Audubon Society of Portland

2011–2012 Annual Report







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Why do birds matter? Over the past year, this is the question I have returned to time and time again as our chapter developed its new strategic plan, considered litigation and explored program and capital expansions.

It's a question that provokes a myriad of responses. Some are personal, others are practical, and all are correct.

For me, birds matter because they are beautiful, intriguing and inspirational. They are indicators of a healthy environment. Here — and around the world — birds are often the first way people connect to nature and other wildlife.

At Audubon Society of Portland, we do what we do because birds matter. This annual report presents just a few of those things we do because birds matter to all of us. They matter to the people committed to protecting not only our most common birds, but birds that require special habitats. They matter to those people dedicated to connecting children to the natural world, and to those who view a healthy community as one where native birds, wildlife and people flourish together.

This report tells the story of Diego and Elvira, two young adults who are residents of the Bienestar Housing Development Corporation. After five years of participating in our summer camp program, they now have a solid connection to Portland Audubon, a strong commitment to preserving the natural world and know how to build and engage their larger community through birds and nature. Birds matter to them.

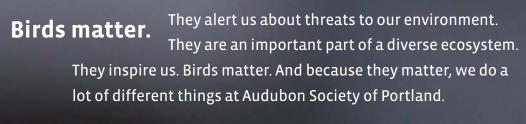
These pages describe five of Oregon's iconic birds, their unique characteristics and their important habitats. This report also highlights the people who have made fighting for those birds and habitats their life's work: Dave Marshall, whose boyhood birding expeditions and 50-year career championing wildlife is such a person. Bob Sallinger, who began as an Audubon volunteer 20 years ago and is now this region's fiercest advocate for native birds and habitats, is another. Birds matter to these people.

Birds matter. Why? Because they migrate across continents as well as cultures? Because they are good for our economy? Or just because they are "cool"? For whatever reason: Birds matter. We celebrate them with the things we do each and every day at Portland Audubon.

Meryl Redisch, Executive Director

Meryl Rodisch





We reach out to people and educate...

...so that people connect to nature, to enjoy and understand.

We protect and steward...

...to sustain wildlife and habitats for the coming generations.

We advocate and partner...

...to push back against threats to our natural environment.

Every action we take is because birds matter. Birds are what connect us to our work, our future and each other. We see this connection throughout Portland Audubon, from our committed, creative staff to our 13,000 members and supporters who actively protect and enjoy our native wildlife.

Here are the stories of what we do. As you read them, remember why we do it. Birds matter.

Connecting the World Around Us

The tiny Rufous Hummingbird migrates up to 3,500 miles, twice a year — a familiar visitor to communities, from Mexico to Alaska.



A high-pitched whine from across the garden. A flash of rusty-red and a tiny Rufous Hummingbird speeds past your face. That unmistakable whine? Not a song, but the sound of his wings beating, a call to proclaim his territory. This fierce migrant arrives in our region around mid-February, sometimes staying to breed, but often just stopping off for a few weeks to rebuild fat stores and muscle tissues before continuing to Alaska. By late August, the hummingbirds are headed south to Mexico, a migration that spans up to 3,500 miles.

This small hummingbird can be found in a wide variety of habitats, including our backyards. They are our most common and wide-ranging hummingbird — a familiar visitor to communities in every US state and most Canadian provinces.

A hummingbird is uniquely specialized. To survive a drop in temperature, it can reduce its energy



needs, slowing its heart rate to around 50 beats/minute. When the temperature rises, its pulse returns to a resting 250 beats/minute, soaring to 1,250 beats as it flies.

Its wings move in a figure-eight, allowing it to hover at flowers to feed on nectar. Its head contacts each flower species at a specific point, allowing the hummingbird to pollinate different species, as it moves, flower to flower. Thus, the hummingbird plays an integral role in sustaining our natural landscape.

Rufous Hummingbird



March 26, 1806: Meriwether Lewis records sighting of Rufous Hummingbird at the mouth of the Columbia River.

- Weighs about the same as a penny, 1/8 ounce.
- Consumes half its body weight in nectar each day.
- Flies forward, sideways, up, down and even upside down. It is the only bird that can fly backward.
- Travels non-stop as far as 650 miles.
- Arrives in or passes through western Oregon mid-February. Heads back to Mexico by late August.

Habitat Matters

Long-term monitoring shows many of the bird species still considered "common" in our state have seen significant declines over the past 40 years. The Rufous Hummingbird is one of 40 common Oregon birds with a population decline greater than 50 percent. Portland Audubon protects common Oregon birds in many ways, from increasing awareness through our educational programs, to protecting critical nesting and migratory habitat through our Important Bird Area program.

Igniting a Passion for Nature

Beaver chew. Scat. Bird calls. The children move slowly through the woods, searching for signs of animals.

Little by little, they uncover the mysteries of nature. They check a field guide and determine which plants are edible. They break down the "wall of green" into hemlock, salal and Oregon grape. They listen. They ask questions. They begin their journey into nature.

During Camp Explorador, Portland Audubon's community summer camps, children get the chance to explore the natural areas in their own neighborhoods and beyond. Designed to reach Latino and other under-represented youth, the week-long camps bring hands-on environmental education to more than 200 campers — and their families — each summer.

Portland Audubon connects to these communities through partnerships with community development corporations (CDCs), non-governmental organizations that provide a range of affordable housing services. We partner in Washington County with Bienestar CDC; in northeast Portland with Hacienda CDC; and in southeast Portland with Rose CDC.



Counselors for Camp Explorador come from inside the neighborhoods. Diego Almonte, 14, was a camper for three years before becoming the program's youngest counselor.

"It's a great experience, coming to Camp Explorador," he says. "Kids have the privilege to see great animals, great views and to go to great places."

But Camp Explorador is not just about getting kids out into the woods. It's the first step in igniting a lifelong passion for the campers. "What wilderness skills are they going to build that will last them a lifetime?" asks
Steve Robertson, Portland Audubon
Education Director. "What level of
comfort in nature can they achieve and
take away that will make them more
likely to return to the woods to continue
building their relationships with nature?"

Several years ago, Elvira Lemus came to Camp Explorador. Today she has a leadership role, already a seasoned counselor at age 17. "I feel special, teaching kids about nature and plants. This year we saw two coyotes at Hagg Lake and we saw some deer at the

Audubon Sanctuaries. Seeing the campers' reactions was really fun. They get so excited."

Campers explore nearby natural areas. For some, it's their first step into the nearby "wilderness" of Jackson Bottom Wetland in Hillsboro or Leach Botanical Gardens in southeast Portland.

"It's a great experience for the little kids. It's a way to get them out of their daily schedule and away from all the electronics," Elvira says.

Elvira will be a senior this year at Forest Grove High School. She'll take her study of the outdoors inside, into her Advanced Placement Environmental Science class. She hopes to return to Audubon next summer as an intern. Like many of the Explorador campers, her parents immigrated from Mexico. "They weren't really interested in nature there," she explains. But here in their new home, the family camps together. Her older brother was an Explorador counselor, as well. As a family, they've connected to nature.

Protecting Critical Habitat

A billion birds will travel the Pacific Flyway this year. Important Bird Areas provide healthy habitat for their journeys.

The Pacific Flyway stretches from the Bering Strait to Central and South America. This year, hundreds of millions of birds will pass through Oregon during their north and south migrations.

Still, this number of birds is just a fraction of those that used the flyway a century ago. Habitat loss, water shortages due to diversion for agriculture and development, diminishing food sources



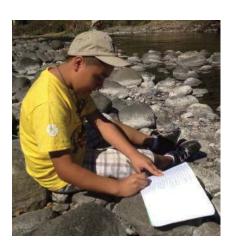
and climate change all threaten the birds who travel this popular route.

One of the many ways Portland Audubon works to protect the birds traveling through our region is through our Important Bird Area (IBA) program. Across Oregon, IBAs identify 3.4 million acres of critical breeding, wintering and migrating habitat for birds.

In December 2011, three Oregon IBAs nominated by Portland Audubon were designated as Globally Significant in BirdLife International's Global IBA Program. That means that these IBAs are ranked among the highest priority sites in the world for conservation action.

Our new globally significant IBAs are: Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Oregon Canyon and Trout Creek Mountains, and the Marbled Murrelet Central Coast IBAs. There are 449 Global IBAs around the world.

The global designation helps focus limited conservation resources on these top-priority areas. It not only directs



decision-making, but can also leverage funding and emphasize the imperative role the IBA plays in hosting birds, whether for breeding, migrating or overwintering. Taken together, IBAs form a global network of critical habitat.



Education and Outreach

Making many connections in many ways.

- > Nearly 1,300 children participated in our 80 **thematic, week-long camps.**
- > Explorador and Audubon Nature Teams, our community-based summer camps, reached more than 210 students and 400 family members.
- In schools, over 5,200 students participated in our traveling programs. Our field trips welcomed 1,800 students, and 1,550 students explored our forests on Sanctuary tours. A total of 10,554 student connections!
- > More than 630 adults studied topics including Trees in Winter, Wildflowers in Oregon, Fall Hawk Migration and Butterflies 33 classes in all.
- > Beginners to experts honed their birding skills, including 43 people in our School of Birding, three school quarters of classroom and field study.
- > Eco-Tours took travelers to 13 wildlife hotspots across the state and around the world from Steen's Mountain to Ecuador's Cloud Forest. Related carbon offset fees contributed \$3,000 to our Sanctuaries Stewardship Fund.

- > Volunteers and staff led 1,400 birders on **Audubon Outings**.
- > Morning Bird Song Walks at local natural areas welcomed 1,200 early risers.
- > Our **Portland Audubon Speakers' Bureau** presented 23 talks in the community at Leach Botanical Gardens, Jack London Bar, REI and Umpqua Bank about backyard birds, hummingbirds, swifts and migration.
- > Our **Birding Weekends** and **Road Scholar Programs** helped over 200 people enjoy birding around the region.

Connecting Wild to Portland

A return from the brink of extinction for Peregrine Falcons and a greater understanding of urban wildlife for Portlanders.



Hear the collective gasp during Swift Watch, and you know a Peregrine Falcon is hunting for dinner. Thousands of Vaux's Swifts headed into their chimney roost at Chapman School are easy pickings for the local peregrines. For the hundreds of Portlanders watching the sunset ritual, a peregrine chase is an exciting spectacle.

The Peregrine Falcons at Swift Watch are resident all year, as are many in Oregon below 4,000 feet in elevation. These efficient flying machines nest in cliffs above 75 feet, usually within a mile of some form of water. In Portland, they nest on bridges, mimicking the monolithic cliffs they favor in the wild. Fremont Bridge and St. John's Bridge are now two of Oregon's most productive nest sites.

Male peregrines are about the size of an American Crow; females are larger, comparable to a Common Raven. Their pointy, swept-back wing silhouette is a dependable field characteristic.

In the mid 20th century, nesting Peregrine Falcons virtually disappeared in the Continental United States completely from Oregon. Use of the pesticide DDT caused peregrines to lay eggs with thin shells which cracked during incubation. In 1972, DDT was banned. In 1973, Peregrine Falcons were listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Portland Audubon played an integral role in recovery efforts. After decades of work, peregrines were eventually delisted at both the state and federal level. Today, Peregrine Falcon populations are doing well, but vigilance is still needed.

Peregrine Falcon



In 1970 there were no breeding pairs in Oregon. Today there are more than 160 nest sites across the state.

- The fastest animal on earth. Reaches up to 240 miles per hour when diving for prey.
- One of the most widespread birds in the world. Breeds on every continent, except Antarctica.
- Of the 160 known nest sites in Oregon, 11 are in the Portland metro region
- In June 2012, the 58th peregrine fledged from the Fremont Bridge in downtown Portland, a site which has been occupied since 1994.

Portland's Urban Landscape Matters

We're surrounded by more than bike lanes and skyscrapers. Sitting on the confluence of two major rivers, our city has always been a biodiversity hotspot, teeming with wildlife. Owls nest in our city parks. Coyotes roam our streets. Peregrine Falcons fledge from our freeway bridges. And every fish that uses the 10,500 square mile Willamette River system passes through downtown Portland at some point in its life. More than 200 bird species migrate through the area, up and down the Pacific Flyway. Portland Audubon helps people step up and play an active role in protecting this biodiversity.

Recovering a Species

Two Peregrine Falcons nest on the Fremont Bridge. The phone rings at our Wildlife Care Center. Can Portland Audubon help?

It was 1994 when that phone rang.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) was calling. Two Peregrine Falcons were nesting on the Fremont Bridge — a first for Portland. "Would some of your people be willing to come down and keep track of them?" With that phone call, Peregrine Watch was born.

When peregrines first nested in Portland, it was proposed that their eggs be relocated into a nest on Mt Hood. "There was a sense that urban environments were just too dangerous and peregrines were too endangered to risk losing the productivity," says Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon's Conservation Director and the person who answered that first call from ODFW. At the time, there were only 26 nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons in Oregon and the species was still on both the federal and state endangered species lists.



"But at Portland Audubon we thought it was important to leave the peregrines in place and give people the opportunity to see an endangered species, to appreciate, firsthand, why recovery is so important," he says.

"And we wanted urban people to step up and take responsibility, to recognize that we have a role in protecting wildlife. Those are the values that underscore Peregrine Watch." Almost 20 years later, the Fremont Bridge nest site has produced more young than any other site in Oregon since the recovery began. This year, four young fledged, for a total of 58 birds since 1994. Portland Audubon's 12 Peregrine Watch volunteers booked over 150 hours tracking the population around Portland.



Navigating the Urban Maze

Making Portland safer for birds who fly through our urban skies.



Portland Audubon is at the forefront

of making our urban environment safer for the animals who call our city home. The urban landscape holds many dangers, as that very first fledgling from the Fremont Bridge site in 1994 discovered. Within a week of taking her first flight, the young peregrine collided with a window on East Burnside. After a month in rehabilitative care, recovering from internal injuries, she was released back to the wild. Her tale is one of survival — but that's not always the case.

Window strikes kill up to a billion birds each year in the United States. Our own Wildlife Care Center takes in 200 – 300 victims of window strikes annually.

Portland Audubon is working to reduce that number. Between 2009 and 2011, our citizen scientists combed Portland's streets during predawn surveys, searching for victims of window strikes, gathering and recording data about the problem.

This year, with a grant from the US Department of Fish and Wildlife, we launched a new Resource Guide for Bird-friendly Building. Intended for architects, planners, local authorities and homeowners, the guide details the the nature and magnitude of the threat to birds by unmarked glass and provides solutions for designing structures to reduce this threat. As the Portland metro region grows, this resource guide will help make both new and existing buildings friendlier to birds.

The new guide is just one more way that Portland Audubon is reaching out to companies, organizations, local governments and Portlanders to protect the wildlife that inhabits or passes through our city.

"I think people are beginning to understand the importance of these urban landscapes," says Sallinger.



Living with Urban Wildlife

What do you do if you find a baby bird, fallen out of its nest?

Where can you go if you come across an injured raptor on the side of the road?

The Audubon Society of Portland Wildlife Care Center is the oldest and busiest wildlife rehabilitation facility in Oregon. Each year, the care center treats 3,000 orphaned, sick and injured native birds and other wildlife, with the goal of returning them back to life in the wild. Operating under permits issued by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Care Center is a valuable resource for the Portland region, providing professional care to the public free of charge, 365 days a year.

We began wildlife rehabilitation in the 1930s (before the term "wildlife rehabilitation" even existed) when the Audubon Sanctuary caretakers started taking in injured wild animals. Our current facility, built in 1987, includes full wildlife veterinary and rehabilitation service, a wildlife diagnostics laboratory, indoor and outdoor flight cages, and housing for eight non-releasable educational birds and one non-releasable educational turtle. Staff veterinarian, Dr. Deb Sheaffer, and Operations manager, Lacey Campbell, lead a team of 100 dedicated volunteers.

Spring time, also known as "baby bird season," is a busy time as our small facility is often full to the brim, and our staff and volunteers work three shifts to take care of our patients' needs. Imagine feeding a hungry baby every 15 minutes and multiply that by 100....



A larger goal of the Care Center is educational. As urban areas continue to grow, the number of encounters between humans and wildlife increases. Each animal "intake" is an opportunity to inform the concerned Samaritan about why the animal had to be brought to us and what strategies they can take to reduce or eliminate these threats. Additionally, each year, the center responds to 15,000 inquiries, phone calls and emails, about living with urban wildlife.

Guests are welcome to stop in and visit the Care Center lobby and courtyard, meet our non-releasable educational animals, watch wildlife surgeries through our observation windows, and check out the interpretive displays in our lobby.

Wildlife Care Center

Addressing conflicts between people and wildlife.

- > **Concerned citizens** contacted our Urban Wildlife Resource Center 15,000 times for advice on how to live alongside urban wildlife.
- > A thousand spectators witnessed **30 birds and animals** get a second chance at life in the wild at public releases.
- > Our forum to release the Resource Guide for Bird-friendly Building, in partnership with the City of Portland and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, brought together architects, planners, developers, business owners and bird enthusiasts with national experts on bird-friendly building.
- > **Generous donors and bidders** raised \$7,000 for our Care Center in the second annual Call of the Wild Online Auction.

- > Our Care Center, the busiest rehabilitation center in the region, welcomed **400 visitors** during our annual open house.
- > A hundred volunteers worked longer hours including a third shift to navigate baby bird season, in spring and summer.
- > Eight domestic geese and 21
 domestic ducks at Westmoreland Park
 were transported to permanent homes
 during September's Duck Round Up, a
 collaboration between Portland Audubon,
 US Department of Agriculture and the
 Portland Bureau of Environmental Services.
 These previously abandoned waterfowl
 would have been displaced during the
 restoration of Crystal Springs Creek.

Connecting to the Future

Our grassroots conservation efforts protect critical habitat for species such as the Greater Sage Grouse.



Greater Sage-Grouse can really strut their stuff. These iconic birds, resident to large portions of southeast Oregon, are probably best known for their elaborate courtship displays. Males gather in late February at traditional strutting grounds called leks. In a dramatic display, the male sage grouse

inflates two yellow air sacs underneath his white breast feathers, fans his pointed tail feathers and erects the plumes on his head. Strutting forward, he produces a series of wing swishes, air sac pops and a whistle. Each display lasts only a few seconds, but males display repeatedly over several hours.

Sage hens appear at the leks weeks after they begin. Most of the mating is accomplished by one or two males. After mating, the males have no further role in reproduction, leaving the leks by mid-May. Clutches hatch in late May to mid-June. The downy chicks are able leave the nest within a day, and fly within two weeks or so.

During spring and summer, Sage Grouse can eat insects and forbs, such as desert parsley, hawksbeard and clover. For much of the year, however, sagebrush is the only food available. Greater Sage-Grouse require large expanses of sagebrush with healthy, native understories. Relying on the plant for both food and cover throughout the year, they are affected by anything that disturbs sagebrush-dominated habitat, from degradation to fragmentation and, of course, loss to development.

Greater Sage-Grouse



Greater Sage-Grouse rely on sagebrush for both food and cover throughout the year. From late fall to spring, sagebrush is the only item on their menu.

- > Largest grouse in North America.
- > Sometimes called sage hens or sage chickens.
- > Males gather each year for elaborate courtship displays.
- > Strong fliers for short distances, they usually get around by walking.
- > Adult sage-grouse have dark-green toes.

Conservation Matters

Steens Mountain is one of Oregon's most treasured landscapes — not just for its unparalleled vistas, but for its sage-steppe and meadows of grass, forbs and shrubs, habitat and home to Greater Sage-Grouse. In April 2012, after years of unsuccessful negotiations with developers, Portland Audubon and Oregon Natural Desert Association filed a lawsuit in Federal Court opposing an industrial-scale wind development there. Audubon supports wind development and is working to ensure it's done in a responsible way. This is one important step in that process.

Progressing from Awareness to Advocacy

Our members bring a wide range of talents and backgrounds, engaging in an equally diverse menu of projects at Portland Audubon

Connecting people with nature is a very powerful tool. It's a tool that can educate our next generation of citizens. It's a tool that can change the landscape of our neighborhoods. And it's a tool that can protect our wildlife and habitat.

Our members come to us through camps or restoration projects. They engage with nature through the Wildlife Care Center, through raptor releases, through classes and trips. They enter Portland Audubon through a hundred different doors, bringing a depth of experience and understanding.

Our members are not just names on a list. From citizen science projects to communicating with elected officials, a remarkable percentage of Portland Audubon members are actively engaged. This year they volunteered 38,563 hours.

"Portland Audubon is more than just a conservation organization. We're a community of people who love and understand nature," says Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director. "I think that's what makes us remarkably effective as an advocacy organization. We can move people to appreciate what's around them — and then get them involved to protect it."

Portland Audubon is active on the local, state and federal level. "We work the entire continuum," says Sallinger. "We bring a lot of influence because of that broad sweep of participation."

From the waters off Oregon's Coast, through the coastal forest, across Portland's urban landscape, to the desert ecosystems of eastern Oregon, Portland Audubon and its 13,000 members are a leading voice in promoting conservation of wildlife and habitat.

In today's world, with unprecedented pushback on environmental protection, that strength is important. "The reason we're able to stand up for wildlife and habitat protection comes from our very powerful grassroots system," says Sallinger. But advocacy alone is not enough.

In citizen science projects, our members collect data to help track, understand and manage our local wildlife populations. They restore our Sanctuaries, for an invasive-free trail system. Our members educate people of all ages in outreach programs. They write thoughtful letters to decision makers. And they perform myriad



administrative roles, supporting our wide range of activities.

"We get an incredible amount done with enormous help from our strong and dedicated volunteer base," says Sallinger.

Every volunteer hour adds to our conservation efforts across the state — and each volunteer begins by connecting to nature.

Advocating as a Career Choice

Lichen samples. A girlfriend with an injured falcon. A VW van. A dog. Everyone comes to Portland Audubon by a different path.

Ask Bob Sallinger what led him to Portland Audubon and he'll answer with an absorbing tale, peppered with curious details. Then ask him what's kept him here for over 20 years...

It was 1992 when Sallinger began volunteering in the Wildlife Care Center. After he was hired as an Assistant, he progressed to Manager, and then Director of the Care Center. After 10 years, he became Urban Conservation Director, and now is Conservation Director for Portland Audubon.

"I never planned to spend my entire career in one place," he says. "The fact is, the job has evolved tremendously from those early days

of working with injured animals and the public, to today where I'm much more focused on policy work."

When Sallinger came to the Wildlife Care Center, it was not integrated into other Audubon programs. Sallinger, however, saw the Center as an important complement to Portland Audubon's education and urban conservation programs.

"These animals were coming in injured and orphaned — and each had its own story to tell about the challenges of living in proximity to people. Their releases provided educational opportunities to get people excited about the wildlife around them," he says. "Plus, the Care Center served an incredible cross-section of the community. I knew we could learn from them and that would help inform all of our work."

It wasn't long before the Living with Urban Wildlife Program was born, pairing the Care Center with Portland Audubon's urban conservation efforts. "We not only fixed the injured animals that came to us, but we documented the problems they faced in an urban



landscape and developed strategies to address those problems."

About that time, Peregrine Falcons arrived in Portland. Since the first phone call from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sallinger has been an integral part of Peregrine Watch. In fact, the first 20 years of his career chronicle both his and Portland Audubon's long-term commitment to protecting wildlife. "One of the first issues I worked on outside the Care Center was West Hayden Island," says Sallinger. Today, as Conservation Director, he leads the drive to protect the island and is engaged in Portland Audubon's conservation efforts across the city and state.

"This is an incredibly diverse job with diverse people. It's a job that lets me rappel from bridges and work with injured birds, but on the same day work on very complex policy issues and litigation strategies. I love the fact that I've been able to keep that visceral connection to people and to wildlife, while also working on policy," he says.

"Being able to go out in the field, to connect with wildlife and connect with people, is something that Audubon encourages. It serves as a continual reminder of why this work is so important. It's constantly informing our policy decisions."

In two decades, his work — and life — have seen many successes. The girlfriend with the injured Prairie Falcon? She's now his wife. They have two children.

"When I started here you couldn't see a Peregrine Falcon flying overhead. Now, every time my kids and I go over the Fremont Bridge, they point them out."

"So we can make progress. There is hope."



Conservation

Making a difference across Oregon

- > We led efforts to protect **West Hayden Island** an irreplaceable 800-acre
 natural area at the confluence of the
 Willamette and Columbia Rivers from
 unnecessary industrial development.
- > We enrolled our 1,400th property in the Portland Audubon-Columbia Land Trust Backyard Habitat Conservation Program. Spanning more than 285 acres, we are working to restore our **urban landscape**, one backyard at a time. Since 2009, 161 properties have been certified, planting nearly 2,900 native trees and shrubs.
- > We published *Wild in the City:* **Exploring The Intertwine**, the definitive guide to **Portland's natural areas**.
- > Working with a core team of Intertwine partners, we developed, wrote and released the first Regional Conservation Strategy, a roadmap for future conservation efforts in the **Portland-Vancouver Metro Region**.
- > We organized a coalition of community groups to develop and fund implementation of a master plan for Nadaka Nature Park in Gresham.
- As the Portland Harbor Superfund Process enters its final stages, we are working to clean up and restore the Willamette River to health, for people and wildlife.

- > Our citizen scientists tracked the health of avian populations throughout **the region**, monitoring Peregrine Falcons for the 19th consecutive year and conducting the 113th annual Christmas Bird Count.
- > Our Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 Conference, in partnership with Lewis
 and Clark College's Department of
 Environmental Law, brought national
 and international experts from
 government, industry, and environmental
 organizations to Portland to explore ways
 to strengthen bird conservation laws.
- > Along with the Oregon Natural Desert Association, and represented by Guardians of the West, we launched a lawsuit to protect **Steens Mountain**, one of Oregon's natural resource treasures, from industrial-scale wind energy development.
- > As part of a core group working to develop a long-term management plan for **Malheur National Wildlife Refuge**, one of North America's premier bird refuges, we focused on invasive carp, which have reduced the productivity of the refuge's wetland by as much as 90 percent.
- > We continued decades of effort to protect and restore Northern Spotted Owls, fighting rollbacks of **habitat** protections and commenting on proposals to control threats from Barred Owls.

- > We worked with partners to ensure water deliveries to **Klamath National Wildlife Refuge** to keep the refuges critically important wetlands from going dry during spring and fall migratory periods.
- > We partnered with Cascadia Wildlands, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Crag Law Center to initiate litigation to protect coastal old-growth forests and stop the illegal take of murrelets in the Tillamook, Clatsop and Elliott State Forests. We intervened in a timber industry attempt to remove Endangered Species Act protections for the Marbled Murrelet.
- > We worked to reform **Oregon**'s ecologically irresponsible trapping regulations, among the worst in the United States, to protect wildlife from cruel and indiscriminate traps.
- > We continued to watch over Oregon's marine reserves program, protecting marine environments for the sea and shore birds that depend on them. Thirtyeight square miles were added this year to create a total of five marine reserves at Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, Otter Rock, Cape Perpetua and Redfish Rocks.

Connecting to Nature's Mysteries

One of the last ornithological mysteries in North America, the first Marbled Murrelet nest wasn't discovered until 1974 — or was it?

It's always exciting to solve a mystery — especially a mystery of nature.

Although the Marbled Murrelet was first described in 1789, for years legend claimed that the first North American nest was found in California in 1974. A closer search of records shows that the first North American nest was most likely found in Alaska, 40 years earlier. Bottom line: The bird's secretive behavior eluded ornithologists.

A member of the alcid family — which includes puffins, guillemots and murres — Marbled Murrelets spend most of their time at sea, feeding on small, forage fish such as herring and Pacific sardines. But the Marbled Murrelet is unique among alcids: It is the only tree-nester. They'll fly over 40 miles inland to find the perfect nesting site. This combination of nesting and feeding habits requires a protected habitat, connecting forest and ocean.



Mature, old-growth forests are essential for successful nesting sites. A Marbled Murrelet doesn't build a nest, but deposits her egg on a large, mossy tree branch, in a natural depression. The birds prefer trees that are 300 – 800 years old, with branches large enough to accommodate their eggs. Additionally, predation from corvids, such as jays and ravens, is a significant threat to murrelet populations. Murrelets need large interior forest areas, without fragmentation, to avoid this hazard. During breeding they are primarily crepuscular, active at dawn and dusk.

Both sexes incubate the egg, but they work in shifts, switching places at dawn or dusk.

Marbled Murrelets do not nest every year, but when they do, they have high site fidelity, returning to the same tree or stand to nest. Making sure that same site remains protected, year in and year out, is a priority for the conservation community, including Portland Audubon.

This year, we partnered with others to initiate litigation to protect coastal old-growth forests and stop the illegal take of murrelets in the Tillamook, Clatsop and Elliott State Forests.

Marbled Murrelet



Marbled murrelets spend most of their time at sea, but fly inland to nest in trees.

- > Small: About the size of a robin, 10" average length.
- > Speedy: Flies up to 50 mph.
- > Spends most of its time at sea, but nests inland in mature and old-growth coastal rainforests.
- > Dives under water to capture prey, using its wings to swim
- > The highest concentration of murrelets in Oregon is found between Newport and Florence.

Connections matter

Portland Audubon is committed to protect habitat across Oregon supporting our most vulnerable species, including the elusive Marbled Murrelet. Each year Portland Audubon members, activists and state and federal agencies work with a top murrelet researcher in predawn surveys during the murrelets' nest exchange, and as they forage for food. And, since 2003, we've sponsored Ocean Summits, bringing together people from all backgrounds interested in learning about ocean ecosystems.

Linking Land to Sea

Audubon Society of Portland has been instrumental in protecting the Marbled Murrelet — on land, at sea and across decades.

commissioned biologist Dave

Marshall to produce a status report on
the bird. The report concluded "the

In 1988 Portland Audubon

principal factor affecting the continued existence of the species is destruction of old-growth and mature forest."

That report informed our conservation strategies – from petitioning the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list Marbled Murrelet under the federal Endangered Species Act, to managing Ten Mile Creek Sanctuaries, 216 acres that include old-growth Sitka Spruce and fir forest essential for healthy Marbled Murrelet habitat.

Today those sanctuaries are part of the 80,000 acres of land and nearshore waters that make up the Central Coast Marbled Murrelet Important Bird Area (IBA). Deemed "Globally Significant" this year by BirdLife International, the IBA contains significant, large, contiguous stands of suitable murrelet habitat and hosts perhaps the highest murrelet concentration in the state.

Portland Audubon partnered with conservation organizations and state government to advocate for and designate the first Marine Reserves



Network in Oregon. Today the five marine reserves and protected areas make up approximately 8% of Oregon's 362-mile coastline.

"One of the unique things about this system is that it also incorporates a Seabird Protection Area," says Paul Engelmeyer, Portland Audubon's Coastal IBA Coordinator and Manager of Ten Mile Creek Sanctuaries. "This protects the forage fish that the Marbled Murrelet and other seabirds feed on."

The juxtaposition of the offshore zone and its concentrations of murrelet prey, with large stands of habitat makes up a unique land-sea connection, critical to the survival and recovery of the Marbled Murrelet. The most recent status review by USFWS found the birds have been declining at a rate of approximately 4% per year from loss of habitat.

"We've led the charge and now we're going to influence policy, conservation strategies for birds, fish and the whole web of life," says Engelmeyer. But the work is far from finished. "The marine reserve system is a fledgling system. We still need a design that connects Oregon's nearshore conservation efforts to California's Marine Life Protection Program."

Connecting to a Healthy Habitat

A diverse array of plants and wildlife make up the habitat that supports Northern Pygmy Owls and other animals in our Sanctuaries.



Blink and you miss it. Tiny and fast, the Northern Pygmy Owl is often not recognized as it flies rapidly through the forest. Interrupt its daytime hunting, however, and you could glimpse the sparrow-sized hunter with a small mammal in its talons.

The Northern Pygmy Owl is small and plump with yellow eyes and feet. In Oregon its color varies from dark brown in coastal mountains, to intermediate pale grayish-brown in the Cascades, to dark brown in the eastern part of the state.

Northern Pygmy Owls are relatively easy to spot. They often call from the tops of conifers and snags during the day. However, the call is sometimes ventriloquial, especially when the owl is directly overhead. They are crepuscular, most active at dawn and dusk, but also during overcast Northwest days.

While it perches, waiting for prey, the pygmy owl often jerks its long, narrow tail sideways. They've been known to drop from their perches onto prey and sometimes sprint after prey on the ground.

Northern Pygmy Owls are territorial and monogamous. Territorial calling — a single whistled toot given steadily and repeatedly at two- to four-second intervals, sometimes for over an hour — begins in March.

They live in a variety of forests and woodlands, but seem to prefer tall, mature conifer forests. They're most common in large tracts of contiguous forest, but also live in forests fragmented by timber harvest or other types of disturbance. Unique among owls in North America, the female lays all her eggs — generally three to four — before beginning incubation.

Northern Pygmy Owl



This tiny owl preys on mice and voles, as well as birds and mammals over twice its size.

- > Diurnal: Active in the daytime.
- > Small: About the size of a sparrow, 6 3/4" average length.
- > Call is sometimes ventriloquial, especially when overhead.
- > Like all members of its genus, it has false eye spots on the back of its neck.
- > Resident and fairly common throughout forested areas of Oregon. Not known to migrate.

Stewardship matters

Listen closely and you'll hear their calls. Several nesting pairs of Northern Pygmy Owls spend time in Portland Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuaries. They use old woodpecker cavities to nest. They rely on healthy ground cover and understory that propagate populations of insects and small mammals. As the forest matures, they occur more often. A lot has to come together to make a robust and welcoming habitat for the owls in our Sanctuaries.

Supporting a Diverse Ecosystem

Protection alone will not sustain the plants and wildlife in our Sanctuaries. Careful, continuous stewardship is essential.

Healthy habitat doesn't just happen.

The Audubon Society of Portland Wildlife Sanctuaries in Portland's northwest hills are home to more than 40 species of birds and 60 species of mammals. The 150 acres, minutes from downtown, are carefully managed by Sanctuaries staff and hundreds of volunteers.

Though the Sanctuaries are protected from development, dedicated, thoughtful and long-term stewardship is necessary to sustain this thriving habitat. Five years ago, about 35% of the Sanctuary area was being choked with ivy and other invasive species. With a tremendous amount of work by staff, volunteers and contract crews, as well as a significant investment in time, materials and funds, 95% of invasive plant populations have been eradicated.

With the great numbers of visitors that walk the trails and our close-in urban landscape, active restoration is especially critical. That's why Portland Audubon spends so much time and energy restoring its Sanctuary habitat — from the canopy down.

After we remove invasive plants, we plant a healthy understory of the conifer species that will eventually dominate the forest. After that, we concentrate on



establishing the healthy understory — plenty of small trees and shrubs, perennials that fruit and flower at different times throughout the year to propagate a host of insects. Our stewardship supports the entire spectrum of wildlife — from small to large. It's a diverse, interconnected web.

"I like to think of Forest Park and our Sanctuaries as being giant," says Tom Costello, Portland Audubon's Sanctuaries Director. "But if you look at a GoogleMap image of Portland, you see the natural areas get pretty drowned out by the built areas. The fact that we're still here reminds me of how the Pygmy Owl has survived here, with Barred Owls, Barn Owls, Coopers Hawks and all these other large raptors around that would gladly eat the little owls. Yet, they do fine."

And so do the Audubon Sanctuaries with the help of our volunteers, staff and supporters.



Showcasing Native Flora and Fauna

Portland Audubon Sanctuaries cover a wide range of Oregon, from urban Portland to Mt. Hood to the state's coastal rainforest.

Nestled in Portland's northwest hills, just minutes from downtown, are our most familiar Sanctuaries: the Pittock Bird Sanctuary, the Uhtoff Sanctuary, and the Collins Sanctuary. In addition to four miles of interpretive trails that connect to over 70 miles of trails in Portland's Forest Park, these three Sanctuaries are home to our Education and Conservation programs, our

Sanctuaries

Stewarding our home base.

- > **Constructed** and **relocated** trails during work parties. Our volunteers logged 1,721 hours of mostly grueling work.
- > By hand, bucket and wheelbarrow, **moved** over 30 tons of gravel and crushed rock to relocate 1,100 feet of trails.
- > Secured \$26,784 from the Northwest Neighborhoods Parks and Recreation Fund to improve trails in the Collins Sanctuary.
- > **Worked** with Metro to complete a professional trail assessment for the Collins Sanctuary.
- > **Sponsored** five successful Eagle Scout Projects.

Wildlife Care Center, Interpretative Center, Nature Store and Heron Hall.

In the foothills of Mt. Hood National Forest, Audubon's 91-acre Miller Wildlife Sanctuary serves as a destination for several of our summer camp programs and is home to our Outdoor School. Dr. Joseph Miller, a citizen activist who twice took legal

- > **Planted** more than 3,300 plants as part of the Backyard Habitat Certification Program.
- > Contract crews **removed** clematis and ground and tree ivy from the steep slopes between Cornell Road and Balch Creek and **cleared** invasive laurel, hawthorn, and holly species from the entire Pittock Sanctuary completing the first half of a two-year restoration plan.
- > **Sold** more than 10,000 native plants to be planted in our urban landscape, during two plant sales for Backyard Habitat Certification Program participants and during our spring Native Plant Sale.

action to stop illegal timber practices in the Bull Run Watershed, donated this property to Audubon in 1977. In the deed, Dr. Miller and his wife, Amy, cited the Audubon philosophy to summarize the intention of their gift:

"We dedicate ourselves to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of young and old that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world and to share in conserving its wonders forever."

The Ten Mile Creek Sanctuaries. which include the Pine Tree Sanctuary, are located on the Oregon Coast, near Yachats. The 216-acre reserve sits within the largest intact stand of coastal temperate rainforest of Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock in the lower 48 states. The Ten Mile Creek Sanctuaries are home to the federally listed Marbled Murrelet and provide a critical link between the 9,300-acre Cummins Creek Wilderness to the north and the 7,400-acre Rock Creek Wilderness to the south. Together they provide a continuous intact forest canopy across five watershed basins and are located in the heart of the Globally Significant IBA for the murrelet.

Remembering a Lifelong Commitment

The list of tangible contributions Dave Marshall made to protecting wildlife is long, but credentials, alone, cannot describe a life.

David Brownell Marshall, Board Member Emeritus at Portland Audubon, passed away on November 22, 2011 at age 85. In the 1950s, Dave worked on several wildlife refuges, including the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Known as "soft-spoken and tenacious," he was instrumental in

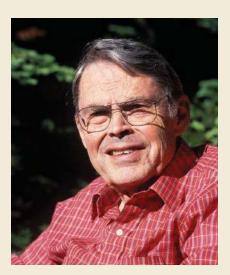
establishing the Basket Slough, Finley and Ankeny wildlife refuges in the Willamette Valley.

Interviewed in 2000, Dave said, "I don't think people today realize how threatened some of these refuges were at that point. There wasn't the public support for them."

When the Endangered Species Act passed in 1973, he moved to Washington, DC, to become chief biologist for birds and mammals in the program. His work put him at the center of many of the era's most heated battles to protect Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons and Northern Spotted Owls.

In 2003, he co-authored the 700-page reference book Birds of Oregon: A General Reference. The definitive guide for biologists working with Oregon birds, it includes 486 known bird species, their population status, distribution, habitats and life histories.

Dave's professional accomplishments were many, but his connection to wildlife began much earlier. His roots were firmly planted in a family of birders and botanists. His great-great grandfather came to Oregon in a covered wagon in 1852, carrying a rudimentary pair



of field glasses. Dave's parents, Earl and Dorothy Marshall, were among our earliest members.

His aunt and uncle started

The Warbler newsletter.

Dave brought this lifetime of experiences, recorded in personal memoirs and meticulous journals, into our collective memory. His

boyhood stories of birding expeditions during the 1930s, in his Mt. Tabor neighborhood and across the state, help us all "remember" how our world has changed.

A true field naturalist from boyhood onward, he had an encyclopedic knowledge of Oregon wildlife. His ability to bird by ear was legendary, as was his annual Birdathon team, Marshall's Murrelets.

Among the many gifts Dave contributed to Portland Audubon is his expansive library, comprised of hundreds of natural history, bird and wildlife books, as well as journals dating back decades. Today, the collection is housed in the StreamNet Library, for others to access and enjoy.

In his 30-year career with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and another 30 years consulting and volunteering after retirement, Dave never stopped doing what he thought important for wildlife in Oregon. As Claire Puchy, former Executive Director of Portland Audubon and friend, puts it, "Dave connected us to our organization's past and left a great legacy for the future."

Thank you!

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Audubon Society of Portland is a community of 13,000 members. Listed here are those whose membership level is above \$500.

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Legacy Circle members have designated Audubon Society of Portland in their estate plans.

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Volunteers, Membership and Events

Telling a story by the numbers.

- > 38,563 hours volunteered by 400 members*
- > Our flock grew to over **13,000** members, and with the addition of the new position, Social Media Manager, our online following expanded to over **4,700** Facebook fans, **1,224** Twitter followers, and **6,300** BirdWord (enews) subscribers.
- > 4,500 art and nature enthusiasts attended our 31st Annual Wild Arts Festival our biggest ever earning us \$60,000 revenue.

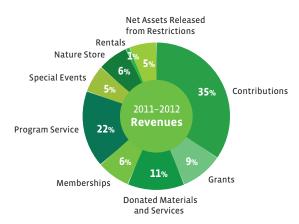
- > 2 Ospreys nested along Portland's south waterfront, in full view of the KGW-Audubon Cam.
- > 1,000 people watched wintering raptors and migrating waterfowl on our 2012 Raptor Road Trip on Sauvie Island, co-sponsored with Metro and HawkWatch
- > 765 members came out for our free Nature Nights to learn about Sandhill Cranes, Caspian Terns, Snow Geese and the Pacific Flyway.
- > 250 Birdathoners gathered 1,800 donations and pledges for more than \$138,000.
- > Our large cyber community helped Portland Audubon win a new Sienna van in Toyota's 100 Cars for Good Program. On one day in August, 2011, we competed nationally against 4 other nonprofit organizations and won the prize a new vehicle to transport our education birds, support our classes and camps, and pick up injured animals! Thanks to a generous donation from Beaverton Toyota and a match from Toyota Motor Corporation, our van is now "wrapped" with images of our Education birds.

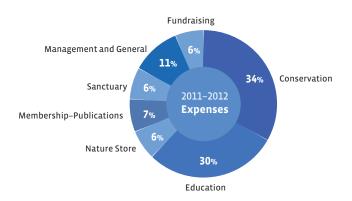
*Equal to 18.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, or \$804,038 worth of labor, in the independent sector

Financial Statements

July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

Assets		Revenues	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 882,245	Contributions	\$ 1,156,168
Accounts receivable	181,908	Grants	346,428
Inventory	155,516	Donated assets, materials and services	367,320
Prepaid expenses	47,932	Memberships	201,649
Investments	1,827,597	Program Service	722,343
Property and equipment, net	1,361,864	Special Events	158,319
Conservation property	2,003,110	Nature Store	197,233
		Rentals Other	22,173
Total assets	\$ 6,460,172	Investment Income	14,725
		Net realized/unrealized	
Liabilities and Net Assets		investment gain (loss)	\$ (15,457)
Liabilities		Net assets released from	
Accounts payable	\$ 91,819	restrictions	\$ 149,991
Accrued expenses	104,404		
Deferred revenue	368,080	Total support and revenue	\$ 3,320,892
Note payable	45,046	Expenses	
Total liabilities	\$ 609,349	Conservation	\$ 919,038
		Education	813,906
Net Assets		Nature Store	160,906
Unrestricted		Membership and publications	177,284
Available for operations	\$ 450,588	Sanctuary	170,439
Board designated	967,709		
Conservation property and		Total Program Services	\$ 2,241,573
net property and equipment	1,799,771		
		Management and general	300,931
Total unrestricted	3,218,068	Fundraising	175,963
Temporarily restricted	1,803,244		
Permanently restricted	829,511	Total Administrative	\$ 476,894
Total net assets	\$ 5,850,823	Total Expenses	\$ 2,718,467
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 6,460,172	Change in net assets	\$ 602,425





Audubon Society of Portland

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Photo credits:

Cover: Dan Fredman, Orphaned owls raised in our Wildlife Care Center released back to the wild

Page 2: Scott Carpenter, Western Tanager

Page 4: Scott Carpenter, Tufted Puffin

Page 6: Jim Cruce, Rufous Hummingbird in flight, Rufous Hummingbird (inset); Chelsea Lincoln, hummingbird baby in Wildlife Care Center

Page 7: Ann Takamoto, Explorador Counselors, Elvira Lemus and Diego Almonte

Page 8: Tinsley Hundsorfer, Explorador Campers

Page 9: Dan Fredman, Sauvie Island

Page 10: Scott Carpenter, Vaux's Swifts at Chapman School chimney; Bob Sallinger, Peregrine Falcon on Portland's Interstate Bridge (inset)

Page 11: Scott Carpenter, Peregrine Falcon

Page 12: Bob Sallinger, Red-tailed Hawk; Mary Coolidge, A window strike casualty, Morgan Dean, Westmoreland Park Duck Round Up

Page 13: Tinsley Hunsdorfer, Deb Sheaffer, DVM, Wildlife Care Center Veterinarian with Red-tailed Hawk

Page 14: Scott Carpenter, Sage Grouse; Michael Liskay, Sage Grouse (inset)

Page 15: Backyard Habitat Certification, Sunnyside Environmental School

Page 16: Tom Schmid, Bob Sallinger

Page 17: Jill Nelson-Debord, Volunteer on Sauvie Island

Page 18: Glenn Bentley, Marbled Murrelet; Hamer Environmental, HamerEnvironmental.com, Marbled Murrelet (inset)

Page 19: Cindy Pedersen, Birding at the Oregon Coast

Page 20: Scott Carpenter, Northern Pygmy Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl (inset)

Page 21: Deanna Sawtelle, Balch Creek in the Audubon Sanctuaries

Page 22: Anna Campbell, Trail Volunteers

Page 23: John Marshall, Dave Marshall

Page 24: Jill Nelson-Debord, Audubon Van at Raptor Road Trip

Page 25: Wild In the City creative team at launch party

Page 26: Jill Nelson-Debord, Raptor Road Trip

Page 27: Andrea Constance, Audubon Summer Camp, Canoe Adventures; James Colhoff, Jr., Educational Bird and Volunteer Handler

Page 28: Susan Bexton, Wild Arts Festival.

Page 29: Rick Meyers, Native Plant Sale; Jill Nelson-Debord, Raptor



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