

## Saving the Marbled Murrelet





FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Looking Back to Move Forward

by Nick Hardigg

A heartfelt thank-you to our community for the thoughtful conversations around our July/August issue of The Warbler—which centered the voices and experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in the environmental movement.

Moving forward requires acknowledging and reckoning with our history as a movement and organization. Recently, National Audubon (with which we are affiliated, and separate from) published an in-depth article examining the history of our mutual namesake, John James Audubon, daylighting facts normally left out of the history books.

In the conservation movement, our history often centers white men like John James Audubon, John Muir, Gifford Pinchot, and many others, while erasing the contributions of countless people of color, women, and other marginalized groups.

Only when we apply a critical lens to our past can we start to understand how to move forward and build a more just future. “Together for Nature” is not just a slogan. It is not just a commitment to grow and support diverse voices.

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Marbled Murrelet nestling, photo by Aaron Allred.

Saving the Marbled Murrelet

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In 1988, Portland Audubon commissioned a population status report on an amazing little bird that spends almost its entire life at sea but comes ashore to nest in our mature and old-growth coastal forests: the Marbled Murrelet. That status report would tell us that Marbled Murrelet populations were rapidly declining due to decades of aggressive clear-cut logging of our coastal forest and set off a process that would result in the listing of the Marbled Murrelet as “threatened” under the Federal Endangered Species Act in 1992 and the State of Oregon Endangered Species Act in 1995.

A status review conducted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2018 concluded that the “key threats identified at the time of listing have continued or increased, and many new threats have been identified since the 1990s.” It also noted that the primary causes of Marbled Murrelet declines—loss and fragmentation of older forest habitat on which the bird depends for nesting—have “slowed, but not halted...since the 1990s,” with greatest losses occurring on lands managed by the state.

existing programs and regulation have “failed to prevent continued high rates of habitat loss on nonfederal lands in Oregon.” The best available science predicts that the extinction probability for Marbled Murrelets is 80% by 2060 along Oregon’s Central and North Coast and 80% by 2100 along Oregon’s South Coast.

Elliott State Forest

The 82,000-acre Elliott State Forest is one of the most important strongholds for Marbled Murrelets, as well as Coho Salmon, in the Coast Range. The Elliott has been the epicenter of a decades-long battle to stop illegal clear-cutting in occupied murrelet habitat by the Oregon Department of Forestry.



presents some exciting conservation opportunities but also some significant hurdles yet to overcome. The next few months will determine whether a viable proposal can emerge that achieves real protection for the Elliott's older forests and imperiled wildlife, supports important scientific research, and establishes a collaborative management structure for the future. An Oregon Land Board meeting is scheduled for November to review a proposal.

### Uplisting Under the State Endangered Species Act

In November of 2020, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission will consider a petition from multiple conservation groups, including Portland Audubon, to uplist the Marbled Murrelet from threatened to endangered under the State Endangered Species Act. An uplisting would require every state agency that manages lands with nesting murrelets to develop a murrelet management plan. This is not the first time the ODFW Commission has considered this petition. In February 2018 the ODFW Commission voted to accept the petition, but in June of the same year, under intense pressure from timber interests, it reversed its decision without explanation. A lawsuit brought by Cascadia Wildlands, Portland Audubon, and others successfully challenged the Commission's reversal and remanded the decision back to the Commission. This November, the Commission will have a chance to do the right thing and demonstrate that it is guided by its mission to protect the state's wildlife, not power politics.

### Oregon Forest Practices Act

The Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA), which governs management of private forest lands in Oregon, has long been recognized as providing the weakest protections for private forests in the western U.S. Decades of advocacy had failed to remedy the OFPAs deficiencies. In February 2020, Portland Audubon was proud to be a signatory along with 12 other conservation groups and 13 timber companies to a historic agreement negotiated by Oregon Wild, Wild Salmon Center, and Crag. The agreement put in place comprehensive reforms for aerial spraying of pesticides and committed signatories to pursuing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries to govern how the OFPA will protect imperiled species including the Marbled Murrelet in the future. Preliminary work is underway now to frame up the HCP process.



Elliott State Forest, photo by Tim Giraudier.

### Western Oregon Forest Habitat Conservation Plans

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is completing preliminary work on habitat conservation plans that would guide protection of imperiled species, including the Marbled Murrelet, on more than 500,000 acres on the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. Preliminary plans recently presented by ODF give reason for optimism that significant progress can be made to move beyond decades of aggressive mismanagement that prioritized harvest over wildlife, water quality, and other public values. This fall, the Board of Forestry will decide whether to continue with the HCP process or revert to business as usual. Powerful timber interests are already pushing to terminate the process. It is critical that ODF move forward into a new era for ecologically responsible forest management.

The plight of the murrelet is a reflection of the way in which our coastal forests have been mismanaged over many decades. Will the opportunities before us be enough to save this amazing bird—it is far from certain. What is certain is that our coastal rainforests are incredible resources that sequester carbon, clean our air and water, and provide habitat for a wide array of wildlife. The state has an unprecedented opportunity right now to turn the corner and at long last put the health of our coastal forests above the profits of private timber companies...and maybe, just maybe, save the Marbled Murrelet.

## Election: Vote Yes on the Portland Parks Levy and the Portland HydroParks Measure

**Portland Audubon urges your YES vote on two important ballot measures to ensure that Portland continues to create an amazing system of parks and natural areas that provide equitable access and programming for the community and protect and restore our natural environment.**

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted just how important access to parks and natural areas is to our physical and mental health. At the same time it has also put unprecedented strain on funding for parks. It will be a crowded ballot in November—Please VOTE YES on these two measures and help us spread the word to the community about them!

### ✓ Portlanders for Parks Ballot Measure

The Portlanders for Parks Ballot Measure will create an operating levy that will raise an average of \$48 million per year for five years to support critically important programs at Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R). PP&R has been hit hard by COVID-19, as critical sources of revenue such as program fees have disappeared. This levy will restore investments in parks and natural areas, and will dramatically increase access to programming for underserved communities including communities of color, refugees and immigrants, and families experiencing poverty.

The proposed levy would

- enhance and preserve parks, rivers, wetlands, trees, and other important natural features in urban areas for the benefit of all Portlanders and wildlife;
- provide park and recreation services to diverse populations including communities of color, seniors, teens, households experiencing poverty, immigrants and refugees, and people living with disabilities;
- increase opportunities for communities of color and children experiencing poverty to connect,
- prevent cuts to recreation programs and closures of community centers and pools; and
- enhance park maintenance to keep parks clean and safe, including litter and hazardous waste removal, restroom cleaning, and playground safety.

The levy would cost 80 cents per \$1,000 of assessed home value. A home with an assessed value of \$200,000 would pay approximately \$13 per month. This levy is urgently needed to ensure that PP&R can continue to provide and expand essential services, provide equitable access, and improve the ecological health of our neighborhoods at a time when those services are both desperately needed and at real risk.

### ✓ Portland HydroParks Ballot Measure

The Portland HydroParks Ballot Measure allows the Portland Water Bureau to use its properties, other than the protected Bull Run Watershed, for secondary uses such as parks, community gardens, play areas, and natural resource restoration, paying for maintenance and ADA improvements. Sites such as those that house water towers and pump stations often contain significant amounts of unused land. Historically these sites have been fenced and unavailable to the public, but in recent years, the Portland Water Bureau has pulled back the fences and opened many of these sites for use by the public. Picnic tables, community gardens, park benches, play equipment, and other amenities have replaced fenced-off, mostly empty lots. Many of these sites occur in underserved neighborhoods where these types of benefits are desperately needed. They have increased park access, greened our city, given our children a safe place to play, built community, and increased food security. This measure would amend the Portland City Charter to formally allow these types of secondary uses where appropriate on Water Bureau infrastructure sites and allow the Water Bureau to invest rates to improve these sites for public use and to ensure that they are safe and compliant with the American with Disabilities Act.

For decades, Water Bureau land sat unused behind tall fences in our neighborhoods. Today they are being converted to thriving community sites. Please vote YES on the Portland HydroParks Ballot Measure to ensure that the Portland Water Bureau can use its infrastructure sites to increase community health, environmental health, food security, and equity in our neighborhoods!





Sandhill Crane and Snow Geese, photo by Mick Thompson.

# Becoming Birds: Decolonizing Ecoliteracy

by Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator

**ʔa xest sxlɣalt. xʷixʷeɣʉł tu hi skʷest.** Hello, good day. Throughout my life I have spent countless hours observing, learning from, and talking with our feathered relatives. This life full of birds has not only taught me much of what I know about the places that I have lived in, but reinforced much of my belief that I can teach almost anything through birds. For me, this idea of birds as pedagogy (method of teaching/as teachers) is represented in the line “bird by bird, I’ve come to know the Earth” from Pablo Neruda’s poem “The Poet Says Goodbye to the Birds.” This idea of knowing the Earth, or a place, through birds is likely familiar to many birders, educators, and scientists.

Can observing birds teach individuals about ecology? After all, time spent outdoors, connecting to a place and the species within it, has long been considered an important part of developing an ecoliterate populace, capable of building a sustainable and climate-resilient future. But what does it mean to be ecoliterate? How do we build ecoliteracy? And whose ecological knowledge is centered? For decades, researchers, educators, and ecologists have defined ecoliteracy through the ecological knowledge and competencies of western science and cultures. Meaning to be ecoliterate one must only know what western science says you should know, and that you should learn it through western knowledge holders or practices.

Because of this, other ways of knowing are frequently treated as mythologies, rather than as accepted knowledge. Indigenous Ecological Knowledges come from the land and from cultural values, and are found in Indigenous languages, stories, and ceremonies. To be ecoliterate is to understand the relationships between the land, species, natural forces, and people. It’s important to note here that Indigenous Ecological Knowledges are diverse. In Oregon alone there are seven language families and 100 tribes and bands, each with an intimate knowledge of the ecology, species, medicines, etc. of their lands.

To understand ecoliteracy through a more equitable and just lens, and in a way that embraces the complexity and diversity of knowledge systems that exist outside of western science, it is useful to consider what constitutes ecoliteracy. Educators and scientists agree that facts are an important part of ecoliteracy. While ideas discovered through western science and ideas discovered through Indigenous science may be similar or the same, forcing Indigenous Knowledges into a western worldview is another form of colonization, as though western societies discovered this knowledge. Indigenous knowledge systems classify and name species in different ways than western knowledge systems.

“The way in which Oregon birders with strong place attachment discuss the places they spend time indicates that they are ‘becoming birds,’ meaning they are understanding the places in which they spend time through birds and their needs.”

For example, western society groups birds by genetic relationships; some Indigenous peoples, for example, classify birds by their role in the ecosystem. The physical relationships between these species is as important as their classification. Because of this, we need to expand what it means to truly know and understand ecosystems.

To do this, we can use socio-ecoliteracy, critical place pedagogies, and critical Indigenous pedagogies. Critical pedagogies embrace the idea of learning from a place through reconnecting people and communities with places, including developed, disturbed, and otherwise altered by colonial/capitalistic activities, such as parks, suburbs, and urban areas, etc. This process is known as rehabilitation. Critical place pedagogies also focus on un-centering the white narratives of a place and learning the Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) histories and cultures of a place (decolonization/unsettling). This means learning not just whose Indigenous lands you’re on, but how settler-colonial activities have affected and continue to affect those communities. For example, asking questions like how their Tribe is recognized today, did they cede their lands, and how they steward the land. Critical Indigenous pedagogies require the re-centering of Indigenous voices, cultures, and knowledges of place, and making sure that work is Indigenous-led (indigenization).

One example is the use of fire. Many of the Tribes whose homelands are in what is known today as Oregon managed ecosystems with fire. These fire-dependent cultures use fire to fulfill their reciprocal responsibilities to the plants and animals that sustain them, including camas, huckleberry, acorn, and big game such as black-tailed deer. This cultural view sees fire as a way to honor our responsibilities to our four-legged, winged, and plant relatives. When settlers arrived in Oregon, they saw these fires as destroying resources that they depended on, such as timber and grasslands for grazing. Therefore, fire suppression became the “norm” despite thousands

of years of land management achieved through fire. This led to changes in habitat throughout Oregon. To bring ecosystems back into balance requires not just incorporating Indigenous burning practices into western land management, but the inclusions of Indigenous people and voices in the process.

When we use this expanded framework, how does ecoliteracy shift? Using only facts from western science to measure ecoliteracy in Oregon birders, we find moderate ecoliteracy. Participating in community science, which requires spending time observing a species and the surrounding land, appears to slightly increase ecoliteracy (over birding by itself). However, when we use the expanded framework for ecoliteracy, we find that Oregon birders that have a strong connection to place have higher ecoliteracy. These birders appear to have a strong connection to the land, and an understanding of Indigenous histories (though, sadly, not present) of these places. Moreover, the way in which Oregon birders with strong place attachment discuss the places they spend time indicates that they are “becoming birds,” meaning they are understanding the places in which they spend time through birds and their needs. While there is a need to understand “global ecology,” it is important to understand the fine-scale information that we lose when we allow the globalization and colonization of knowledge, systems, and place.

To enact positive change for the future requires balancing the needs of BIPOC peoples around the world with the needs and knowledges of Indigenous Peoples of the places we occupy. A balance between general knowledge and place-specific knowledge. Dismantling the way we talk about ecosystems and ecological knowledge does not require that we ignore facts over opinions. It does mean re-envisioning what it means to learn and to know information and how we talk about place/the land.



# A Senseless Slaughter Continues: Cormorants in the Crosshairs

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Double-crested Cormorants have long been one of the most persecuted species in North America. Sadly, the agency charged with protecting them, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), has bowed time and time again to interests that want to kill cormorants for doing what they need to do to survive: eating fish. This summer, USFWS brought forward a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a new plan to kill cormorants that even by past standards is stunning in its depravity and its utter indifference to maintaining stable cormorant populations.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to allow the annual killing of up to 123,157 cormorants across the United States. This represents between 12% and 15% of the entire cormorant population in the United States. The Service proposes to allow up to 8,881 of these killings to occur west of the Rocky Mountains, where populations are an order of magnitude smaller than in the central and eastern United States. This number represents a stunning 15%-28% of the entire western population...every year. In the past, the Service has required that lethal control of cormorants be tied to a documented conflict such as damage to property or predation at fish farms, fish hatcheries, or federally listed imperiled species, but the Service now proposes to allow killing of Double-crested Cormorants for having an impact on any wild or publicly stocked free-swimming fish population.

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Double-crested Cormorants, photo by Mick Thompson.

At the same time that the Service is proposing a huge expansion of the slaughter of cormorants, it is also proposing to dramatically reduce its own oversight responsibilities. Rather than reviewing lethal-control permits on a case-by-case basis, the Service is proposing to issue broad “special permits” to states and to tribes, allowing these entities to oversee the killing of cormorants. The DEIS includes a vague assurance that the Service will set up a plan to monitor cormorants but does not include any specifics, partners, costs or adaptive management strategies. The Service also states that it only intends to review the impacts of the new management strategy on a five-year basis. If the full allotment of cormorants is taken each year in the western U.S., the Service could potentially allow killing between 75% and 140% of the entire current population in the western U.S. before it even bothers to review the impacts.

The plan is also a catalogue of horrors from an animal welfare perspective. The Service proposes to allow the killing of cormorants in active nesting colonies, creating the risk of colony failure; killing adult cormorants

during nesting season, leaving nestlings to starve in the nest; killing using lead ammunition, which can cause secondary deaths in cormorant predators such as bald eagles; and allowing lethal control techniques such as cervical dislocation in which a live bird is manually stretched and then twisted so that its skull is separated from its vertebrae.

This new cormorant-killing plan arrives four years after the Federal Court in the District of Columbia vacated another U.S. Fish and Wildlife killing program for cormorants east of the Rocky Mountains. In that case the court found that the Fish and Wildlife Service failed to consider non-lethal alternatives, failed to adequately address how killing cormorants benefited fish, and failed to adequately consider the environmental consequences of its actions. Unfortunately, upwards of 180,000 cormorants were killed before the program was terminated.

This new plan also arrives three years after the Service issued permits to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

to kill nearly 11,000 cormorants and destroy more than 26,000 cormorant nests at East Sand Island at the mouth of the Columbia River in order to protect federally listed salmon species. At the time, this colony was the largest nesting colony of Double-crested cormorants in the world and represented 40% of the entire western population. Despite a federal court ruling based on a lawsuit brought by Portland Audubon that the Service violated federal law by failing to consider a range of alternatives, the killing was allowed to proceed. That lethal control action ultimately contributed to the complete collapse of the entire colony in 2017, when several days after the onset of shooting and nest destruction, 17,000 cormorants abandoned their nests in a single day. The East Sand Island colony has never recovered and the implications of its collapse are nowhere near being fully understood. However, it appears that the western population is declining precipitously. The 2019 Western Population Status Evaluation showed a 23% drop in western populations between 2018 and 2019.

The decision to issue permits to kill cormorants at East Sand Island was particularly disturbing because the Service’s own fish biologists warned the Service that their models showed that killing cormorants at East Sand Island would not provide benefits for salmon recovery. The Service justified ignoring its own scientists, allowing the reckless killing of thousands of cormorants on the basis that the report was not peer reviewed at the time. That report by Steve Haeseker et al. was published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Wildlife Management in 2020: its conclusions remained the same.

Double-crested Cormorants have survived catastrophic impacts from overhunting in the 19th century and contaminants in the 20th century. Over the past decade, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has permitted reckless, wanton and illegal killing of cormorants in both the eastern and western U.S. The current proposal takes the killing to new levels and will put Double-crested Cormorant populations at extreme and unnecessary risk. It is expected that the USFWS will release a final plan in the fall of 2020.

Portland Audubon and a number of conservation and animal welfare organizations have submitted extensive comments critiquing the DEIS. Thank you to everybody who wrote in to express their opposition. We will be closely monitoring this situation and will continue to oppose this plan with all the tools at our disposal. We call on the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service to live up to its mission to protect the wildlife of the United States and adopt the no-action alternative. It is time for this senseless slaughter to stop.



# Virtual and Distanced Education Classes Reach New Audiences

by Tara Lemezis, Education Registrar  
& Emily Pinkowitz, Director of Education

For Portland Audubon's Education team, March usually brings a surge of programming, with bird song walks, school programs, and adult classes, as well as the promise of summer camp. With schools closed, camp canceled, and in-person programming on pause for much of the spring, this year we sought new, innovative ways to safely share the joy of birds and nature with our community. Together we launched a host of programs to help kids and adults stay engaged and active. These new programs not only helped us connect with our longtime community during the pandemic, they also created more accessible avenues for new audiences to join us!

## Taking Digital Outdoors through Nature Adventure Clubs

During the school year, we focused on digital afterschool programs that supplemented the evolving needs of families grappling with remote schooling and care. Using our unique collection of specimens, educators Abby and Tim virtually taught 160 youth over 30 classes on birds and bats, native plants, animal adaptations, insects, amphibians and more. Every class included invitations for children to head outdoors to hunt for signs of life close to home!

## Refuge in the Sanctuary with COVID-Safe Family Programs

With so many Portlanders getting outdoors during this time, it can be challenging for families to find a safe, open space for their children to explore. To address this, in August we launched new, physically distanced, small-group programming at our Wildlife Sanctuary. At Morning Explorers, families dropped off their kids for two hours of guided programs on bird language, the art of camouflage, and creek exploration. We also offered Family Sanctuary Tours—kid-friendly hikes for the whole family! Folks were able to see wildlife, engage in hands-on activities, and explore everything that the forest has to offer.

## Camaraderie, Learning and Access with Digital Classes for Adults

This spring, with the help of our dedicated team of instructors, we piloted a series of online resources for adults, including blog posts about migration,



Instagram stories breaking down common birds, and a live videocast on birds and birding. We also moved classes to the digital realm—a first for adult programs! Since April, we've held 70 classes with nearly 2,000 attendees. Feedback has been overwhelmingly supportive, with folks saying how thankful they are for ways to stay connected from the comfort and safety of their homes.

What's more, these digital classes have expanded the accessibility of our programs significantly. Offering affordable classes at a variety of times without the need to travel opened the door for new interest from across the Pacific Northwest and reaching as far as Indiana and Quebec! It also expanded our audience right here in Portland. One participant noted, "As someone who gets around by bike, it's actually pretty hard for me to attend classes at Audubon itself without going the extra mile to figure out transportation, whether I want to bike that road in the dark or take Lyft or find a ride, etc. I'm actually really excited for these virtual sessions and signed up for five right off the bat because it's so much easier to attend."

In addition, many participants with limited mobility shared that this expansion of online offerings enabled them to either continue to engage with us, or connect with us for the very first time! One longtime community member noted, "With our age now, the classes in the evening were too difficult to attend. The fact that we are both moving at a much slower pace than the regular Audubon trips makes this a wonderful way for us to stay connected and to use what we are learning in our daily walks with our binocs and love of birding."

We look forward to continuing to expand on lessons in accessibility learned from these digital programs for years to come!

# Wild Arts Festival is Virtual this November



November 14-22, 2020



As with other Portland Audubon programs and events this year, we will be taking the 2020 Wild Arts Festival virtual, with 55 artists, 20 authors, and a packed silent auction.

This year's Festival will take place from Saturday, November 14 through Sunday, November 22. The Festival will kick off with a virtual event to bring our community together. (Stay tuned for those details.) Then you'll be able to enter our dedicated website to find art and books from your favorite artists and authors, work that celebrates the beauty of the natural world. This year we reimagined the event not only to raise the critical funds for Portland Audubon needs but also support the artists and authors who have been instrumental in the Festival's success.

The Wild Arts Festival is beloved by all, and while it will look and feel different this year, we hope you will join to purchase incredible art, books, and auction items in an effort to build community and bring people together for nature.

## Silent Auction Donations Requested

This year the Silent Auction is just as critical as ever to support Portland Audubon's work! You'll be able to bid on hundreds of items from the comfort of your own home. And, as always, we are reaching out for donations from our members and supporters to make the auction a great success. We need nature-related art (all mediums welcome), merchandise, vacation stays, and gift certificates. This year, we must ask that items donated have a fair market value of at least \$100 since we are restricted in the number of items we can offer. Questions? Email [annlittlewood3@gmail.com](mailto:annlittlewood3@gmail.com).

## Wild Arts Festival Volunteers

We still need auction and book fair volunteers this year! Auction pickup and/or delivery will require about 20 volunteers over three days following the Festival. We also need volunteers with website/IT software experience. All appropriate COVID precautions will be observed. Book fair pickup and/or delivery will require volunteers in the two weeks following the Festival. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Kate Foulke at [wafvolunteers@audubonportland.com](mailto:wafvolunteers@audubonportland.com)

More details about the Festival will be forthcoming as planning proceeds, and other volunteer needs may arise. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [cmilne@audubonportland.org](mailto:cmilne@audubonportland.org).

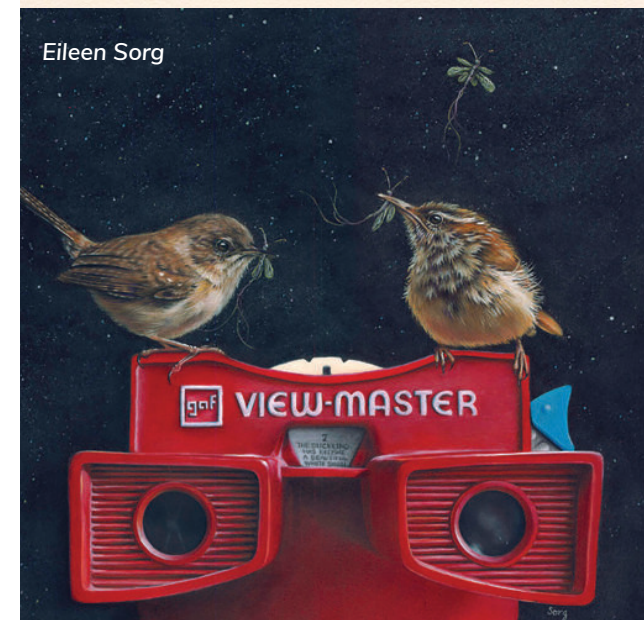
We are thrilled to be able to have the Festival this year, albeit very different from the past. Thank you for your support!



Shelly Fredenberg



Ryan Berkley



Eileen Sorg



FIELD NOTES

by Harry Nehls

Molt Strategies

During late summer the plumages of young birds are fresher and not overly worn. Adults on the other hand show dull, worn feathers. In the fall adults have a full molt including the wings and tail feathers. Juveniles have a full body molt in the fall a month or so later than the adults, but retain their tail and primary and secondary wing feathers.

This is easily noted among shorebirds in the fall, as their body plumage is a mix of new and old feathers. The wings and tail on some birds appear old and worn and will be shed later either on the wintering ground or at a safe stopping spot somewhere farther south. Other birds molt their wing and tail feathers before migrating. Immature birds are in bright, fresh plumage. They also molt into a dull winter plumage a month or so later than the adults but do not molt their wing or tail feathers.



Ducks and geese often make molt migrations away from their breeding areas to more secluded or food-rich areas. Male Canada Geese regularly fly northward into Canada to molt in some sheltered marsh or pocket of water. Many ducks wander westward to appear along the coast or into western Oregon interior valleys. They are often seen in small wetlands or on sewage ponds.

Molting birds are often a challenge to birders trying to identify a bird as to species. Often size, shape, or habits are better guides.

SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott

On the birder’s calendar, June and July represent three separate seasons: the end of spring migration (early June), the quiet nesting season (late June), and the ramping up of southbound shorebird migration (late July). This batch of sightings represents that well, and includes a few surprises.

The first week of June is high rarity season at Malheur NWR, and this year didn’t disappoint, with reports of **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Cattle Egret**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **American Redstart**, and **Black-and-white Warbler** across Harney and Malheur counties. In mid-June, a **Wood Thrush** was found in southern Klamath County, just north of the California border. Well documented, this will be the fifth Oregon record of this eastern thrush.

A pair of **Brewer’s Sparrows** found at the Fern Hill Road seasonal ponds in the second week of July was a curious find, and only remained for a day.

To close out July, Lincoln County had a pair of statewide rarities. First a **Bar-tailed Godwit** was found at Ona Beach, and has remained for a couple weeks. This is one of maybe a dozen or so Oregon records for this Siberian breeder. A few days later, an adult **White-winged Crossbill** was seen at a feeder in Lincoln City with a flock of **Red Crossbills**.

In Portland proper there were few records of note, but June continued to see an above average number of **Ash-throated Flycatchers**, and in July the **Snowy Egrets** returned to Smith and Bybee along with other expected shorebirds like **Baird’s Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, and the less common **Black-bellied Plover**. A single **Bonaparte’s Gull** was reported at Broughton Beach, the most common location for these increasingly uncommon gulls.

Those are only a few of the birds reported across the region. For corrections, tips, and reports, email Brodie Cass Talbott at [bcasstalbott@portlandaudubon.org](mailto:bcasstalbott@portlandaudubon.org), and for a more detailed weekly report, visit [portlandaudubon.org](http://portlandaudubon.org).



The Quest for Darker Skies Over Portland

by Mary Coolidge, BirdSafe Campaign Coordinator

September is upon us, and the southbound migration of our avian friends is well underway. Migration is among the most astonishing and challenging stages in any bird’s life—a metabolically demanding journey riddled with perils, from hazardous weather and food shortages to human-caused impacts including light pollution. Artificial light in the night sky drowns out the stars that birds use to navigate, pulling them off course and into lit areas where they can become entrapped in light, in some cases even inadvertently calling other birds into hazardously lit areas.

Light pollution isn’t just a problem for migrating birds. It impacts entire ecosystems and compromises human health and safety. Completely darkening our cities during migration isn’t practical or safe, but we can take actions to ensure that our lighting is better by design. We can minimize unnecessary light at night, and keep the light that we need on the ground where it’s useful rather than sending it up into the sky where it isn’t. It’s a sound practice in the age of climate change, and it saves money, saves birds, protects human health and affords us a better view of the stars!

Portland is in the process of taking an important step forward in addressing light pollution.

In July, the City released a draft Dark Skies report that synthesizes the issue and proposes actionable strategies for curbing light pollution, including new code language. The approach can and should take a broad view of planning for our nighttime environment—to correct light-poor areas, address high traffic and pedestrian conflict locations, create a safe and vibrant nightscape for everyone, and simultaneously set standards for better lighting design to ameliorate chronic sources of light trespass that accumulate into skyglow.

Thank you to everyone who submitted comments on this milestone project! The vast majority of the comments the City received were enthusiastically in favor of implementing efforts to preserve dark skies and with it, human and ecosystem health.

Stay Involved

1. **Submit testimony to City Council** in support of adopting the final report and approving funding to complete the development of a new Dark Skies code. On September 17, Council will hold a virtual (Zoom) hearing to adopt the final Dark Skies Report and Recommendations. The final report will be available on September 3 and will be linked from our website. We still need people to submit written or oral testimony in support of this effort!
2. **Join us for a virtual Science on Tap** talk on The Case for Dark Skies: 7 p.m. on September 3.
3. **Participate in our Fall Lights Out Launch on Saturday, September 19!** This year, the mayor will proclaim September 19 as Lights Out Portland Night. The launch event encourages Portlanders to take the pledge to turn off their unnecessary overnight lighting during migration season. Lighting necessary for safety and circulation is exempt.
4. **Follow Lights Out Alerts in September and October!** Radar tracking from Colorado State University’s AeroEco Lab indicates that over half of the birds that pass through Oregon skies during fall migration will move between September 19 and October 19. While it is important to manage your lighting well every night of the year, it is more important than ever to do this while birds are aloft over Oregon. Approximately nine nights in this period will be high volume Red Alerts issued by the AeroEco Lab, and we will send up a signal to let you know!
5. **Take the Pledge to Go Lights Out!** This is a simple pledge to turn off unnecessary lighting overnight and ensure that your lights are well shielded, warm, and no brighter than necessary every night of the year! Learn more at [audubonportland.org](http://audubonportland.org)





Catio Tour, photo by Tara Lemezis.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Nature Night: David G. Lewis, PhD: Traditional Lifeways of the Chinookans and Kalapuyans

September 8, 2020 | 7 p.m.

A survey of the cultures and specializations of the tribes of western Oregon and the connections to other regional tribes through kinship and trade. Specifically examined are the Lower Chinook and Kalapuya tribal seasonal lifeways and how their environment became what it is today.

Cost: Free, donation suggested



### Catio Tour

September 12

This year our Catio Tour with is going virtual! Take a tour of 10 of our favorite catios around the Portland area and join in on Q&A about catio construction and more.

Fee: \$15 basic registration / \$25 premium registration



### Virtual Swift Watch

September 15 | 7:15 p.m.

Join our Community Science Team and virtually watch the Chapman Swifts. Tune in on our Facebook page.

Facebook Live: facebook.com/portlandaudubon



### Nature Night: Stanley Gehrt: Exploring the Mysteries of Coyotes in the City

October 13 | 7 p.m.

Stanley Gehrt, PhD will be joining us 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.

Cost: Free, donation suggested



Afternoon Explorers, photo by Tara Lemezis.

## YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS

### Afternoon Explorers | Grades 2-5

Sept 17, Sept 24, Oct 1, Oct 8 | 1-3 p.m.

Join one of our experienced educators on guided activities at our Nature Sanctuary. See wildlife, engage in hands-on activities and explore everything that the forest has to offer.

\$17.95 members / \$19.95 non-members



### Family Sanctuary Tours

Oct 15, Oct 22, Oct 29 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join us for a guided, kid-friendly hike in the Nature Sanctuary with the whole family. Learn about the critters that walk through the forest, how to decipher bird language, and how our care center cares for 3000+ animals each year!

\$19.95 members / \$24.95 non-members (one adult and one child)  
Each additional child \$9.95 members / \$11.95 non-members  
Each additional adult \$4.95 members / \$6.95 non-members



### Stories of the Earth | Grades K-3

Tuesdays: September-December | 2-3 p.m.

Come sit in our virtual reading circle as we read aloud a new book each week. We will read about a variety of nature-related themes, from birds in Portland to exploring your local parks.

\$14.95 members / \$19.95 non-members



### Nature Adventure Club | Grades 2-5

Tuesdays: Sep 22, Sep 29, Nov 3, Nov 10, Dec 1, Dec 8  
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Explore the natural world through virtual sessions with our experienced educators. Through real-life specimens, discussion and interactive activities the natural world will open up from the comfort of your home.

\$14.95 members / \$19.95 non-members



Spotted Towhee, photo by Mick Thompson.

## ONLINE CLASSES FOR ADULTS

While we can't be together in person in the same capacity, we are excited to share new online opportunities and small-group field trips that can help us learn and grow close to home.

### Deciphering Molt: The Basics

September 15 | 1-2 p.m.

Learn the when, where, why, and how of feather molt, the often confusing terminology of molt cycles, and the fascinating array of molt strategies used by birds in Oregon and beyond.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Candace Larson



### Birding Oregon Hotspots: Portland Area

September 22 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will introduce you to some of the best birding sites around Portland, show you how to get there, and prepare you for some of the birds you can expect to see at each site.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: John Rakestraw



### Beginning Birding by Ear: Backyard Favorites

September 24 | 6-7 p.m.

In our last section we will explore the specific vocalizations of birds we are likely to hear now, in our yards and natural areas.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



Cost Involved



Public Transit Available



Free



Family Friendly



Wheelchair Accessible



Virtual Event or Program



Anna's Hummingbird, photo by Tara Lemezis.

## SPECIAL EVENT

# Fall Native Plant Sale with Sparrowhawk Native Plants!

### Online Ordering Starts September 1

Portland Audubon is teaming up with Sparrowhawk Native Plants to distribute thousands of habitat-friendly native plants into our community—plus, a portion of the proceeds will support our programs at this critical time! Online ordering begins on September 1, and plants will be available for pickup on October 10 and 11 perfectly timed for your fall planting.

Our top priority is keeping our community, volunteers, and staff safe during COVID-19. The health and safety protocols for this sale are available on SparrowhawkNativePlants.com.

#### Here's how it works:

- Online ordering begins on September 1 at [www.sparrowhawknativeplants.com](http://www.sparrowhawknativeplants.com)
- Select from 70+ species of native, habitat-friendly, and climate-resilient plants, right from your comfortable and physically distanced couch.
- Get your order in quick! Preordering is required, and some species are likely to sell out.
- Plant prices are about 25% cheaper than you'll find anywhere else. Sparrowhawk runs a streamlined operation, selling plants online and partnering with community organizations to distribute them at neighborhood pop-up events.
- A portion of every sale will go to support Portland Audubon's work! Select Portland Audubon at checkout so that we can benefit from your purchase!
- Pick up your plants during our outdoor, no-contact event in October at Central Christian Church, 1844 SE Cesar Chavez Blvd, Portland.





Pacific Loon, photo by Mick Thompson.

IN-PERSON PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Our in-person programs are held outdoors and require masks. Participants must follow all physical distancing and safety protocols dictated by the Oregon Health Administration. Visit [audubonportland.org](http://audubonportland.org) for details.

Field Trip: Exploring Fernhill

September 17 | 8–11 a.m.

In this slow-paced exploration we will search for waterfowl and shorebirds, discussing where they are in their seasonal movements, and keep an ear out for songbirds along the way.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members  
Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott | Limited to 8 participants



Audubon Birding Day: Timothy Lake Area

September 18 | 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Let's look for the surprising variety of species found around the deep waters of Timothy Lake, from three species of loons to migrating passerines.

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members  
Leader: Dan van den Broek | Limited to 8 participants



Audubon Birding Day: Clackamas County Hotspots

September 25 | 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

We will bird from West Linn to Molalla, looking for ducks, woodland, and riparian species!

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members  
Leader: Dan van den Broek | Limited to 8 participants



Shorebirds at Grays Harbor, photo by Mick Thompson.

Field Trip: Browns Ferry Park

October 2 | 8–10 a.m.

Let's bird this small wetland that should have a nice assortment of waterfowl and some late southbound migrants.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members  
Leader: Dan van den Broek | Limited to 8 participants



Intermediate Birding by Ear Field Trip: Company Lake

October 2 | 7:30–9:30 a. m.

Let's bird this small wetland that should have a nice assortment of waterfowl and some late southbound migrants.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members  
Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott | Limited to 8 participants



Audubon Birding Day: Grays Harbor

October 3 | 8 a.m–4 p.m.

Marvel at the shorebird spectacle in one of the major stopover points during migration.

Fee: \$85 members / \$115 non-members  
Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 8 participants



Field Class: Beginning Field Birding and Sauvie Island Exploration

October 3, November 7, December 5 | 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

This class series is perfect for those interested in developing and sharpening their birding skills under a variety of field conditions with expert birders.

Fee: \$85 members / \$115 non-members  
Leaders: Greg Baker and Ricky Allen | Limited to 8 participants



Remembering Kahler Martinson

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

As this issue of *The Warbler* went to press, we learned that R. Kahler Martinson had passed away. Kahler was one of the giants of Portland Audubon over the past three decades, serving on our board of directors, Conservation Committee, and two tours of duty donating his time as Interim Executive Director during periods of transition. He was everything you could have hoped for in a volunteer for a conservation organization, bringing an incredible depth of conservation expertise, leadership and a taciturn, midwestern, no-nonsense kind of wisdom that could cut through the most complex and convoluted issues...it could cut through steel. Kahler was a man of few words, but when he spoke, you listened. He played a key role in developing our most important conservation priorities over the past three decades.

Kahler grew up in western Minnesota hunting ducks and dreaming of being a waterfowl biologist. He would go on to have an outstanding career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—pioneering waterfowl research and survey techniques, helping lead internal efforts to ban the use of toxic lead shot in waterfowl hunting, and eventually rising to serve as the Service's Western Regional Director, housed in Portland in 1973, at the age of 38. He was an unflinching advocate for wildlife at an agency that is often caught in political maelstroms.

A 1975 transcript from Kahler's testimony in front of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Operations over his lone opposition to a proposed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project in the San Francisco Bay Estuary reveals what a fierce advocate for fish and wildlife he was. Facing relentless grilling by the committee, Kahler explained to the elected officials that "being under oath, I can't say that I am happy to be testifying, but I am happy if it is a chance to make a few points about San Francisco Bay." He went on to explain that his job was not to compromise but to represent the interests of fish and wildlife. Asked to explain why he would break from more conciliatory past agency positions, he explained, "Mr. Chairman, I think it is a change in environmental awareness. We are working for a different constituency now than 15 years ago even. And it is kind of like our predecessor didn't get the time of day on this sort of thing. But the world is changing." Pressed further, he explained, "I don't know, maybe we are just more on the eco-freak side of things." Kahler would eventually leave his prestigious position over philosophical differences with the Reagan Administration.

One of Kahler's first assignments at Portland Audubon was the thankless task of mentoring me on my first forays into conservation advocacy more than 25 years



Photo by Jerry Woods.

ago, opposing a proposal to expand opportunities for urban duck hunting. At the time he never bothered to mention that he was one of the foremost experts on waterfowl management in the United States. He let me steer and quietly nudged me when he thought I was getting off track. For years I kept an email he sent me after I wrote a particularly poorly conceived multi-page strategy plan. "Breathe and count to five," he wrote. I did as he asked and then wrote an even longer explanation of why I was right. "Count to ten," came the reply. Twenty-five years later he would still send me emails like that every once in a while.

I always kept one eye on Kahler at conservation meetings because although he was a man of few words, he would often have the final word, and often those words were a barely audible growl: "Sue the bastards." He never lost his passion for field biology—he tolerated the policy discussions, but he visibly lit up when our staff scientist, Joe Liebezeit, gave updates on our community science programs. He never fell off the cutting edge—it was Kahler who first demanded that Portland Audubon prioritize climate change. Well into his 80s he never lost his fierce commitment to conservation. On one of his final projects, Kahler traveled with us to visit the Cormorant Colony on East Sand Island that was threatened by management actions approved by the agency he once worked for. His anger was palpable. As we approached the colony, we were informed that the final couple of hundred feet required crawling on your hands and knees through sandy tunnels. I asked him if he felt comfortable making the trip—he growled at me, dropped to his knees, and took off like a jackrabbit.

We will miss Kahler's wisdom, his leadership, his friendship, and his unequivocal commitment to protecting wildlife and wild places. Our deepest condolences go out to Kahler's partner, Linda Craig, and his entire family.

Kahler's family has requested that memorial donations go to Portland Audubon and EarthJustice. In honor of Kahler we have created the Kahler Martinson Litigation Fund to support future environmental litigation.





Female *Habronattus texanus*, common name, Texas Paradise Jumping Spider, photo by Joseph Saunders

# Joseph Saunders: Macro Photographer and BlackAFinSTEM Member

by Ali Berman, Communications Manager

Even among nature lovers, insects, snakes, and spiders fall squarely in the underappreciated category. While we can look a Red-tailed Hawk in the eye as they stare back at us through our binoculars, we can't exactly make that same connection with spiders or flies. That's part of what makes macro photographer Joseph Saunders' work so magical. He loves nothing more than when someone who is usually terrified of spiders writes to him to say that they found the subject of one of his photos—perhaps a jumping spider or mantis—to be delightful. Even cute.

Joseph's photography is beautiful as an art form, but it goes beyond composition. His photographs have an intention behind them, both for his animal subjects and for making the outdoors a more inclusive place. "I have felt this need to present animals that are persecuted in a way that actually gets people to change their minds," he said in our video interview. "And, as important as it is to me to show undervalued animals in a light that allows people to reconsider their worth, it is even more important my work is recognized for being intent on creating a world that is safe for my three nieces, nephew, and other Black and Brown children to explore, and grow in."

Located in Oklahoma, Joseph is a member of BlackAFinStem, a professional photographer, and an advocate for equity in the environmental movement. We were lucky enough to talk to him about the importance of invertebrates, the accessibility of macro photography, pro tips for people interested in macro, and why some of nature's most feared creatures just aren't that scary.

## What makes you so passionate about invertebrates?

Their vulnerability and lack of appreciation. Studies are confirming an alarming decrease in the biomass of invertebrates across the planet, in some areas as much as 50%. If invertebrates and arthropods go extinct, the rest of the ecosystem is going to collapse right along with them. If you think climate change is terrifying, understand the continued decline of invertebrates will exacerbate ecocide tremendously. It will be absolutely catastrophic.

## How does your process differ from many other macro photographers?

I had two conflicts when I was learning about other people's methods. One is a lot of those really deep focus stacks you see, more than likely are of a deceased, pinned insect. Being a naturalist, I am more interested in living specimens. [Editor's note: Focus stacking is an editing technique that combines many photographs so more of the subject is in focus.] They have their camera set up on a focus rail and everything is essentially electronic. This method achieves some absolutely stunning photographs, but I feel removed from my camera, making it a less interactive experience. I taught myself to brace the camera and my gear on a steady surface wherever I was. This way, whatever I'm shooting is a living animal, with my camera in hand.

## 1. Syrphid Fly (Family Syrphidae)

Joseph: I found this fly resting on some foliage that had fallen onto the side railing of a wooden walkway with several trees overhanging. This boardwalk is raised above a greenspace parallel to a creek and is one of my local favorites. I would love to see more forethought put into creating accessible pathways that are not destructive to thriving ecosystems.

## Where do you usually photograph invertebrates?

I tend to frequent local parks. I would start initially taking photos of jumping spiders on picnic tables and other man-made structures. I'm really lucky the neighborhood I live in has a really nice park, balanced with an accessible park, and natural habitat. A lot of it is packed ground and has a creek running through it. I've seen all kinds of animals pass through, and of course plenty of arthropods. In other situations, I'm photographing them in their environment, be it leaves, plants, trees, etc. When it comes to macro and insects, you don't need a lot of space. If you stare at one bush long enough you end up seeing a number of different species.

## What advice do you have for macro photographer beginners?

If you aren't already doing so, you have to learn to take enjoyment in observing the small world around you. I couldn't do what I do without simply enjoying the micro-sized natural world. Persistent observation will also train your eye to notice when these animals are more likely to be cooperative to be photographed.

When you aren't observing wildlife, read about the technicalities of photography. As you learn about composition, lighting with diffused external light, ideal camera settings, and post processing techniques, you empower yourself to be a better photographer each time you step out into the field.

Research camera gear according to your budget. Used camera gear can afford significant savings. If you cannot budget new gear, consider getting a reversible lens mount for your camera. This will allow you to flip a lens you may already have, even a kit lens, to invert the focal length and get much closer to your subjects.

Lastly, always, always focus on the eyes.

## How has macro made nature photography more accessible for you?

Macro photography has been such a gift to me because microfauna is in every single park you can think of if you just look. I can go outside my front door and I know I'll have a group of *Naphrys pulex*, flea jumping spiders, on the brick siding. I can go out there on almost any given day and there are a half a dozen running around on the walls. Just look for the small stuff. It's there if you take the time. As I mentioned earlier, it's the same with parks, or any other place where man-made structures meet any sort of micro habitat.



1. Syrphid Fly (Family Syrphidae)



2. Bullsnake (*Pituophis catenifer sayi*)



3. Carolina Mantis (*Mantodea carolinensis*)

## 2. Bullsnake (Pituophis catenifer sayi)

Joseph: An important truth snakes have taught me is that another person or animal does not have to accept you to have value. It's pretty obvious this bullsnake was not pleased with me. This perspective has helped me break down my own prejudices and hold myself accountable to the ways I have reinforced some people are worth less than others. Prejudice and oppression are decisions, and like all decisions, we have the option to make another choice.

## 3. Carolina Mantis (Mantodea carolinensis)

Joseph: I found this juvenile mantis on a bush in my front yard. Entomology and macro photography have been a wellspring of access to incredible biodiversity. I encourage anyone to just take a closer look at what is nearby. Still, this is not a complete solution to making natural spaces accessible.



What are some of the challenges you’ve faced with accessible spaces in nature?

Mostly, it seems those given the opportunity to create accessible places don’t have an adequate understanding of what accessible really means. I have found hard-packed ground to be the best option. Lake Arcadia is nearby. They had a nice hard-packed ground trail that went around part of the lakeshore and into a wooded area. Years ago, they created these raised dividers along the side of the trail, then filled it with these tiny pebbles of gravel. Now it is like pushing in deep, soft sand and is no longer accessible, even for a high-functioning paraplegic like myself. There needs to be some greater understanding about what accessibility really is because they made that with the idea of improving accessibility and they failed.

Thunderbird Lake is also local. They advertise an accessible trail I went to years ago. It is literally a small paved trail around a few segments of trees. It granted me access to nothing of value. What’s the point in making it if it gets us no closer to nature?

I suspect the general perception of accessibility these organizations have is something that is easy to walk. And if that is the angle from which they are approaching accessibility they are doing it wrong.

What are some of the big barriers you see that make it harder for marginalized communities to explore nature?

The history of the ghettoization of Black and Brown communities works as an economic and geographical barrier preventing these people from having access to green spaces. This was intentional and strategic with the use of red-lining, eminent domain, and mass incarceration. This is one of the reasons I am so excited to be working with BlackAFInSTEM. I think we have the ability to bridge this gap effectively and genuinely, like other organizations who hold a commitment to the inclusion of underrepresented demographics in these fields. It’s also important that as we do it, we introduce people to an outdoor environment that’s safe. A lot of people do not feel safe when they go into state or national parks. I’ve talked to many BIPOC people who simply don’t feel safe being out in rural areas. I don’t either, to be frank. I’ve been profiled, harassed, and threatened. I’ve had cops called on me without having committed a crime. I’m just willing to suffer through it to do what I enjoy doing. This is where we need willful collaborative efforts with city, state, and national parks to make these spaces safe and accessible for marginalized demographics.

Socioeconomics can also be a barrier as well. Depending on where you are, access to transportation can dictate where you go. This is why hobbies and



disciplines like entomology and birding are so valuable. Birding is another one I’m realizing is such a gift because birds, like insects, are everywhere. They are in the middle of any city. There is an observable richness which doesn’t require that you drive several hours out into remote areas that are a well-known hotspot for long-term hobbyists or researchers.

It seems the intersections related to disability simply seem to be an afterthought. I think the largest barrier as it comes to people with disabilities are the imaginations of mostly able-bodied people charged with developing solutions who don’t have the experience we have to apply to the solution.

What are some of the biggest misperceptions people have about animals normally thought of as frightening?

Humans too easily project willful malice onto animals that simply aim to defend themselves and preserve their lives. It’s easy to illustrate this with snakes because everybody thinks snakes just want to bite them. What they will do is stand their ground because they are tiny and people are comparatively much larger. Other than that they are looking for every reason to flee. When I photograph herps I’m often on the ground. I have photographed every venomous snake in Oklahoma without having ever been bitten. I cannot stand up and step away from them. I’m on the ground, no place to go. I’ve had pygmy rattlesnakes and copperheads move right along the side of my legs who offered no will to bite because their aim was to flee. They only wanted to get away from me and the flash of my camera. That said, I am certainly not advocating for others to make the same decisions. What I do does have risks, but anything for the shot, right?



Great Egret, photo by Mick Thompson.

IN MEMORY

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Alfred Brooks</b><br>Laurie Brooks  | <b>Matthew Loomis</b><br>John Loomis  | <b>Beth Bernadette Peterson</b><br>Mines Elliott                    |
| <b>James F. Buckley</b><br>Dorothy Buckley<br>Jonathan & Merrie Ziady  | <b>Ann Medley</b><br>Patrick Dean<br>Kevin Hindal   | <b>Janna Pfeifle</b><br>Douglas Schoen                              |
| <b>John Butcher</b><br>Jean Butcher &<br>Thomas DeLoughery   | <b>Jon C. Newell</b><br>Linda Sewell  | <b>Joe Ross</b><br>Kathleen Ris                                     |
| <b>David Connolly</b><br>Geneva Martin   | <b>McKay Nutt</b><br>Carole F. Alexander<br>Denis Bourdette<br>James & Julie Carter<br>Sha A. Gleason<br>John & Judie<br>Hammerstad<br>Marvin & Penny<br>Harrison<br>Mary Ellen Jensen<br>Jack Kron & Ruth<br>Whitham<br>Katherine MacDougal<br>Robin McLeod & Dell<br>Goldsmith<br>Sandra Morales<br>Melanie Fried-Oken<br>Joseph Quinn<br>Lee Robertson<br>Susan K. Seyl<br>Holly Silver<br>Richard Sullivan<br>Barbara A. Walker | <b>Dr. Deb Scheaffer</b><br>David B. Beattie<br>Linda & Daniel Gipe |
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|  |   | <b>Jack &amp; Deanna Sterett</b><br>Arlene Watkins                  |

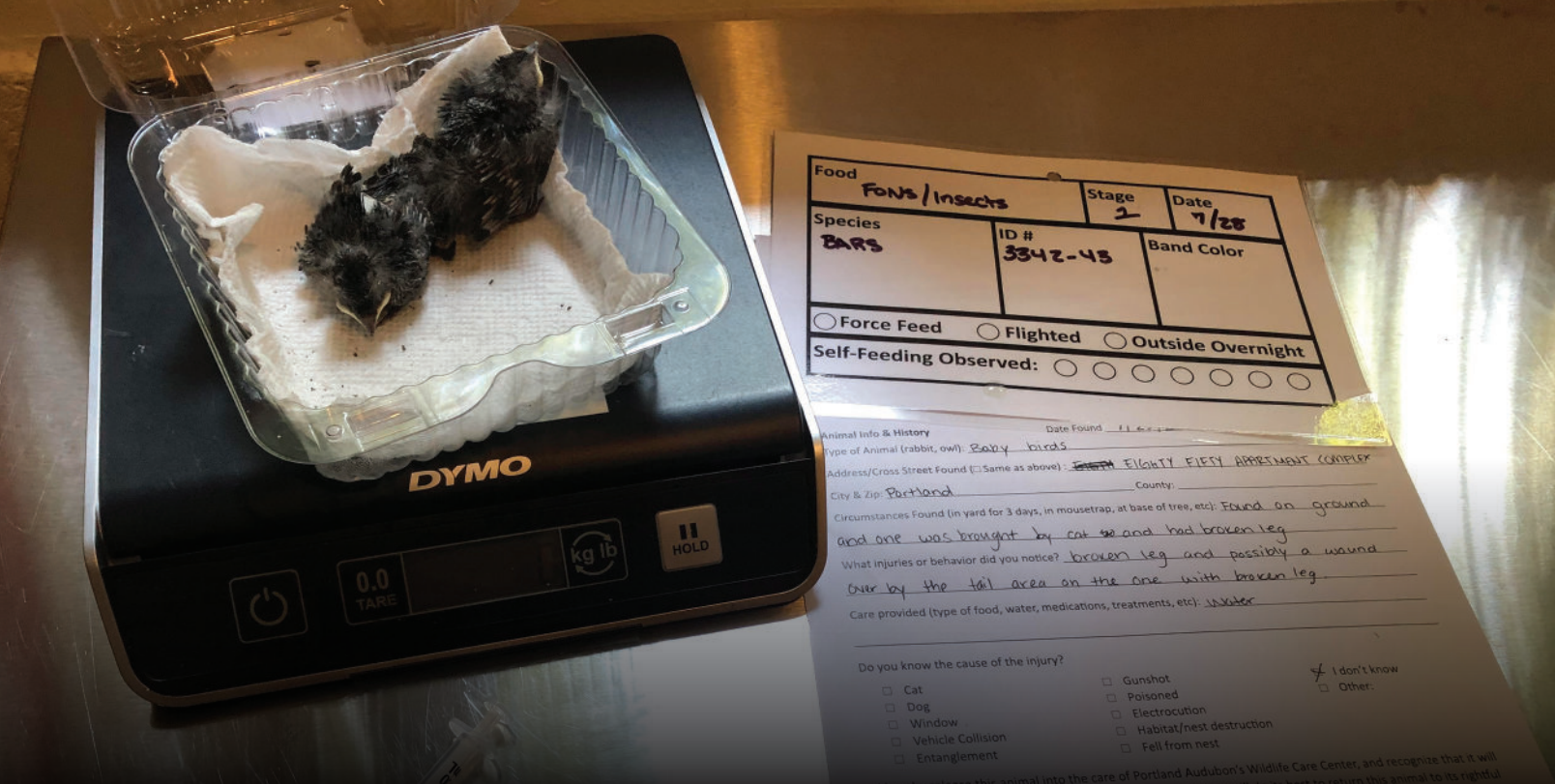
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| <b>Kathy, Heather &amp; Franklin Whaley</b><br>Cara Lee | <b>Alma Gloria Valls</b><br>Maureen Burness         |

**Bill Henderson**  
Heather Robinson

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](https://audubonportland.org) or by calling 971-222-6130.





# In the Admit Room

by Stephanie Herman, Wildlife Care Center Manager

When I arrive at the Wildlife Care Center on a Tuesday morning, the building feels empty. There are no voices, just the white noise of our ventilation fans and the occasional clatter of dishes or cage doors. Yet it is the busiest time of day, when every baby animal is hungry, every enclosure is dirty, and every medication needs to be administered. Since there are only so many hands, especially during the Summer of COVID, everyone is giving 150% to get the work done on schedule.

Today I'll be here for 12 hours. For most of the day, my primary responsibilities will be to answer the front door, provide support to hotline volunteers working off-site, and admit and assess new patients. There are five animals that arrived before I did, waiting for me in the admit room. The hotline team needs help as well, and I identify a photo of a nestling Chestnut-backed Chickadee for them and remind them how to troubleshoot ground-nesting baby birds versus birds that have fallen from their nests.

The doorbell rings.

Someone is bringing in a cat-caught fledgling robin. We talk about keeping cats inside, but they're not convinced. I hope the seeds of our discussion will sprout eventually. Since the injury isn't immediately life-threatening, I set

the robin up with heat in a quiet space so it can calm down before its exam; the data tells us this will increase its chances of survival.

The doorbell rings. A volunteer has arrived to release a fledgling Anna's Hummingbird back into the wild. I catch it up, which takes a while—it's definitely ready to go!

Back in admit, there are two Barn Swallows in a plastic clamshell that used to hold a slice of ice cream cake. They fell from their nest and one of them was injured by a cat. It has a puncture wound and some nerve damage to its leg, so I place a wrap to support the leg while the injury heals and get the bird antibiotics, fluids, and pain meds.

The doorbell rings and rings.

A volunteer brings a fledgling Western Screech-Owl back from her conditioning flight cage for a pre-release exam. I take a look at the owl—it's a green light, the bird will go free tomorrow night.

I clean the swallow's puncture wound. It is 11 a.m., and I have been at work for one hour.

A man brings a Mourning Dove he saved from a jay family. "Not in my yard!" he tells me proudly. I try to be gentle and persuasive as I explain that even predators need to eat, especially this time of year when they have babies. We'll do what we can for the bird, but our purpose is to help manage the impacts humans have on their wild neighbors, not to interfere with natural processes.

The dove's wing is badly mangled, fractured in multiple places, and much of the tissue is dying and infected. The wounds don't look fresh and the bird is very thin. It was likely injured by a car or a cat. I euthanize the bird, and this one is a bit sharper, because I think of the jays who could have benefitted from the dove's already-ending life. At least it isn't suffering further.

The next patient has \$20 clipped to its intake form. As the person responsible for the center's purchasing and budgeting, I say a little gratitude prayer for the support. Twenty dollars will buy us five days of mealworms or a week of laundry detergent.

The bird inside the box is a nestling Cooper's Hawk who looks quite weak and cries quietly when I touch him. He has a warble on his leg, a type of parasitic larvae. Warbles can cause a lot of damage, and I find and remove several. The more I do, the more extensive the damage appears, so I stop cleaning and dose the bird with a pain med. I'll come back and work on the wound further once the bird has some relief.

I answer the door.

It is the chickadee nestling I identified over email earlier, and the woman who found it stayed up all night to feed it. Unfortunately she didn't have the right food for him, and I'm worried he'll develop diarrhea that could be life-threatening in such a small bird. But I'm also touched by her dedication. I know from experience it is not easy to wake up to feed a baby all night long.

The doorbell rings again as I get the chickadee settled. The man outside is bringing me another bird injured by an outdoor cat. He wants me to be honest—we just kill everything, don't we?

It is 11:30 a.m.

This is how the day goes. Eventually I discover that the hawk's leg is uninjured beneath the discharge and larvae honeycombed through its downy feathers. The man who wanted me to be honest had brought a very lucky bird, a Spotted Towhee who was largely uninjured and would primarily need antibiotics and time to regrow its lost flight feathers. We save the animals we can—a young crow with respiratory injuries, a Dark-eyed Junco that ended up in a bucket of motor oil. We relieve the suffering of those we can't help—a goose with two badly broken legs, a Mallard that arrived dying after weeks of poor care in the apartment of its well-meaning but poorly prepared rescuers.

The doorbell rings more than 30 times today. Comparatively, it is a slow day for intakes. Still, there isn't a quiet moment, and my step counter reads 10,000+ at the end of my shift. I make sure my staff get lunch

breaks, but I forget to drink water until after closing. In the end, we finish everything we need to do, and I even get a few minutes to chat with my staff and look through my email. In 12 hours I will do it all over again.

Though I'm tired, I'm not discouraged. The animals and people on the other side of the door reinforce the need for our work and drive our commitment to keep operating even during the COVID crisis. It's not an easy thing to do, for our

staff who have been working full tilt for months or for our organization, which is footing a hefty bill for the additional staffing that keeps us functioning. But the 3,700+ animals we've admitted so far this year, and the caring people who rescued them, validate that we're doing the right thing. So at the end of the day, when I collapse on my couch and put my aching feet up, I know I'm making a difference.

“The animals and people on the other side of the door reinforce the need for our work and drive our commitment to keep operating even during the COVID crisis.”





# City of Portland Economic Opportunities Analysis: An Obscure Process with Huge Implications

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In recent months, Portland City Council has passed resolutions regarding COVID-19 and declaring a climate emergency. In both, Council recognized the importance not of “returning to normal” but rather rebuilding our communities in ways that are more equitable, inclusive, healthy, and resilient. This fall, City Council will get the opportunity to make good on that promise when it does a periodic update of its Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA), which looks at supply and demand of industrial land over a 20-year period.

This process typically occurs largely behind closed doors with industrial landowners, developers, and consultants. Historically, outside of Portland Audubon, the community at large has paid little attention. That needs to end because the EOA has huge implications for the health of our environment and our communities, and how our landscape develops over time. **We are calling on the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and Portland City Council to ensure that this EOA update is inclusive, transparent, and responsive to impacted communities from start to finish.**

Why should we care about the EOA? Under Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 9, municipalities must maintain a 20-year supply of industrial land, especially along the Willamette River and Columbia Slough. They demonstrate compliance through an EOA in which a forecast of industrial land demand is compared to an inventory of developable industrial land. If demand exceeds supply, a municipality must demonstrate how it will fill the deficit. In a city that has no room to expand, that is a big deal.

For the past three decades, industrial interests have insisted that the city lacks adequate industrial land. They have then leveraged this deficit to effectively oppose new environmental regulations and demand that open space be converted to industrial use. While the EOA is a wonky process, its implications are very real.

In 2008, after nearly a decade of work, City Council adopted the North Reach River Plan—a long-term plan for environmental restoration, river access, recreation, and jobs in the Portland Harbor. Industrial interests challenged the plan on the basis of the EOA and it was thrown out. In 2011, under threat from industrial interests, the City made a last-minute decision to exempt industrial lands from the City’s tree code. In August of 2020, City staff recommended continuing this exemption, again on the basis of the EOA.

In 2016, when the City last updated the EOA, it changed the City’s Comprehensive Plan to allow open space on portions of golf courses to be converted to fill the industrial land deficit. The public is just becoming aware of the implications of this decision now; in August 2020, Broadmoor Golf Course along the Columbia Slough was sold to a developer who will convert the front third to industrial use. To add insult to injury, because the tree code does not apply on industrial land, the developer will be able to cut hundreds of large trees with no mitigation.

The City’s approach to the EOA is deeply flawed. First, the industrial land deficit, to the degree it exists at all, is largely the result of land conversion by the very interests that then claim there is a deficit. Industrial developers should not be able to upzone industrial land for commercial and residential development for increased profits and then oppose environmental protection on the basis of an inadequate industrial land supply. Second, the facts simply do not support the assertion that there is a deficit of industrial land—the Port of Portland has been unable to fill shovel-ready industrial land at Terminal 2 and Terminal 6 for years and now wants to convert Terminal 2 for use as a baseball stadium and commercial and residential development. Third, the argument that converting acres of natural area and openspace to industrial use will enable the City to meet job targets is false. River industrial jobs have been declining for years due to automation, transference of jobs overseas, and the impracticality of Portland functioning as a port, 100 miles from the ocean.

Portland Audubon has had some significant success in past battles over the EOA. In 2015 we successfully advocated for the City to to prioritize cleaning up more than 900 acres of contaminated brownfields, intensifying use of the existing industrial land base, and limiting conversion of existing industrial land in order to meet industrial land demands. We also got West Hayden Island, the City’s largest unprotected greenspace, removed from the industrial land inventory. However, we must go further.

It’s long past time for a transparent and inclusive EOA process: one in which the public is engaged right from the start, and a more holistic analysis is developed that meets the needs of the whole community. Jobs are critical, but for too long the EOA has been wielded not as a vehicle to create jobs, but as a weapon for industrial interests to oppose environmental protection and other community priorities and grab openspace for their own benefit. It is time for the EOA to emerge from back rooms and into the full light of a community-based process.



Photo by Tara Lemezis.

## Annual Swift Watch Canceled Due to COVID-19

For nearly three decades the Chapman School Swift Watch has been a beloved fall ritual for Portland Audubon. Joining our community to watch thousands of Vaux’s Swifts swirl into the Chapman School chimney on September evenings is something we truly cherish and look forward to.

This year, however, we are asking the community not to go to Chapman School. The school grounds are not open to the public, and the school has requested that people do not congregate at the site. There will not be resources in place to deal with parking, crowd management, garbage cleanup and other logistics necessary to make Swift Watch a success, and the crowds that Swift Watch attracts are far too large to allow for safe COVID-19 distancing.

Portland Audubon will continue to monitor the birds, and we will explore opportunities to bring the experience to you in different ways this fall. We urge the community to respect this request—large crowds at Chapman will put the community at risk and undermine local support for the birds. For the sake of the birds and our community, please do not go to Chapman this September.

### Virtual Swift Watch

September 15 | 7:15 p.m.

Join our Community Science Team and virtually watch the Chapman Swifts. Tune in on Portland Audubon’s Facebook page.

Facebook Live: [facebook.com/portlandaudubon](https://facebook.com/portlandaudubon)

### SUPPORT THE WILDLIFE CARE CENTER

#### Wish List

- 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/cable ties (4in and all sizes)
- EliteField 3-door folding soft dog crates
- Portable oxygen generator

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.

### Sponsor a Wild Thing

Portland Audubon is home to some special Animal Ambassadors: Ruby the Turkey Vulture, Aristophanes the Common Raven, Xena the American Kestrel, Julio the Great Horned Owl, and Bybee the Western Painted Turtle. They came to us in different ways, but due to their history or injuries could not be released back into the wild.

You can help care for these amazing creatures by Sponsoring a Wild Thing. Starting at \$50, your gift will ensure that they have the food and specialized care that they need. As a bonus, you will receive a packet about the animal you sponsored and a one-year membership renewal.

#### To Sponsor a Wild Thing:

- Mail a check with a note of which animal you are sponsoring to 5151 NW Cornell Rd, Portland, OR 97210
- Donate online at [audubonportland.org/ways-to-give/sponsor-a-wild-thing/](https://audubonportland.org/ways-to-give/sponsor-a-wild-thing/)
- Call (971) 222-6130 to make a membership gift over the phone



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.



|                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bob's Red Mill                  | Miller Paint Co.              |
| Cindy Thompson Event Production | Paxton Gate PDX               |
| Columbia Sportswear             | Portland Audubon Nature Store |
| The Commerce Group              | Portland General Electric     |
| David Evans and Associates      | Portland Nursery              |
| Elk Cove 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          |
| Labwatory                       | Vernier Software & Technology |
| Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.     | Washman LLC                   |
| McCoy Foat & Company PC, CPAs   | West Bearing Investments      |
| McDonald Jacobs, P.C.           | Wonderland Tattoo             |
| Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP   |                               |

In line with our values, Backyard Bird Shop proudly offers gifts and products that honor artisans and small businesses using socially and environmentally responsible practices at home and abroad.

- Seed, Suet, Mealworms
- Birdhouses and Feeders
- Hummingbird Feeders and Supplies
- Squirrel Feeders and Nestboxes
- Jewelry and Natural Body Care
- Art for the Home and Garden
- Chimes and Gongs
- Puppets, Books, and Puzzles

[www.BackyardBirdShop.com](http://www.BackyardBirdShop.com)

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**Go Lights Out**  
Portland Launch

September 19, 2020 From Dusk Until Dawn

**Save energy, see stars, save lives!**

Mark your calendar for the 5th annual Lights Out Portland, a one-night event where residential households and commercial buildings dim their lighting to raise awareness about the impact of light pollution on migrating birds and human health, wasted energy in the form of unshielded light, and preserving our night sky to see stars from the city.



The Nature Store is Open!

Check our website for updated hours.

Nature Store COVID-19 Protocols

- Masks must be worn indoors at all times
- Limit of four people in the store
- Six-foot physical distancing inside and outside of the store (please follow directional arrows and signage)
- Frequent sanitizing of high-touch points
- No public access to restrooms or water

We've missed our loyal customers, supporters, and fellow bird lovers, and are excited to open back up to the public!

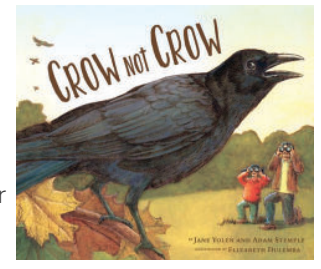
We have also decided to take this opportunity to update the Nature Store. During the remodel, we will open up Heron Hall as a temporary Nature Store.

We appreciate your understanding as we navigate reopening as safely as possible. We will also continue to take orders over the phone and through our online store for curbside pickup or shipping (discontinuing bird seed deliveries).

We are happy to welcome you back!

Back to School: Good Reads

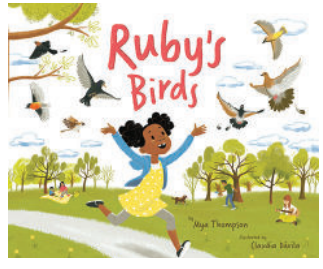
**Crow Not Crow**  
by Jane Yolen and Adam Stemple, illustrated by Elizabeth Dulemba



Join a father and his daughter on a beautiful autumn day as he introduces her to birding with the simple technique of "Crow not crow." This is a gentle introduction to the world of birding for children, and also includes extra photos and information about featured birds!

Member Price: \$14.36

**Ruby's Birds**  
by Mya Thompson, illustrated by Claudia Dávila



Ruby loves to sing and stroll through the park, but with a close eye, an ordinary walk can become magical! Looking and listening closely, Ruby discovers a whole world of birds and nature right in her favorite city park. Just like Ruby, you can find beautiful birds right out your back door.

Member Price: \$8.06

Optics Focus

Swarovski Introduces the NEW NL Pure!



Swarovski's new NL Pure binocular series has reimagined the best of the best. The features are outstanding and give you more out of what you want in a pair of binoculars: more comfort and ergonomics, the largest ever field of view (8x42 @ 477ft.), incredible Swarovision technology that guarantees incredible color, wide views, and edge-to-edge sharpness.

The new NL Pure binoculars are sure to impress. Call or email the Nature Store for more information.

PNW Picks

Locally Made Face Masks

Locally crafted by Tory Stine, these birdy and nature face masks are a great way to support Portland Audubon and keep your community safe! The masks feature double cotton layers with a filter pocket, a face-forming design, and an adjustable elastic strap.



Tory works in the healthcare field and has been donating masks to healthcare workers in need. Thank you, Tory!

Member Price: \$21.60





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.



Photo by Tara Lemezis.

## Catio Tour

September 12 | Online

Our 8th annual Catio Tour in partnership with Feral Cat Coalition is going virtual this year! Join us for a tour of ten of our favorite catios in the Portland area! You'll get a behind the scenes look and insider tips on construction and design during our Q&A with catio hosts!

From frugal to fabulous, you're sure to find inspiration for your own catio so you can keep your cat safe from outdoor hazards while protecting wildlife from cat predation. Get your tickets ASAP - this event sells out every year!

Get tickets at [www.catssafeathome.org](http://www.catssafeathome.org)

### GET IN TOUCH

#### Administration Offices

503-292-6855  
Please call for updated hours

#### Wildlife Sanctuary

Dawn to dusk every day

#### Wildlife Care Center

503-292-0304  
Open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
with new COVID protocols

#### Nature Store & Interpretive Center

503-292-9453 ext. 3  
Please call for updated hours

As of March 14, Portland Audubon staff are working remotely to slow the spread of COVID-19. All staff can still be reached by phone or email.

**On the Cover:** Marbled Murrelet fledgling by Aaron Allred.

**On the Inside Cover:** Camas by bobandcarol71661 via Flickr, Distanced Camps by Tara Lemezis, Artwork by Eileen Sorg, Cave Salamander by Joseph Saunders.



## Birdy Brain Buster!

Which of these birds does NOT nest underground?

- A. Burrowing Owl
- B. Belted Kingfisher
- C. American Dipper
- D. Tufted Puffin



We are a member of Earth Share Oregon.  
[earthshare-oregon.org](http://earthshare-oregon.org)

Answer: American Dipper