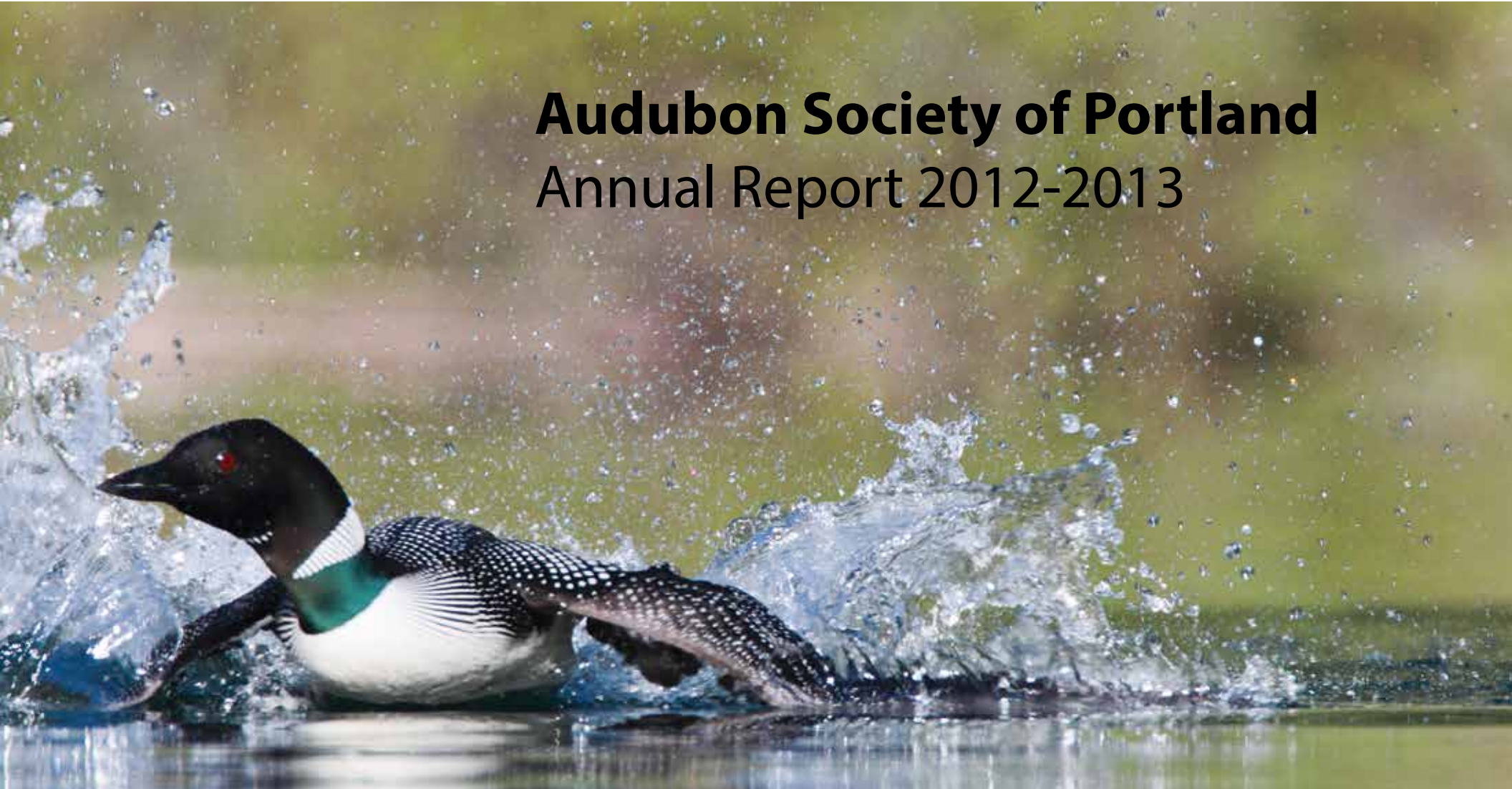


Audubon Society of Portland
Annual Report 2012-2013





Dear Friends,

As I reflect on a year's worth of work, it is a pleasure to pause long enough to look back at some of our accomplishments. I will highlight the things that really demonstrate the strength of the Audubon Society of Portland community.

We have respect from the conservation community and credibility with public policy and decision makers. Nowhere was this more apparent to me than when I witnessed person after person speaking passionately, hour after hour, telling the Mayor, City Council and Planning Commission why West Hayden Island should remain undeveloped. Most of the 800-acre natural area could have been paved many times over, were it not for Portland Audubon's influence with policy and elected leaders.

We have a unique capacity to connect people to nature in a variety of ways. Our extraordinary nature campus adjacent to Portland's Forest Park and wilderness sanctuaries near Mount Hood and Oregon's coast are the settings for top quality conservation, education and natural history programs that inspire people to enjoy, understand and protect nature. People from all backgrounds find excitement or respite through these programs, whether by climbing to the top of a 300 year old Douglas fir tree in our sanctuary or by drawing that tree as part of a Saturday morning journaling class.

Our members support an unmatched legacy of successful conservation advocacy, locally and nationally. Malheur National Wildlife Refuge came about because of this chapter's early fight to protect it for the tens of millions of migratory birds and waterfowl that use it each year. Today, waterfowl production is down by 90 percent and visiting bird numbers are falling by several million a year due to the mass proliferation of invasive carp. Alongside a group of stakeholders, we developed a conservation plan to eliminate enough carp for Malheur Lake to be filled, once again, with birds.

We consist of a large membership, many dedicated volunteers and a broad network of community supporters. Membership now tops 13,400 and our volunteer force has grown to 400 people who step up with enthusiasm. Our two signature fundraising events, the Wild Arts Festival and Birdathon, raised a combined \$304,000 through increased sponsorships and record participation.

Revenue from the Native and Backyard Habitat Plant sales and optics sales are up, which tells me that more and more people are committed to bringing birds to their backyards and nature into their lives. Portland Audubon's Legacy Circle has also grown. Seventy people believe so strongly in our community and conservation work that they have named this chapter in their estate plans.

Our talented staff and Board embrace shared conservation and environmental justice values. Portland Audubon assumed a leadership role in passing the Metro Levy, through financial contributions and staff that strongly advocated for and developed the funding criteria for the community grants component of the measure. Since establishing the East Portland office at Leach Botanical Garden in 2010, we have raised and allocated more than \$250,000 in funding for natural history and career development programs for residents in East County. Nadaka Nature Park and Garden Project is one area where this commitment to fair and equitable access to nature is transforming a neighborhood by restoring a natural area that is fast becoming a hub of community involvement.

After nearly eleven years serving Portland Audubon as executive director, I remain inspired by the work we are doing together. Your confidence in us, and your willingness to take action on behalf of birds and wildlife, has led to steady progress toward our collective goals. Thank you for your incredible support. Now, let's go forward together!



Meryl A. Redisch
Executive Director





The Audubon Society of Portland envisions a region where birds and people flourish together.

Through the love of birds, we inspire people to champion and conserve the natural environment on which we all depend.

For the love of birds and nature

For a powerful community of conservationists and activists

Because children need to be outdoors to appreciate nature

Because we all need natural areas close-by

Audubon Society of Portland promotes the understanding, enjoyment, and protection of native birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

Inspiring people to love & protect nature since 1902

Conservation Advocacy and Action

Members, staff and volunteers work tirelessly each year to conserve and restore native habitats in Portland and across Oregon. Our long-term perseverance is crucial for preserving natural resources on behalf of Portland area residents and the birds of the Pacific Flyway.

Breakthroughs and Achievements

West Hayden Island is one of Portland's most important natural areas, providing wildlife habitat for Bald Eagles, Pileated Woodpeckers, Western Meadowlarks, federally listed salmon and other species. Portland Audubon, tribes, Island residents and the conservation community are united in fighting a spate of aggressive development proposals that would be massively destructive to sensitive species of wildlife. The controversy was intense in 2013, and continues. "Our power lies in broad community-based support that brings out large turnouts at critical times to advocate for our last wild places," said Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director.

Invasive carp are decimating marsh and lake habitat at **Malheur National Wildlife Refuge**, which once produced as many as 180,000 waterfowl per year but now yields fewer than 10,000. Portland Audubon worked with a diverse stakeholder advisory committee who came together to develop a comprehensive conservation plan in 2013. As part of our support for the plan, Portland Audubon intern Candace Larson helped conduct surveys and gather information to benchmark the effects of the carp, which compete with birds and other native species.

Many seabird species such as the threatened Marbled Murrelet depend on forage fish like sardines and herring, which are routinely swept up for other uses such as fertilizer and livestock feed. Portland Audubon launched a "One Third for the Birds" campaign to highlight the role of forage fish in protecting seabirds and their habitat. In April 2013, bird advocates were gratified by the adoption of a fishery ecosystem management plan featuring a first-time provision for protecting forage fish.

Window strikes account for an estimated one billion bird deaths a year, with between 200 and 300 such cases seen at the Wildlife Care Center annually. Portland Audubon conducted surveys of downtown window strikes and collaborated with American Bird Conservancy and the city to produce a **Resource Guide for Bird-friendly Building Design** in 2012. The Guide and surveys formed the basis for the Portland City Council's 2013 adoption of a resolution to encourage bird friendly design and practices in City plans and policies. We launched the Lights Out Portland campaign to engage building owners in reducing night lighting during spring and fall migrations.





Portland Audubon mobilized grassroots support that helped to pass this year's Metro Levy for funding restoration and improvements in natural areas as well as provide funding for community grants.

In partnership with Columbia Slough Watershed Council and Friends of Nadaka, we helped secure a State Parks grant for **Nadaka Nature Park** and Garden Project in the Rockwood Town Center area of West Gresham. Metro, Portland Audubon, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Meyer Memorial Trust and the City of Gresham are supporting the community-driven project to expand access to nature, enhance habitat, remove invasive species and provide nature education.

Nearly 400 new properties were enrolled in the **Backyard Habitat Certification Program**, conducted jointly with the Columbia Land Trust. Participants are changing the local landscape one backyard at a time. Since 2009 this program has enrolled 1,700 properties, certified 679, and planted thousands of native shrubs and trees with the help of 70 volunteers in Portland and Lake Oswego.

Ongoing Conservation Actions

Protecting Oregon's most imperiled species

With native bird species in long-term declines, Audubon Society of Portland is advocating for adequate protections for species like Marbled Murrelets, Northern Spotted Owls, Streaked Horned Larks and Greater Sage Grouse by:

Protecting Oregon's old growth forests

We brought litigation to halt illegal clear-cutting of Marbled Murrelet habitat in state forests by teaming with Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity and Crag Environmental Law Center. Already it has been successful in stopping more than a dozen timber sales.

Restoring Oregon's most important wetlands

As work at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge proceeds according to plan, Portland Audubon continues working for adequate water deliveries to the Klamath National Wildlife Refuges, where drought and lack of water allocation for the birds resulted in a botulism outbreak and at least 7,000 bird deaths in August alone.

Protecting Steens Mountain from industrial wind development

Portland Audubon is teaming with Oregon Natural Desert Association and Guardians of the West to stop a major wind development on one of Oregon's most iconic and ecologically important landscapes.



The Wildlife Care Center

Greater Portland's "911" Number for Wildlife

The Wildlife Care Center was one of the first of its kind in the country. It is a busy operation with two full-time staff and more than 100 dedicated volunteers. Now the building is nearly three decades old and needs upgrading. We initiated a process to explore building a new and larger center with expanded services for wildlife and the community in the Portland metropolitan area.

Lead ammunition accumulates in the food chain and can poison raptors and other wildlife. This year we obtained a machine that detects lead levels in blood, through a grant from the Oregon Zoo Foundation. "We had a bald eagle that was so weak from lead poisoning that humans could approach it. Normally, we'd have a real challenge with an eagle," said Audubon staff veterinarian Deb Sheaffer. By testing for lead onsite with no waiting for lab results, staff and volunteers could begin treatment immediately. Lead testing is now standard for the 200 raptors and carrion eaters brought to the Center each year, providing valuable data on the impact of lead hazards on local birds.

Data gathered by the Care Center is helping us to understand and reduce hazards to urban wildlife. For example, the dominance of bird injuries by cats has led to our support of the Cats Safe at Home™ campaign to create a safer and healthier environment for both cats and wildlife, launched in partnership with the Feral Cat Coalition; and the Lights Out Portland campaign for reducing light hazards during migration seasons.

An outbreak of botulism affected thousands of migrating birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands natural area in the fall. As the region's only emergency response facility, we treated over 150 birds in a month's period of time with intense fluid therapy and three to five daily tube feedings. Adding staff and volunteers during the outbreak helped us achieve a successful 80% release rate.

We hosted the National Conference of Wildlife Rehabilitators, attracting participants from all over the country to learn and share ideas in workshops and presentations.

The Wildlife Care Center is **the busiest rehabilitation center in Oregon.** This year we took in 3,000 native birds and other animals including a record number of bald eagles and responded to inquiries from more than 12,000 people, who called to learn how to better live with wildlife.





Our Nature Sanctuaries

Portland Audubon's 150-acre nature sanctuary in northwest Portland is a place to be inspired by living with urban wildlife, hosting 30,000 visitors each year with four miles of family-friendly trails, a Nature Store and the region's busiest wildlife rehabilitation center.

This year, **1,000 feet of trail was relocated** to improve the forest walking experience, and the first of two planned boardwalks was installed with native plantings added. The new 160 foot boardwalk was made of Juniper wood harvested in Central Oregon to restore sage brush habitat. Not all visitors experience the forest from ground level. Tall Tree Tour participants were hoisted 200 vertical feet upwards to marvel at the canopy ecosystem – a very high highlight for all involved.

Staff and volunteers heaved together this year to **rid the sanctuary of invasive plants** that crowd out native plants and animals. One ivy pulling event included enthusiastic families of Kohl's store employees, who climbed over downed trees, waded through nettles, and raised \$16,500 for the sanctuary. We completed work on a grant from Metro Nature in Neighborhoods that funded contract crews targeting English Ivy, English Hawthorn, English Holly, Vinca, and Armenian or Himalayan Blackberry. The result is a sanctuary 98 percent free of invasive plants.



Environmental Education

Portland Audubon education programs are nurturing future conservationists, increasing diversity in the region's environmental community, and connecting people of all ages with nature.

Summer camps, like the popular junior wildlife veterinarian camp, filled to capacity this year, and we initiated themed camps combining nature and life skills building such as Archery and Wilderness and Rod, Real & Sea.

Community-based Camps, operated in partnership with Bienestar, Hacienda and Rose Community Development Corporations, provide resident children with a week of summer camp, free-of-charge to participants. It is often the first time in nature for many of these kids and for their families. In nine years with Bienestar and Hacienda and two years with Rose, 1,500 children have participated, with many returning year after year to develop their leadership skills and become camp counselors.

Sanctuary tours led 2,500 young school children to experience the wonder of old-growth trees and 7,000 students were taught about birds, bats, owls, amphibians, endangered species, animal tracking and habitats through our school programs. 25% of children served in these programs are Title I.

We inaugurated the **TALON** (Teach, Advocate, Learn, Observe, Nurture) program to increase diversity in our region's environmental community by offering spring training and summer job opportunities for high school and young adults from East Portland and Gresham. The first team of eleven individuals completed training in June and all began serving as paid apprentices.

More than 3,000 people participated in a wild array of **adult education programs**. They learned how to bird by ear, to distinguish wild edible plants, and joined domestic and international Ecotours including four new destinations: New Zealand, Columbia, Argentina and Borneo. An amazing team of 23 experienced volunteer naturalists led 67 outings including the popular wildflower walks and trips to diverse birding spots and natural areas in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.





Volunteers and Community Highlights

Portland Audubon draws together lovers of nature in general, and birds in particular, in a wealth of different ways. These include opportunities to be part of citizen science teams, be an activist, volunteer at the sanctuary and at events, and raise essential funds while having fun.

The Feathers of Color team was part of the **2013 Birdathon**, which brought in a record total of \$157,000 by way of spotting and counting up bird varieties. There are teams for the serious, for beginners, and for the offbeat folks of Portlandia.

400 volunteers contributed a phenomenal 41,502 hours of their time, which equates to \$865,317 in value and a telling expression of this community's love for nature.

Our membership grew to more than 13,400 and our influence through social media channels grew to 7,661 Facebook fans, 2,000 Twitter followers, and 7,000 BirdWord subscribers. Timely social appeals helped mobilize supporters at West Hayden Island public hearings, where those opposing development outnumbered those in favor by 4:1.

Thousands of spectators gathered on the lawn of Chapman School in Northwest Portland to watch the spectacle of thousands of Vaux's Swifts entering the school chimney during the annual Swift Watch in September.

Over 300 celebrated "nature's recyclers" with the fun-for-the-whole-family educational event, **International Vulture Awareness Day**.

The **33rd Annual Wild Arts Festival broke all records** with 4,600 attendees and \$147,000 in revenue to fund education and conservation programs.

Nearly 1,000 people participated in the **2013 Raptor Road Trip** to view the amazing beauty of wintering raptors and water birds on Sauvie Island. The event is a partnership with Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Hawk Watch International.

Ever the ambassadors for Portland Audubon and for their species, **our eight non-releasable education birds and their volunteer handlers** participated in 141 events and public presentations to audiences totalling over 14,000.



Thank you

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July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

\$50,000+

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July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

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Thank you

to our 2012 -2013 members
July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

Audubon Society of Portland is a community of 13,400 members. Listed here are those whose membership level is above \$500.

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The Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges all of our donors and members for their generous support. We apologize if we missed you. If you have a correction, please contact our Development Director, Ann Takamoto at 971.222.6117.

Financial Statements

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 650,016
Receivables	110,477
Inventory	165,059
Prepaid Expenses	61,455
Investments	2,194,625
Property and equipment (net)	1,311,348
Conservation Property	<u>2,003,110</u>

Total Assets \$ 6,496,090

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 112,142
Accrued expenses	76,973
Deferred revenue	388,689
Note payable	<u>42,146</u>

Total Liabilities \$ 619,950

Net Assets

Unrestricted	
Available for operations	\$ 650,650
Board designated	465,029
Conservation property and net property and equipment	<u>1,752,155</u>

Total unrestricted	\$ 2,867,834
Temporarily restricted	2,084,592
Permanently restricted	<u>923,714</u>

Total net assets \$ 5,876,140

Total liabilities and net assets \$ 6,496,090

Revenues

Contributions	\$ 791,351
Grants	243,581
Donated assets, materials and services	337,011
Memberships	217,822
Program Service	856,241
Special Events	149,266
Nature Store	256,118
Rentals Other	14,541
Investment Income	<u>70,093</u>

Net realized/unrealized investment gain (loss) \$ 79,949

Total support and revenue \$ 3,015,973

Expenses

Conservation	\$ 890,536
Education	966,285
Nature Store	157,455
Membership and Publications	195,881
Sanctuary	<u>202,367</u>

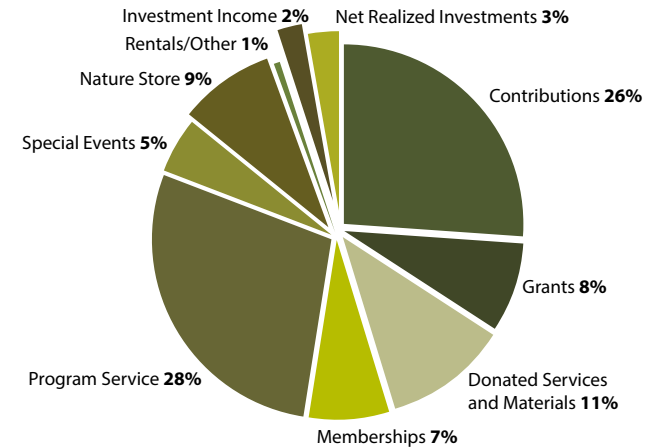
Total Program Expenses \$ 2,412,524

Management and general	366,048
Fundraising	<u>212,084</u>

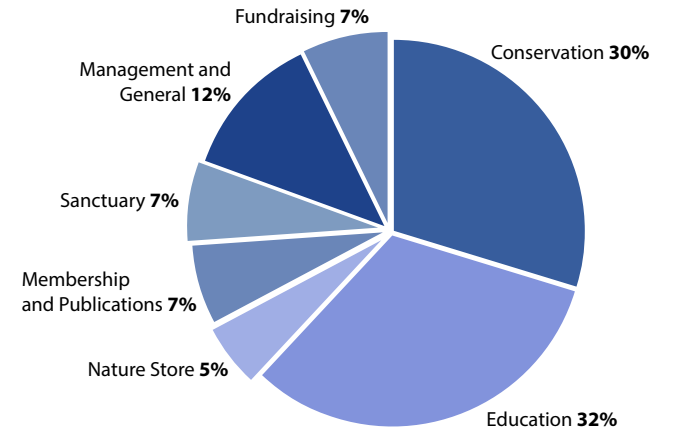
Total Administrative \$ 578,132

Change in net assets \$ 25,317

2013 Revenue



2013 Expenses



Audubon Society of Portland

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IT and Office Manager

Tinsley Hunsdorfer

Community and Social Media Manager

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Volunteer Manager

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Avian Conservation Program Manager

Nikkie West

Backyard Habitat Program Coordinator

Mike Houck

Urban Naturalist

Jim Labbe

Urban Conservationist

Micah Meskel

Conservation Assistant

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Wildlife Care Center Veterinarian

Lacy Campbell

Wildlife Care Center Operations Manager

Steve Robertson

Education Director

Steve Engel

Adult Education Program Manager

Ian Abraham

Camp Director

Dan Van den Broek

Educator/Trip Leader

Tim Donner

Environmental Educator

Laura Newton

Environmental Educator

Gladys Ruiz

East-side Conservation Education Coordinator

Ann Takamoto

Development Director

Pam Meyers

Membership Development Manager

Andie Armour

Membership Development Assistant

Nancy Mattson

Nature Store Manager

Sally Loomis

Nature Store Clerk

Marilyn O'Grady

Nature Store Assistant

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Education

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Candace Plant

Finance

Katy Ehrlich

Membership Development

Ann Littlewood

Sanctuaries

Carol Gross

Volunteer Council

Photo Credits

Cover: Common Loon, Scott Carpenter

p2: Ascending the Giants, Tinsley Hunsdorfer

p3: Meryl Redisch, Susan Bexton
Nadaka Park, Lee Dayfield
Raptor Road Trip Birders, Tinsley Hunsdorfer

p4: Great Blue Heron, Scott Carpenter

p5: Candace Larsen with carp, Linda Beck
Rhinoceros Auklet, Roberta Swift

p6: Silver Certified Backyard Habitat,
Michelle Bickley
Northern Spotted Owlets, USFWS

p7: Bald Eagle in the Care Center, Bald Eagle
Release, Tinsley Hunsdorfer

p8: Summer Campers, Ian Abraham

p9: Community-based Campers, Tinsley
Hunsdorfer
Summer Campers, Ian Abraham
TALON apprentice, Gladys Ruiz

p10: Feathers of Color Birdathon Team,
Alice Froehlich
Education Bird and Handler at Raptor Road
Trip, Jill Nelson De-Bord

p12: Raptor Road Trip, the sparktank
Kayakers, Mike Houck

p15: Potter's Wheel camper, Ian Abraham

Back: Greater Sage-Grouse, Scott Carpenter





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