me to!” Since 2013, Devon has put in 1,331 volunteer hours cleaning cages, prepping mice, implementing RaptorMed, going out on rescue calls for Wild Animal Rescue and Transport, handling Education Birds, and helping with our Ed Bird program. Her enthusiasm, dedication, and patience with our ever-changing schedules has been an important contribution.

A self-titled “little old lady from Pasadena,” Devon was born in Southern California and moved up to Portland with her family in 1969. After earning her MBA, Devon



Devon Rehse. Photo by Portland Audubon

realized that nature and birds were still her calling and has found many volunteer opportunities to help wildlife. She loves sharing her passion for birds with all people, including her two-month-old grandson, who she’s already teaching to birdwatch!

Thank you, Devon, for all of the hours you have given the organization and your continued commitment and excitement!

## Thank You to:

- Archery Summit Winery for Estate Tour with Tasting and bottle of wine
- Carl Zeiss SBE, LLC for M58 Photo Adapter
- Jane Camero for *Birds of Oregon* book
- Lisa Camfield for two pairs of Orion binoculars
- Gregg Everhart for thirty-six 4" California poppies
- Jana Fussell for frozen berries and hazelnuts
- Mark Greenfield for Manfrotto 128LP Tripod
- Robin Jensen for tripod and rubber gloves
- Tracy Johnston for cleaning supplies
- Alan Locklear for jumper cables
- Ray Michimoto for eighty *Trillium ovatum*s
- Ginnie Ross for fruit and veggies and gift card
- Linda Speaker for A Bird Couple
- Candace Sweeney for Fred Meyer gift card

## Our Wish List

<b>For Administration:</b>	<b>For Education:</b>
Auditory assistance devices	Leupold McKenzie
Sit/stand desks	8x42mm binoculars
Commercial-grade or high-quality vacuum	Scope
Birthday cards	Tripod
Wine and beer	
<b>For Sanctuary:</b>	<b>For Wildlife Care Center:</b>
Loppers	Science Diet Kitten Growth
Trowels	Bleach
Hand saws	Dawn dishwashing detergent
Work gloves	Exam gloves (latex or latex-free)
	Small leather work gloves
	Kevlar animal handling gloves

If you can donate these items, please first contact Portland Audubon at 503-292-6855 ext.102, Mon-Fri, to arrange a time for delivery/pick-up.



## Members Receive a Discount at the Nature Store!

Here you'll find books, hiking & field guides, binoculars & spotting scopes, bird feeders & seed, plus gifts & toys for adults & children, all with a nature theme. Plus, **Portland Audubon members receive a 10% discount off regular prices.**

## Optics Focus: Vortex

The new, improved Vortex Viper HD spotting scope is one of the most exciting releases of 2018. Updates and new features give this scope the feel of a high-end spotting scope, without the high-end price tag.



The Viper HD comes in two sizes: a 20-60x85 (member price \$989.99) and a 15-45x65 (member price \$764.99). New features include a smooth helical-style focus dial allowing for crisp, fine-tuned focusing and a slimmer profile, and a fantastic HD optical system with fully multi-coated lenses that perform great in low-light conditions. The Viper HD also has excellent eye relief, rubber armoring for extra durability, and an adjustable collar that allows for comfortable multi-angle viewing. As always, the Vortex Viper HD spotting scope comes with Vortex's lifetime, unlimited, no-fault, transferable warranty.



The Nature Store carries a wide range of other Vortex spotting scopes and binoculars. One of our most popular models is the Diamondback. Just like the Viper HD spotting scope, the Diamondback series of binoculars offers quality and durability at a great price. Ranging in size from the compact 8x25 (member price \$170.99), to the mid-size 8x32 (member price \$215.99), to the full-size 8x42 (member price \$242.99) and 10x42 (member price \$251.99), the Diamondback series is sure to have a binocular that fits your needs. Stop by the Nature Store to check out our full line of Vortex Optics products!



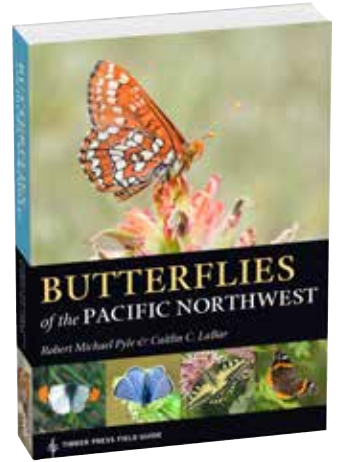
## Author Event

### Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest, with Robert Michael Pyle and Caitlin LaBar

Wednesday, May 23, 7–9pm

Portland Audubon's Heron Hall, 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland, OR 97210

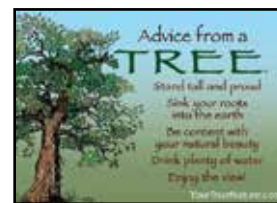
Join noted lepidopterist and founder of the Xerces Society **Robert Michael Pyle**, along with geographer and photographer **Caitlin LaBar** as they talk about their new collaboration, *Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest, a Timber Press Field Guide*. Easy to use and beautifully illustrated with more than 600 color photographs and nearly 200 maps, this guide is a must-have for nature lovers in Washington, Oregon, western Idaho, northern California, and British Columbia.



During the evening presentation, the authors will share stories from the field, talk butterfly natural history and how to get the most enjoyment from your butterfly walks, and sign copies of their book.

## It All Started with Advice from a Tree...

The Nature Store is proud to introduce Your True Nature's *Advice from a Tree* series of products, including bookmarks, magnets, postcards, and notepads. With funny and witty bits of advice from your favorite animal or part of nature, these high-quality paper products are sure to please. Your True Nature is also an environmentally conscious company committed to protecting our planet and inspiring a love for nature. Your True Nature supports nonprofits and schools, uses fully recycled products, and is 100% replanted. Your True Nature's bookmarks (member price \$2.70) and magnets (member price \$4.50) also make great gifts. Find your favorite *Advice from...* quote at the Nature Store!



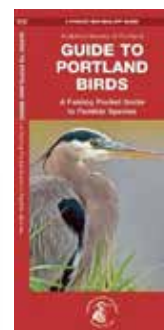
## Get Your Hike On!

Ready to get out and hike this spring? The Nature Store has what you need to hit the trails rain or shine. Grab a rain poncho (member price \$2.25) to throw in your backpack, or check out Sunday Afternoons' durable and breathable Rain Shadow Hat to keep off the rain and sun. The kids can bring along their own pair of Carson's Hawk 5x30 binoculars and Toysmith's 5-in-1 Survival Compass (member price \$2.56). And don't forget to grab the laminated and lightweight fold-out *Guide to Portland Birds!* From lightweight binoculars that fit in your backpack, to hiking poles to help you up the hill, let the Nature Store help you get set for your next adventure!



Carson Hawk 5x30 Binoculars  
Regular price: \$21.00  
**Member price: \$18.90**

Toysmith's 5-in-1 Survival Compass  
Regular price: \$2.99  
**Member price: \$2.56**



Fold-out *Guide to Portland Birds*  
Regular price: \$6.95  
**Member price: \$6.25**



Rain Shadow Hat by Sunday Afternoons  
Regular price: \$49.00  
**Member price: \$44.10**

Wilcor Survival Walking Stick with Rope and Whistle  
Regular price: \$19.00  
**Member price: \$17.10**



## Kids' Story Time at Portland Audubon!

Join us in the Interpretive Center on the third Sunday of the month, from 1 to 2 pm for Kids' Story Time! We will read a nature-themed picture book that leads into a fun activity. Story Time is geared towards kids 3–6, but all are welcome to join. Call the Nature Store, 503-292-9453, for more information.

### Sunday, May 20, 1–2pm With Your Paw In Mine by Jane Chapman (Tiger Tales, 2018)

Miki, an otter pup, loves to snuggle on her mama's tummy. And Mama holds Miki's paws while she teaches her how to swim. While Mama is out gathering food, Miki meets another otter pup named Amak, and the two become best friends. Then a terrible storm rages in the ocean, and Miki and Amak hold each other's paws tightly. Will it be enough to keep them safe?



### Sunday, June 17, 1–2pm (Father's Day) Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers (Philomel Books, 2018)

Insightfully sweet, with a gentle humor and poignancy, here is Jeffers' user's guide to life on Earth. He created it specially for his son, but with a universality that embraces all children and their parents.



## New Books for Hikers of All Ages!

### 50 Hikes in the Tillamook & Clatsop State Forests (Ooligan Press, 2018)

Regular price: \$20.00  
**Member price \$18.00**

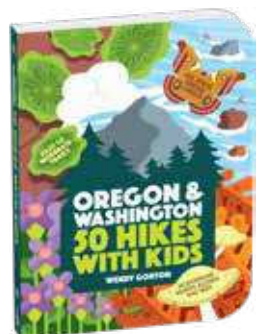
Lace up your hiking boots and explore the Coast Range! Less than an hour's drive from downtown Portland, but still largely untrodden, the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests are two of Oregon's best kept secrets. Now, members of the Oregon Sierra Club have combined their knowledge to bring adventurers the essential guide to these beautiful, secluded hikes.



### 50 Hikes with Kids: Oregon & Washington by Wendy Gorton (Timber Press, 2018)

Regular price \$19.95  
**Member price \$17.95**

Handcrafted for Northwest parents, educators, and caregivers that want to spark a love of nature, *50 Hikes with Kids* highlights the most kid-friendly hikes in Oregon and Washington—all under four miles with an elevation gain of 900 feet or less. Some are even accessible by stroller. Not just an outdoor guide book, *50 Hikes with Kids* will help busy, modern families nurture a life-long appreciation and reverence for the natural world.





# In Memoriam: Tom McAllister 1926–2018

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

As I drove across immense expanses of sagebrush sea that carpet eastern Oregon on my way to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge this morning, I had time to reflect on Tom McAllister, who passed away on March 12, 2018, at the age of 91. This trip, like many that preceded it, was in part inspired by him. It was Tom and his lifelong friend, eminent biologist Dave Marshall, who sat me down when I became conservation director at Portland Audubon and told me of Audubon’s work since 1902 to protect Malheur and the surrounding landscape at places like Steens Mountain and Hart Mountain. They wanted me to understand the legacy and responsibility I was inheriting.

A conversation with Tom was always a journey, an adventure, a precise and detailed stream of consciousness filled with people, landscapes, history, botany, geology, geography, and above all else, birds. It was at the same time fierce and folksy, daunting and inspiring. It left you with a sense of deep reverence for Oregon’s wildlife and wild places, the work that has been done to protect them, and the work that still needs to be done. He could tell you exactly what birds he saw on a trip 50 years earlier, were he saw them, and what they were doing. He was a throwback to the great naturalist-activists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who grounded their conservation in a deep and profound understanding and appreciation of the natural world and possessed an uncanny ability to convey that appreciation and knowledge to others.

When Tom passed away, Oregon lost a unique and powerful voice for conservation. Many longtime Oregonians will remember him as an outdoor writer and editor, first at the *Oregon Journal* and later at the *Oregonian*, where he told the stories of Oregon’s wildlife and wild places from 1953 until his retirement in 1992. From a childhood spent exploring and documenting the wilds of Portland (his article “Hometown” in *Wild in the City* provides a fascinating view of Portland as it transitioned from “howling wilderness” to modern city) to a career marked by being an activist in and chronicler of many of the major conservation events in Oregon over the course of nearly a century, Tom saw it all. Claire Puchy, former executive director of Portland Audubon and longtime friend of Tom’s, once asked him the secret of his longevity and impact. His answer was, “Just keep moving.”

Tom’s influence is written across the landscape, from his role as president of the committee appointed by Governor



Tom McAllister

Tom McCall to nominate rivers for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, to his 30-year membership on the Oregon Geographic Names Board, his advocacy for protection and restoration of our wild landscapes and wildlife, and his founding and leadership roles in many of Oregon’s conservation and outdoor-recreation organizations. Mike Houck points to Tom’s efforts to protect local treasures like Oaks Bottom, Tryon Creek, and the Sandy River Gorge. The list is expansive. Bill Monroe of the *Oregonian* did an outstanding job of capturing Tom’s long and storied career (“Oregonian outdoor writer passes on his next, greatest trek,” OregonLive.com, March 12, 2018).

To Portland Audubon, Tom was family. He joined in 1938 at the age of 12 when he attended his first Audubon lecture at the Multnomah County Library, where the community heard from great naturalists of the era. It was also at this lecture that Tom met his lifelong friend, Dave Marshall. Together, Dave and Tom were undoubtedly Portland Audubon’s longest serving active members. Tom was active right up until his final days, participating in Christmas Bird Counts, delivering marathon lectures, and participating in the dedication to Dave Marshall of a new nature center at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge. Shortly before his passing, he wrote in response to an invitation from our executive director, Nick Hardigg, to an Oregon Historical Society event honoring Portland Audubon founders William and Irene Finley, and Henry Bohlman: “I would love to be there to enjoy the evening and share in this tribute to our founders. Unfortunately I am in the hospital and won’t be out in time. Hate to miss it. You and the birds are much better company.”



Tom on Sauvie Island with former board member Jane Hartline and former executive director Claire Puchy.

As I travel across eastern Oregon in a fast car on good roads, my mind thinks back to one of the last times I saw Tom. We were attempting to tape some of his stories, but before we could hit record, his mind and words had already begun flowing across the Oregon landscape. He told of traveling to Malheur as a child in a caravan of Auduboners. The cars were slow, the roads were primitive, there were no mechanics along the way, so they brought their own mechanic and repair vehicle. He talked of the great naturalists who traveled with them, the birds they saw, the people they met, the conservation challenges they faced. I imagine Tom and Dave out there now, telling stories, looking for birds and hopefully knowing that the work they did and the stories they told inspired generations to follow.

## Summer Camp 2018: When Kids & Teens Inspire Us

Continued from cover

*survive the frigid waters Orcas call home. After hearing the story of humans, many would perhaps pity the landlubbers for their ignorance and inaccessibility of the great waters, and would gawk in disbelief if I told them of my experience in the sea (which I previously believed to be a lot!). Although the cetaceans would certainly ridicule the flaws of people, they would still relate, because they themselves had had pitiful experiences on solid ground, for as many human families had lost members to sea leading vessels, as had Orca pods incorrectly reading sonar and attempting to catch prey on land. They would certainly not laugh at the tale of the practices of humanity today—pollution, coral bleaching, poaching, and urbanization. The story of oiled seas, stripped ecosystems, and acidic waters would imminently spell danger and worry across their minds as all hope would seem lost. “But do not fear,” I would explain. I would then tell the tale of conservation, the tale of beached whales rescued, that of bays being cleaned of litter, and those of constructed wildlife refuges. I would tell of the crowd of activists ready to bring the world to a better future, one step at a time. This is the story of hope, and the main tale I would tell to the cetaceans, the tale that all Orca-kind would pass on for generations.*

For this writing activity, we gave the campers the start of the first sentence: **I recognize that Orcas are special, and if I had one story to tell them...** The goal was to write as much as they could in 15 minutes. The above piece was written in the San Juan Islands just hours after a sighting of



about 22 Orcas moving through the Salish Sea. We thank Reed for being willing to share his journal entry.

Summer camps come in all shapes and sizes. Parents wade through our many exceptional offerings and are constantly looking for the right fit for their child. At Portland Audubon, we will only deliver a program if we can deliver it with the highest quality and with the lowest ratio of instructor to camper (1 to 6). Portland Audubon’s focus on these goals not only keeps campers connected to the natural world in real and meaningful ways but also helps us to create a continuum that includes campers who have become counselors...who have become interns...who are now Environmental Educators...who inspire kids to love and protect nature.

Summer is coming! To see all of our camp sessions, visit [audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/camps](http://audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/camps)



Relaxing in a catio. Photo by Tinsley Hunsdorfer

## Showcase Your Outdoor Cat Enclosure in the 6th Annual Catio Tour

Calling all Catios! Do you have a Catio that should be showcased? Planning is underway for our **2018 Catio Tour, Saturday, September 8**, and we’ve opened our casting call for your cat-loved creations. From functional to fabulous, be sure to submit your Catio to be part of this annual event!



The tour has gained enormous popularity over the past five years and seeks to inspire cat owners to build or buy their own outdoor cat enclosure so their felines can exercise and bask in the sun safely—while also protecting wildlife from cat predation.

Visit [CatsSafeatHome.org/catio-host](http://CatsSafeatHome.org/catio-host) to submit your Catio for consideration.

Then get ready for a pawsitively fun day around Portland with fellow cat lovers while getting inspiration to build your own dream catio! This one-day, self-guided event will raise awareness and excitement around the Catio craze, directly resulting in a safer environment for cats and birds!

Hosts, volunteers, and staff will be on hand to provide tour and program information. Our tour promotes the Cats Safe at Home Campaign founded by Audubon Society of Portland, Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, and the Animal Services of Multnomah and Washington Counties.

Tickets will be available in June, and we’ll post updates on our Cats Safe at Home Facebook page as well at [CatsSafeatHome.org](http://CatsSafeatHome.org).



Joy of Giving
A Soaring Heart Leads to a Gift
for Birds and Critters

by Donna Wiench, Donor Relations Manager

"I was present for the rehabilitated Bald Eagle release in Tom McCall Waterfront Park in February 2016, a breathtaking sight that made my heart soar! So, this year I am pleased to make a gift from my IRA designated for the Wildlife Care Center."
—Marcy Jacobs

One of the simplest ways to reduce taxes while supporting Portland Audubon (or other nonprofits) is to give through an IRA. Contributing via an IRA can happen as soon as the donor is old enough to begin withdrawing money, although a distribution is mandatory starting at age 70 1/2 and is called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Even with the new tax law limiting deductions, donors can realize tax benefits by using their traditional IRAs for donations.

This is the approach Marcy Jacobs decided to take. Marcy served three Oregon governors, handling recruitment and expansion of companies in the Portland region for the Oregon Economic Development Department. Today she hikes, rides her bike, and takes birding trips with Portland Audubon when not volunteering.



The eagle release that inspired Marcy to give. Photo by Tom Schmid



Donor Marcy Jacobs enjoys birding, bicycling, hiking, and using tax-efficient ways to give to Portland Audubon.

Marcy gave through her IRA by directing the company that holds her account to send a check straight to Portland Audubon. By doing that, she didn't have to pay taxes on the money disbursed. Why? Because Marcy never actually received a payment, she didn't have to count the money as income.

When Marcy makes her IRA gift, she can designate it for conservation, education, operations, or whatever she most wants to support. "I visited the Wildlife Care Center a few years ago and was so impressed with work that is done there with injured birds and other critters," she said.

Making a donation through an IRA is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Marcy says, "Although I have made contributions from my taxable income in the past, the QCD has benefit of reducing my taxable income without having to worry about itemizing deductions or adjusted gross income limitations. I am glad that with all the changes to the tax code, this opportunity for giving remains in place."

If you have questions, please talk with your financial adviser, or contact me, Donna Wiench, at 971-222-6116 or dwiench@audubonportland.org.

We gratefully acknowledge
these special gifts:

In Memory

Roger Bachman
Diane Benjamin

Spencer Higgins
Joy Dabby

Terry Cone
Angie Stromquist

Marvis Jenkins
Anne Squier

Iris Fournier
Barry Blair
Ruth Eckblad
David and Patti Ponzer
Brenda and Robert Mills
and Family

Henry Kemper
Terry Collins
Truman Collins
Cherida Smith

Antoinette Orr
Mary Monnat

Amy Frank
Anonymous (4)
Julie Durkheimer
Ronald and Rebecca
Eiseman
Eliza Erhardt-Eisen
Ray Guggenheim
Alice and Paul Meyer
Paula Overbeck
Mary Shepard and
Stephen Early
Michael and Jim Richman
Alice Rogan
Loree and Ken Sakai
Stephanie Siegel
Sanny Snell
Martha and Les Soltesz
Lynn Tobias and
Chet Edwards
Ed and Joyce Tyler

Nancy Rutan
June Fleming

Robert Scott
Marguerite Fitzpatrick

Lynn Sharp
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Jon and Angela Greenblatt
Betsy Weinberg

Ron Spencer
Tammy Spencer
Norma Stubbs

In Honor

Andrew Frank
Eve and Alan Rosenfield

Mandy Sims
Tammy Sims

Cynthia Grant
Sarah Epstein

Sadie Walsh
Esperanza Walsh

Brodie Lewis
Andrea Schwartz

Honor a special person in your life with a significant gift that's meaningful to you. They'll be listed in the Warbler and sent a songbird card acknowledging the donation. Just visit our website, or call 971-222-6130.

In Memory of Ursula K. Le Guin
October 21, 1929–January 22, 2018

Anonymous (2)
Virginia Clark
Laura Dong
Ann Dvoretzky
Janet Grove
Stephen Lacey

Teresa Miller
Peter McDonnell
Harriet F. Monkhouse
Daniel Stiepleman
Catherine Wallach

Special thanks from writer Ursula K. Le Guin's family and Audubon Society of Portland go to these donors who made a gift in her honor. Per the wishes of Ursula's family, these gifts will support Portland Audubon's long-term collaborative efforts at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and the surrounding landscape.

Audubon Society of Portland's Wildlife Care Center not only has treated more than 80,000 native wildlife and answered more than 250,000 wildlife "911" calls, but has also helped us better understand issues affecting wildlife, like window strikes, cat predation, and lead poisoning.

By making a gift today, you are helping save lives and ensuring that Portland Audubon can address issues affecting wild animals through critical advocacy and outreach efforts.



Donate today:
audubonportland.org/support



Join Our Flock — Become a Member

Your membership dollars support our Conservation, Education, and Wildlife Rehabilitation Programs! Memberships help us protect native birds and their habitats, and come with perks such as discounts on classes, camps, and trips and in our Nature Store. You can join online at audubonportland.org/support/membership, in our Nature Store, or send in this handy form.

- I want to become a member
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Your Name
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(first check or credit card number enclosed)

Payment Method

- My check, payable to Audubon Society of Portland, is enclosed.
Please charge my: Visa MasterCard Discover

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Expiration Date: /

Join online today! audubonportland.org/support/membership



# BIRDATHON 2018

## Counting 38 years strong!

Ever wish your hours spent birding could help save the lives of birds? Then join us for Birdathon! It's like a walk-a-thon, but so much better. Friends, family members, and coworkers pledge money for you to find and count birds...something you'll likely be doing anyway this spring. Register today and know that every bird you spot will raise funds for their protection! There is still time to register.

Birdathon veteran and trip leader **Hailey Walls** shares why she thinks every birder should participate:

**You get to meet other birders.** I've met several friends on Birdathon teams over the years, and I've met more experienced birders that I could turn to for help finding and identifying birds. It's a perfect way to find birding buddies and mentors.

**You'll bond with your team members.** Travel time is filled sharing great birding stories, bonding over nemesis birds, and talking about dream birding destinations. You also get the joy of working together to accomplish a goal, and you create new stories together.

**You'll learn about "secret" birding spots.** They often incorporate a lot of personal birding hot spots – a field behind a warehouse that always has a pheasant, a Best Western parking lot that tends to get great birds at the feeders—the seasoned birders putting together the routes know the strange spots that won't show up in a birding guide.

**You discover that birding can happen anywhere, anytime.** Finding an unexpected warbler species at a bathroom stop or defending why the woodpecker that flew over the car as you drove through the woods was "definitely a hairy and not a downy" is a huge part of the excitement.



Soggy Bottom Birders. Photo by Tim Donner

**Birdathons are exciting, and every bird is new.** Because Birdathons are about seeing as many species as possible, each and every one counts. Common birds are new again for experienced birders, and your team celebrates them right alongside you.



**You will have a chance to watch more experienced birders ID many different species.** Most Birdathon teams have members with a wide range of experience levels; you aren't likely to be the only new birder, your new birder eyes will help the team find species they may have overlooked, and you can watch your leaders search for specific species and explain their identifications to the team.

**You'll be able to celebrate your wonderful birding day.** It's really satisfying at the end of the trip to spend some time with your new friends reliving the amazing moments and making plans for the next one over a meal or a beverage.



Wild Turkeys. Photo by Anne Sammis

Per Hailey's advice, we invite everyone that raises \$75 or more to celebrate with us on June 15 at the **Birdathon Celebration Dinner!** Birdathon participants and supporters will be eligible to win prizes and enter raffles for items from dozens of local businesses. Doors will open at the **Portland Hilton Pavilion Ballroom** at 6pm.

We'd love to see each and every Audubon Society of Portland member participate—join a team, make a pledge to a friend or relative, or simply make a Birdathon donation. Together we all count to protect birds and wildlife across Oregon:

**Donate online at [Birdathon.audubonportland.org](http://Birdathon.audubonportland.org)** or use the pledge envelope included in this *Warbler*. **Join a team**—there are birding trips for any level of birder. See the great trips with available space below, find out how to create your own team—or just fly solo! Follow the links at **[Birdathon.audubonportland.org](http://Birdathon.audubonportland.org)**.

### Featured trips with space still available:

**The Great Big Sit**  
**Sunday, April 28, 8am–3pm**  
The perfect Birdathon experience for beginning birders with **Corrinne and Bryan Crawford**.

**Millennial Falcons**  
**Sunday, May 27, 8am–12pm**  
A trip for birders 30 and under, with **Erin Cathcart** at Fernhill Wetlands.

**Jackson Bottom Ramblers**  
**Saturday, May 5, 7am–12pm**  
Birding with **Steve Engel** at this Important Bird Area.

**Full-Day Trips**  
**Mult Madness**  
**Thursday, May 3, 6am–7pm**  
**Wink Gross** and **Andy Frank** lead a tour of birding hotspots in Multnomah County.

**Register now for these trips and others at [audubonportland.org](http://audubonportland.org) and follow the links to Birdathon**

**Report your Birdathon adventures and follow us at [#BirdathonPDX!](https://twitter.com/BirdathonPDX)**


**Portland Sneak Creepers**  
**Sunday, May 6, 8am–3pm**  
Behind-the-scenes critical habitat exploration with **Micah Meskel**.

**Whittemore's Whatzits**  
**Sunday, May 13, 7am–6pm**  
**Laura Whittemore** and **Mark Fitzsimons** visit William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge.

**New Team! Blue-crested Corvids**  
**Sunday, May 20, 7am–2pm**  
Join **Meg Ruby** and **April Brown** as they bird the avian specialties found in hotspots of the Columbia Confluence.

**New Team! Team Starlight**  
**Sunday, May 20, 9am–3pm**  
Explore Sauvie Island, and finish the afternoon with some casual birding and a picnic at **Tony Starlight's** Multnomah Channel floating home community.

**Road Runners**  
**Sunday, June 10, 9am–3pm**  
Our Bicycle Birdathon is back with **Adam Kinnard**, **Youn Hann**, and **Abby VanLeuven**.



## Audubon Society of Portland

*Inspiring people to love and protect nature since 1902*

*Audubon Society of Portland promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of native birds and other wildlife and their habitats. We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest.*

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The Audubon Society of Portland is a member of Earth Share of Oregon. For more information, contact Earth Share of Oregon at 503-223-9015 or on the web at [www.earthshare-oregon.org](http://www.earthshare-oregon.org).

## BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Through their business practices and financial contributions, the following businesses are helping advance our mission and protect Oregon's birds, natural resources, and livability. If you would like to become a member of the Audubon Society of Portland Business Alliance, please contact our Development Director at 971-222-6116.



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