

Taking a Stand Against Wildlife Poisons



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Meet Our New COO



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nature for All

by Nick Hardigg, Executive Director

What happened to make you love nature and care about its protection? For the vast majority of us, that meaningful connection began as a child, planting the seed for a lifelong desire to protect our world and live happier, healthier lives as well. At Portland Audubon, environmental education is more than getting kids outside—it's about creating moments that inspire them to love nature and feel curious, connected, and empowered.

Unfortunately, not everyone has equal access to outdoor spaces and learning opportunities. At Portland Audubon, we're working to break down barriers so people of all backgrounds and socioeconomic status can experience the joy and beauty of nature.

The Spencer Higgins Memorial Scholarship Fund helps make outdoor experiences possible for young people who could not otherwise afford to attend camps and classes. Established in 2018 after the passing of Portland Audubon member and musician Spencer Higgins, the fund began as a way for Spencer's family and friends to honor his life and generous nature by increasing access to the very thing he loved. Thanks to substantial and multifaceted support from parents Marilyn Walster and Sid Higgins, the fund is now our primary means for donors to help to make youth education accessible to all.

The Spencer Higgins Memorial Scholarship Fund accepts donations on an ongoing basis so that even more young people can experience nature. Simply mention "Higgins Fund" on your check or in the optional comment section when making your online donation at audubonportland.org. For larger contributions, contact Aaron Shilkaitis, Donor Services Coordinator at ashilkaitis@audubonportland.org to learn more about this program.

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Large numbers of crows were poisoned in 2014 and 2018 with Avitrol, a bird poison that was banned this spring by Portland City Council on all lands owned and managed by the city. Photo by Scott Carpenter.

The City of Portland and State of Oregon Take Important Steps to Ban Wildlife Poisons

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

For far too long, the use of poisons has been a weapon of choice for agencies and individuals concerned about addressing wildlife conflicts. This spring, Oregon made two major advances in removing indiscriminate, inhumane, and dangerous wildlife poisons from our landscape. Portland City Council banned the use of the avicide (bird poison) Avitrol from lands owned or managed by the City of Portland, and the governor signed a ban on the use of M-44 sodium cyanide devices statewide. In taking these important steps, both the City and the State have hopefully catalyzed campaigns that will have impacts at a national scale.

Birds Falling from the Sky: Avitrol

Avitrol is a neurotoxin that causes “acute oral and dermal toxicity for birds and mammals.” It is marketed as a humane, safe, and ecologically sound way to address conflicts with birds. However, it is anything but safe, humane, or ecologically sound.

Target birds are fed the poison at bait stations. The poison is designed to cause an “alarm response” in birds, which in turn is supposed to scare the rest of the flock from the immediate area. The “alarm response” consists of convulsions, paralysis, leg pedaling, and screaming and can continue for a period ranging from minutes to hours.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated label states that “birds that react and alarm a flock usually die.” The EPA requirement that applicators must keep the area free of people and pets until all dead birds are collected and removed is entirely unrealistic as poisoned birds can travel many miles before the poison takes effect, putting people, pets and non-target wildlife at risk of secondary exposure.

Portlanders saw firsthand the impacts of this poison in confirmed Avitrol poisoning incidents that occurred in 2014 and 2018. In November 2014, dead and dying crows were found across downtown Portland in an area that extended from Chapman and Lownsdale Parks near City Hall to Waterfront Park.

In January of 2018 residents of the King neighborhood in NE Portland witnessed crows, in an incident that extended over more than 30 city blocks, literally falling from the sky and slamming into the pavement. Some birds were dead on impact while others convulsed and screamed on the ground before dying. Not only did these birds die cruel and horrific deaths, but their poisoned carcasses scattered across our urban landscape also put people, pets and non-target wildlife at real risk.

These incidents required responses by local, state and federal agencies, and Portland Audubon added extra staff and volunteers for days following the poisoning so that dead birds could be quickly removed from the environment and transported to diagnostic labs.

On June 5, 2019, the Portland City Council voted to ban the use of Avitrol and other avicides on all lands owned and managed by the City of Portland. Commissioner Nick Fish, who led this effort, stated at the hearing, "These poisons have absolutely no place anywhere in our community. They not only put our birds and wildlife at risk, but they also put people and pets at risk as well." While the City does not use bird poisons and is preempted by state law from going further in terms of extending this ban beyond city lands, it is still an important step. It sends a strong message to the community that these types of poisons are dangerous and inappropriate. It sends a strong message to the Oregon Department of Agriculture that it should consider giving local jurisdictions more authority over regulating toxic pesticides within their jurisdictional boundaries.

Finally, it sends a strong message to the EPA that it needs to consider removing this poison from the market altogether. We were pleased by strong statements by City Council members that they plan to continue to work with Portland Audubon to ensure that these messages are heard by state and federal agencies.

Cyanide Bombs: M-44 Sodium Cyanide Devices

M-44 sodium cyanide devices are spring-ejected cyanide capsules that are staked to the ground and wrapped in cloth smeared with scented bait to attract coyotes, foxes and feral dogs. When an animal tugs and bites on the baited cloth, the cyanide capsule explodes into the animal's face where it combines with saliva to create cyanide gas, causing suffocation, convulsions and death. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified sodium cyanide as "highly toxic to warm-blooded animals" and placed sodium cyanide in Toxicity Category I, indicating the greatest degree of acute toxicity, for oral, dermal and inhalation effects. M-44s have accurately been described as "cyanide bombs."

The primary user of M-44 sodium cyanide devices is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services division, which has scattered these devices across the western United States primarily to kill predators that prey on livestock. Between 2000 and 2016, Wildlife Services reported killing 246,985 animals including 4,621 animals in Oregon using M-44s. M-44s are notorious for documented killings of vast numbers of non-target wildlife and pets. They have also resulted in death or severe injury to humans.

On May 6, 2019, Governor Kate Brown signed into law Senate Bill 580 banning the use of M-44 sodium cyanide devices in Oregon, after the bill passed the legislature with strong bipartisan support. Portland Audubon was proud to advocate for the legislation with partners including Oregon Wild, Humane Society of the United States, Humane Voters Oregon, and most notably, Brooks Fahy at Predator Defense, who has devoted decades to fighting these devices and was the driving force behind this bill.

The Poisoning Continues: Ravens in Northeastern Oregon

Even as we celebrate these important wins, the parade of poison continues in Oregon. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently considering a permit application from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to poison up to 1,500 ravens in Baker County using eggs baited with the poison DRC-1339. ODFW asserts that this poisoning is necessary to protect nesting sage-grouse. However, ODFW has collected no data to support this assertion and is ignoring other obvious causes for sage-grouse declines. In a stunning admission, ODFW confirms that it believes that because of ravens' propensity for caching food, only one out of every four poisoned eggs taken will actually be consumed by a raven.

In order to kill 1,500 ravens, ODFW will need to see ravens take 6,000 poisoned eggs of which they anticipate upwards of 4,500 will be scattered across the landscape for non-target wildlife and other animals to consume. Portland Audubon is strongly opposing this permit.

Looking Forward

There are many proven strategies for addressing wildlife conflicts. It is long past time to remove inhumane, indiscriminate, and dangerous poisons from the tool box. The banning of Avitrol on City of Portland lands and M-44s statewide should send a strong message to the EPA that it is time to eliminate these indiscriminate, inhumane, and dangerous poisons nationwide. Look for upcoming opportunities to help send that message.

**Become an activist at
audubonportland.org/take-action**





“For far too long, the use of poisons has been a weapon of choice for agencies and individuals concerned about addressing wildlife conflicts.”

Coyote, photo by Jim Cruce.

Burrowing Owl Collides with Window in Oregon City

by Ali Berman, Communications Manager

When software engineer Terry Voorhis was walking on the grounds of Clackamas County's 55-acre Red Soils Campus, he came upon an unusual sight. It looked like a ball of feathers right at the foot of one of the glass-covered four-story buildings.

"I could tell it was some sort of bird," said Terry. "The head was all tucked in and the wings were folded over. It looked like it crashed into the window. It was laying at the bottom on the sidewalk."

He gave the bird a light nudge to see if it was still alive, and it rolled over and kicked its feet. That's when he knew he had found an owl. Terry recalled, "You could tell the thing was really distressed."

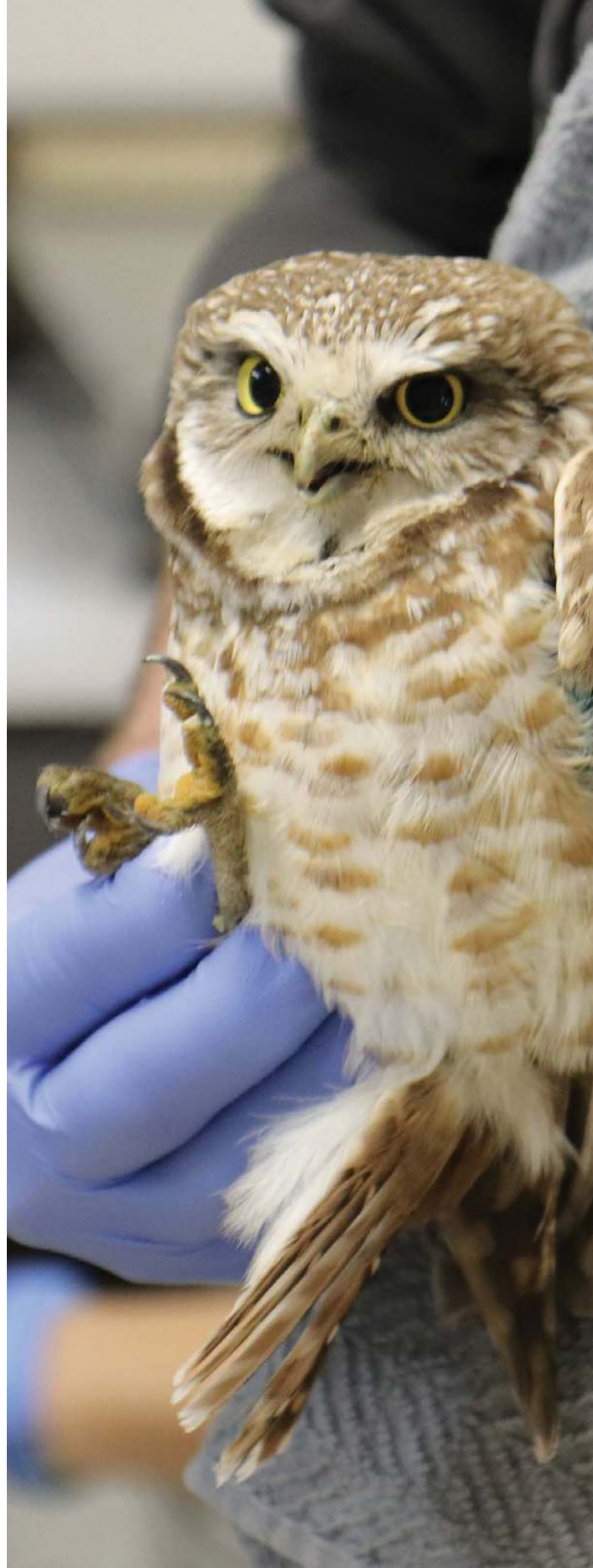
Terry went up to his office and enlisted the help of two of his animal-loving coworkers, as well as the advice of his daughter who had previously interned at the Carolina Raptor Center outside of Charlotte. They grabbed a box, retrieved the bird, and brought it to Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center.

When the bird arrived, we were surprised to see a Burrowing Owl—only the third to ever come through our Wildlife Care Center! When birders want to see a Burrowing Owl in Oregon, they head east of the Cascades, not generally to Oregon City. But during the winter months, these elusive birds can be found dotted throughout the Willamette Valley along the I-5 corridor, and even at Portland International Airport.

This Burrowing Owl arrived in our care with two fractures on its left wing that had to be surgically repaired. We're thankful for our partnership with the Oregon Zoo and their staff veterinarian Kelly Flaminio (our former vet!) for performing the surgery.

Connie Lo, our staff veterinarian, said about the bird's status, "We are currently in the post-operative phase, including physical therapy to increase range of motion as well as the flexibility of the patagium, the structure on the leading edge of the wing that is crucial to flight."

As with all of our patients, the prognosis is guarded until we know for sure whether the bird will be able to fly well enough to hunt for prey. What we do know is, as with all window-strike patients, its injury was preventable.



Window Strikes: A Hazard for Birds

Clackamas County's facilities are far from alone when it comes to sharing responsibility for window strikes. Researchers estimate that up to 1 billion birds die every year in the United States alone from colliding with a window, making window collisions the third largest threat to birds after habitat destruction and cat predation.

"Window strikes are such a prevalent cause of injury because birds can't see glass," explained Wildlife Care Center Manager Stephanie Herman. "Not only is the barrier itself invisible to birds, but glass often reflects foliage or sky, leading birds to believe they are flying into a safe space. That means that they often hit windows at full speed."

While not all birds die on impact, even those that survive the initial strike are stunned or fly away and may not survive the incident. Many will succumb to their injuries out of sight, or will be preyed on by cats, dogs, other birds, or hit by cars while on the ground trying to recover from the initial head injury. These and other injuries, like broken bones, require intervention. In fact, 22 percent of the birds we treat at the Wildlife Care Center are window-strike victims. They come in most often with massive head trauma, broken beaks and broken bones.

Many people think high rises are the major culprits and are surprised to hear that 99 percent of all bird collisions happen at low-rise buildings and residential homes. Folks who live in apartments or private homes, or work in low-rise buildings have the collective power to reduce this threat and save lives in the process. This is a reflection of the sheer number of low-rise structures and residential homes across the landscape, which far outnumber skyscrapers.

The public can help by watching for problem windows. Find a dead bird under your window? Hear a thud from a collision? See an imprint of a bird or feathers stuck to your window? If so, that's a window you can make bird-safe.

Check out our website for in-depth ideas on finding a solution that works for your window. Everything from applying decals to reducing light pollution can help. Our Nature Store also carries a variety of solutions to help prevent bird window strikes, from inexpensive UV decals that come in fun shapes to rolls of bird strike tape to cover larger window.

In addition to working with the public through our Wildlife Care Center and educational campaigns, Portland Audubon works with the City and businesses to reduce this hazard in the greater Portland Metro Area. Last year, the City of Portland implemented



Staff veterinarian Connie Lo, DVM examines the Burrowing Owl

bird-safe window standards as a part of the Central City Plan. New development and major remodels with 30 percent or more glass, as well as windows next to ecoroofs and vegetated areas, now require bird-safe standards. This year, Portland Audubon successfully advocated for the City to provide funding to scope a Dark Skies initiative to address light pollution, which is another major factor in the high incidence of window collisions.

Every bit of progress, from someone putting a decal on a dangerous window to enacting city-wide regulations, all make a difference, so birds like the Burrowing Owl never have to come through our doors.

The Burrowing Owl is a fighter, and we're doing everything we can to get it back out into the wild. The bird is alert and active. While it doesn't have full extension of the injured wing yet, it's still able to get around and spends most of the time on a high perch.

If it does make a full recovery, we will release it back into a seasonally appropriate habitat.

What to Do If a Bird Strikes Your Window

Observe it before handling. Some strike victims recover after initially being stunned.

If a stunned bird is in imminent danger (e.g., a lurking cat), place it in a box and set it in a safe and quiet place.

Check the bird in one hour. If it is alert, active and able to fly, release it immediately.

If the bird is still having trouble, bring it to the Wildlife Care Center, 5151 NW Cornell Road (open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. every day, 503-292-0304).

FIELD NOTES

by Harry Nehls

Songs of Nesting Season

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.

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. Singing becomes subdued but still persistent to about 8 a.m. when singing drops off significantly. The males continue to defend their territories throughout the day but sing only intermittently.

During the song period, unmated birds wander through the breeding area looking for unused territories, or for breeding birds that have lost their mates. They are quickly replaced.



Lazuli Bunting, photo by Scott Carpenter

Knowledgeable birders during the summer begin their days early, best at daylight. During midday, waterbirds and shorebirds are more active giving birders more opportunities during the afternoons when land birds are quiet.

SIGHTINGS

by Harry Nehls

There was a conspicuous migratory movement during late April and early May mainly of **Yellow-rumped** and **Orange-crowned Warblers**. On May 3 Jack Williamson reported at least 18 **Warbling Vireos** at the Camassia Natural Area in West Linn. Otherwise migrants arrived singly or in small groups.

On May 4 Christine Anderson saw a **Bullock's Oriole** in Vancouver. Bruce Cook photographed a male **Western Tanager** in Vancouver April 30. A female-type plumaged tanager was in NE Portland through most of March. Cynthia Mason noted a **Wilson's Warbler** in SW Portland May 5. Lars Norgren reported two **Hermit Warblers** at Oaks Bottom April 2. On March 30 Bob Lockett saw a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in SE Portland.

On April 12 Em Scattaregia saw a male **Calliope Hummingbird** on Mt. Tabor. Leigh Schelman saw one in SE Portland April 27 and Paul Sullivan reported one in McMinnville May 5. Abby Haight noted an early **Osprey** at Oaks Bottom March 20. Nests along the Columbia River contained **Osprey** by March 22. Bonnie Comegys noted that the females arrived there by May 24.

On May 2 Tyrell Sweetman observed a **Swainson's Thrush** in SE Portland. On May 4 Bonnie Comegys spotted two in NE Portland. On May 15 Jade Ujcic-Ashcroft and Casey Cunningham observed two **Canada Jays** in Forest Park north of Germantown Road near Newton Road.

Colby Neuman reported a **Lark Sparrow** along Oak Island Road on Sauvie Island May 16. Another was reported along the East Bank Esplanade in midtown Portland the same day. Colby also reported an **Eastern Phoebe** along Oak Island Road May 7.

Beverly Hallberg spotted a **Brewer's Sparrow** May 7 at Powell Butte Park in east Portland. David Mandell noted a female **Mountain Bluebird** there April 14. Audrey Addison reported an **Avocet** at Broughton Beach April 3. On April 8 Shawneen Finnegan noted a pair of **Blue-winged Teal** among a group of **Cinnamon Teal** at the Tualatin River NWR. Jeff Dillon noted a late **Clark's Grebe** there May 14.

Perhaps the most unusual sighting this spring would be the **Swamp Sparrow** Peter Barnes observed April 21 in his yard in Gresham.



SUMMER CAMP 2019

Register for Summer Camp Adventures!

With ten weeks of camp and more than 60 programs to choose from, you can find the perfect fit for every camper. From Raptor Rama to Botany Bonanza, we have art, adventure, and exploration, all while making friends and learning about the natural world. Visit audubonportland.org for the full camp schedule.

1st Grade

Elves of the Forest | August 12-16

Dive into the world of elves and other mythical creatures of the forest.

Raptor Rama | August 19-23

Investigate the world of eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons!

4th - 5th Grade

Nature Detectives | July 1-5

Grab a magnifying glass and join us as we solve the natural mysteries that are all around us!

Botany Bonanza | August 12-16

Plant lovers will become “budding” botanists!

Hit the Trail | August 26-30

Explore the hidden trails of Tryon Creek Park, Mary S. Young Park and Oxbow Park.

6th - 8th Grade

Jurassic Portland | July 15-19

It's a dinosaur, it's a dinosaur...oh my gosh! Participants will step into the world of the Jurassic Period where dinosaurs dominated the landscape.

Watershed Warriors (Overnight) | August 5-9

Head to Marmot Cabin to learn about all things water.

Flying Potatoes (Overnight) | August 12-16

Flying high above and darting through old growth forests there lives the Marbled Murrelet, a bird nicknamed the flying potato.

Sponsor a camper by making a donation at audubonportland.org and specifying “Camp Scholarships” in the optional comments.



Join us for an Educational Snowy Plover Walk! Photo by Mick Thompson.

COMMUNITY SCIENCE

Portland Audubon's community science projects span from the Portland Metro region to the coast as well as eastern Oregon. Get involved in one of our upcoming projects!

Educational Snowy Plover Walks

July 14: Sitka Sedge | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

July 26: Clatsop Spit | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

July 27: Sitka Sedge | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join Portland Audubon experts and learn about the endangered Snowy Plover, including its life history, conservation challenges, and habitat preferences.

No experience required. RSVP at audubonportland.org

FREE

Marbled Murrelet Survey Trainings

July 22, 6:30 p.m. - July 23, 12 p.m.

or July 29, 6:30 p.m. - July 30, 12 p.m.

Be a part of the 14th annual Marbled Murrelet community science survey on a spectacular stretch of Oregon's coast. Training will be provided, so no prior experience is needed. We are offering two separate trainings – join for one or both, if you'd like.

RSVP required. Sign up at audubonportland.org

FREE



Interested in getting involved in Community Science?

Learn more at audubonportland.org or contact Joe Liebezeit at jliebezeit@audubonportland.org



Join us August 3 for Portland Audubon night with the Thorns. Photo by Ray Terrill.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit audubonportland.org/events for a full list of all upcoming events.

Glendoveer Star Party

July 13 | 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Glendoveer Golf and Nature Trail
14015 NE Glisan St.

Enjoy a sky full of stars with us! Rose City Astronomers will be on site with scopes, we will have interactive artifacts representative of the night, and Crazy Aunt Lindsey will bring a fun galaxy-related activity.

Registration required. RSVP at audubonportland.org

Free & open to the public. No dogs, please.

FREE



Thorns Game: Portland Audubon Fundraiser

August 3 | 8 p.m.

Providence Park

Join your fellow nature-lovers and the largest women's sports crowd in the world to watch the two-time NWSL champion Thorns FC take on Sky Blue FC.

Tickets: \$20. Learn more at audubonportland.org



Catio Tour

September 7 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Don't miss this very Portland, one-of-a-kind event! The 7th Annual Catio Tour will showcase ten diverse outdoor cat enclosures in SE Portland, SW Portland and Lake Oswego.

Tickets: \$10 per person. 12 and under are free.

Learn more at audubonportland.org



\$ Cost Involved

Public Transit Available

FREE Free

Family Friendly

Wheelchair Accessible



Travel with us to the Northeast Corner of Mt. Hood for a chance to see an Olive-sided Flycatcher. Photo by Scott Carpenter.

CLASSES

Adult Classes

Northeast Corner of Mt. Hood

July 13

Join us for a day trip to Cloud Cap and Lookout Mountain in the northeast corner of Mt. Hood.

Fee: \$60

Instructor: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants



Bird Journals

July 13: Drawing & Painting Birds

August 24: Summer Birds and Their Surroundings

Start or continue bird journaling to record your observations in the field or from a window. No art experience needed. Take one or more of the series!

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members, per session.

Instructor: Jude Siegel | Limited to 16 participants per session

Classes are held in Heron Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

August 10

Join us at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area on this summer day in search of migrant shorebirds and maybe even passerines.

Fee: \$60

Instructor: Stefan Schlick



Autumn Shorebirds

August 15 & 17 | Class in Heron Hall, Coast Field Trip

Join local author and guide John Rakestraw for an evening class to learn how to identify these long-distance migrants with a follow-up field trip to practice your skills in the field.

Fee: \$60

Instructor: John Rakestraw



View all our class offerings at audubonportland.org

FREE OUTINGS

Portland Audubon offers free, volunteer-led outings across the Portland Metro Area. We strive to create a vibrant space for everyone to enjoy birds and wildlife while exploring our natural areas.

All skill levels are welcome!

You can find the full list of outings and sign up on meetup.com/portland-audubon-outings.

Register for outings
at [meetup.com](https://meetup.com/portland-audubon-outings)



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Catio Tour | September 7

Volunteer Times: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The annual Catio Tour is an opportunity to reach our paws/wings across the aisle in a unique partnership with The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon. Together we've created the Catio Tour to offer inspiration for those looking for ways for their cats to have safe outdoor time. Volunteers will represent Portland Audubon at various Catio locations across the city. Training required.

Swift Watch | September

Volunteer Times: 6 p.m. - Dark

Each night in September, hundreds of people gather to watch Portland's most famous migrant, the Vaux Swifts, swirl into the chimney at Chapman School. Be a part of the volunteer team to educate and excite the public about the swifts, their migration, and the birds of prey who join the party. Swift Watch Volunteer Trainings will take place August 7 and 21, from 6-7:30 p.m.

Interested in supporting Catio Tour or Swift Watch? Contact Vicky Medley, Volunteer Manager, at vmedley@audubonportland.org



Fairy Wren in Australia. Photo by Brian McCauley.

INTERNATIONAL ECOTOURS

Eastern Indonesia and Wallacea

November 1-21, 2019

Explore the two different biogeographical regions and find continental Asian fauna, like primates, on one island, and Australasian fauna, such as the Cus-cus, on another.

Fee: \$5,695 member | \$5,995 non-member

Leader: Dan van den Broek

Grand Australia

November 5-14, 2019

Experience the outstanding scenery and wildlife of beautiful Queensland, including Lamington National Park, Cairns, the Atherton Tablelands, and the Great Barrier Reef.

Fee: \$4,495 member | \$4,795 non-member

Leaders: Stefan Schlick and local guides

India: Birds, Leopards, & Lions

February 1-15, 2020

Discover India's unique culture and wildlife with trips to the Jaisalmer Fort, the Thar Desert, Chandelao, Bera, and Gir National Park.

Fee: \$5,795 member | \$6,095 non-member

Leaders: Dan van den Broek and local guides

Portugal in Winter

February 5-16, 2020

Experience lovely Portugal during its mild winter. Enjoy wonderful cuisine on the Iberian Peninsula, and travel to varied habitats to find numerous bird species.

Fee: \$3,095 member | \$3,395 non-member

Leader: Stefan Schlick



Experience the Ancient Forest of the Oregon Coast this fall.

DOMESTIC ECOTOURS

Ancient Forests of the Oregon Coast

September 5-8, 2019

Join us on a four-day adventure to the Oregon Coast! Go "behind the scenes" to learn more about the conservation initiatives taking place along the coast.

Fee: \$845 member / \$945 non-member

Leaders: Brodie Cass Talbott and April Brown

Grays Harbor Shorebirds

September 13-15, 2019

Join us on a trip to one of the West Coast's best birding hotspots, where you can expect to see a bevy of shorebirds, and even some seabirds.

Fee: \$495 member / \$595 non-member

Leader: Stefan Schlick

Eastern Oregon Dark Skies Foray

September 26-29, 2019

Not your typical Ecotour! Bring your tent and sleeping bag on this rugged four-day camping trip to the high desert of southeastern Oregon for some of the most sensational stargazing on the planet!

Fee: \$395 member | \$445 non-member

Leaders: Mary Coolidge, Teresa Wicks, and Abby VanLeuven

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.

2019

Aug. 15-30 Brazil

Oct. 2-6 Steens & Alvord Desert

Nov. 10-17 Hawaii *Waitlist*

2020

Jan. 15-19 Okanogan

Jan. 24-26 Walla Walla

Feb. 4-18 Costa Rica

Feb. 21-23 Skagit

April 29-May 9 Amazon

May 15-28 Poland

June 4-7 Central Oregon

June 14-29 Mongolia

July 9-12 Idaho's Cassia Crossbill

Sept. 11-13 Gray's Harbor

Sept. 15-19 California Condors

Nov. 2-16 Madagascar

Enrichment: What It Is and Why It's Important

by Sam DeJarnett, Education Animal Coordinator

Portland Audubon is home to five resident birds and one turtle, who not only help educate our community as ambassadors for their species but also spread the message of conservation and the importance of protecting wildlife and wild places. These animals have all for one reason or another been determined to be non-releasable back to wild and were carefully selected for their adaptability to life in captivity.

Though they live in human care, they are still wild. But when we took them under our wing as residents, we became responsible for their well-being, including their physical and mental health.

One of the most important ways we provide and maintain a high standard of care for these animals is through enrichment activities. Enrichment is essential for any animal kept in human care like our wild residents, and even your dog, cat or guinea pig. It can come in many forms, but its purpose in the most basic form is to provide animals the opportunity to exhibit natural behaviors that are otherwise hard to simulate.

For example, Common Ravens spend the majority of their days out in the wild exploring and using their innate problem-solving abilities to find food. They also spend a lot of time engaging in play behaviors. Because of this natural history, it is imperative that we provide enrichment for our resident Common Raven, Aristophanes, that allows him to explore, play, and use his intelligent and inquisitive brain.

Enrichment for Aristophanes can be as simple as hiding a portion of his diet inside a log or skull so he has to figure out how to find the food, or it can be as complex as training him to stack objects or color match items! The process of learning gives him the opportunity to problem solve and make choices, which directly impacts his mental and emotional well-being.

Each educational animal engages in enrichment and training every day (sometimes multiple times per day) to stimulate their minds, provide them opportunities to choose how they participate in their day, and allow them to demonstrate key behaviors like flying outside of their enclosures.

The mental, emotional and physical health of our educational animals is our number one priority for our educational bird program. We have asked these animals to spend their time in an unnatural way: inside enclosures, on gloves close to humans, and sometimes



Julio, our 19-year-old female Great Horned Owl, participates in training with Educational Animal Coordinator Sam DeJarnett. Training is an important part of enrichment for the education animals, and can include teaching them to voluntarily weigh themselves on a scale or fly to a glove on cue.

in front of large crowds. It is our duty as their caretakers to ensure that they are given every opportunity to choose to engage with humans, their environment, and their enrichment items in ways that provide a positive and holistic life here with us.

If you want to help with our efforts to keep our Ambassadors engaged and enriched, please consider investing in the Sponsor A Wild Thing program, where a small donation goes a long way. Learn how you can support Portland Audubon's Education Bird Program today at audubonportland.org.



Great Blue Heron, photo by Mick Thompson.

Greenspace and Bull Run Measures Slated for November Ballot

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Voters will have two important opportunities to protect natural areas on the November 2019 ballot. We will be working hard between now and November to ensure their passage.

On June 6, the Metro Council unanimously referred a \$475 million greenspace bond measure to the November ballot to protect water quality, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and improve access to nature throughout the metro region. The measure allocates funding for acquisition of large natural areas and local nature parks, improving access and implementing restoration projects at existing natural areas, expanding the regional trail system, and integrating nature into regional projects such as improving public access at Willamette Falls.

The measure places a strong emphasis on advancing racial equity and making the region resilient to climate change. Bond measures are one of the most important and effective tools we have to protect nature in the metro region. Prior Metro greenspace bond measures in 1995 and 2006 resulted in the protection of more than 13,000 acres of greenspace. Portland Audubon members played a key role in helping to pass those measures, and the 2019 measure will again be a top priority for our organization. We were pleased to serve on the stakeholder advisory committees that helped develop the measure, and the Portland Audubon board strongly endorsed the measure at its May meeting.

In late June, Commissioner Amanda Fritz will bring a resolution before the Portland City Council to refer an initiative to the November ballot to strengthen protections for Bull Run. The Bull Run Watershed, located on the Mt. Hood National Forest, provides drinking water for the City of Portland. Rainwater and snowmelt feed the Bull Run River, which fills two reservoirs within the watershed. The water is conveyed by gravity through three conduits to an underground reservoir at Powell Butte. A cornerstone of Portland's protections for this critically important water supply is that a significant portion of this watershed is closed to public access and land-disturbing activities. This not only protects water quality but also provides largely undisturbed refuge for fish and wildlife.

Currently, protections for lands managed by the City of Portland are located in City Code where they can easily be changed by a future council. One of Commissioner Fritz's priorities before leaving office is enshrining these protections in Portland's City Charter, ensuring that any future changes must also be approved by the voters. This initiative will provide much more secure protection for Bull Run's water, old-growth forests, and fish and wildlife populations. We look forward to working with Commissioner Fritz to ensure that this amazing place is truly protected in perpetuity.

To get involved in these campaigns, please contact Micah Meskel at mmeskel@audubonportland.org

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

IN MEMORY

Mark Ballard

The Ballard Family

Charles and Mildred Blomberg

Karen Shawcross

Kathy Daehler

Marianne Phillips

Amy Frank

Lisa K. Frank

Gordon W. Gullion

Christina Gullion

Gary Hanel

Mary Gibbs

John Heydon

Anonymous

Spencer Higgins

Helen Hajek

Velma Robbs

Sheldon Robbs

Loraine Shannon

Jones Allinger

John M. Allinger

Robert Maben

Doug and Sherri Maben

Gary and Cathy Maben

Mary Potter

Helen Wheeler

David Nadal

Anonymous

Mary Kern

Frank Nelsen

Fred N. Loney

Joseph Lloyd Orndorff

Bill and Claudia Morrison

Charlotte Jayne Orndorff

Jim Peterson

Russell Miller and

Laurie Peterson

Kathleen Sahli

Susan Bexton

Ronald E. Spencer

Esther Spencer

Marie Louise (Wakefield) Spencer

Stephen Bradley

Heather Strong

Roxane Freeman

IN HONOR

D Armstrong

Carol Veach

Gabriel Forcier and Robin Carpenter

Mary Keziah

Andrew and Alex Lanz-Ketcham

Kate Ketcham and

James Lanz

Tamara Ottum

Cara Strever

Mia Pisano

Michael and Catherine

Zalanka

Rosalee Thiers

Paul Thiers

Nancy H. Weintraub

Mark Heitz

IN MEMORY

The following tributes were incorrect in the May-June issue. We regret the errors and offer the correct names below.

Bonnie Price

Carolyn Bowden

Sidney Schmukler

Philip Harris and

Erica Dunn

Seppo Simila

Anu and Alan Erringer

You can honor a special person with a gift to Portland Audubon. Your gift will help fund a future of inspiring people to love and protect nature. Make a tribute gift online at audubonportland.org or by calling 971-222-6130.

Meet Tumko Davaakhuu, Our New COO

Interview with Ali Berman, Communications Manager

We're thrilled to welcome Tumurkhuu "Tumko" Davaakhuu as our new Chief Operating Officer! Tumko moved to Portland from Mongolia six months ago, leaving his job as the CEO and Board Director of a major bank to find a healthier climate for his family and to pursue his dream of working full-time in the conservation field. As our new COO, Tumko will bring his extensive experience with financial and internal management and his passion for the environment to the Portland Audubon flock.

Why is conservation important to you?

I think it mostly comes from two sources: the way I was brought up and where I come from. I was born and raised in Mongolia, the most sparsely populated unitary sovereign state in the world. Forty percent of Mongolians still lead a nomadic herder lifestyle. Even if you live in a major city, you still have many close friends and family enjoying life in the steppes, mountains and spending time in the great outdoors is the favorite past time of the people. Culturally and historically, Mongolians were always one with nature and wildlife.

Although Mongolia is still an untapped country with pristine nature and one of the last remaining truly nomadic cultures, it is also dealing with significant threats to the environment made both by humans and climate change. Overgrazing, human factors of deforestation, poaching, air and soil pollution are among the top man-made threats. Mongolia has also been disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change. Eighty percent of the country's territory is under some level of desertification while the average temperature in Mongolia increased, from 1940 to 2008, by 2.14C, three times the global average of 0.74C. I think when the environmental degradation is more evident and felt in everyday life, you want to do more and contribute in the ways you can.

You served as the CEO and Board Director of Arig Bank of Mongolia for 12 years. What inspired you to make the jump to conservation?

Part of the reason was realizing my passion and what is more meaningful to me, at this stage of my life. Through my banking work, I was fortunate to be able to initiate, collaborate and lead numerous social and environmental projects with partners from the public and private sectors including the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, United Nations Environment Program, International



Development Banks, Green Funds, and International Conservation Organizations. Along the process, I found myself enjoying sustainability and conservation work a great deal, and the decision to go into conservation full time was the result of three years of consideration and soul searching.

While working in the banking industry, you also started a conservation nonprofit, Spirit Mongolia. Can you tell me about what it does and why you co-founded the organization?

Spirit Mongolia (SM) is a nonprofit that conducts community-based conservation work. The main work is protecting forests and helping with regeneration. We work on anti-poaching of species like marmots, wolverines and snow leopards. We learned the hard way that livelihood improvement has to go alongside conservation work, because poverty and lack of sustainable sources of income result in people abusing the environment and wildlife. SM provides small amounts of income to local communities by developing operations such as sustainable tourism and forest management.

The area we are working in is the birthplace of my father. He's the fourth generation from that region. He was the first person in his family to move to a city and get

a formal education, upon the insistence of his parents. Every summer my parents took us on a family vacation, specifically to this area, when we were kids. Over the years, we noticed lands degrading, rivers drying up, pastures deteriorating, forests being destroyed from arson or illegal wood logging. For instance, illegal wood loggers would set fire to a forest to bypass logging bans and avoid patrols, because by law burned forests can be logged for “cleaning.”

In 2014 when my father and I were visiting the families we know on the land, they asked us for help, stating that they had tried in many different ways to fight these illegal activities but had been overpowered. Initially my father and I thought that this is way out of our league. But after we got back home, it just kept eating me. I couldn't forget about it so I started researching. I discussed it with my father and he loved the opportunity to do something for his birthplace and in honor of his ancestors. That's how we started.

What brought you to Portland?

It was a number of considerations. One of the biggest duties we felt as parents was to get our kids out of the air pollution in Ulaanbaatar. We were considering a few different cities with clean air. Portland's reputation as one of the world's most environmentally conscious cities was a major attraction for us. The large public parks system, high walkability, cycling and public transportation infrastructures, healthy, active lifestyle of the people were all important factors for us that Portland possessed.

It was important to me to be close to mountains, forests and nature. Also my friend Jon Lyons, who is from Portland but living in Mongolia for the last decade or so, was a great advocate and ambassador for Portland. Since we arrived in Portland we have been greeted with nothing but warm welcome. Everyone we met has been wonderfully friendly and wanting to help, introducing us to their friends and family. It's been a very nice, warm place for us so far.

Why Portland Audubon?

I knew I wanted to go into conservation and I wanted to join a grassroots organization with a longstanding history. Portland Audubon fit all the requirements that I had. That's when I looked up the contact information of Audubon's volunteer manager, the name was Vicky Medley. I sent her an email to sign up as a volunteer looking for a way to get involved. In the same way we have been treated by the people of Portland, Vicky responded to my email immediately, invited me to visit Audubon, and greeted me with a warm welcome. She gave me information on upcoming vacancies, including the COO position. I feel fortunate about the good timing that I encountered because the organization happened to be seeking someone with finance and operations experience.

WISH LISTS

Operations

- Auditory assistance devices
- Folding tables (5)
- AED machine

Conservation

- Recreational vehicle or trailer for field work
- Acrylic paint of all colors & paint brushes
- Pull-down projection screen
- Used iPads and/or Chromebooks

Education

- Scope
- New Thermarest NeoAir Venture Sleeping Pads
- New Thermarest BaseCamp Sleeping Pads
- GoPro video camera
- Bushnell Trophy Cam Aggressor HD Camera (2)
- Digital stainless-steel scale (6,000g x 1g)

Marmot Cabin

- Butterfly/bird nets, long handled/fine meshed
- Egg-white powder, no additives or flavors
- Egg-yolk powder, no additives or flavors
- Commercial-grade angle broom
- Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9V)

Wildlife Care Center

- All Free & Clear laundry detergent pods
- Dawn Original dishwashing liquid
- Sponges & dish brushes
- Nitrile, powder-free, non-sterile exam gloves
- Rubber or vinyl dish gloves
- Wet-erase Expo pens in black, brown or blue
- Ziploc twist-n-lock containers
- Kitchen shears
- Kitchen knives, particularly chef's knives
- Hose spray nozzles
- Intensive care Incubators

Sanctuary

- Loppers & trowels
- Work gloves

If you can donate these items, please first contact Portland Audubon at **971-222-6129**, Mon.-Fri., to arrange a time for delivery/pick-up. Check our website for the most updated wishlist.

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 Portland Audubon Business Alliance, please contact Charles Milne, Director of Development at **971-222-6117**.



Antler Gallery	Miller Paint
Backyard Bird Shop	Morel Ink
Cindy Thompson Event Production	Paxton Gate PDX
Clean Water Services	Portland Audubon Nature Store
Columbia Sportswear	Portland General Electric
Consumer Cellular	Pro Photo
David Evans and Associates	Sauvie Island Coffee Company
Elk Cove Vineyard	SELCO Community Credit Union
Grow Construction	Tilbury Ferguson Investments
JD Fulwiler & Co Insurance	Urban Asset Advisors
Labrewatory	Vernier Software & Technology
Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.	West Bearing Investments
McCoy Foat & Company PC, CPA's	
McDonald Jacobs, P.C.	



Artwork by Sandy Tweed

PORTLAND
AUDUBON

2019 WILD ARTS FESTIVAL

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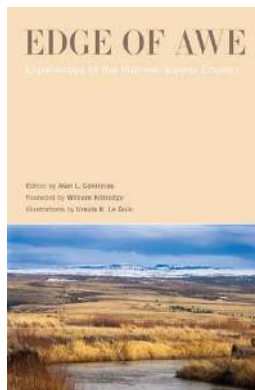
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Art. Authors. Auction.

This year in The Pearl!

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wildartsfestival.org



Edge of Awe

Experiences of the Malheur-Steens Country

Edited by Alan Contreras

Foreword by William Kittredge

Illustrations by Ursula K. Le Guin

This anthology gathers together personal impressions of the Malheur-Steens country of southeastern Oregon, known for its birding opportunities and its natural beauty. Anyone who has visited the area or plans to do so will find inspiration in this compelling literary companion.

ISBN: 978-0-87071-961-5 \$19.95

available in bookstores, by phone, or online:
800-621-2736 | osupress.oregonstate.edu



KairosPDX

At KairosPDX, our mission is to eliminate the prolific racial achievement and opportunity gaps by creating confident, creative and compassionate leaders.

Our comprehensive science program focused on Garden, Outdoor, and STEM education is:

- Culturally responsive - focusing on relationships, cognitive scaffolding, and critical social awareness
- Aligned with Next Generation Science Standards
- Feeding curiosity and appreciation of the natural world





Where the Profits are for the Birds!

Summer is here! And there's no better way to gear up for the season than by visiting the Portland Audubon Nature Store. From maps and hats to walking sticks and water bottles, we have you covered. And you'll find one of the best binocular selections in the city. Swing by to see what the buzz is about!

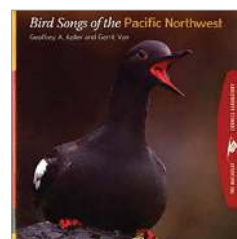
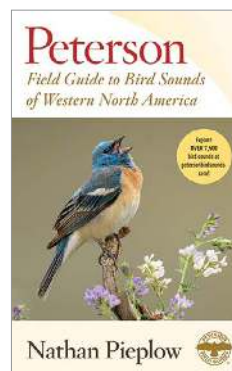


Hiking at Portland Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary.
Photo by Amy Cavé.

Boost Your Birding by Ear Skills!

Learning bird songs may seem daunting, but there are many resources at the Nature Store to sharpen your skills! **The Cornell Lab's Bird Songs of the Pacific Northwest 5-CD set** is a great way for beginners to start learning songs of our area.

For a more in-depth look at bird sounds, check out the brand-new, highly anticipated **Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Western North America**. With spectrograms, detailed descriptions, and thousands of songs in the Peterson online database to reference, you'll be a bird song master in no time!



Bird Songs of the Pacific Northwest
Member price: \$30.60

Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds West
Member price: \$25.20

Optics Focus

Vortex Vanquish 8x26

The Vortex Vanquish is a compact and ergonomic little binocular built to go wherever you do. The Vanquish weighs just 12.7oz and measures under 5 inches tall and wide. Boasting a substantial 352-foot field of view at 1000 yards, this bino makes finding your target easy.

The Vanquish has all the convenient features you'd expect in a larger model, including adjustable eye relief and a diopter.

Member price: \$94.99



PNW Pick

Flipside Hats

Flipside Hats takes beloved fabric scraps and turns them into one-of-a-kind creations. The quality of each hat, the fun and unique prints and patterns, and the company's commitment to giving back to our community are just a few reasons why Flipside Hats is a favorite local company. Check out their great bird- and PNW-themed hats at the Nature Store!

Member price: \$31.50



Members receive a 10% discount at the Nature Store!





TOGETHER FOR NATURE

5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, OR 97210

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



Thank you, Birdathoners!

Thanks to the Portland Audubon community for coming together to make Birdathon 2019 a success with over \$143,400 raised and more coming!

Team leaders planned and optimized their routes. Participants drummed up pledges then birded intensely. Donors gave generously and staff processed over a thousand donations. In the end, bird lovers united to ensure support for Portland Audubon's critical work across Oregon.

GET IN TOUCH

Administration Offices

503-292-6855
9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Wildlife Sanctuary

Dawn to dusk every day

Wildlife Care Center

503-292-0304
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day

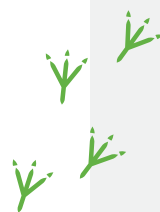
Nature Store &

Interpretive Center

503-292-9453
10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mon.-Sat.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sun.

On the Cover: Coyote, photo by Hayley Crews.

On the Inside Cover: Hiking, photo by Abby VanLeuven. Burrowing Owl, photo by Terry Voorhis. Archery, photo by Clay Showalter. Julio Training, photo by Kelsey Kuhnhausen. Bull Run River, photo by Bob Sallinger.



Birdy Brain Buster!

Which species waits until late June through early August to nest due to their diet of summer ripened fruit? (Active nests have been seen as late as September and October!)

- a. Western Bluebird
- b. Cedar Waxwing
- c. Western Tanager
- d. Yellow Warbler



We are a member of Earth Share Oregon.
503-223-9015 earthshare-oregon.org