

Elliott State Forest Plan Advances





Nick Hardigg hiking in the Wildlife Sanctuary.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year, Indeed.

2020 ends with a flurry of good news...

by Nick Hardigg, Executive Director

With elections—and election challenges—coming to a close, and a historic vaccination campaign ramping up, our fortunes have shifted noticeably toward better times ahead. November and December were an inspiring time of achievement. As shared in our cover story, after more than a decade of struggle, permanent protections are moving forward for a substantial portion of Elliott State Forest. In Portland, City Hall approved considerable improvements to the city's tree code, safeguarding more trees in industrial areas and increasing mitigation required to cut down large trees. On the banks of the Willamette, we helped stop an industrial drone testing facility slated for one of Portland's most diverse communities. And though it's not a "win" yet, Metro has agreed to consider additional alternatives for cleaning up Willamette Cove, keeping alive hope for a public park and river access for Portland's neighborhoods. This progress is all thanks to your support and the hard work of our partners and community activists.

So while tough times lie ahead, our spirits are buoyed that this summer will be a period of rejuvenation, when we may welcome many of you back in-person again—enjoying our educational classes, events, volunteering, and visiting our Nature Center. And as we wait for sunny days to return, we'll continue our COVID-safe protocols, with our Nature Store and Wildlife Care Center open, and our Education department and other programs pivoting to safely serve and inspire the community. Until that better time, we encourage you to enjoy our trails, with their distancing measures and signage in place.

Happy New Year! May it be so, for everyone.

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Photo by Robin Meacher.

Elliott State Forest Plan Advances

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

On December 8, a plan to convert the Elliott State Forest into an Oregon State University research forest took a major step forward when the Oregon Land Board, composed of Governor Brown, Treasurer Read, and Secretary of State Clarno, advanced a proposed plan into its final phase. Over the next 18 to 24 months, we will be working to bring this plan to a successful completion.

The 82,000 acre Elliott State Forest is one of the crown jewels of the Oregon Coast Range. It is a stronghold for nesting Marbled Murrelets and Northern Spotted Owls and contains some of Oregon's most productive and pristine streams for Coho Salmon. It is an amazing place that deserves real and durable protections.

The forest also comes with a long history of conflict and mismanagement, including illegal clear-cut logging and illegal land sales that have put those values in jeopardy. Further complexity is added by the fact that the Elliott is legislatively bound to the Common School Fund—an anachronistic structure that ties school funding to timber harvest and has driven unsustainable liquidation of the forest in recent decades.

Over the past 15 years, Portland Audubon, along with Cascadia Wildlands and Center for Biological Diversity, has been a plaintiff in three lawsuits focused on ending illegal logging and protecting federally listed Marbled Murrelets on the Elliott. At the time the first lawsuit was launched, the State was cutting upwards of 500 acres of mature forest every year and planning to increase timber harvest from 25 million board feet to 40 million board feet. During 2016 and 2017, we actively opposed an attempted sale of the Elliott by the State of Oregon to private timber interests and advocated in the legislature for funding to decouple the Elliott from the Common School Fund.

For the past two years, Bob Sallinger has represented Portland Audubon as one of three conservation representatives on the Elliott State Research Forest Stakeholder Advisory Committee, working with Oregon State University, Division of State Lands, and representatives from Tribes, counties, timber interests, schools, and recreational users to develop a strategy to convert the Elliott into an OSU research forest. Portland Audubon has viewed this as an opportunity to build bridges between historically conflicted parties and to truly provide the Elliott with the protection that it deserves.

For Portland Audubon, our North Star on the Elliott has always been achieving real and durable protections for its mature forest stands and imperiled species. **We believe that the proposed plan has the potential to achieve those goals:**

- The plan protects more than 90% of the older forests (>65 years of age) in permanent reserve.
- The plan places 66% of the entire forest (54,154 acres) in permanent reserves.
- The plan creates a contiguous reserve area (over 34,000 acres) representing more than 40% of the entire forest and will become the largest reserve in the entire Oregon Coast Range.
- The plan will result over time in an Elliott that is substantially older and less fragmented than it is today. In 50 years, more than 70% of the Elliott will be mature forest as compared with approximately 50% today.

As with any complex plan, there are also real tradeoffs:

- Clear-cutting will continue on approximately 14,579 acres (18% of the Elliott). All clear-cuts would occur in stands less than 65 years old that have previously been clear-cut, would be done on 60-year rotations, and would include riparian buffers.
- Selective harvest would occur on 14,654 acres, which includes approximately 3,200 acres of older forest (65-162 years old) including some Marbled Murrelet-occupied habitat.

It has not been easy to get to this point. The issues orbiting the Elliott are complex, and decades of conflict have built up reservoirs of distrust. It has taken a monumental amount of negotiation. We appreciate the degree to which all parties have worked in good faith to bridge divides and find common ground. While there are elements within the plan that we disagree with, we believe that overall this plan will put the Elliott on a path toward ecological health while meeting the needs of diverse stakeholders.





Key issues that need to be addressed in the final phase of this process include putting in place strong accountability, transparency, and enforcement mechanisms for OSU. This includes public notice and comment and public records provisions as well as a right for third parties to bring litigation to enforce the terms of the agreements. The plan must incorporate a stronger focus on climate resiliency and climate-related research and incorporate carbon credits into its financing structure. The plan must result in complete decoupling of the Elliott from the Common School Fund. Finally, the plan must be accompanied by a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service that confirm that adequate protections will be in place to help recover federally listed species.

“Our North Star on the Elliott has always been achieving real and durable protections for its mature forest stands and imperiled species.”

We believe that this proposal creates the basis for transcending historic conflicts and setting the Elliott on a new trajectory. We envision a future in which the Elliott supports world-class research on topics such as climate resiliency, imperiled species recovery, and sustainable forestry, where the Elliott significantly increases in ecological health over time, and in which the Elliott provides predictable and sustainable support for local economies and amazing recreational opportunities for visitors.

There is difficult work still ahead, but we are hopeful that the Elliott is on the precipice of a new era.



Jesse Stahl was a well-known bronc rider who traveled the west riding in rodeos, including in Harney County. Despite frequently besting his competitors, Stahl was never awarded first place because judges didn't want to rank a Black cowboy over a White cowboy. In protest, he was known to ride horses backward. In 1979 he was inducted into the Oklahoma City Rodeo Hall of Fame.

Oregon Black Pioneers

by Zachary Stocks, Executive Director of Oregon Black Pioneers

When visitors come to Eastern Oregon, chances are they won't see many Black residents among the locals. Blacks represent less than 2% of Oregon's population, making the state one of the whitest in America. But that statistic hides an even starker racial divide. Eighty percent of Black Oregonians live along Western Oregon's I-5 corridor. In the rural communities east of the Cascades, the Black population is virtually nonexistent.

This contemporary absence is the result of centuries-old discrimination that prevented Blacks from settling in the region during the nineteenth century. The provisional and territorial governments of Oregon passed three exclusion laws that explicitly forbid African Americans from coming to or residing in Oregon. Still, a handful of African Americans—both free and enslaved—began arriving in Oregon with overland wagon trains between 1840 and 1870. Almost all of them settled in the Willamette Valley, but around the turn of the century a small number of enterprising Blacks began to make their way to Eastern Oregon, seeking new opportunities as ranchers, miners, loggers, and farmers.

Examples reflect a wide geographic range of Black settlement in Oregon that is hard to imagine today. Black fur traders and explorers like Moses Harris and James Beckwourth traversed the far eastern corners of the Oregon Territory in the 1820s and 1830s. After the Oregon Trail was established, individual settlers began staking claims in eastern Oregon. John Brown came from

Canada to settle in what is today the Warm Springs Reservation, and former-slave-turned-business-owner William Livingstone left behind 180 acres in eastern Lake County after his death. Others came seeking gold. A discovery in Canyon Creek in the 1890s brought thousands of fortune seekers to the John Day area, including Columbus Sewell and his wife, Louisa, who later operated a Canyon City freight company. A few decades later, the Bowman-Hicks Lumber Company recruited Black loggers from eastern states to work alongside its White employees in the town of Maxville. The mixed-race community was the largest town in Wallowa County from 1924-1933.



The Bowman-Hicks Lumber Company maintained the only segregated schools in Oregon, though Maxville children formed friendships outside of school. Once logging operations ended in 1933, the schools were desegregated. This photo is courtesy of the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center in Joseph. Learn more at maxvilleheritage.org.

Today it is hard to find evidence of those trailblazing Black settlers. Oregon Black Pioneers (OBP), Oregon's only statewide African American historical society, is working to change that. The Salem-based nonprofit works to illuminate the seldom-told stories of the state's first Black residents through exhibitions, public programs, monuments, and more. OBP's volunteer researchers use newspapers, family histories, and census records to give life to Black individuals and communities that have been left out of larger narratives of Oregon's heritage. In 2020, an effort to commemorate the experiences of an eastern Oregon ranching family began with a Facebook post.

In June, the Western History Room at Harney County Library posted a story about the Andersons on its Facebook page. At some point in the 1910s, brothers Oscar and Walter Anderson moved together to Harney County to take up ranching. Oscar established his homestead on Trout Creek, just north of Burns. Walter established a ranch of his own at Juniper Lake, some 90 miles farther south in the eastern shadow of Steens Mountain. About 15 years later, Walter married a woman named Martha, who joined him on the ranch.

"New stories of Eastern Oregon's Black pioneers are being rediscovered every day...thanks to leads and efforts from locals who believe Oregon's diverse history should be celebrated and explored, even in the most remote corners."

The couple spent another 25 years there before Walter's poor health forced them to move to Portland in 1952. For 40 years, the Andersons may have been the only Black residents of Harney County. Walter died in 1958, and afterward Martha published the book *Black Pioneers of the Northwest, 1800-1918*. The library's post mentioned that the couple is buried in unmarked graves in the Burns Pioneer Cemetery.

Members of the group Rural Alliance for Diversity (RAD) in Burns saw the library's post. RAD is a group dedicated to fighting White supremacy and creating inclusive spaces for BIPOC, LGBTQ+, disabled folks,



This photo is of a Black woman living in Harney County sometime before 1935. She is unnamed in the photo, but given the date and census records, she may be Martha Anderson, one of the first Black ranchers in Harney County. She, her husband, Walter, and Walter's brother Oscar may have been the only Black residents in Harney County until the 1950s.

and all other marginalized groups living in and visiting Harney County. RAD contacted Oregon Black Pioneers to see if OBP could support them in a project to raise awareness and funds for the creation of a grave marker for the Andersons. OBP was familiar with the Andersons from Martha's book, and from a 1970 letter in its files from the administrator of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, who wrote of the Andersons, "They were well-respected, nice people and it didn't seem to occur to anyone that they were Black. They attended public dances, rodeos, and other public entertainment, just the same as did the White people." OBP used its website and newsletter to highlight the grave marker campaign and successfully raised funds from Roundhouse Foundation in Sisters to complete the project. In 2021, a permanent headstone for Martha and Walter Anderson will finally be erected, and OBP will present a guest lecture to RAD members about the history of Blacks in Eastern Oregon.

New stories of Eastern Oregon's Black pioneers are being rediscovered every day. This work is possible thanks to leads and efforts from locals who believe Oregon's diverse history should be celebrated and explored, even in the most remote corners. As part of their work in Eastern Oregon, Portland Audubon works with RAD on projects like the Anderson Memorial Project and by providing outdoor recreational and stewardship opportunities for community members and marginalized individuals from around the state.

FIELD NOTES

by Harry Nehls

Swallows in Winter

On December 1 Roy Gerig observed three Tree Swallows flying about Eagle Marsh at the Ankeny NWR. It was about 33 degrees at the time. Swallows are often seen during the winter months and one wonders how they survive the cold.

Over the years it was learned that at night they roost in bird boxes or nest cavities, gathering together sharing their body heat. During sunny weather they fly out seeking what food they can find. During this time they may feed on berries or some other small fruit. Many forage around barns or other outbuilding, seeking spiders or other insects.

Most likely most do not survive the winter.



Tree Swallow, photo by Mick Thompson.

SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott

Oregon's exceptional fall for vagrant birds continued into October, creating one of the most memorable seasons in recent history. First, a **Wood Sandpiper** (an Asian shorebird) showed up at Ankeny NWR, a second record for the state. Three days later, an Oregon-first **Oriental Greenfinch** was found in Florence. Another Asian breeder, this is likely only the second record in the Lower 48. Three days after that, a **Cassin's Sparrow**, from the American Southwest, was found west of Eugene, another second state record.

Locally, late fall saw some good waterfowl, with **Long-tailed Ducks** being reported numerous times across the region, multiple **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and all three expected scoter species being found at various locations along the Columbia River. Other notables on the river included a **Heerman's Gull** spotted in St. Helens and a **Black-legged Kittiwake** reported from the Vancouver waterfront.

Larch Mountain hosted a full slate of very rare birds for the county, including **Pine Grosbeak**, **Gray-crowned Rosy-finch**, **White-winged Crossbill**, **Mountain Chickadee**, and **Black-backed Woodpecker**, all found in November before the gate was closed for the season.

The two most-visited birds for the fall, however, were likely the **Great-tailed Grackle** that has taken up residence at a McDonald's in NE Portland, and a **Snow Bunting** that remained in Scappoose near the Crown-Zellerbach trail for weeks. Single American **Tree Sparrows** were also reported with the **Snow Bunting**, as well as on Mt. Tabor, which also hosted an escapee Chukar for a few weeks.

Winter raptors have been well represented, with a **White-tailed Kite** found near Gaston, and a **Gyr Falcon** photographed at Ridgefield. The prize for best yard bird of the fall so far goes to a keen-eared birder in North Portland who identified a flock of **Ross's Geese** flying south overhead.

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, and for a more detailed weekly report, visit portlandaudubon.org



Photo by Tara Lemezis.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Spring Break Camp & Marmot Family Days

March 20-27

Registration opens Jan. 13

Spring Break Camp goes live January 13! We have exciting outdoor adventures for 1st through 6th graders and families during the school break. Sign your child up for an experience in nature they won't forget.

*These all outdoor programs are limited to a maximum of eight children, and will follow all social distancing and safety protocols dictated by the Oregon Health Administration.

Grade 1-5

Tails of the Forest

March 22 & 23

8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.

\$85 member / \$100 non-member

Grade 1-5

Wild Art Adventure

March 23 & 24

12:30-3:45 p.m.

\$85 member / \$100 non-member

Grade 1-5

Junior Wildlife Vet

March 24 & 25

8:45 a.m.-12 p.m.

\$85 member / \$100 non-member

Grade 2-6

Marmot Cabin Family Days

March 20, 26, 27

9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

\$40 per child / \$20 per adult
Limited to 10 participants per session

Register online at
audubonportland.org



Summer Camp registration goes live January 20! Learn more and sign up at audubonportland.org



Photo by Girl in Water Photography.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Heceta Bank: Oregon's Hidden Wonder

January 21 | 7-8:30 p.m.

Located 35 miles off the Oregon coast, the little-known Heceta Bank is a unique ecosystem and important foraging area for marine life, supporting large populations of many different seabirds. Join OSU marine scientists and other experts for a special screening of "Heceta Bank: Oregon's Hidden Wonder" to explore the influence the Heceta Bank has on our northern coastal currents and the surprising and beneficial impacts it has on marine life.


Following the film, we will host a panel discussion and Q&A, which will include Portland Audubon's Ten Mile Sanctuary Manager Paul Engelmeyer. Moderated by Joe Liebezeit, Portland Audubon's Staff Scientist.

Cost: Free, donation suggested



*"I believe the best way
to begin reconnecting
humanity's heart, mind,
and soul to nature is
for us to share our
individual stories."*

- J. DREW LANHAM


 Cost Involved

 Public Transit Available

 Free

 Family Friendly

 Wheelchair Accessible

 Virtual Offering



American Kestrel, photo by Mick Thompson.

AUDUBON BIRDING DAYS

Clackamas County Hotspots

January 15 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members

Leader: Dan van den Broek | Limited to 10 participants



Ankeny & Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuges

January 20 | 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott | Limited to 10 participants



Finley National Wildlife Refuge

January 23 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fee: \$85 members / \$115 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants



Tillamook Area Birding

January 24 | 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members

Leader: Dan van den Broek | Limited to 10 participants



Understanding Raptors for Beginners

January 26 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott | Limited to 10 participants



Sauvie Island: Wapato & Rentenaar Road

February 13 | 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants





Golden-crowned Kinglet, photo by Mick Thompson.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip: Hopkins Demonstration Forest

January 22 | 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members
Leader: Dan van den Broek | Limited to 10 participants

\$

Field Trip: Fernhill for Beginners

January 24 | 8-10 a.m.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members
Leader: Dan van den Broek | Limited to 10 participants

\$

PNW Trip: Owls by Day in Walla Walla

February 5-7 | 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Fee: \$250 members / \$310 non-members
Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants

\$

Field Trip: Fernhill Wetlands

February 9 | 9-11 a.m.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members
Leader: Dan van den Broek | Limited to 10 participants

\$

PNW Trip: Skagit Valley Birding

February 26-28 | 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Fee: \$300 members / \$390 non-members
Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants

\$

Register at
audubonportland.org



ANNOUNCEMENT

Call for Old Warblers!

Portland Audubon is reviewing and organizing our Warbler newsletters, first published in 1937. We would like to establish multiple sets for staff and scholars. If you can donate issues of *The Warbler* published before 1970, we would appreciate them very much.

Bring to the Nature Store during open hours (contact the staff and leave outside) or email annlittlewood3@gmail.com if you need them picked up.

VISITOR INFO

Visiting the Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary During COVID-19

The Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary trails are open to visitors. We have made adjustments to keep our community safe while still providing much needed access to nature.

Before you arrive, please make note of the following:

- Most trails are now one-way loops
- Observe all trail signs and maintain physical distancing
- Port-a-potty is available in the south parking lot
- No water access
- The Nature Store is open for visitors. Check out website for hours. You can also shop online at naturestorepdx.squarespace.com
- The Wildlife Care Center remains open. Please view their COVID-19 protocols for dropping off injured and orphaned wildlife [here](#)



American Goldfinches, photo by Mick Thompson.

CLASSES

Sharpen Your Birding Skills With Us!

Portland Audubon classes spark curiosity, foster a deeper understanding of the natural world, and inspire people to protect native wildlife and their habitat.

*Classes are virtual, with the exception of Field Classes, or otherwise noted.

Winter Finches

January 12 | 6-7 p.m.

Explore the variety of finches found in Oregon in the winter, with our primary focus on identification.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members
Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



The Joy of Feeding Birds

January 18 | 6-7 p.m.

Join us for a primer on the how, what, and why of feeding birds.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members
Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



Birds of a Feather: Gaviidae - Loons

January 26 | 6-7 p.m.

Discover the beauty and natural history of the Great Divers! We'll discuss all five species, four of which can be found in the Pacific Northwest.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members
Instructors: Greg Smith and Erin Law



Winter Raptors

January 28 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will focus specifically on our unique wintering raptors, comparing and contrasting to our more common and year-round birds of prey.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members
Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



Horned Grebes, photo by Ken Conger.

Field Class: Beginning Field Birding and Sauvie Island Exploration

February 6, March 6, April 3: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join Greg Baker and Ricky Allen for Saturday morning explorations at one of Oregon's most accessible Important Bird Areas, Sauvie Island Wildlife Area.

Fee: \$95 members / \$125 non-members
Leaders: Greg Baker and Ricky Allen | Limited to 10 participants

The Fascinating Lives of Song Sparrows

February 8 | 6-7 p.m.

We'll take a long look at the beloved Song Sparrow, focusing on their social lives.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members
Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



Birds of a Feather: Podicipedidae - Grebes

February 23 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will take you on a deep dive into this family of birds, containing 23 species of grebes!

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members
Instructors: Greg Smith and Erin Law



New School of Birding: Breeding Ecology and Birdsong (Module 2)

Classes: Wednesdays, March 24-April 28 | 6-7:15 p.m.
Field Days: April 3, April 17, May 1 | 7 a.m.-12 p.m./2 p.m.

Explore how and why birds sing, diving into breeding and nesting ecology from courtship and nest building to mating and fledging.

Instructors: Candace Larson and Dan van den Broek



Black-capped Chickadee, photo by Mick Thompson.

Our Most Sincere Thanks for Your Generosity in 2020

by Charles Milne, Director of Development

What a wild and exciting virtual 40th Wild Arts Festival. Amidst all that has come our way this year, we persevered and created a memorable, albeit virtual, event. Your support of the Festival through purchases of art, books, and auction items, and your generous donations kept the event alive despite all the changes required to go virtual. Your immense passion for the mission of Portland Audubon and the celebration of nature-themed art and books shined through as we took on big new challenges to create a Wild Arts Festival like no other.

Thank you to the Wild Arts Festival Committee for your hard work, your leadership, and for reimagining the beloved Festival. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you for overcoming obstacles, learning new ways of connecting with our community, and creating a virtual Festival that engaged many near and far. For that, we are deeply grateful and in awe of what you created.

Everyone faced multiple hurdles this year, but the Portland Audubon community has remained vigilant and flexible, continuing its proud tradition to inspire people to love and protect nature. This is a time to celebrate life-giving nature and all who care for it.

We are so fortunate to have your support through both the Wild Arts Festival and our year-end giving campaign. We asked you, the members, to step up and help us get through very trying times. The Portland Audubon community answered the call. Thank you!

We couldn't have accomplished so much in 2020 without you.

Thank You To Our 2020 Wild Arts Festival Sponsors



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The Home Lives of Oregon's Woodpeckers

by Brodie Cass Talbott, Portland Audubon Educator

Perhaps one of the most fascinating aspects of woodpecker behavior is one that is hidden to most of us: their “home lives.”

Most of our woodpeckers in Oregon, and particularly Portland, are resident, meaning they stay put year-round, and this fact of life shapes much of their breeding strategy. Rather than doing what flashy warblers do—migrate south, then find a new mate every year upon return—many woodpeckers are likely to keep their same mate for as long as they two shall live, and will often maintain the same territory throughout. In fact, the sense of place is so strong for Pileated Woodpeckers, which can have huge territories of hundreds of acres, that the surviving bird will stay in the territory even after losing their mate.

Staying in the same territory also leads to females having much more of a role in territorial defense. Both sexes perform drumming, which is the woodpecker equivalent of a song, where the stylized rhythm serves as a territorial display. It's thought that the equality between the sexes of Red-breasted Sapsucker in territorial defense may contribute to males and females having identical plumage, a rarity among woodpeckers.

Female woodpeckers can be quite picky about where they roost. Hairy Woodpecker males and females each maintain their own roosting (sleeping) cavities year-round. When the time comes for nesting, the male will generally excavate a new cavity or two, and the female will inspect it. If it's up to her standards, they will mate, and she will then lay eggs in the nest. But rather than “moving in,” as most female birds do, she continues to go back to her own cavity at night, leaving the male to tend to incubation and brooding. Both birds take turns with parental duties during daylight hours until the young become self-sufficient.

Not all woodpeckers are emblems of equality between the sexes. It's well known that male and female Downy Woodpeckers partition their foraging locations based on sex, with males feeding toward the smaller outer branches at the tops of trees and in low bushes, and females sticking to the larger branches toward the middle of the tree. Less well known is that when the males are removed, the females will move into the males' territory. It seems the males dominate those locations because they have the best food supply.



Acorn Woodpecker, photo by Tara Lemezis.

But the award for most unusual family life certainly goes to the Acorn Woodpecker. These “clowns of oak woodlands” are well known for their dependence on acorns to survive the winter, leading to their construction of huge “granaries,” trees stuffed tightly with acorns, sometimes numbering into the tens of thousands. This unique feeding style has led to some truly bizarre social structures.

Acorn Woodpeckers are highly social and are a rare practitioner of “polygynandry,” meaning that both males and females take multiple mates. It can be hard to even keep track, because the females all lay their eggs in the same nest cavity—at times resulting in internecine warfare, with a female destroying an egg if she finds one laid before hers. Males engage in their own bouts of jealousy, often following a female they have mated with and preventing other males from mating with her until she lays an egg.

Once the eggs have hatched, however, all the males and females work together to care for the young and are joined by a number of non-breeders, generally birds from the previous year's brood, who also help feed the newest batch of baby woodpeckers.



Cedar Waxwings, photo by Emilie Chen.

IN HONOR

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

Bruce Allison
Marilyn & Glen Jackson

Lindsay Atherly
Beth Allen

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Tigger
Laurelwood Animal Hospital, LLC

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.

Due to print deadlines, gifts made through December 15 are included on this list.



Commissioner Amanda Fritz

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

As Amanda Fritz reaches the end of her third term as city commissioner and heads into retirement, we wanted to stop and appreciate her amazing contributions to the health of Portland's environment. She leaves a powerful legacy of green in her wake and a fierce commitment to putting the public good before politics, which should be an inspiration to those who follow.

We have had the pleasure of working with Amanda for decades, dating back to her time as a grassroots community activist working to protect Arnold Creek and Tryon Creek and pass the 1995 Greenspace Bond Measure. She was in the vanguard of Portland's urban greenspace movement, one of a small cadre of people who recognized that protecting nature in the city is essential and that living in a healthy environment should be a right, not a privilege. She would later serve on the board of Coalition for a Livable Future, helping pioneer some of Portland's earliest efforts to advance equity as a foundational goal for the city.

During her 12 years on Council, Commissioner Fritz accomplished a remarkable number of conservation victories. She served as Council's most ardent supporter of trees, leading efforts to pass Portland's Title 11 Tree Code and multiple amendments that followed. She led efforts to fund Portland parks and natural areas, including

the 2014 Parks Bond Measure, advocated for parks in the most underserved areas of the city, and increased protections for Bull Run. She has been a strong and persistent voice for cleaning up, protecting, and restoring our rivers.

One of the underappreciated skills Commissioner Fritz brought to City Council was her attention to detail. With skills honed during eight years volunteering on Portland's Planning Commission, she always read every line of every piece of legislation that came before Council. By the time legislation gets to Council it is often mostly cooked; Commissioner Fritz was always the commissioner you could talk to about nuanced details that are often the difference between effective and ineffective legislation.

Perhaps most importantly, Commissioner Fritz has been City Hall's most consistent and fearless voice in standing up to big power and big money interests. She was Portland's first commissioner elected with public financing, and she has remained an ardent advocate for getting big money out of our local politics. She led the biggest environmental battles of the past 12 years, including the North Reach River Plan, opposing fossil fuel facility development, serving as the lone dissenter when the City supported a weak Superfund Cleanup Plan, and perhaps her magnum opus, stopping the industrial development of West Hayden Island. There should be little doubt that much of West Hayden Island would be covered in asphalt today but for Commissioner Fritz's staunch opposition over multiple years until the well-hidden cracks in the arguments for development became impossible-to-ignore chasms.

For a grassroots organization like Portland Audubon, Commissioner Fritz is what you hope for in an elected official. She never forgot her roots in the community. She tried to read every email and often responded personally. It is remarkable how many times I have been told by activists that they got a personal response and how much of a difference that makes in inspiring people to stay involved. She delivered a steady stream of real environmental victories. She was the one we went to first when the big environmental battles loomed, and her first response was always that this was why she was elected.

Turnover during the past year has resulted in a Council that is perhaps the shallowest on environmental issues that we have seen in decades. At a time when these issues have never loomed larger, we will need voices that don't just support environmental goals but are willing to lead the charge, voices like Commissioner Amanda Fritz.



Keeping Volunteers Engaged in a Global Pandemic

by Vicky Medley, Volunteer Manager

Portland Audubon has a long and proud history of volunteer leadership and involvement. We were first organized by volunteers back in 1898 in Astoria, and up until the 1980s we were entirely volunteer led. Since our creation, volunteers have led or supported our conservation efforts in Portland and around the state. Today, they hold leadership positions and serve in all areas of the organization, and many of our staff members originally started as volunteers. Together in 2019, Portland Audubon volunteers contributed the equivalent of 24 full-time positions!

In normal times, we have up to 20 volunteers each day on our Northwest Cornell campus in the Wildlife Care Center, the Nature Store, administration, and Education. Special events like Wild Arts Festival and work parties engage hundreds more each year. To temporarily stop accepting new volunteers and furlough most of our on-site volunteers due to COVID-19 has been painful. For many, Portland Audubon is not just a weekly commitment, it is family.

Throughout the pandemic, staff and volunteers have come up with new and creative ways to support our mission of inspiring all people to love and protect nature. As an essential service, our Wildlife Care Center has remained open seven days a week. Normally the Care Center is supported by a robust team of volunteers who answer phones, prepare diets, and assist with cleaning, medical care, and feeding our wild patients. The indoor space is small, and during the pandemic we cannot safely have volunteers working in such close quarters. In March many Care Center volunteers began working in the mews, the outdoor flight cages, as well as transporting wild patients.

Care Center phones are forwarded to volunteers off site so that our wildlife hotline remains open and fully staffed.

Volunteers have served outdoors on other parts of our Northwest campus, too. The Nature Store created a summer outdoor role to guide foot traffic as well as answer questions, providing a friendly face to outdoor visitors. Our Sanctuary volunteers soldiered on, putting in many hours and successfully removing large amounts of invasive plants from the sanctuary, then replanting several areas with native plants.

Many volunteers began remote work in a variety of ways. They have supported our Membership and Development department, and over in Education, a team helped identify and catalogue specimens from home. Our Backyard Habitat Certification Program provided all their trainings online, and volunteers started to certify yards from a safe distance in early summer. Our entire Wild Arts Festival was virtual this year, and the volunteer planning team logged hundreds of hours to plan and execute a very successful event!

A couple of programs have actually had more volunteers engaged this year compared to last! Both our Community Science and Sanctuary programs logged more volunteer hours, as people have been hungry for opportunities to be outdoors and involved.

What COVID has taken from us is the opportunity to be physically together in support of the Portland Audubon mission. What it has not taken from us is the volunteers' commitment to our mission and the dedication of the hundreds of volunteers who support our work. As we make our way through the pandemic, we look forward to the day that we see many volunteers in person again and can work side by side, together for nature.

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	McDonald Jacobs, P.C.
Cindy Thompson Event Production	Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP
The Commerce Group	Mountain Rose Herbs
David Evans and Associates	Paxton Gate PDX
Elk Cove Winery	Portland Audubon Nature Store
Eyes! on Broadway	Portland General Electric
Garden Fever	Portland Nursery
Grow Construction	Pro Photo
Inn @ Northrup Station	Sauvie Island Coffee Company
JD Fulwiler & Co. Insurance	Selco Community Credit Union
KPFF	Silver Rain Massage
Labrewatory	Tilbury Ferguson Investment
Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.	Urban Asset Advisors
McCoy Foat & Company PC, CPA's	Washman Car Wash
	West Bearing Investments

Portland Audubon Wishes You a Happy New Year!



Where the Profits Are for the Birds!



This year was tough, but we are looking to 2021 with high hopes. The Nature Store saw many changes over 2020, but one constant was our dedicated members and customers. We are so appreciative of the patience and kindness you all have shown us and want to sincerely thank you for your support and for caring about Portland Audubon's mission: To inspire all people to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment upon which life depends.

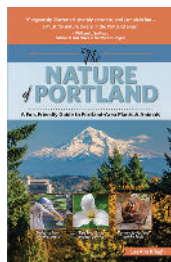
Questions? Call 503-292-9453 ext. 3 or email store@audubonportland.org



Snow Bunting, photo by Tara Lemezis.

Missing Travel? Look Locally!

Travel plans may be on hold, but local recreation sites can offer great adventure. The Nature Store carries a wide variety of Oregon hiking and outdoor recreation guides, perfect for families with kids or even thru-hikers. From trail guides to waterfall hikes to beach guides, there is something for any level of hiker.



- **The Nature of Portland** \$18 member price
- **Adventure Roads of Oregon** \$25.20 member price
- **50 Hikes with Kids** \$17.96 member price

PNW Pick

Nancy J. Smith Shirts

Local photographer Nancy J. Smith makes beautiful shirts for adults and kids with her PNW themed photos. This "I'm a Hoot" T-shirt comes in three colors and a variety of infant and children's sizes. Nancy's wall calendar, The Majestic Pacific Northwest, is also a local favorite. Stop by the Nature Store to check out her cute T-shirts!



- **I'm a Hoot Youth T-shirt** \$20 member price

Wingspan is in Stock!

The popular board game Wingspan is finally back in stock. With beautiful illustrations, detailed board game pieces, and realistic birding game play, Wingspan is sure to please both the hard-core birder and backyard bird lover. Wingspan is described as "a competitive, medium-weight, card-driven, engine-building board game" in which players in the role of bird enthusiasts try to collect food, lay eggs, and unlock resources, all while aiming to attract birds to their very own wildlife preserve. Shop our online store or pick one up at the Nature Store today!



Optics Focus

Binoculars for Kids

Do you have a young budding birder in your life? A pair of inexpensive yet functional binoculars can enhance their outdoor experience and get them even more excited about birds and nature. The Nature Store carries binoculars under \$100 that are great for adventurous kiddos (or adults!). Call or email the Nature Store with questions or to set up an appointment to look at binoculars in person.



- **Opticron Adventurer 8x21** \$45 member price
- **Vortex Vanquish** \$94.99 member price



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.



Snow Geese, photo by Mick Thompson

Winter Birding Near Portland

It's more important than ever for us to get outside while staying physically distanced. Thankfully, winter birding in Oregon is always exciting, especially if you adore raptors and waterfowl.

Here are three of our favorite winter spots in the Portland Metro area:

- **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge:** With the auto tour, this outing is perfect for those who want to stay warm or have a more accessible option while viewing the magnificent wildlife.
- **Sauvie Island:** You'll see Bald Eagles, waterfowl galore, Sandhill Cranes, and thousands of Snow Geese at the various wildlife viewing spots across the island.
- **Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge:** Conveniently accessible by public transportation, and with a variety of habitats, Oaks Bottom remains a favorite for winter birding.

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
Please call for updated hours.

Nature Store & Interpretive Center

503-292-9453
Please call for updated hours.

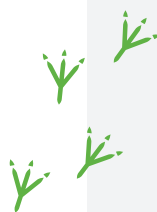
Portland Audubon staff are working remotely to slow the spread of COVID-19. All staff can still be reached by phone or email.

On the Cover: Northern Spotted Owl by Scott Carpenter, Marbled Murrelet by Robin Corcoran USFWS, Elliott State Forest by Tim Giraudier, Coho Salmon by Bureau of Land Management.

On the Inside Cover: Short-eared Owl by Scott Carpenter.



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



Birdy Brain Buster!

Which hawk hunts most like an owl, using its disk-shaped face to help direct sounds to its ears?

- A. Cooper's Hawk
- B. Swainson's Hawk
- C. Northern Harrier
- D. Ferruginous Hawk

Answer: C. Northern Harrier