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Christmas Bird Count



Ivy ribbon cutting ceremony at the Kehoe Sanctuary.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Look Back at 2019

by Nick Hardigg

At Portland Audubon, we have a lot to be thankful for. As I look back on the year, I am filled with gratitude for the passionate staff, volunteers, donors, members, activists, community scientists, education participants, and partners who play an integral role in protecting birds, wildlife, and habitat in our region.

With the support of our community, we made significant strides for people, wildlife, and habitat this year. Not only did voters turn out in impressive numbers to pass the Metro Greenspaces Bond Measure to protect and expand habitat and access to nature in our region, but we increased protections for the Bull Run Watershed, helped ban the bird poison Avitrol on land owned by the City of Portland, successfully advocated for funding to develop a light-pollution reduction scoping project, and created even more interconnected habitat by expanding our Backyard Habitat Certification Program to all counties in the Portland area.

It was a year of growth quite literally for our Wildlife Sanctuary in NW Portland, which expanded by 22 acres thanks to the Kehoe family, the City, and generous donors, preserving and protecting vital wildlife habitat.

Our education team also had a big year connecting more than 6,000 youth and 5,000 adults to the natural world through quality education programs, from summer camps to ecotours to outdoor school to natural history classes and beyond.

We couldn't do it without you. Each step forward makes Portland Audubon an increasingly effective and inclusive conservation organization. We're looking forward to what a new year brings. Here's to 2020!

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Holiday Gift Guide

Gifts Both You and the Planet Will Love



Western Bluebird, photo by Hayley Crews.

The holiday season is fast approaching, and that means finding the perfect gifts for our loved ones.

For bird and nature lovers, nothing quite hits the spot like something that connects us to the natural world. And even better? When that gift also supports protecting both wildlife and their habitat. Whether you want to give a new pair of optics, ecotour, camp, field guide, or donation to protect wildlife, we have something for every nature buff on your list!

Everything You Could Want and More Is at the Nature Store

The Nature Store is your one-stop shop for all your holiday needs (and members get a 10% discount on all purchases!). All profits at the Nature Store go toward wildlife conservation right here in Oregon. With a large selection of binoculars and scopes, local and international field guides, games and toys for kids, birdhouses and feeders for the backyard, ornaments, and so much more, make the Nature Store your first and last stop as you search for the perfect gift.

Make a Gift in Honor of Someone You Love

The person you choose to honor with your gift will be recognized in the Warbler newsletter, and an elegant songbird-themed card will be mailed to those receiving the tribute. All tribute gifts add to a long legacy of support for crucial conservation initiatives across the state. A perfect way to show the nature lover in your life that you know what's really important to them.

Sponsor a Wild Thing

Our Animal Ambassadors hold a special place in the hearts of visitors of all ages. This holiday season, sponsor one of our education animals. You'll receive a packet that talks all about the animal and can follow up with a visit to meet them in person. Your sponsorship helps pay for the care of Ruby the Turkey Vulture, Aristophanes the Common Raven, Xena the American Kestrel, Julio the Great Horned Owl, or Bybee the Western Painted Turtle, who cannot be released back into the wild and have permanent homes here at Portland Audubon where they help us educate thousands of people each year.



Sponsor a Wild Thing



Ruby, photo by Kiana Rose.



Ecotours

Give a Portland Audubon Membership

In addition to joining the community of 16,000 passionate members, the recipient will get the inside scoop on classes and trips, birding spots, and issues impacting Oregon's wildlife. Memberships also come with exclusive perks:

- A one-year subscription to our bimonthly print newsletter, the Warbler
- Member-only discounts on Nature Store purchases
- Member-only discounts on classes, trips, and camps

Classes and Audubon Birding Days

Your favorite lifelong learner will love a gift certificate for our Adult Education program. We offer a wide array of classes that will help them sharpen their bird identification skills, create exquisite nature journals, and join our expert naturalists on daylong Audubon Birding Days at some of Oregon's most stunning wild spaces. With a gift certificate, they can choose what ignites their passion most!

Contribute to Our Scholarship Fund

Sometimes the best gifts are given to people we've never even met. When you choose to give to our Scholarship Fund, you help make life-changing experiences with the outdoors available to all families. Help us fulfill our mission to inspire all people to love and protect nature by giving the gift of a summer camp, school field trip or more to a family in need of financial assistance.

Blow Their Minds with an Ecotour

Want a real showstopper? Surprise the special person in your life with an ecotour. (It doubles as a gift for yourself if you go on the trip together!) Upcoming 2020 trips include international destinations like Machu Picchu, Madagascar, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Pacific Northwest trips to Skagit Valley, Klamath Basin, Malheur, and Northern California. Led by experienced naturalists, our world-class ecotour program offers an unforgettable experience to wildlife hotspots at home and abroad. Our trips are a treasure of birding, wildlife-watching, natural history, and cultural experience.

Give the Gift of Saving a Life

Every year our Wildlife Care Center treats 3,000 injured and orphaned native birds, mammals, and other native species. In addition, our Wildlife Hotline, open 365 days a year from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., fields more than 10,000 phone calls, helping people to peacefully coexist with their wild neighbors. Your gift ensures we can provide the best care for our patients and serve as a hub for reducing wildlife/human conflicts all over the region.

Sign Up for the Backyard Habitat Certification Program

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program has reached its full build-out, which means residents in most cities in Multnomah, Clackamas, Clark, and Washington Counties can sign up and join more than 5,000 properties that are restoring habitat right in their backyards. It's the perfect gift for your favorite gardener, providing them with the tools they need to turn their yard into a native habitat oasis for wildlife. And nothing brings a bird to the yard better than native plants.

Winter, Spring and Summer Camps

On our winter, spring, and summer camps, youth may discover a Coastal Giant Salamander along our trails, observe a Bald Eagle soaring over the Gorge, or see whales off the San Juan Islands. Or perhaps they want to learn archery, the craft of fire making, or nature photography. No matter what they choose, the child or teen in your life will get to learn, play, and explore, all while making friends, connecting to nature, and making lifelong memories.



Camps



Where the Profits Are for the Birds!

This holiday season, treat yourself or your loved one to a nature-inspired gift from the Nature Store! Nestled in Portland Audubon's 172-acre Wildlife Sanctuary, nature lovers can try out optics, browse our vast selection of books, and talk to our expert staff and dedicated volunteers to find what they are looking for.



Black-capped Chickadee, photo by Scott Carpenter.

Small Gifts & Stocking Stuffers

Wildlife Enamel Pins by Eagle River Designs

High-quality, colorful enamel in a wide variety of native Oregon species. With birds, mammals, fish, and even insects, there is sure to be a pin for you!



Member price: \$5.40

Audubon Chirping Birds by Wild Republic

With realistic sounds and colors, these plush birdies are fun and informative. Choose from over 25 species of Pacific Northwest birds!



Member price: \$7.20

Stickers by Shanna Trumbly

Eugene artist Shanna Trumbly's unique, whimsical style beautifully captures birds, mammals, and insects all found in the PNW.

Member price: \$3.60

Rite in the Rain Notebooks and Pens

Don't let your precious field notes get ruined! This wood-based, recyclable paper won't disintegrate when exposed to rain, sweat, grease, or an accidental laundry ride.



3x5" Pocket Notebook member price: \$4.95

Crystal Fantasy Rainbow Makers

Woodstock Chimes has been making high-quality chimes for over 40 years. Their sparkly Rainbow Makers come in a variety of fun shapes and animals, and perfectly catch the light.



Member price: \$19.80

Wilderness First Aid Kit by Kikkerland

Don't be caught in a pinch on your next outdoor excursion! This kit includes bandages, wipes, antibiotic ointment, and more, and comes in a small, lightweight, reusable tin, easy to throw in your gear.

Member price: \$8.10

Puzzles and Games

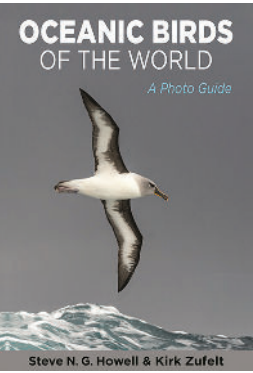
Choose from 30-piece children's puzzles and up to 500 and 1,000 pieces. With lots of bird and nature-themed designs, there is sure to be one for the family to enjoy. Are board games more your style? Check out Wingspan, voted 2019's best new board game, for an accurate and fun birding game. Other games include Charley Harper's Spot the Birds, and Bird Bingo.



Wingspan Board Game member price: \$49.50

Nature Store Picks: Best Books

ADULT TITLES



Oceanic Birds of the World
by Steve N.G. Howell and Kirk Zufelt

The ultimate guide to plumage variations, flight patterns, migration routes and seasonal distribution, and the latest taxonomy, with 2,200+ color photos.

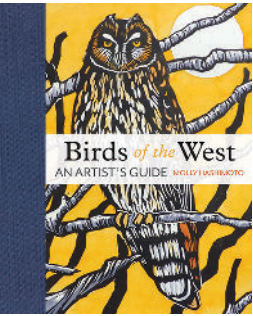
Member price: \$31.50



Fungipedia
by Lawrence Millman

A delightful treasury of mushroom lore with over 180 entries, from Alice in Wonderland to zombie ants and more.

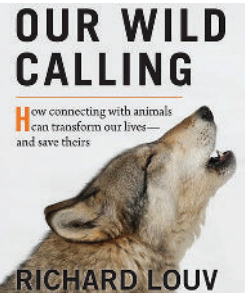
Member price: \$15.26



Birds of the West
by Molly Hashimoto

With whimsical watercolors and bold prints, Molly Hashimoto's artwork captures the spirit of birds and the natural world through block printing, pen and ink sketches, watercolor, etching, and more.

Member price: \$20.66

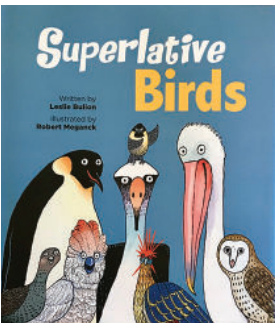


Our Wild Calling
by Richard Louv

Blending knowledge from science and research, wildlife experts, indigenous healers, and psychologists, *Our Wild Calling* shows how animals and people have been communicating for centuries.

Member price: \$25.16

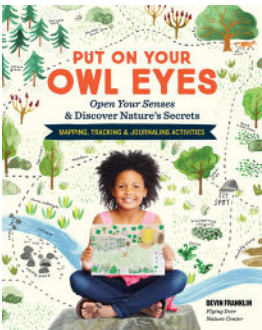
CHILDREN'S BOOKS



Superlative Birds
by Leslie Bulion

Award-winning scientist and poet Leslie Bulion introduces us to the wide world of birds—from the fastest to the smelliest to the longest toes and the longest migration.

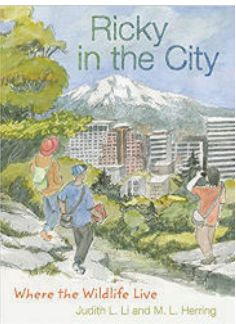
Member price: \$14.36



Put on Your Owl Eyes
by Devin Franklin

Learn how to choose a sit spot to be still and observe, or make a habitat map of your backyard or favorite park. This outdoor activity and adventure guide is designed to get kids outside to interact with nature.

Member price: \$15.26



Ricky in the City: Where the Wildlife Live
by Judith L. Li and M. L. Herring

From helping count fish in Tryon Creek to recording backyard hummingbird feeder stats to tracking mammals in the city, Ricky and Ellie's Portland adventures show them how many ways people care for urban wildlife!

Member price: \$16.16



Zeiss Digiscoping Workshop

Saturday, December 7
Portland Audubon Nature Store

10:30 a.m. presentation
12:30 p.m. field trip

Staff Picks: Optics

Our large selection of binoculars and spotting scopes includes top brands like Nikon, Swarovski, Zeiss, Leupold, Vortex, and Opticron. Plus, with binocular harnesses, tripod adapters, and digiscoping equipment, we have just the thing to change up your binocular game.

Opticron Oregon 4 PC 8x32

A perfect introductory pair of binoculars for the beginner or occasional birder, inspired by Oregon's natural landscapes! Ideal for almost all types of daytime wildlife observation, these affordable binoculars are a great tool for the casual naturalist or budding birder.

\$166 Regular / \$149 Members

Nikon Monarch 5 8x42

Anyone who's done their research on high-performance birding optics is bound to come across the Nikon Monarch 5s. These mid-price binoculars consistently make the lists for top recommended birding binos! The Extra-Low Dispersion glass and multi-layer coatings help ensure superior color, contrast, and light transmission with minimal distortion, at a price that's hard to beat.

\$311 Regular / \$279.95 Members

Vortex Razor HD 8x42

With a magnesium chassis weighing in at just 1.5lbs, the Vortex Razor HD combines the latest in lens and prism technology with an ergonomic, slim design. Anti-reflective coatings and high-density, extra-low dispersion glass ensure optimal light transmission and color precision, even in low light environments.

\$1,090 Regular / \$979.99 Member

Swarovski EL 8.5x42

Leaders in the sport optics field, Swarovski glass is manufactured to the highest standards at their headquarters in Austria. For years, the EL models have set the industry benchmark in terms of performance, image sharpness, and color reproduction. Boasting a superb close focus, flat image, and field of view, these dynamic binoculars may very well be the last pair you ever need to buy!

\$2,954.50 Regular / \$2,659 Member

Incredible Deals from Zeiss!

From now through December 31, 2019 Zeiss is offering four promotions on binoculars and scopes that are sure to get birders excited.

- \$50 instant saving on all Terra ED 32 and 42 models
- Purchase one Conquest Gavia 85mm spotting scope, and receive a free pair of Terra ED 42mm binoculars, either 8x or 10x – your choice! (\$449.99/499.99 value)
- Purchase one 85/95mm Harpia spotting scope, receive a free Harpia Vario eyepiece (\$800 value).
- Purchase any scope (including the two in the deals above) and get a FREE Phoneskope kit! (\$78 value)

Portland Audubon Members receive 10% off their optics purchases at the Nature Store and have 14 days to return or exchange. During the Holiday Open House (12/7-12/8) members will receive an additional 5% off their purchases, including optics!

FIELD NOTES

by Harry Nehls

Varied Thrush: Shy and Striking Altitudinal Migrant

The **Varied Thrush** is one of the most distinctive birds of the dark, damp western forests. It shuns sunlight and open places and is most often observed as a dark shadow flitting away into thick cover. In this situation it is best identified as a chunky, short-tailed robin-like bird showing conspicuous white tips to the outer tail.

The Varied Thrush breeds from Alaska southward to northwestern California and eastward into Idaho and Montana. During the winter, most birds vacate their range north of southern British Columbia and move into Washington, Oregon, and California. They also leave the higher elevation forests throughout its range and move into the lowlands.

During the winter months Varied Thrushes remain in heavy cover, with many moving into oak groves to feed on acorns, while others clean up the available fruit



Photo by Mick Thompson.

and berries. Many visit neighborhood bird feeders, the only thrush that regularly does so. It is also the only thrush that is attracted to and can handle cracked corn.

A shortage of food, heavy snow, ice, or floods that cover what is available often force wintering birds to move even farther south or to coastal bottomlands. Even in winter they are seldom encountered in more than small groups or individuals, and one might consider them uncommon. The winter population in Oregon is actually very high during most years.

During periods of heavy snows these ground feeding birds become quite vulnerable. Their food supplies become covered and they must move out to open wind-blown areas where the ground is clear. Quite often this is along roadways where many of the congregated birds are struck by traffic. They are also exposed to predatory attacks. Undoubtedly heavy snows and ice kill many every year in one way or another.

SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott

The change in climate, from summer to winter, seemed abrupt this year, and the change in the rarity landscape was equally noticeable, as birders left the mudflats to search through grassy fields and the Columbia River.

Many of the expected Columbia River “rarities” returned this fall, including **Red-necked Grebe**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Eared Grebe**, **Pacific Loon**, and **White-winged Scoter**, but a **Pelagic Cormorant** spotted by Nick Mrvelj was an exceptional find. As the name implies, these birds rarely leave their coastal confines. More recently along the river, Andy Frank found a **Snow Bunting** east of Broughton Beach, the traditional Portland spot to see these dainty arctic sparrows.

A long-staying **Long-tailed Duck** was found at Hagg Lake by Stefan Schlick, and a **Palm Warbler** was found at Fernhill Wetlands a few days later by Steve Nord.

Mountain Chickadees continue to be sporadically seen in the area, with the most recent report coming from

Angel’s Rest, as local birders hope for another invasion like the winter of 2016, when they were found across the city.

An **Emperor Goose** was found on the Columbia County side of Sauvie Island by John Book in early November. These attractive little geese are usually reported about once a year across the state, and are overshoots: they generally both breed and winter in Alaska and nearby Russia. Another diminutive, solitary goose in the form of a **Brant** was found mixed in with **Cackling Geese** by a few of the many who went searching for the Emperor.

Stray wintering sapsuckers have started to return, including a **Red-naped** in Sherwood that wintered in the same neighborhood last year, found again by Rick Bennet, and a **Yellow-bellied** found in Yamhill County by Linda Fink.

Outside of the valley, Russ Namitz was able to find a **Brown Booby** in Coos County, where a **Rusty Blackbird** was also spotted at Cape Arago.

For reports, corrections, and tips, email Brodie Cass Talbott at bcasstalbott@audubonportland.org.



Register online at audubonportland.org



Winter Break Camp with Portland Audubon!

Grades 1-8 | December 23-January 3

Portland Audubon Winter Break Camps are the perfect way to get your child outside and into the beauty of the Pacific Northwest during school break, on wintry adventures that they will remember for a lifetime.

Each day-long camp, led by experienced educators, inspires kids to love and protect nature while making friends, playing in the winter weather, and finding their place in the natural world. We have 15 unique offerings for grades 1-8 that immerse youth in programs that are fun, safe, inclusive, and completely nature-based.

	Dec. 23	Dec. 24	Dec. 25	Dec. 26	Dec. 27
Grades 1-3	Snowy Gnomes	Wild in the Winter	No Camps	Hoots There!	Junior Wildlife Vet
Grades 4-8	Duck Duck Goose	Candle Crafting	No Camps	Wolves I	Raptor Road Trip
	Dec. 30	Dec. 31	Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Jan. 3
Grades 1-3	Winter Forest Art	Creatures of the Night	No Camps	Snowshoe Hares to Polar Bears	Frosty Fairies
Grades 4-8	Snowy Overnight Adventure		No Camps	Wolves II	Elk Extravaganza



Coyote., photo by Hayley Crews.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Nature Store Holiday Open House

December 7 & 8 | 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Join the Nature Store for holiday cheer with gifts, cards, wrapping paper, and ornaments, as well as holiday treats. Portland Audubon members get an additional 5% off.

Where: Portland Audubon Nature Store   **FREE**

NATURE NIGHT

Stanley Gehrt: Exploring the Mysteries of Coyotes in the City

January 14 | 7 p.m.

Stanley Gehrt, PhD will be joining us all the way from the Midwest to share his nearly 20-year study of how coyotes in Chicago have adapted to the city as their natural environment and share previously unknown details of how they live in harmony with the bustling concrete jungle.






Where: Location TBD  **FREE**

Christmas Bird Count

January 4

Join the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) for a fun day identifying and counting birds seen in designated 15-mile diameter circles. This long-standing program of the National Audubon Society is lending important insight into the health and status of bird populations across North America.

Sign up and learn more at audubonportland.org **FREE**

-  Cost Involved
-  Public Transit Available
-  **FREE** Free
-  Family Friendly
-  Wheelchair Accessible



Northern Saw-whet Owl, photo by Mick Thompson.

AUDUBON BIRDING DAYS

Join Portland Audubon on affordable, full-day or multi-day bird trips to a wide variety of natural areas within a day’s drive of Portland. Expert guiding and camaraderie provided!

Willamette Valley Refuges: Baskett Slough

December 7 | 7 a.m.–5 p.m.

Join Brodie Cass Talbott for a trip to Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge, the final trip in a series of Audubon Birding Days exploring the Willamette Valley Refuge System, a haven for wintering waterfowl, and a sanctuary for imperiled oak savanna habitat.

Fee: \$65 | Transportation provided
Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott | Limited to 10 participants **\$**

Okanogan and the Waterville Plateau

January 15–19

Join us for five days of winter wonderland and fantastic birds. This part of north-central Washington state is the best area in the Pacific Northwest for winter specialties such as Bohemian Waxwing and Gyrfalcon.

Fee: \$350 | Transportation NOT provided
Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants **\$**

Owls by Day in Walla Walla

January 24–26

Join this unique self-catering trip to see day-roosting owls, such as Northern Saw-whet, Northern Pygmy, Long-eared, and an occasional Snowy Owl.

Fee: \$200 | Transportation NOT provided
Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants **\$**

Tillamook

February 1 | 6:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

Join Stefan on a day trip to Tillamook to search for rarities in the lowlands and visiting hotspots such as Kilchis Point Preserve, Barview Jetty, and Bayocean.

Fee: \$65 | Transportation provided
Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants **\$**



Pacific Wren, photo by Scott Carpenter.

ADULT EDUCATION

Classes

Raptors in Winter

December 11 | 6:30–8:30 p.m. | Class in Heron Hall
December 14 | 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | Sauvie Island Field Trip


Join us for an exploration of the raptors of the Portland area in winter. In the classroom we will explore the natural history and identification of hawks, eagles, falcons, and harriers.

Fee: \$60 members / \$75 non-members | Class only option: \$20
Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott | Limited to 12 participants **\$**

Bird Journals

January 18: Birds in Winter | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
February 22: Bird Scenes | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Explore ways to create a charming, personal, and colorful visual record. Practice seeing in a new way, drawing what is essential, and using watercolor to add zest!

Fee: \$55 members / \$75 non-members per session
Instructor: Jude Siegel | Limited to 16 participants  **\$**

Beginning Field Birding and Sauvie Exploration

Three-part series: February 1, March 7, April 4
8 a.m.–12 p.m. | Sauvie Island Field Trip

Interested in developing and sharpening your birding skills? Explore Sauvie Island, learn bird calls, and search for waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors.

Fee: \$85 members / \$105 non-members
Instructors: Greg Baker and Ricky Allen | Limited to 15 participants **\$**

Little Brown Birds

February 27 | 6:30–8:30 p.m. | Class in Heron Hall
February 29 | 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | Local field trip

At first glance those little brown birds flitting through the brush look alike, but with a little practice you’ll learn to recognize the great variety of birds found in the area.

Fee: \$55 members / \$70 non-members | Class only option: \$20
Instructor: John Rakestraw | Limited to 14 participants **\$**

FREE BIRD WALKS

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



ANNOUNCEMENT

Board Elections

Each March, our Board elects its Directors from a slate of candidates. Directors are limited to serving two consecutive three-year terms, with committee chairs allowed to extend service for additional one-year terms.

The Board Affairs Committee welcomes recommendations for candidates by sending an email to the Membership Department, care of Charles Milne, cmilne@audubonportland.org, on or before February 3, 2020.

Additionally, members may directly nominate a candidate by submitting a petition signed by 10 or more members to the Board Affairs Committee no later than February 3, 2020. Candidates nominated by petition will automatically be placed on the election ballot. Please note: qualified candidates must be current Portland Audubon members. (For more background on our elections and bylaws, please see the March 2019 issue of the Warbler.)

—Nick Hardigg, Executive Director



Przewalski's Wild Horses in Mongolia, photo by Garrett Ziegler.

INTERNATIONAL ECOTOURS

Trinidad & Tobago

April 7–17, 2020

Come bird, watch nesting sea turtles, snorkel, and simply savor the tropical paradise and cultural vibrancy of Trinidad and Tobago. We will split our time between two ecolodges (including the world-famous Asa Wright Nature Center), providing a unique opportunity to slow down and be intentional about learning neotropical birds in one of the richest birding countries per square mile.

Fee: \$4,995 members / \$5,495 non-members
Leaders: Erin Law, Greg Smith, and local guides

Machu Picchu & the Sacred Valley

May 9–15, 2020

From the cloud forest and valleys to the high Andes we will tally an impressive list of birds and wildlife that makes this area a must-see destination for birders, while also appreciating the rich cultural history of the area. Explore the cobblestoned streets of Cusco, admire the mysterious citadel of Machu Picchu, and enjoy a dazzling assortment of birds, such as the Peruvian endemic Inca Wren.

Fee: \$3,195 members / \$3,495 non-members
Leaders: Dan van den Broek and local guides

Mongolia

June 14–29, 2020

Mongolia is a place of staggering beauty. Enjoy traditional Mongolian food in a communal setting and experience the unique Mongolian life by staying in ger camps. We will explore varied habitats which include Siberian Taiga, the Mongolian Steppe, and the Gobi Desert.

Fee: \$5,295 members / \$5,595 non-members
Leader: Stefan Schlick



Golden Eagle in Klamath Basin. Photo by Scott Carpenter.

DOMESTIC ECOTOURS

Skagit Valley

February 21–23, 2020

Experience the sights and sounds of tens of thousands of Snow Geese settling into their feeding grounds. Enjoy a variety of raptors such as Gyrfalcon and Short-eared Owl.

Fee: \$645 members / \$745 non-members
Leaders: Stefan Schlick and April Brown

Klamath Basin

March 26–29, 2020

Come with us to explore the Klamath Basin, home to six national wildlife refuges and one of the most important wetland ecosystems in Western North America. Our visit is timed to see the spectacular spring migration of Snow, Ross's, and White-fronted Geese, along with a great diversity of waterfowl and plenty of raptors.

Fee: \$895 members / \$995 non-members
Leaders: Candace Larson and Mary Coolidge

Malheur Foray

May 30–June 3 2020

Head on a five-day tour to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, located in remote and beautiful southeastern Oregon. Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is a world-class birder's paradise. A variety of habitats, including extensive marshes, sagebrush flats, riparian thickets, and rimrock support a diversity of wildlife. Field birding and natural history are the focus of this exciting trip.

Fee: \$995 members / \$1,195 non-members
Leaders: Candace Larson and Tara Lemezis

Fee includes: Ground transportation, double-occupancy lodging, meals except dinners, entrance fees for planned activities and the services of your leaders. Airfare not included.



Christmas Bird Count in Portland

January 4, 2020

Sign up at audubonportland.org

Christmas Bird Count: An 80-Year Review of Species Trends in Portland

by Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Manager; Tim Meehan, Quantitative Ecologist, National Audubon; Jay Withgott, Portland Audubon board member alumnus; Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

For more than 100 years, Portland Audubon has organized the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in the metro area, recruiting volunteers to fan out across a 15-mile-wide circle to identify and count every bird seen or heard. Results from all Christmas Bird Counts are contributed annually to National Audubon, whose database includes data from thousands of CBC circles across North America and the world. Data from Community Science efforts like the Christmas Bird Count provide critical insight into the status of bird populations, helps inform conservation efforts across the globe, and contributes to hundreds of published scientific studies.

Most recently, National Audubon published a new report, “Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink,” an update of its 2014 report finding that nearly two-thirds of all bird species in North America are at risk due to impacts from climate change. And top ornithologists from nine institutions recently published a study in the journal Science entitled “Decline of the North American Avifauna” that indicated a cumulative loss of 29% of our continent’s birds—nearly 3 billion birds in total—since 1970. Such studies are sobering and should compel us all to get involved in efforts to fight climate change, protect habitats, and participate in community science efforts like the CBC.

We highlight species trends over the course of 80 years (1938–2017) for several notable species. We envision these selected preliminary results being a teaser for a broader and more in-depth analysis to come in the near future. To analyze trends from the Portland CBC, we use statistical techniques developed by researchers at the U.S. Geological Survey’s Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and at National

Audubon. While there is much to learn from data from local CBC circles, analyses of these trends have important limitations.

First, while the species trend models control for observer effort, they do not address other variables (e.g., temperature, changes in land use, etc.), so our ability to interpret what is driving species trends is limited. Second, because the data pertain only to the 15-mile-radius circle around Portland and only to the winter season, trends documented here may not reflect region-wide trends or trends in other seasons. For example, neotropical migrants and shorebird species that spend their winters south, many of which are declining and are species of concern, like Rufous Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, and Dunlin, are not covered. Still, although these trends should be interpreted cautiously, they provide a window into Portland’s “avifauna past” and help us gain perspective into how winter bird communities have fared over nearly a century.

The wealth of data collected by the Portland CBC lends perspective on how local and regional conservation efforts have benefited some species, while reflecting how other species face challenges surviving in Portland’s dynamic landscape. The CBC data also help us to look ahead and more effectively plan conservation action for the future. You can play a part in these efforts—all while enjoying a fun day in the field with fellow bird-loving volunteers. **If you haven’t yet signed up for the 94th Portland CBC on January 4, contact us and be a participant!**

2020

Feb. 21-23 Skagit Valley

March 26-29 Klamath Basin

May 15-28 Poland

May 30-June 3 Malheur

June 4-7 Central Oregon

June 14-29 Mongolia

July 9-12 Idaho's Cassia Crossbill

Sept. 11-13 Grays Harbor

Sept. 15-19 California Condors

Sept. 24-27 NE Washington

Sept. 30-Oct. 4 Steens

Nov. 2-19 Colombia

Nov. 2-16 Madagascar

2021

Feb. 8-23 Ghana

March 10-17 San Blas

Christmas Bird Count Findings & Trends 1938-2017

Peregrine Falcon 9.5% annual increase

Peregrine populations were decimated by the use of DDT during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. However, banning DDT in 1972 and listing the Peregrine under the Endangered Species Act in 1973 allowed this species to rebound successfully across the country, and it was removed from the Federal Endangered Species List in 1999. On the Portland CBC, Peregrines began to appear consistently starting in the mid-1990s, and since then have steadily increased in low numbers. Portland Audubon played a role in protecting this species in the city as well as throughout Oregon.



Anna's Hummingbird 11.3% annual increase

Prior to 1968, this species had not been documented on the Portland CBC at all. Today, it is one of our most common birds. A recent study from the University of Washington suggests the dramatic northward range expansion of this California species was initially driven by introduced plants and hummingbird feeders, but that climate change may play an increasingly important role in shaping its future range.

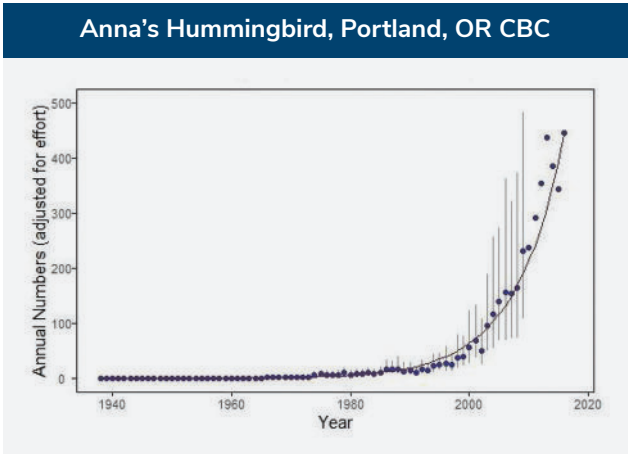


Photo Credits: Peregrine Falcon by Scott Carpenter, Anna's Hummingbird by Mick Thompson, Western Meadowlark and White-breasted Nuthatch by Tara Lemezis, Northern Flicker and Evening Grosbeak by Hayley Crews.

Western Meadowlark 4.8% annual decrease

Willamette Valley grassland bird populations have been in decline for decades. Habitat conversion for agriculture is a prime reason, while in the Portland area, open habitat has also been lost to urban/suburban development. Highest recorded numbers of meadowlarks on the Portland CBC were in the 1940s, tapering down to few detections in the 1990s and early 2000s. In the past 10 years, numbers have risen but are still much lower than in the early 20th century



Northern Flicker 0.7% annual decrease

Our most common woodpecker and frequent backyard bird. Surprisingly, the Portland CBC documents a decline of this species with numbers reaching a low in the 1970s and 80s although there appears to be some level of recovery in recent years. It is a bit of a mystery why this adaptable bird has suffered a decline in Portland but it may be due to reduction in appropriate sites for nesting cavities.



White-breasted Nuthatch 1.3% annual decrease

This nuthatch thrives in both mature riparian cottonwood and white oak savanna, but the majestic native oak habitat in particular has declined in the Portland metro area to a fraction of what it once was, suggesting a reason for the bird's decline. In recent years, however, detections of this species have increased during the CBC. Could it be the start of a recovery?



Evening Grosbeak 3.4% annual decrease

In the past 20 years, Evening Grosbeaks have been declining throughout their range. In Portland, CBC numbers were variable (ranging from single digits to over 200 birds), but starting in the early 1990s numbers dropped off, with many years seeing no detections. Range-wide causes of decline for this species may include boreal habitat loss due to tar sands exploitation, shifts in forest management to fast-growing softwoods, and window strikes.



Canada Jay,
photo by Mick Thompson.

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

IN MEMORY

John Heydon
Margaret Heydon

Linda Roslund McAllister
Elizabeth Lund

Ron L. Spencer
Tammy Spencer

J. Mary Taylor
Margaret Welch

IN HONOR

Walter Duane Hall
Ellen Hall-Chave and
Richard Chave

Lynn Herring
Richard Herring

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.



Great Blue Heron, photo by Mick Thompson.

We Did It! Major Wins for Local Conservation in November Election

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

November 5 was a great night for fish and wildlife, water quality, and access to nature in our region.

The Metro Nature For All Greenspace Bond Measure (26-203) passed with 67% of the vote and large majorities in Multnomah (71%), Clackamas (62%), and Washington (62%) Counties. It will generate \$475 million in the coming years to protect our most at-risk natural areas from the urban core to edge of the urban growth boundary and ensure access to nature for all of our region's residents. It includes important goals related to climate change resilience and equity to help address some of the biggest challenges facing our communities and ensure that our most vulnerable populations benefit.

Measure 26-204, which enshrines protections for the Bull Run Watershed in the City of Portland Charter, passed with 89% of the vote. It will help ensure a legacy of clean water for future generations and protections for species such as the Northern Spotted Owl, which nests within the protected area.

Measure 26-205, which allows Portland to send aid to other communities to help repair water systems in the event of a disaster in return for reciprocal aid, passed with 85% of the vote. This common-sense measure will help ensure that our community remains resilient in the event of a disaster.

Over the past 30 years, this region's voters have strongly and consistently supported ballot measures to protect our natural resources and ensure equitable access to nature. Election night perpetuated that legacy and will give us resources to continue creating one of the greenest metropolitan regions in the United States.

Portland Audubon was proud to work with a wide coalition of conservation, environmental justice, and community groups and businesses to pass these measures. At a time when our nation is so conflicted, it is amazing to see our community moving forward together in solidarity to protect our environment.

Thank you to all who supported these measures!



Become an Activist
audubonportland.org/take-action

The Birds Are Calling

We know that you, like many others in the Portland area, have a deep appreciation for nature, and understand the inherent value of the wildlife that depend on habitats across the Oregon landscape. You may have heard earlier this fall about a newly published report outlining the striking decline of many bird species across North America over the past 50 years.

The report, published in the journal Science, found 30% of the birds in North America have been lost since 1970—adding up to nearly three billion birds across the United States and Canada.

We send our gratitude to you for your support of Portland Audubon, where you have helped combat this dire reality for birds here in the Northwest. However, there is more to do to protect the bird populations that we care so much about, both for their intrinsic value and for what birds mean to our ecosystems. And not just in Oregon. Our work affects migratory birds along the entire Pacific Flyway, from Alaska down to South America.

As the giving season begins, we need your support and hope you will consider a special gift to Portland Audubon to help us continue to protect vital bird species and other wildlife, and allow for impactful programs to expand so we can do more for our natural world than ever before.

Give a gift of any size today:
audubonportland.org/support



Great Gray Owl, photo by Mick Thompson.

WISH LISTS

Education

- Leupold McKenzie 8x42mm binoculars
- New Thermarest NeoAir Venture sleeping pads
- New Thermarest BaseCamp sleeping pads
- Bushnell Trophy Cam Aggressor HD camera (2)

Wildlife Care Center

- All Free & Clear laundry detergent pods
- Dawn Original dishwashing liquid
- Dish brushes
- Nitrile, powder-free, non-sterile exam gloves
- Rubber or vinyl dish gloves
- Wet-erase Expo pens in black, brown or blue
- Kitchen shears
- Hose spray nozzles
- Red-tailed Hawk flight cage funding (\$30,000)
- Great Horned Owl flight cage funding (\$30,000)
- Intensive care incubator funding (\$2,500)
- Mammal cage funding (\$10,000)
- Wellness Core Natural Grain Free Dry Cat Food Kitchen (Turkey & Chicken)
- Multicolored zip ties/table ties (4in and all sizes)
- EliteField 3-door folding soft dog crates (20'L x 14"W x 14"H)
- Portable oxygen generator

Sanctuary

- Loppers & trowels
- New work gloves
- Auditory assistance devices
- Folding tables (3)
- OSHA-approved hard hats (5)
- Well-running pickup truck
- Metal storage rack (no larger than 5 feet tall, five feet wide, 2 feet deep)
- Portable car battery charger

Conservation

- Recreational vehicle or trailer for field work
- Standing coat rack
- Unihedron Dark Sky Quality Meter (LU-DL)
- Used iPads and/or Chromebooks

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

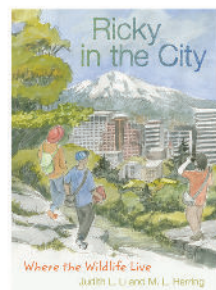
Through their business practices and financial contributions, the following businesses are helping advance our mission and protect Oregon's birds, natural resources, and livability. If you would like to become a member of the Portland Audubon Business Alliance, please contact Charles Milne, Director of Development at 971-222-6117.



Antler Gallery	Miller Paint Co.
Bob's Red Mill	Mountain Rose Herbs
Cindy Thompson Event Production	Paxton Gate PDX
The Commerce Group	Portland Audubon Nature Store
David Evans and Associates	Portland General Electric
Elk Cove Winery	Portland Nursery
Erath Winery	Pro Photo
Garden Fever	Sauvie Island Coffee Company
Grow Construction	Selco Community Credit Union
Inn @ Northrup Station	Silver Rain Massage
JD Fulwiler & Co. Insurance	Tilbury Ferguson Investment
KPFF	Urban Asset Advisors
Labrewatory	Vernier Software & Technology
Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.	Washman LLC
McCoy Foat & Company PC, CPA's	West Bearing Investments
McDonald Jacobs, P.C.	

Ellie and Ricky

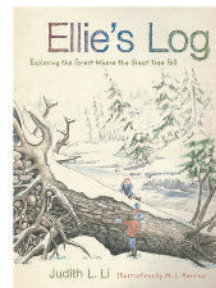
Science Explorers
books by Judith L. Li & M. L. Herring



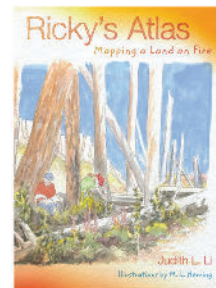
NEW!
Ricky in the City
Where the Wildlife Live

It's early fall when Ricky and Ellie travel to Portland for a weekend school exchange. Exploring Portland's habitats, from its streets and gardens to woodlands, streams, and river banks, they realize there are many ways people actively care for the city's wildlife.

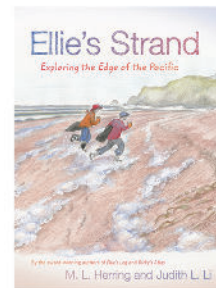
ISBN: 978-0-87071-977-6 \$17.95



Ellie's Log: Exploring the Forest Where the Great Tree Fell
ISBN: 978-0-87071-842-7 \$17.95



Ricky's Atlas: Mapping a Land on Fire
ISBN: 978-0-87071-941-7 \$17.95



Ellie's Strand: Exploring the Edge of the Pacific
ISBN: 978-0-87071-696-6 \$17.95



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osupress.oregonstate.edu | www.ellieslog.com



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Celebrate Local Artisans
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Saturday December 7th
10am-1pm
Dean Crouser at Beaverton
Nancy Tillman at Lake Oswego

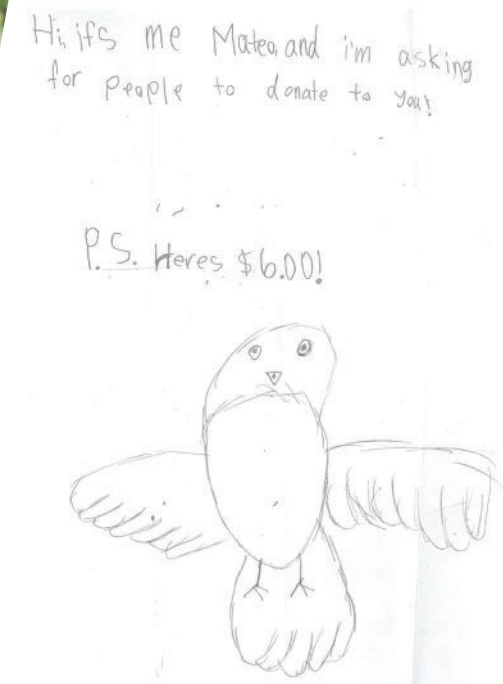
Saturday December 14th
10am-1pm
Eileen Sorg at West Linn
Dorothy Steele at Portland

Saturday December 14th
4pm-7pm
Dean Crouser at Vancouver



www.BackyardBirdShop.com

@backyardbirdshop



Mateo Asks You to Give for the Birds

by Donna Wiench, Leadership and Legacy Giving Manager

This is the time of year when my colleagues and I feel especially grateful for the care, goodwill, and trust that members express through their donations.

Recently, Volunteer Manager Vicky Medley was opening Portland Audubon's mail when she came across a child's pencil drawing of a bird. In the envelope was the art, a brief note from Mateo, age 7, and six dollars.

Charmed and delighted, Vicky emailed colleagues a photo of Mateo's drawing.

From time to time, children will send Portland Audubon their birthday money, bar or bat mitzvah money, or funds they receive at Christmas and other holidays. This is the third time Mateo has made a gift this year, so as a parent myself, I was a bit curious about who this child was and how the gift came about. Was this gift Mateo's idea or his folks'?

Turns out, it was all Mateo, says his mom, Holly Matthews, a licensed clinical social worker who specializes in trauma healing in both adults and teens. "Mateo is a big-hearted kid, and he loves birds in particular," she said. A first grader at Hayhust Elementary in Portland, Mateo "worries a lot about climate change, and he wants to do what he can."

Holly and her husband and Mateo's dad, Filip Hristic, principal of Wilson High School, watch nature TV shows with their son, and read to him about science. Sometimes the programs mention the threatening and scary conditions animals face because of the warming earth and rising oceans.

"When there is a wave of worry or sadness, like an island of garbage in the ocean, we talk about what we can do," Holly said. "That's important for us so we're not just despairing. We look for what we can do and ways we can contribute. Service is important to both Filip and me."

As a way to help, Mateo chooses to send money to Portland Audubon because he's visited many times. "I like the birds and walking in the woods. I've seen birds' nests on the side of the building, and I like to hear the frogs, too," Mateo said.

"Both of our kids feel deeply and are concerned about the earth and the future of all of us," Holly said. It makes me feel hopeful, because I imagine there's a lot of kids who feel this way. There are a lot of sensitive, caring kids."

Thank you, Mateo. It's our members who fill Portland Audubon's staff with gratitude.



TOGETHER FOR NATURE

5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, OR 97210

Portland Audubon inspires all people to love and protect birds, wildlife,
and the natural environment upon which life depends.



Holiday Open House & Zeiss Digiscoping

December 7 & 8, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Portland Audubon Nature Store

Join us for the Nature Store's annual Holiday Open House during the first weekend in December. Members will receive at 15% discount on all purchases (including optics!) and we will be offering a special introductory rate for new members to Portland Audubon. Enjoy warm drinks, snacks, and a cheery holiday atmosphere!

On Saturday at 10:30 a.m., a Zeiss rep will give a short presentation about digiscoping. Stick around to ask questions and try out different models of binoculars and scopes. At 12:30 p.m., we will head out on a short field trip to put our new digiscoping knowledge into practice.

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

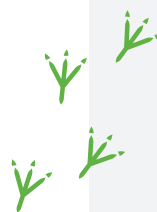
On the Cover: Snowy Owl by Mick Thompson.

On the Inside Cover: Red-tailed Hawk by Tara Lemezis, Great Blue Heron by Mick Thompson.

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.



Birdy Brain Buster!

Over the last 5 years of the Christmas Bird Count, which species averages the highest number counted?

- A. European Starling
- B. American Robin
- C. Dark-eyed Junco
- D. American Crow



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

Answer: American Crow